

TEXTILE TRANSPARENCY REPORT

# Collection and distribution of textiles in 2019



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## 1 Collected textiles in 2019

In total, Humana Sweden collected 2 402 tonnes of used textiles in 2019. The total amount sold and sent to sorting centres in 2019 was 2 481 tonnes.

Before export, obvious waste is removed from the collected amounts. This is a mix of textile waste (e.g. wet clothes), 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. In 2019, 6 customers received less than 100 tonnes of used textiles. Table 1 shows that Mepex received reporting forms that cover 78.9 % of the amount collected and exported from Humana Sweden.

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

	Reported amounts sent from Humana Sweden (tonnes)	Unreported amounts from sorting centres (tonnes)
< 100 tonnes (not required to report)	293	293 (11.8 %)
> 100 tonnes	2 188	231 (9.3 %)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 481</b>	<b>524 (21.1 %)</b>

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

*Tabell 2 – Sorting centres which received textiles (>100 tonnes) from Humana Sweden in 2019.*

Receivers	Country	Short name used in figures
<b>Reported amounts</b>		
One World Clothes Trade Bulgaria	Bulgaria	OWCT Bulgaria
Humana Sorteerimiskeskus OÜ	Estonia	HPP Estonia
Lithuania LT	Lithuania	HPP Lithuania
Humana Secondhand	Poland	HPP Secondhand Poland
HPP Slovakia s.r.o.	Slovakia	HPP Slovakia
<b>Non-reported amounts</b>		
Amor	Poland	
Soltex	Poland	

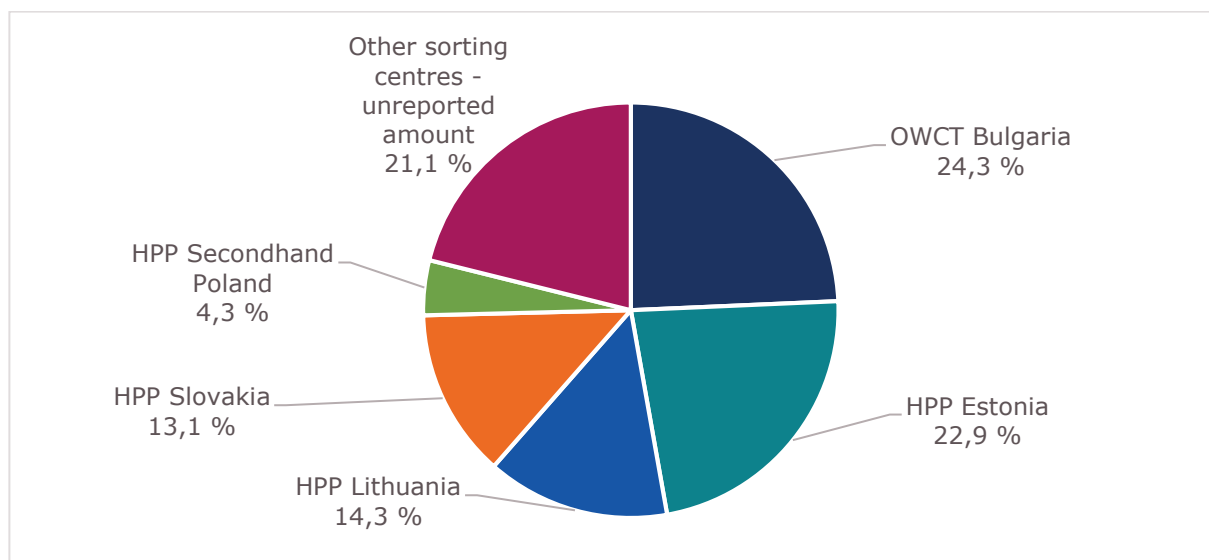
The reports received from the sorting centres are mostly satisfactory, however there are uncertainties in a few areas. These are mostly regarding:

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-wear, 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 used textiles from Humana Sweden are sent for sorting. Roughly half the collected textiles (47.2 %) are exported to Bulgaria and Estonia. The results for Humana Sweden will therefore to a significant extent be influenced by where they send the textiles they receive. The results in this report are based on the reported amounts received at sorting centres (78.9 %).



