

TEXTILE TRANSPARENCY REPORT

# Collection and distribution of textiles in 2020



Ulandshjælp fra Folk til Folk  
– Humana People to People

## 1 Collected textiles in 2020

UFF-Humana reported that 2 175 tonnes of used textiles were collected in 2020. The total amount sold and sent to sorting centres in 2020 was 2 174 tonnes.

Before export, 85 tonnes of obvious waste, which does not belong to the category which UFF-Humana collects, were removed from the collected amounts (3,9 %). This waste consists of a mix of wet textile waste, non-textile waste, electronic waste, and small items for reuse (e.g., toys). The waste is handled 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 (2020) were not required to report on these amounts. However, two sorting centres receiving less than 100 tonnes have reported on their received amounts. The table below shows that Mepex has received reporting forms covering 78,6 % of the textiles collected, which forms the basis for this report.

*Table 1 - Overview of the flow of used textiles from UFF-Humana, and reported amounts received at sorting centres - 2020*

	Reported amounts sent from UFF-Humana (tonnes)	Unreported amounts from sorting centres (tonnes)
< 100 tonnes (not required to report)	340	224 (10.5 %)
> 100 tonnes	1 800	229 (10.9 %)
Total	<b>2 175</b>	<b>(21,4 %)</b>

Reporting forms were received from 4 of 5 sorting centres (or suppliers of used textiles) receiving more than 100 tonnes from UFF-Humana in 2020. Table 2 shows the sorting centres that has reported on receiving textiles from UFF-Humana.

Table 2 - Sorting centres receiving textiles from UFF-Humana in 2020

Sorting centre	Country	Short name used in figures
<b>&gt; 100 tonnes per year</b>		
Humana Sorteerimiskesus	Estonia	HPP Estonia
HPP Slovakia s.r.o.	Slovakia	HPP Slovakia
BTT Humana Tekstil Tic. Ltd.	Turkey	HPP Turkey
One World Clothes Trade	Bulgaria	OWCT
<b>&lt; 100 tonnes per year</b>		
Lithuania LT	Lithuania	HPP Lithuania
Textile House Slovakia	Slovakia	TH Slovakia

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 marginal amounts.

Figure 1 shows where collected textiles by UFF-Humana are sent for sorting. The figure shows that the textiles from Denmark are primarily sent to sorting centres in Bulgaria, Turkey and Slovakia. As seen in the figure, 35% of the textiles are sorted by OWCT. The overall results are therefore to a large extent influenced by where OWCT send their sorted textiles.

Figure 2 shows the share of UFF-Humana textiles sorted at the sorting centres that has reported for 2020. The figure shows that textiles collected by UFF-Humana at all sorting centres only represent a small share of the total amount of incoming textiles (between 1-7 %). 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.

