

FORENINGEN UFF-BUTIKKENE I NORGE

Collection and distribution of textiles in 2021



Textile Transparency Report 2021

1 Methodology

1.1 Data collection

This report is based on data collected from European Humana organisations and from sorting centres receiving textiles from these collection organisations. Data from the collection organisations were collected through a survey in the form of a spreadsheet to be filled in.

Collection organisations

The collection organisations were asked to provide quantitative information on the amounts of textiles they collected and sold in 2021, as well as qualitative data on how they register data on the textiles they handle.

Sorting centres

The list of sorting centres to be contacted was established based on the reports from the collection organisations. Sorting centres were contacted if it had received more than 100 tonnes from at least one of the collection organisations in 2021. The sorting centres are asked to provide data on all textiles that are received from and sorted at their location, as required of them according to the Humana People to People Code of Conduct.

Comparison with previous results

The collected data is registered in the database which Mepex has compiled as part of the work with previous years' reports. In the registration process, the data were checked for consistency and quality, and where necessary, the sorting centres were asked to clarify. All communication with the sorting centres has been done in writing.

1.2 Assumptions and calculations

Assumption on quality and averages

The sorting centres do not have specific information on the fate of textiles collected by any single supplier (e.g., UFF Norway) as the textiles are mixed with textiles from other collection organisations in the sorting process. We assume that for each sorting centre, the

quality of the textiles from the selected collection organisation is at least equal to the average quality of the total amount of textiles received at the sorting centre.

Consequently, the distribution of possibilities for utilization (e.g., reuse, material recycling, disposal as waste) for the textiles sent to a given sorting centre equals the average results for all the textiles received at that sorting centre.

The overall distribution of possibilities for utilization of the textiles and where the textiles from UFF Norway end up is then calculated as a weighted average based on the amounts of textiles sold to each sorting centre.

Calculations

The calculations are made based on the reports from the sorting centres. Percentages are calculated in relation to the amount of textiles arriving at the sorting centres. This means that waste removed by the collector prior to export is not included in the calculation.

Textiles accounted for is calculated as the share of textiles sold from the collection organisation to sorting centres which have reported, in relation to the total amount of textiles sold by that collection organisation.

1.3 Sources of uncertainty

Shipments in transit

There are some examples of minor differences between the amounts of textiles reported as received by the sorting centres and the amounts sent by the collection organisation. This difference is attributed to the transit of shipments, i.e., shipments sent late in the year and received at the sorting centres early in the next year. We have no reason to think that these differences influence the overall results.

Interpretation of the survey form

In the reporting for 2020, the survey form was updated with the aim of improving the understanding of the composition of the received textiles. To this end, the sorting centres are asked to report on "reuse" in four categories: clothes, shoes, accessories (e.g.,

belts and hats) and other textiles (e.g., bed linen, towels and similar).

In addition, they are asked to provide information on the type of material recycling. We are aware that the definitions given in the form are interpreted in slightly different ways, which might affect the balance between reuse and material recycling.

Furthermore, the sorting centres use different labelling systems for their qualities, which means there is an interpretation done to match the survey form.

2 Textile collection 2021

The reported amounts of textiles collected by UFF Norway and sold to sorting centres in 2021 is shown in Table 1. The difference between collected and sold is explained by the stock balance.

Before export, contaminated textile waste and non-textile waste were removed by the collector. The waste is handled by waste management companies in Norway and not included in the results in this report.

Table 1 - Reported amounts of used textiles collected and sold from UFF Norway 2021

	Amount (tonnes)	Comment
Collected textiles in 2021	8 237	Textiles excluding waste
Sold from warehouse storage	710	
Total sales 2021	8 947	
Waste removed by UFF Norway	354	Waste removed at the warehouse of UFF Norway. Not included in further calculations.

3 Sorting centres receiving textiles from UFF Norway

In 2021, UFF Norway sold used textiles to 12 different sorting centres as shown in Table 2.

Two of these were not asked to report as they received less than 100 tonnes of textiles from UFF Norway in 2021. Four sorting centres has not reported despite several reminders. Six sorting centres have reported but one of them are omitted from the calculation due to insufficient data quality. The reports are shown in Table 2.