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

Swedish textiles only represent a small share of the total amount of incoming textiles at the sorting centres used by Humana Sweden (Figure 2). The highest concentration of Swedish textiles is found in HPP Estonia where they represent 7.1 % of the incoming textiles. Swedish textiles represent a small share of the total amount of received textiles at all sorting centres. 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 Sweden.

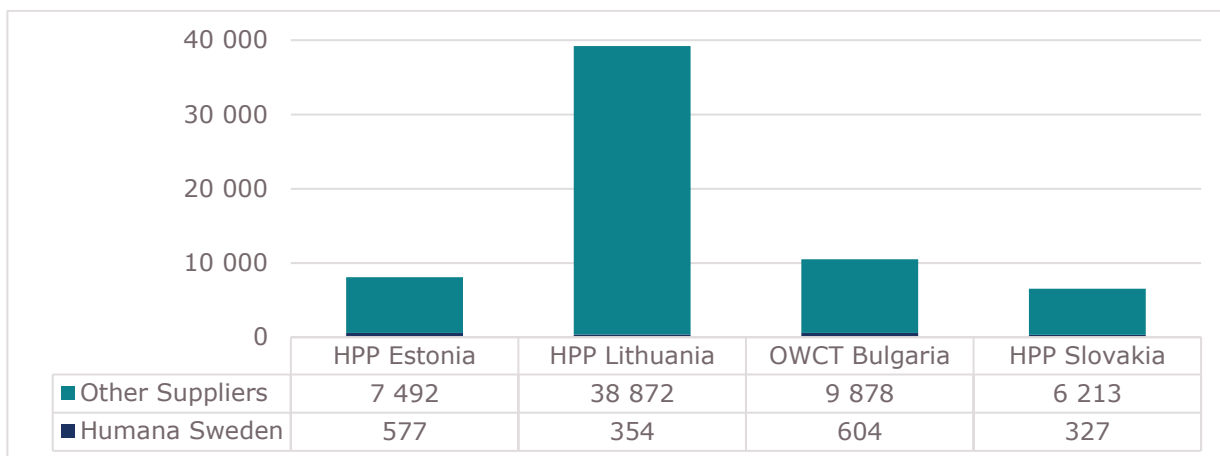


Figure 2 – Share of textiles received from Humana Sweden at sorting centres. This overview does not include HPP Secondhand Poland as we did not receive data on the total amount received from other suppliers - 2019<sup>1</sup>

## 2 Results from the collection of textiles by Humana Sweden

The sorting centres do not have specific information on the sales/distribution of textiles collected by Humana Sweden 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 Humana Sweden’s results based on the proportion of Swedish textiles sent to the sorting centre.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of Swedish textiles, textile waste and other waste from the sorting centres that receive used textiles from Humana Sweden. Swedish textiles are mainly sold for re-wear (80.3 %) or material recycling (10.3 %). 5.5 % of the collected material is textile waste, while 4.0 % is other waste. The waste (both textile and other waste) is sent to landfill (68.7 %), waste-to-energy (15.5 %), incineration without energy recovery (8.0 %), and material recycling (7.8 %).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The amounts received could differ from the amounts sent from Humana Sweden, 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 Sweden 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.