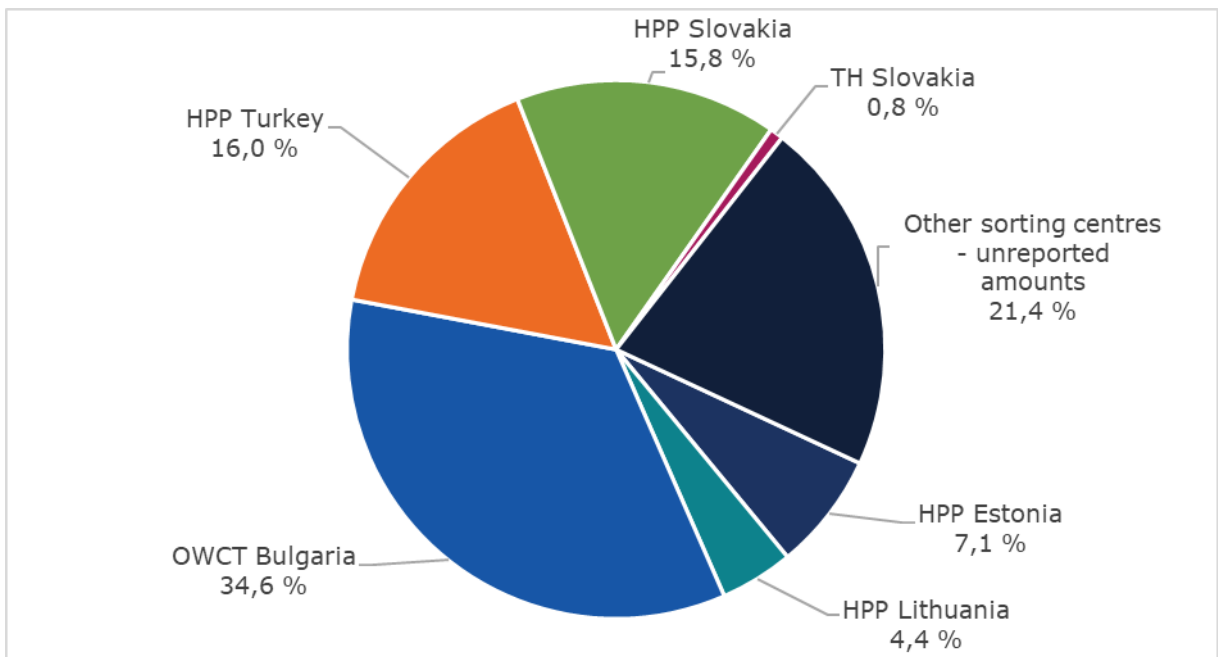


Figure 1 – Distribution of textiles sent to sorting centres – 2020

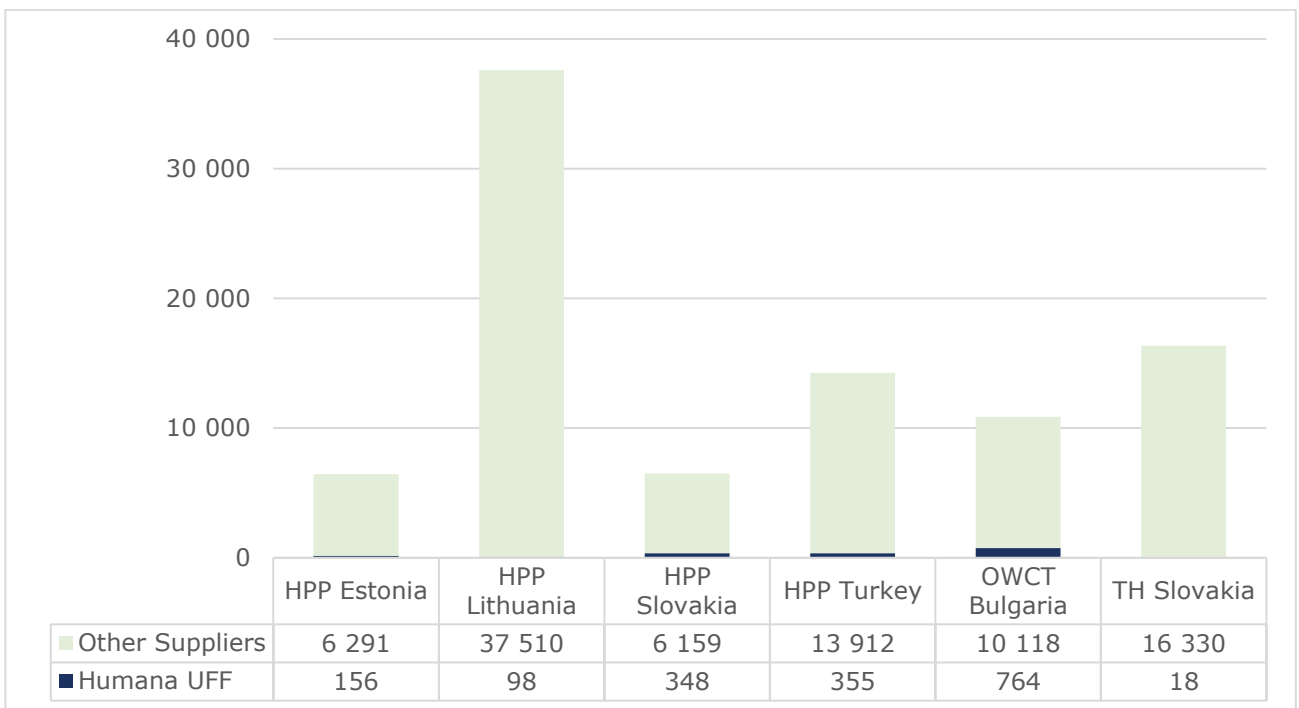


Figure 2 - Share of textiles reported received from UFF-Humana at sorting centres – 2020<sup>1</sup>.