The reports received from the sorting centres are mostly satisfactory. In some cases, it is not clear if the waste reported from the sorting centres arises from the sorted textiles alone or if it includes waste from other parts of the business. The textile content in the waste is also often hard to determine.

Overall, this is not expected to affect the results as the reported amounts of waste are small compared to the amount of textiles.

Table 2 – Overview of reported amounts of textiles sent and received in 2021 per sorting centre

Sorting centre	Short name	Textiles sent from UFF Norway (tonnes)	Received at sorting centres (tonnes)
Bultex Bulgaria	Bultex Bulgaria	3 177	3 289
UAB HUMANA LT	HPP Lithuania	1 442	1 492
Textile House for EURO TRADE s.r.o.	TH Slovakia	1 609	1 612
One World Clothes Trade Bulgaria Ltd.	OWCT Bulgaria	744	859
Humana People to People Slovakia s.r.o.	HPP Slovakia	300	278
Texx Team EAD ¹		846	Insufficient data quality. Handled as not reported.
Syltex		159	Not reported
Syrowka		330	Not reported
JRR Recycling		201	Not reported
Texland		101	Not reported
Vaarja		19	Not required to report
Logo		19	Not required to report
Total		8 947	7 529
Total amounts reported ²		7 272	7 529
Total amounts unreported ³		1 674	

Figure 1 shows that the textiles from Norway are primarily sent to sorting centres in Bulgaria and Lithuania. Bultex in Bulgaria received 44 % of the textiles reported by the sorting centres, which means that the overall results are significantly influenced by the report from Bultex.

Figure 2 illustrates the share of textiles from UFF Norway compared to the overall amounts of textiles received at the sorting centres.

Most textiles sorted at Bultex Bulgaria is received from UFF Norway, hence the results from this sorting centre will give a good representation of the qualities of textiles collected in Norway.

For the other sorting centres, textiles collected by UFF Norway only represent a small fraction of the total amount of incoming textiles. The results from these sorting centres may therefore be less representative of the quality of the textiles collected in Norway.

¹ The sorting centre has reported, but the data quality is not sufficient for the purpose of this report.

² Sum of the amounts UFF Norway reports having sold to the sorting centres that have reported.

³ Calculated as the sum of the amounts UFF Norway reports having sold to sorting centres that have not reported, including small sorting centres (<100 tonnes).