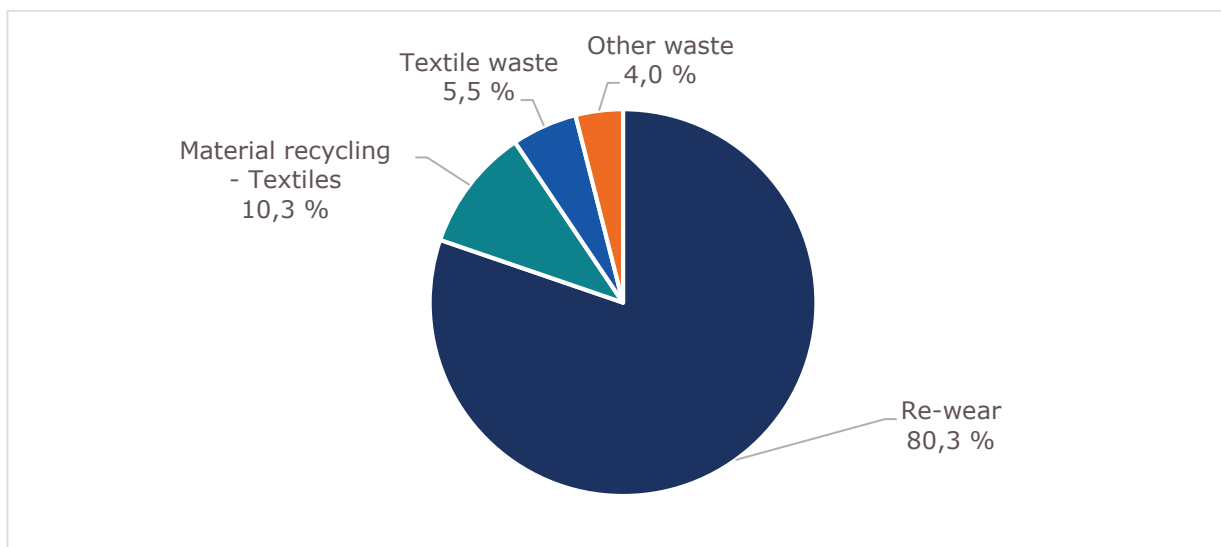


Figure 3 – Distribution of collected textiles and waste - 2019

Included in the segment 're-wear' are clothes and other textiles such as bed linen, towels, shoes and other accessories such as belts and hats etc. Roughly 93 % of the re-wear 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-recyclable 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 that the amount of textiles for re-wear has increased while the textiles for material recycling have decreased. As far as we understand, there has been an increase in demand of textiles of lower quality for re-wear that were previously sent to material recycling. Textile waste has also increased, and this is a trend we see for multiple collection organisations.