<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.

## 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 the textiles are mixed with textiles collected by other collection organisations. This is done to achieve variety that will give desired quality of the sorted textiles as the quality of collected textiles varies between countries.

Although we know it is not the case, we assume the distribution patterns are the same for all collected textiles. The results are calculated based on a weighted average of the amount of textiles received from UFF-Humana at each sorting centre.

In the reporting for 2020, the reporting form was updated with the aim of improving the understanding of the composition of the received textiles and how different qualities are handled. To this end, the reporting included more details than previous years.

Reuse is divided into four categories: clothes, shoes, accessories (e.g., belts and hats) and other textiles (e.g., bed linen, towels and similar). The sorting centres were also asked to provide information on the qualities sold to different regions.

Figure 3 shows the collective distribution of textiles, textile waste and other waste from the sorting centres that receive used textiles from UFF-Humana. The figure shows that textiles collected by UFF-Humana are mainly sold for reuse or material recycling. Roughly 89% of the reuse segment consists of clothing.

A comparison between the results from 2017-2020 is shown in Figure 3. The figure shows that the amount of textiles categorized as going to reuse is 67%, significantly lower compared to 2019, while the share of material recycling is increased by a similar amount. The distribution of textiles remains stable with a slight increase in the amount of waste generated from the collected amounts.

The reports give no clear explanation for the lower share of reuse in 2020 compared to the previous year and this can have several reasons. We have set up some possible elements that can have affected the results:

- The average quality of used textiles in the market can have been reduced due to increased collection rate and lower quality textiles.
- The markets for second-hand textiles have a negative development, partly because the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has affected the market balance.
- The more detailed reporting and stricter definitions applied in this year's reporting might also have clarified the distinction between reuse and material recycling.

The share of quality of the textiles received by each sorting centre is only to a small extent affected by the textiles received from UFF-Humana, and hence the share of textiles going to reuse might not be representative for the quality of textiles from UFF-Humana.

The sorting centres were given the option of providing information on the type of material recycling. Limited feedback was received, and the responses indicated that the information on the type of material recycling used is limited. It is anticipated that information quality would benefit from better definitions.

Approximately 10 % of the material received at the sorting centres is waste that is not suitable for reuse or material recycling. This waste is sent to incineration with energy recovery (ca. 77 %), or landfill (ca. 18 %)<sup>2</sup>.