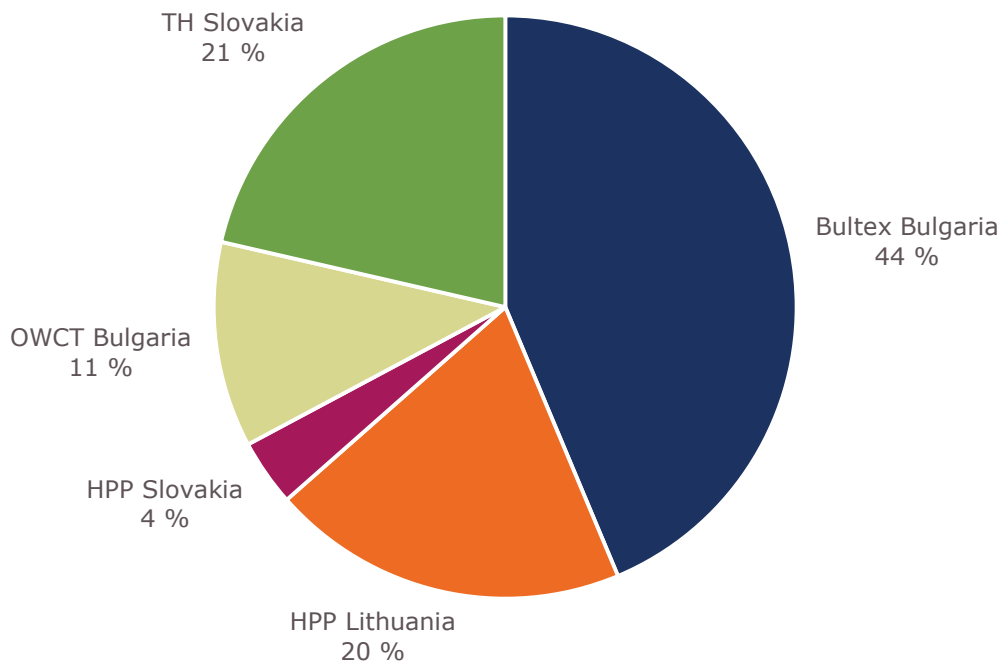


Figure 1 - Sorting centres buying textiles from UFF Norway 2021

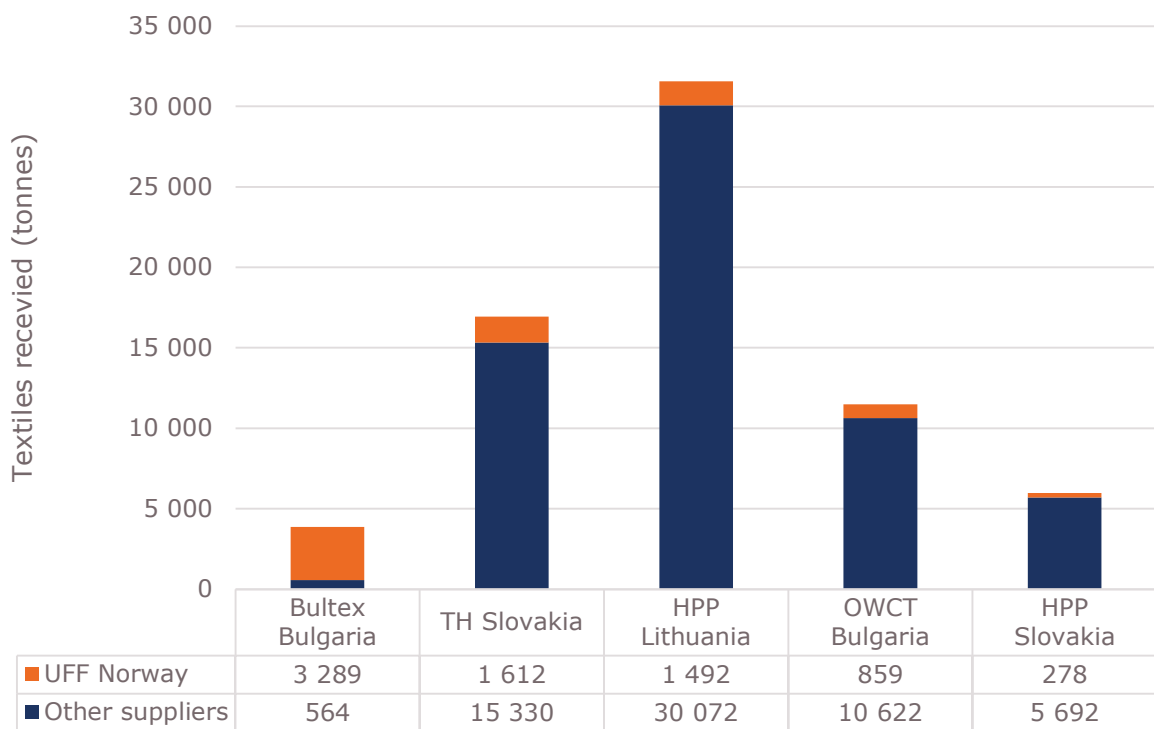


Figure 2- Share of textiles reported received from UFF Norway at sorting centres – 2021

4 Utilization of the collected textiles

The distribution of possibilities for utilization of the textiles collected by UFF Norway from 2021 is shown in Figure 3. A comparison to the previous three years is shown in Figure 4.

While there was a decline in the share of textiles categorized as going to reuse in 2020 compared to 2019, this year's reports indicate a slight increase compared to 2020.

Overall, the split between reusable textiles and non-reusable textiles remains stable with a slight increase in the amount of waste removed from the collected textiles. Waste not suitable for material recycling is sent to landfill or to incineration with energy recovery.

Looking at the period 2020-2021, the share of textiles going to reuse is overall slightly lower

than in the years before. Based on previous revisions of several of the sorting centres, we know that the sorting centres will always produce as much of the reusable categories as possible as this is where the economic potential is. Therefore, the sorting itself is not expected to be a reason for the decline in textiles for reuse.