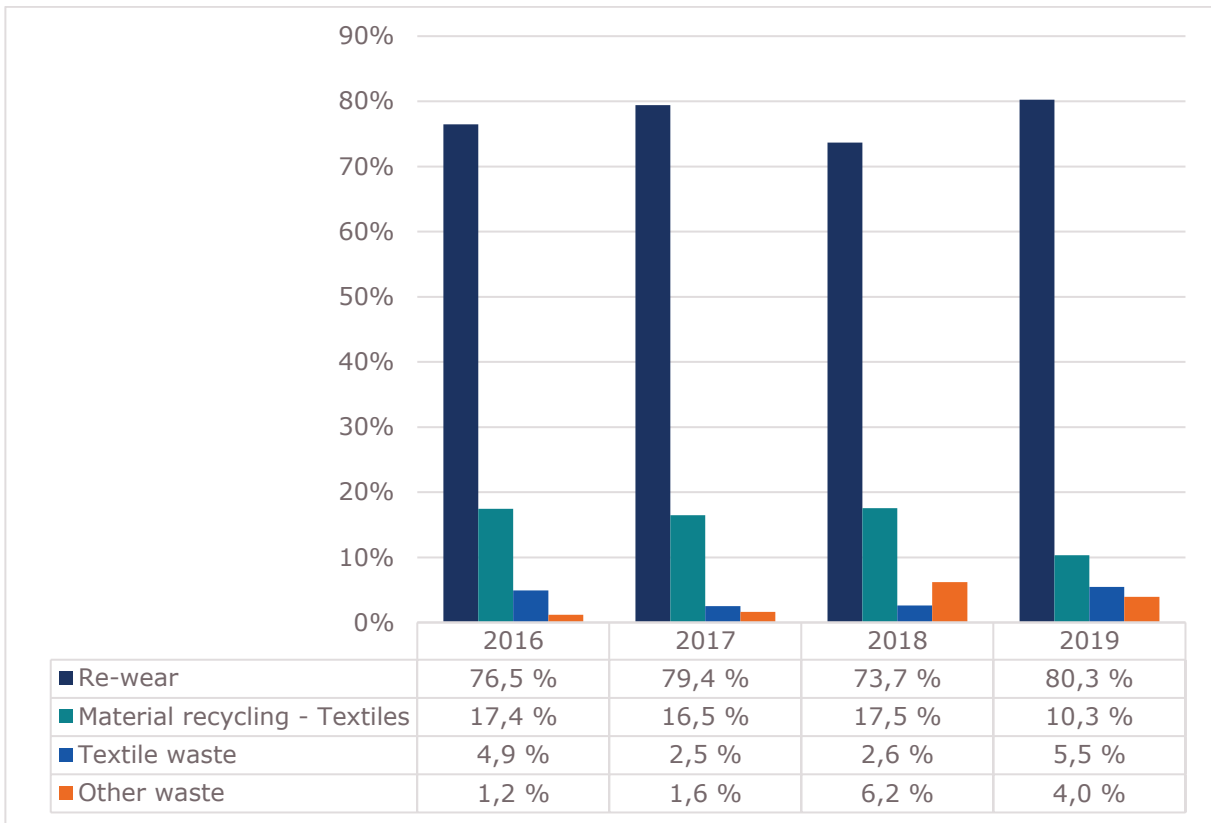


Figure 4 – Comparison between the distribution of used textiles from 2016-2019.

The distribution of sorted textiles and waste (originally collected by Humana Sweden) is displayed in the figures below. A large portion is sent to countries in Europe (52.0 %), however, large amounts are also sent to Asia and Africa. Only 12.6 tonnes are sent to the Nordic countries for re-use. Africa receives textiles only for re-use, while textiles for material recycling are shared between Europe and Asia. There has been an increase in material recycling of textiles in Europe and textiles for this purpose largely end up here. Most of the waste is sent for treatment in Europe.

