



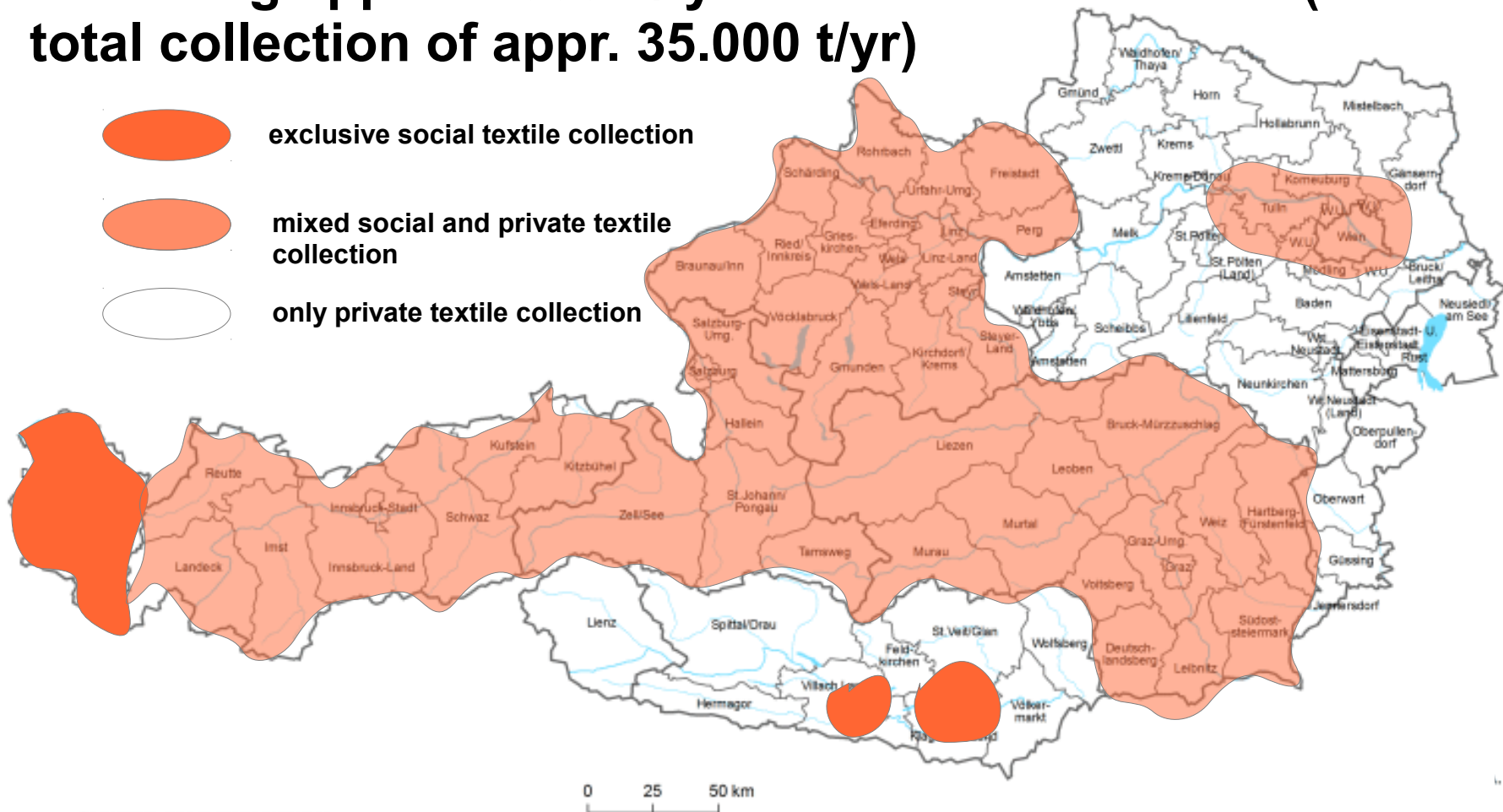
RepaNet Reparaturnetzwerk Österreich

Austrian social textile collection

Matthias Neitsch at „The role of textile re-use in a circular economy“,
Zagreb, June 28, 2017

Social enterprises textile collection in Austria

10 Social Enterprises (9 of them RepaNet members) collecting appr. 12.500 t / yr textiles in containers (out of total collection of appr. 35.000 t/yr)



Our Competitors:

- Municipalities collecting for themselves
- private waste companies using known charity labels
- private textile collectors using known charity labels
- Humana
- private textile collectors without charity labels
- illegal collectors



Textile Collection in Austria*:

