

TEXTILE TRANSPARENCY REPORT

# Collection and distribution of textiles in 2019



Ulandshjælp fra Folk til Folk  
– Humana People to People



## 1 Collected textiles in 2019

In total, UFF-Humana collected 2 246.6 tonnes of used textiles in 2019. In addition to collection, they also purchased 301.5 tonnes from other collection organisations. The total amount sold and sent to sorting centres in 2019 was 2 535.1 tonnes (the difference between collected and bought, and sold, is due to the storage balance).

Before export, 56.4 tonnes of waste were removed from the collected amounts. This is a mix of textile waste, non-textile waste, electric waste, and small items for re-use (e.g. toys). This mix is registered by a waste management company and not included in the results in this report.

Sorting centres that received less than 100 tonnes in the collection period (2019) were not required to report on these amounts. The table below shows that Mepex has received reporting forms covering 93.3 % of the textiles collected.

*Table 1 – Overview of the flow of used textiles from UFF-Humana, and reported amounts received at sorting centres - 2019*

	Reported amounts sent from UFF-Humana (tonnes)	Unreported amounts from sorting centres (tonnes)
< 100 tonnes (not required to report)	169	169 (6.7 %)
> 100 tonnes	2 366	0 (0 %)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 535</b>	<b>169 (6.7 %)</b>

Reporting forms were received from all 5 sorting centres (or suppliers of used textiles) used by UFF-Humana in 2019. These sorting centres are listed in the table below.

*Table 2 – Sorting centres which received textiles (>100 tonnes) from UFF-Humana in 2019.*

Receivers	Country	Short name used in figures
One World Clothes Trade Bulgaria	Bulgaria	OWCT Bulgaria
Lithuania LT	Lithuania	HPP Lithuania
HPP Slovakia s.r.o.	Slovakia	HPP Slovakia
Textile House for EURO TRADE	Slovakia	TH Slovakia
Uhendus Humana Estonia Mersin	Turkey	HPP Turkey

The reports received from the sorting centres are mostly satisfactory, however there are uncertainties in a few areas. These are mostly regarding:

1. The amount of textile waste that arises during sorting,
2. Which treatment methods the waste is sent to, and
3. The distribution between clothes sold for re-use, and clothes for material recycling by some customers.

The uncertainties that have not been revealed during the reporting period represent very marginal amounts.

Figure 1 shows where collected textiles by UFF-Humana are sent for sorting. 60.5 % of the collected textiles are sent to sorting centres in Lithuania and Turkey. 18.9 % is sent to OWCT Bulgaria followed by 13.9 % to two sorting centres in Slovakia. The results in this report are based on the reported amounts received at sorting centres (93.3 %)