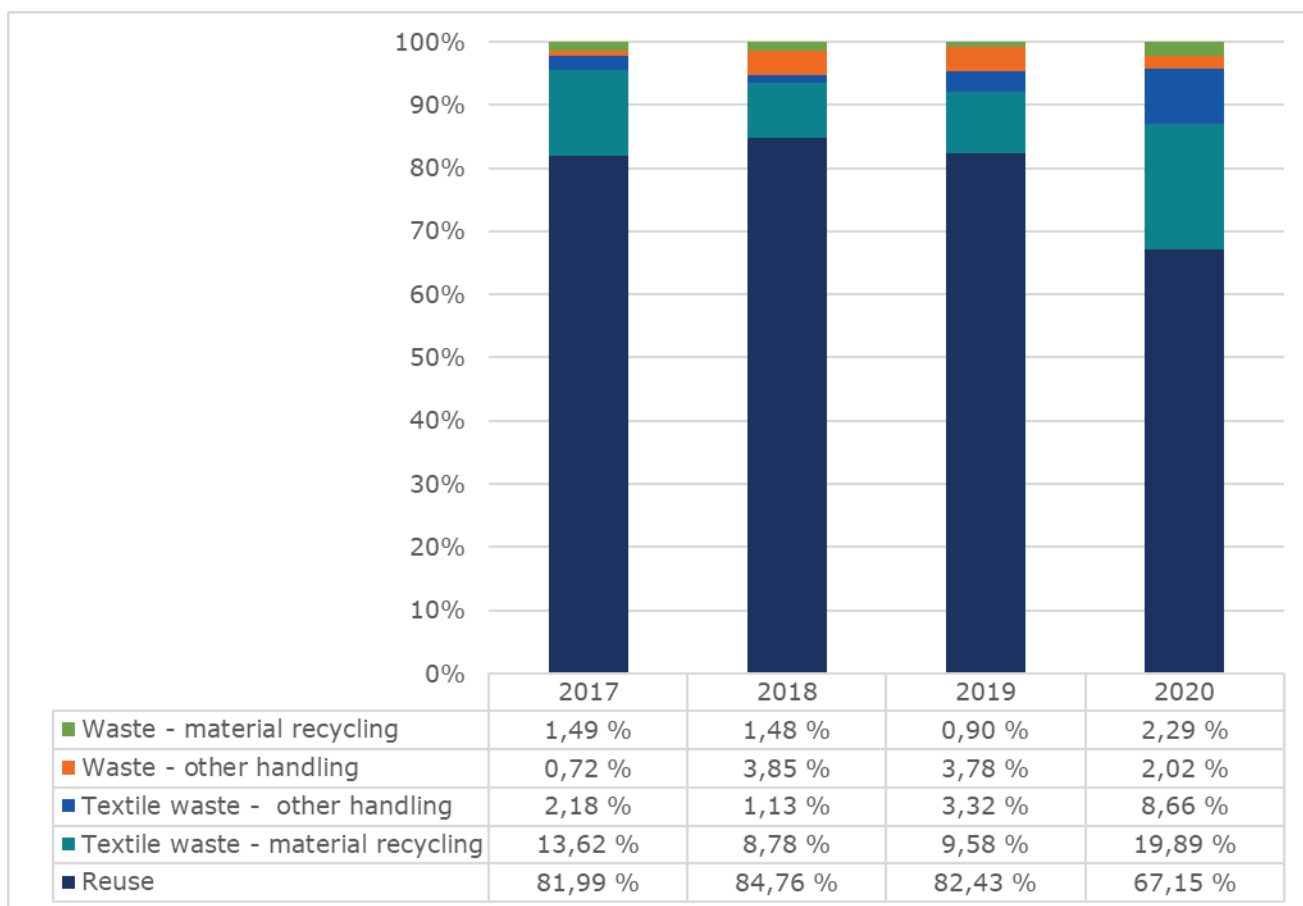


Figure 3 – Comparison between the composition of collected textiles from 2017-2020

The distribution of sorted textiles and waste (originally collected by UFF-Humana) is displayed in the figure below. The figure shows that Europe (including the Nordic region) receives the largest amount of the textiles, followed by Asia and Africa.

<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.