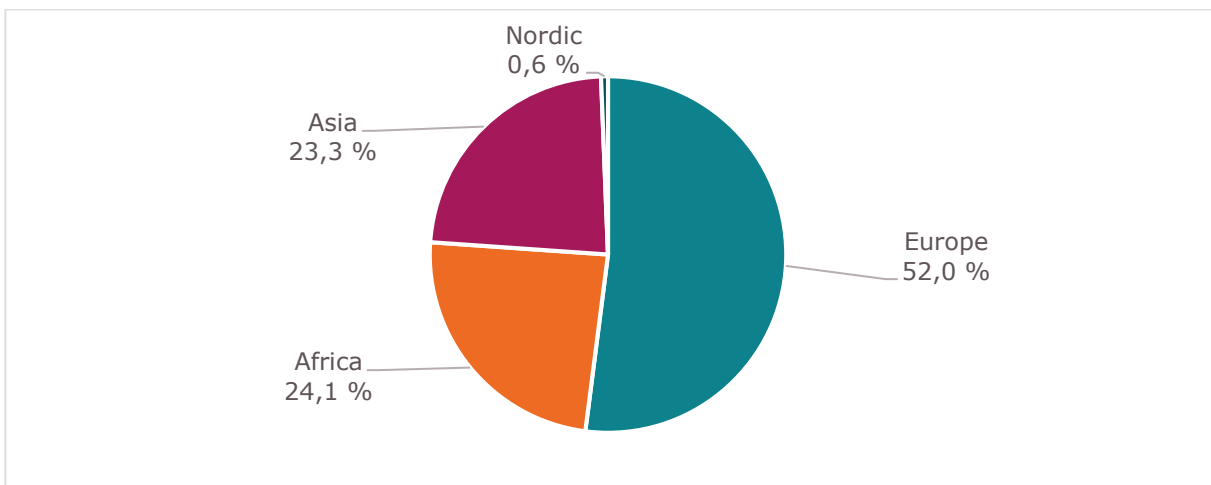


Figure 5 – Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste - 2019

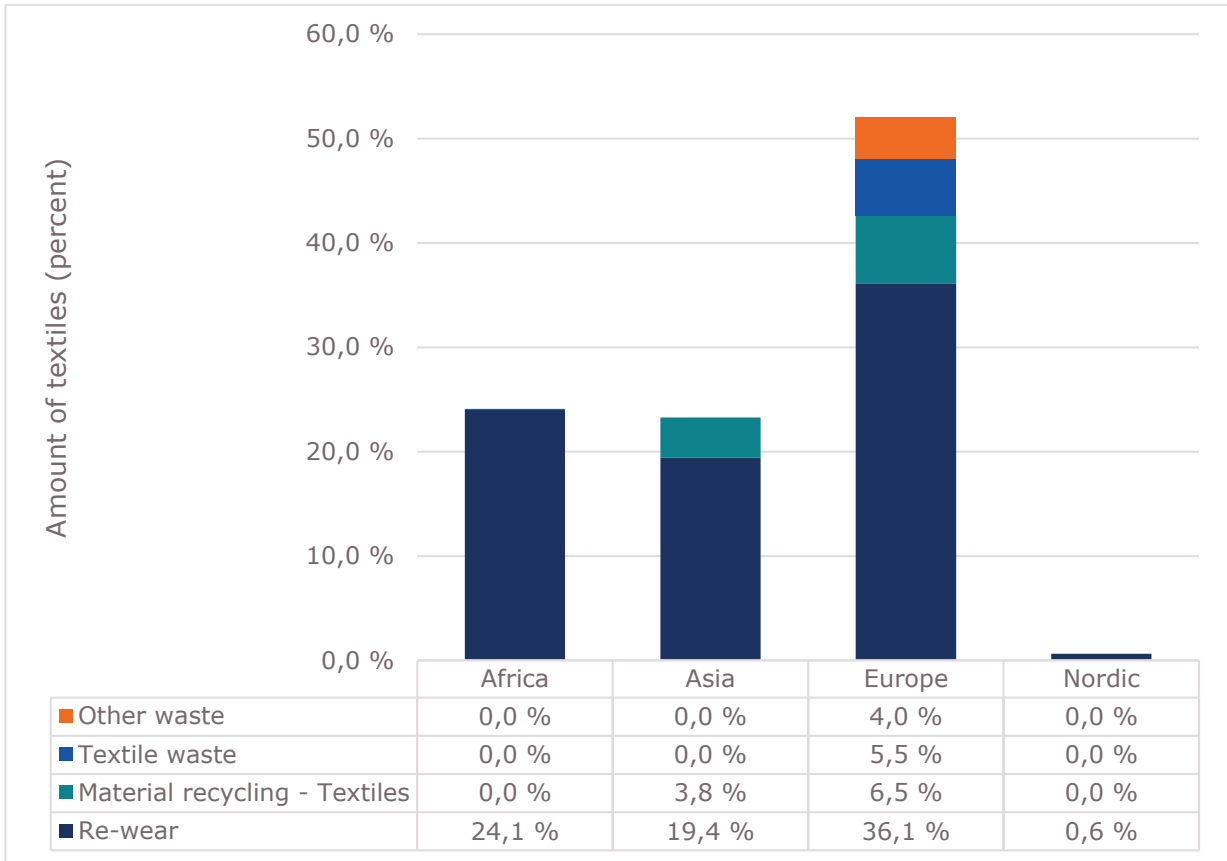


Figure 6 – Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste - 2019