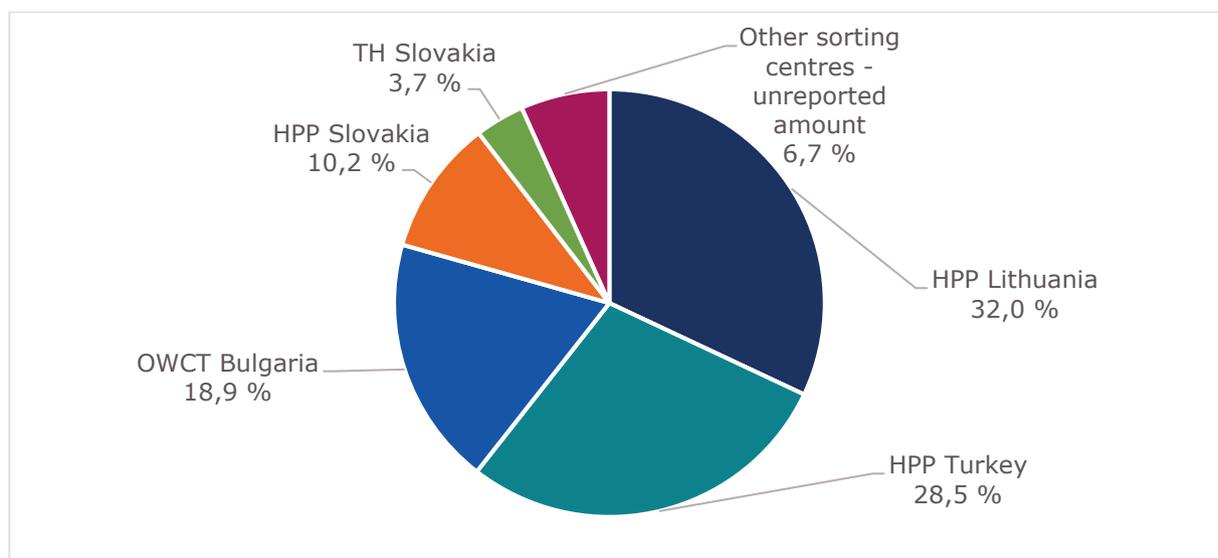


Figure 1 – Distribution of Danish textiles sent to sorting centres - 2019

Danish textiles only represent a small share of the total amount of incoming textiles at the 5 sorting centres used by UFF-Humana (Figure 2). The results from these sorting centres will therefore largely represent textiles collected in other countries and will to a lesser extent represent the true qualities of the textiles collected in Denmark.

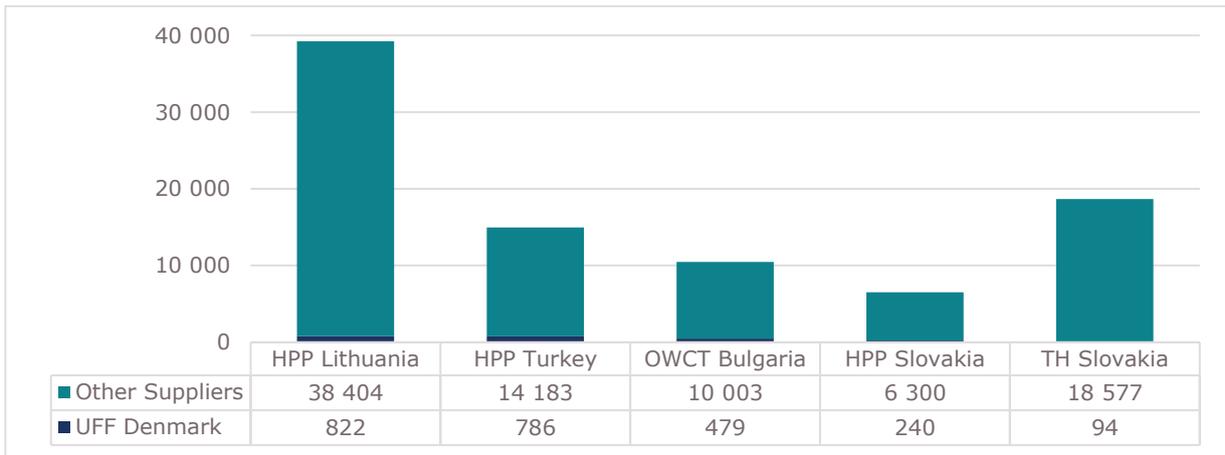


Figure 2 – Share of textiles received from UFF-Humana at sorting centres – 2019.<sup>1</sup>

## 2 Results from the collection of textiles by UFF-Humana

The sorting centres do not have specific information on the sales/distribution of textiles collected by UFF-Humana as these textiles are mixed with those amounts collected by other organisations. This is done to achieve a desired quality of the sorted textiles as the quality of collected textiles varies between countries. Although we know this is not the case, we assume the distribution patterns are the same for all collected textiles. The figures for the amount of textiles sold from the various sorting centres have been weighted in the calculation of UFF-Humana’s results based on the proportion of Danish textiles sent to the sorting centre.

Figure 3 shows the collective distribution of Danish textiles, textile waste and other waste from the sorting centres that receive used textiles from UFF-Humana. Danish textiles are mainly sold for re-use (84.3 %) or material recycling (9.8 %). 3.4 % of the collected material is textile waste, while 2.5 % is other waste. The waste (textile waste and other waste) is sent to landfill (38.0 %), waste-to-energy (26.1 %), incineration (19.7 %) or material recycling (16.1 %).<sup>2</sup>

The share of textiles sold for re-use is high for UFF-Humana. One of the main reasons for this is that HPP Turkey reports of low amounts of waste. As the sorting centre is located in a Free Zone, they are not allowed to import waste. They have an agreement with their suppliers that a lot of the waste is removed in advance of shipment to Turkey. The sorting centre in Turkey has no indication of the amounts of waste removed before receiving the textiles.