We find it more likely that the decline is linked to the quality of the incoming textiles. A possible explanation is that as a bigger share of the used textiles available on the market is being collected, the amount of textiles of poorer quality increases, which consequently decreases the average quality.

We also expect that the more detailed reporting and stricter definitions applied in the reporting since 2020 might also have clarified the distinction between reuse and material recycling.

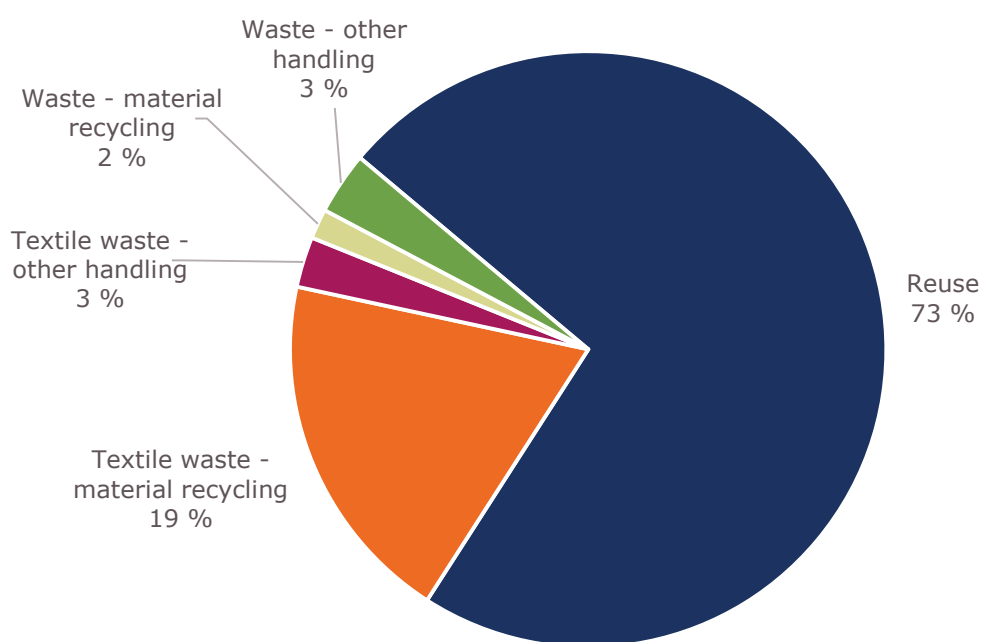


Figure 3 - Distribution of utilization of the textiles collected by UFF Norway in 2021