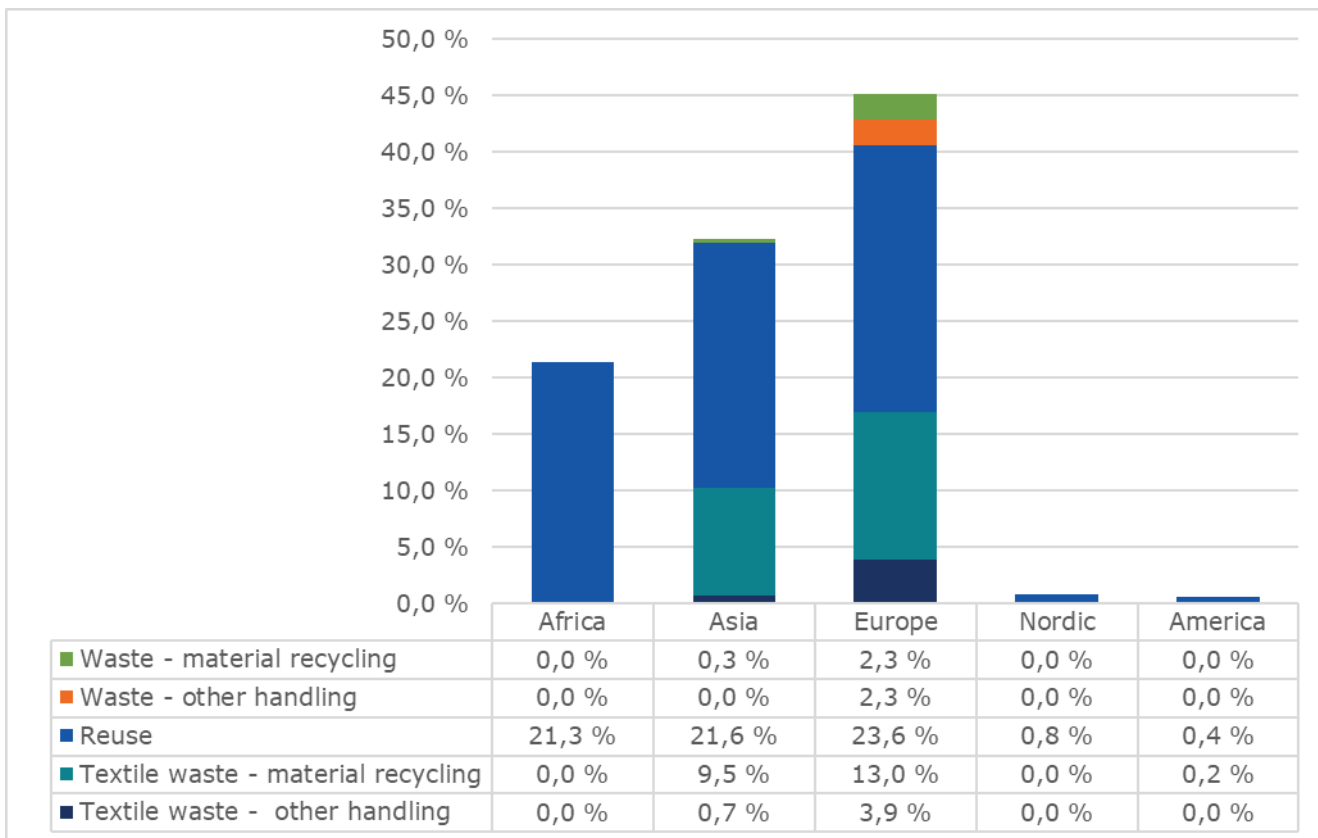


Figure 4 - Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste – 2020

The figure shows that there are differences between the regions in terms of what qualities are sent where. The best qualities (Trend, Shop A, Shop B) end up in Europe, along with the waste (both textile and other), while items for recycling constitutes a large part of the amounts sent to Asia. Below we have summarised the amounts per continent.

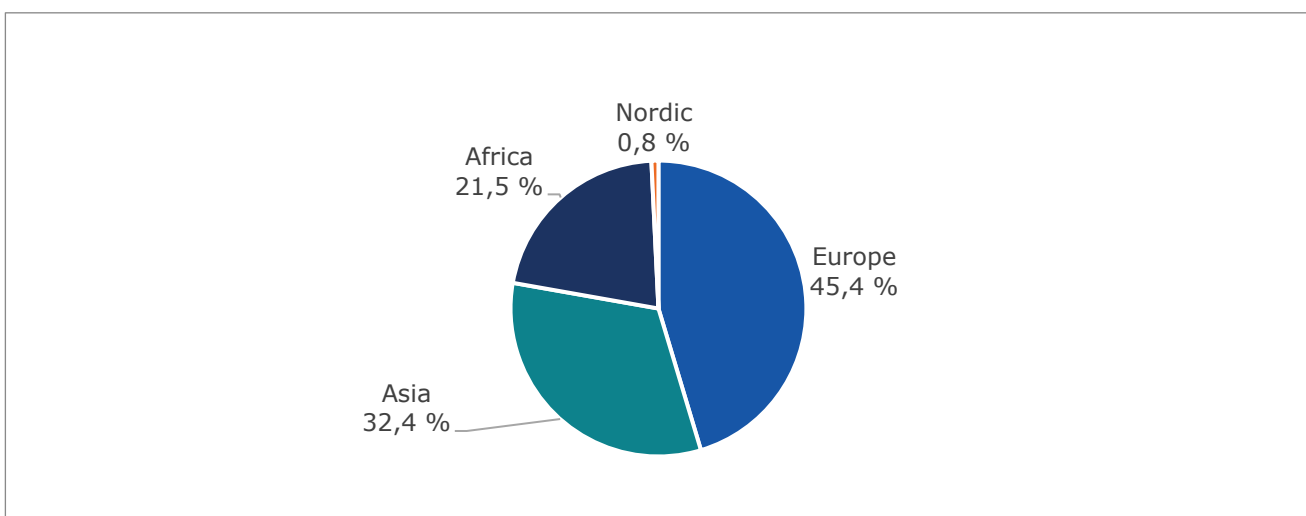


Figure 5 Recipient continents of textiles and waste, summarized