<sup>1</sup> The amounts received could differ from the amounts sent from UFF-Humana, depending on if the sorting centre reports on received or invoiced amounts.

<sup>2</sup> The amount of waste removed from the collected items in Denmark before transport to the sorting centres is excluded from the results. This waste is a mix of textile waste and non-textile items and is excluded because the shares are unknown.

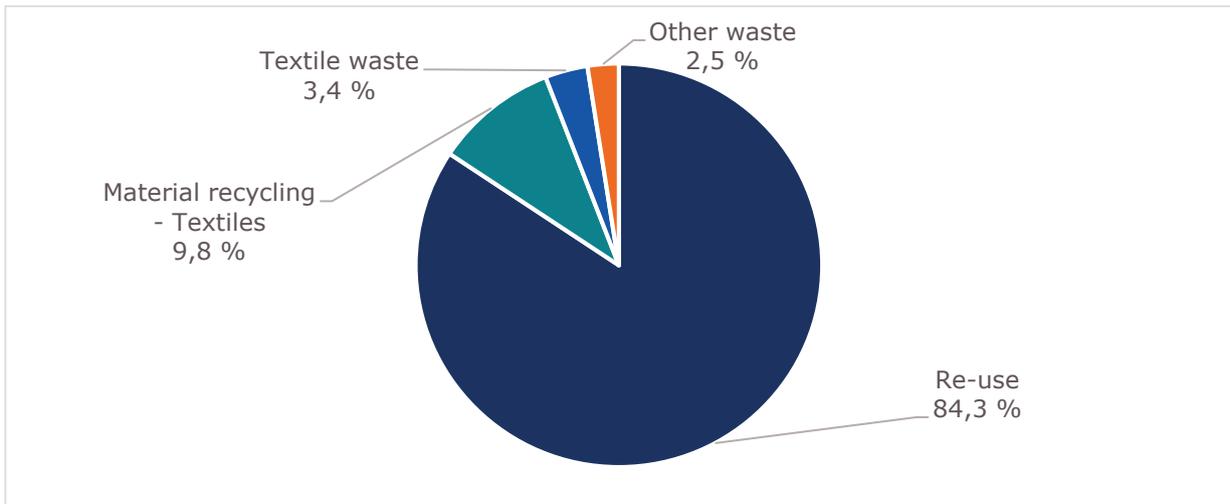


Figure 3 – Distribution of collected textiles and waste - 2019

Included in the segment 're-use' are clothes and other textiles such as bed linen, towels, shoes and other accessories such as belts and hats etc. Roughly 95 % of the re-use segment consists of clothing.

At some sorting centres there are signs indicating that production waste from canteens and break rooms is mixed together with waste generated through the sorting of received textiles. How much this share constitutes of the total waste produced is unknown, but it is assumed that this share is too small to significantly alter the results. There is larger uncertainty tied to the amount of textile waste. Textile waste is not separated from other, non-textile waste, so the calculation of this amount is undertaken by estimating the share of textiles waste in this fraction. Because of the increased focus on textile waste over the last couple of years, more sorting centres now perform analyses of the waste to calculate the share of textile waste on a more accurate level.

A comparison between the results from 2016-2019 is shown in Figure 4. The figure shows the distribution of textiles remains stable with a slight increase in the amount of waste removed from the collected amounts.