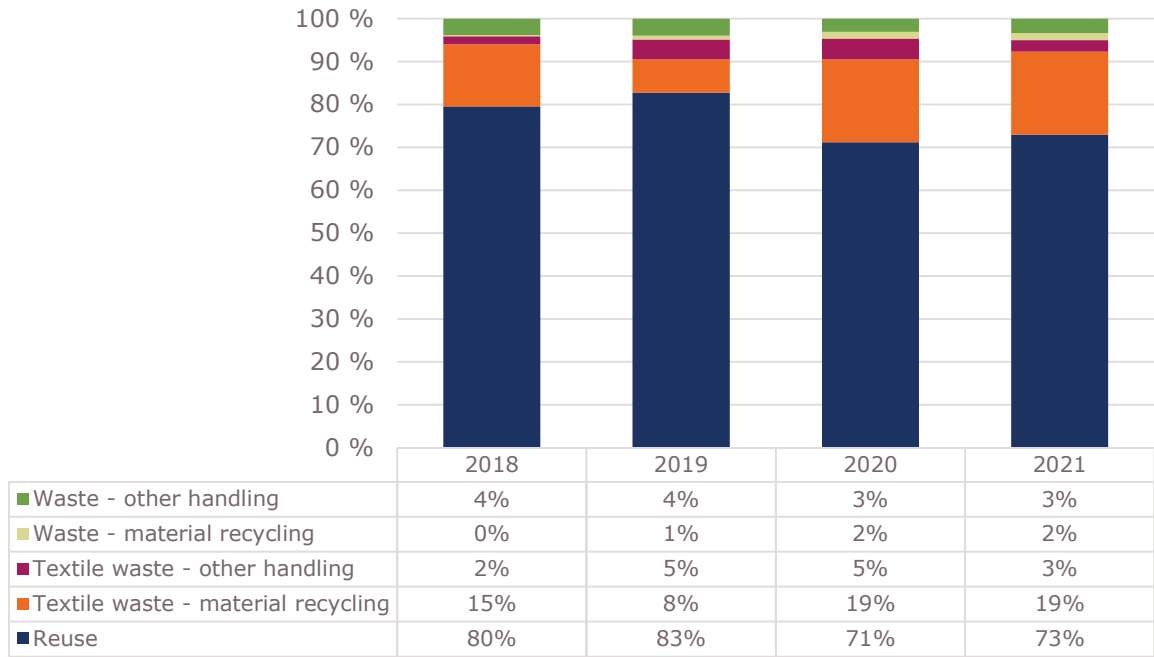


Figure 4 - Distribution of utilization of the textiles collected by UFF Norway 2018-2021

5 Geographical distribution

The geographical distribution of sorted textiles and waste originally collected by UFF Norway is displayed in Figure 5.

The distribution between the different regions is qualitatively similar to the previous year, with Europe being the region that receives the

largest amount of the textiles, followed by Africa. In this analysis, it should be noted that Asia covers a very large area and many industries, including India, Pakistan and Turkey.

All sorting centres report that waste handling is handled by local actors.

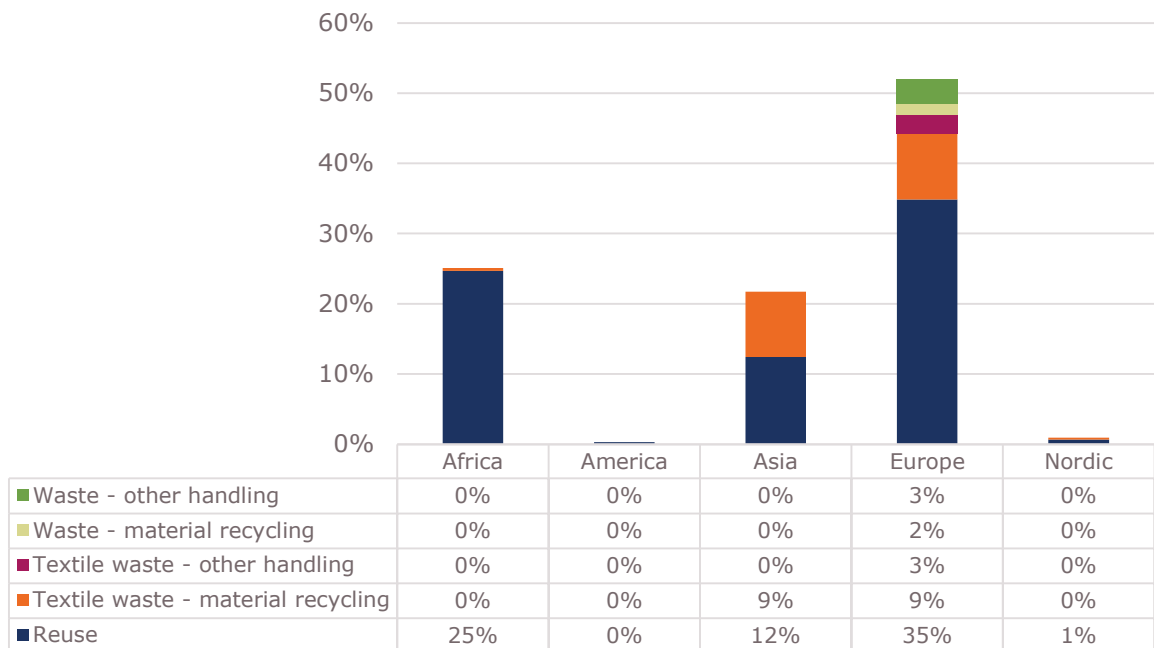


Figure 5 - Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste – 2021