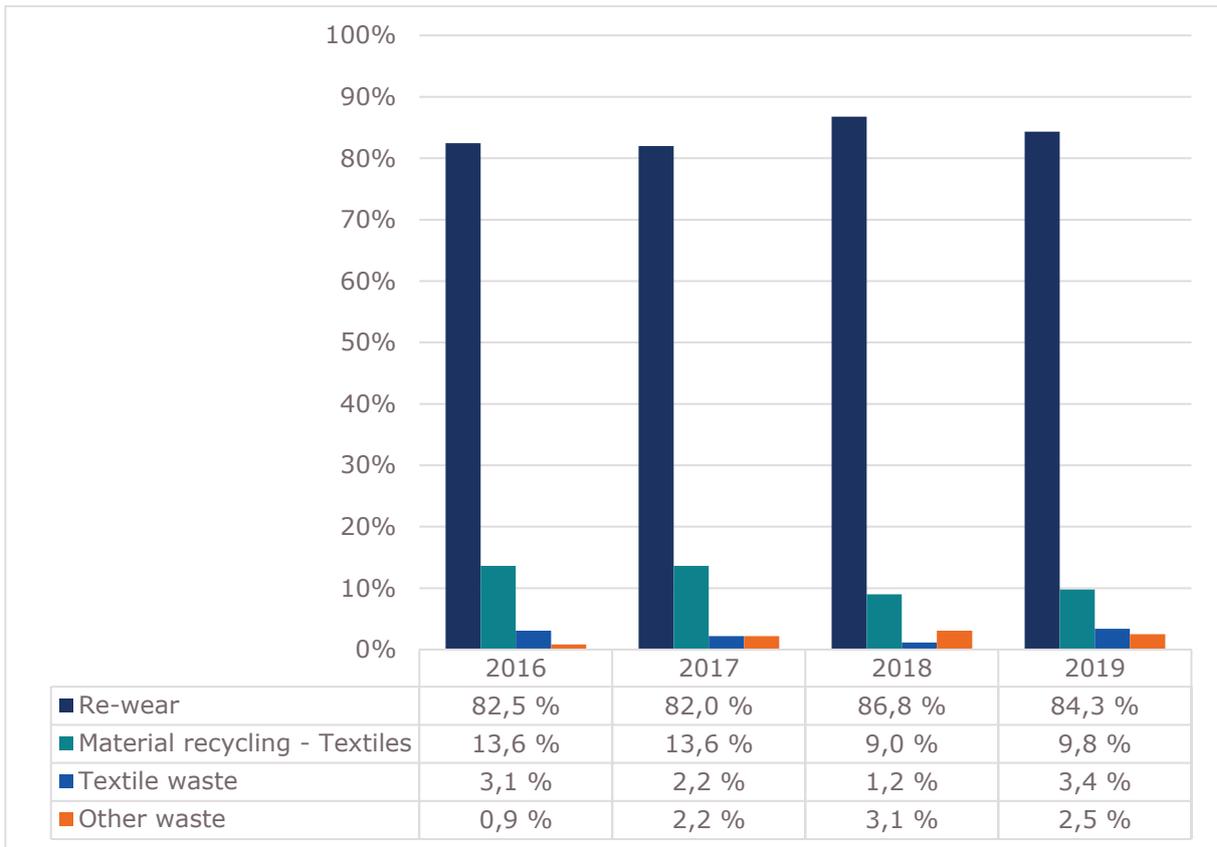


Figure 4 – Comparison between the composition of collected textiles from 2016-2019.

The distribution of sorted textiles and waste (originally collected by UFF-Humana) is displayed in the figures below. Textiles and waste are distributed fairly evenly between the 3 continents. Europe receives a larger share of textiles and waste than previously and this is due to an increase in material recycling of textiles in Europe. The amount that ends up in the Nordic countries is 3.9 tonnes. Africa receives textiles only for re-use. Most of the waste is sent for treatment in Europe.

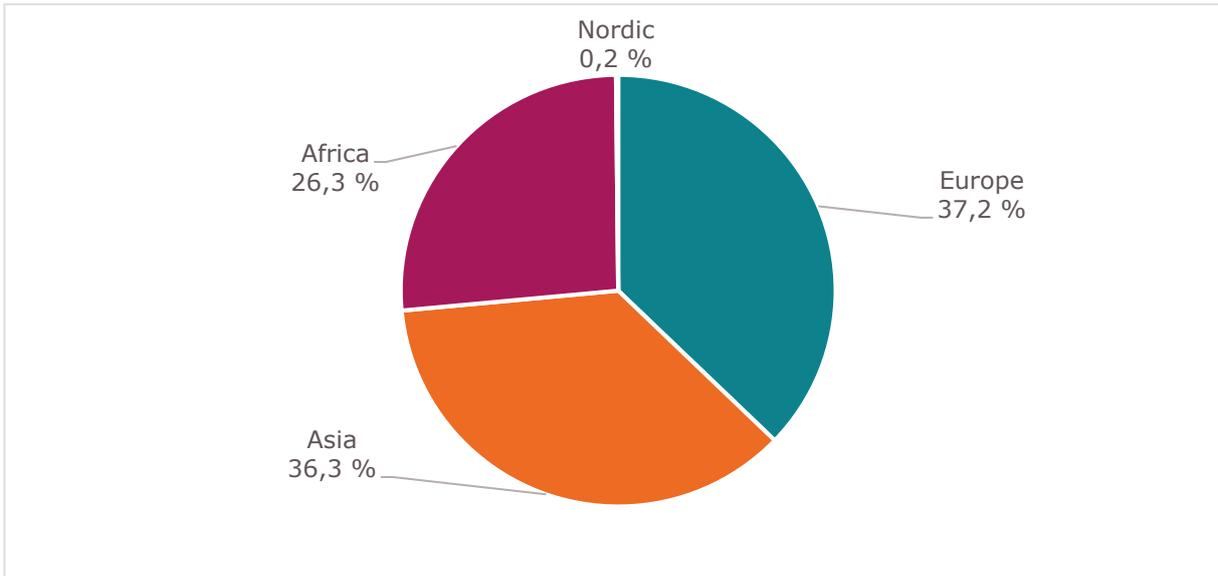


Figure 5 – Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste - 2019

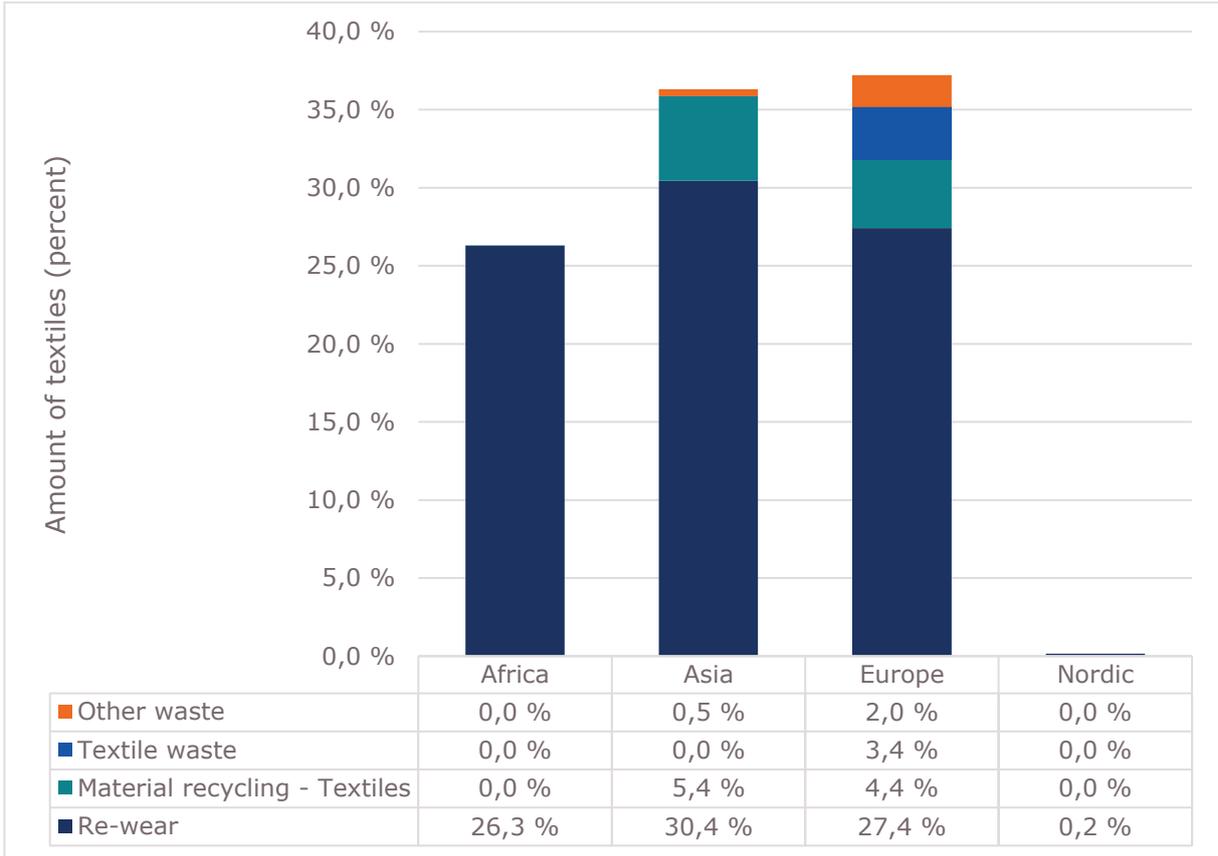


Figure 6 – Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste - 2019