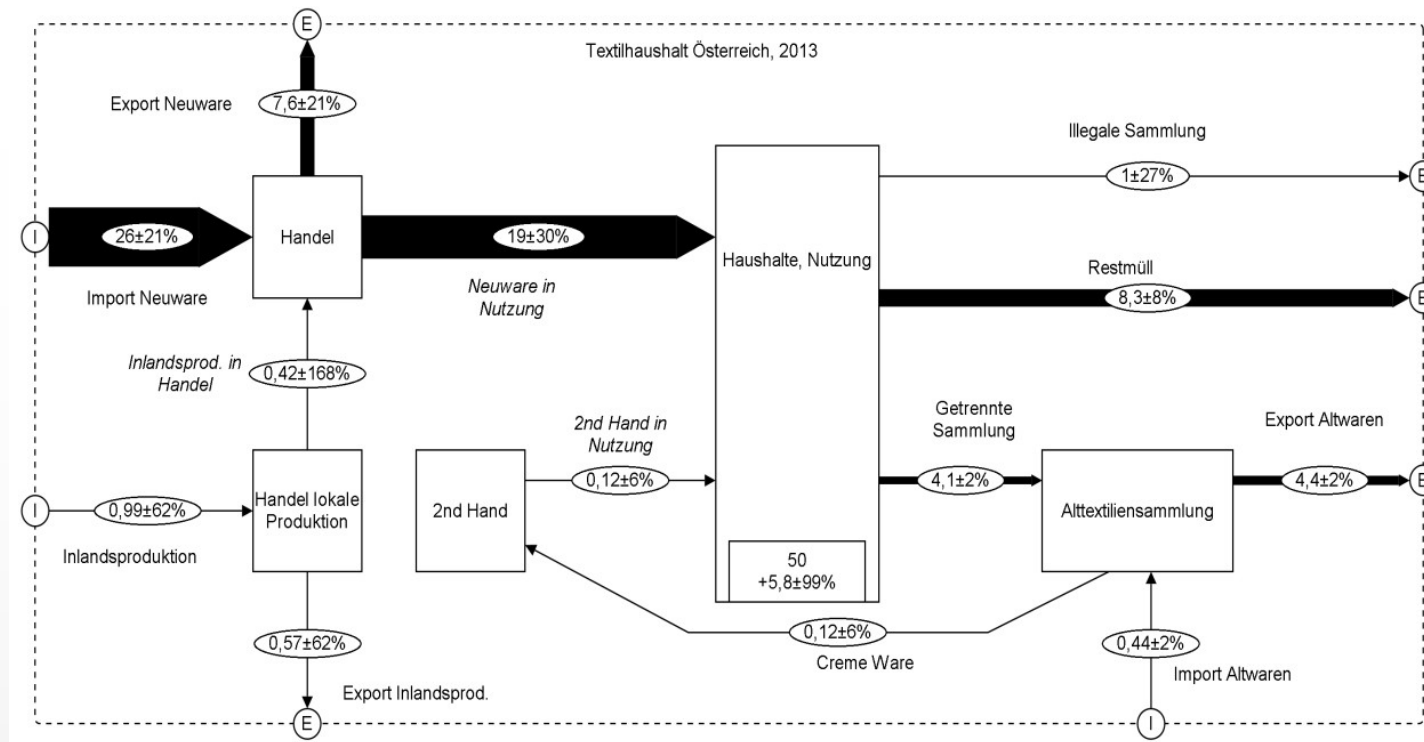
- Textiles in residual waste (not recovered!): 71.000 t
- Illegal containers: 8.800 t
- commercial collection**: 19.500 t
- social enterprises collection RepaNet-members: 12.500 t
- social enterprises collection non-members: 3.000 t

Total: (13,5 kg per capita) 114.800 t

* Sources: Maximilian Wagner: „Untersuchung der Flüsse und Lager von Textilien in Österreich“, Wien, 2017 (data from 2013); RepaNet-members survey (data from 2015); RepaNet estimates

** including commercial collections using charity Logos, and including Humana

Textile material flow in Austria*:



* kg per capita; Source: Maximilian Wagner: „Untersuchung der Flüsse und Lager von Textilien in Österreich“, Wien, 2017 (data from 2013)

What we want:

- create **more jobs** for disadvantaged persons
- **strengthen regional economies** with keeping higher value of collected textiles in the region
- re-invest more **money into social projects**
- **=> secure / expand our market share**



Our partners for the „Common good“:

- ~~Humana~~
- ~~Private textile collectors~~
- ~~Private waste companies~~
- **Municipalities**



How convince a municipality to cooperate with a social enterprise?

1. Tell them they are the only ones with the right to collect.
2. Tell them we are the only one doing it with the highest benefit for them.



How convince a municipality to cooperate with a social enterprise?

- Textiles in containers is **waste**
==> municipality is legally in charge of collection
- municipality can (but does not have to) **subcontract**
- **RepaNet** communicated this fact many times in monthly newsletters (2500 stakeholder recipients), conferences and meetings

Chances (1):

- **Waste regime = effective tool against illegal collection**
- **If municipality contracts textile collection out, it falls under public procurement regulations**
- **==> Social enterprises might benefit from new EU procurement regulations**
- **fair, regulated deal, transparency**
- **usually social enterprises have good working relationship with municipalities**



Challenges:



- **Some municipalities want the revenues**
- **more legislative burdens, costs, bureaucracy**
- **competition with commercial collectors**
- **social aspect not adequately valued**
- **monetary aspects might be dominant for municipalities**
- **In the good old times everything was easier....**

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RepaNet-Guideline for sustainable collection and recovery of used textiles:

Social enterprises...

- are more **resilient** and **stable** partners
- have **full control** over revenues and **maximise** social and regional **benefit**
- create **more jobs** through sale in own shops
- **2,8 Containers = 1 job**
- **11%** of collected textiles **sold in the region**
(commercial collections: 100% export!)



RepaNet members create:

per 1.000 t collected textiles (collection, sorting, shop):

- **43 FTE** (Full time equivalents)
- **or: 52 jobs** (employed persons)
- **total: 643 jobs in Austria**
= 3,6 jobs per 10 textile containers

Criteria for sustainable textile collection:

Social Criteria:

- **well known** social enterprise / NGO / NPO / Charity
- high percentage sold in **own shops**
- high proportion of **jobs for disadvantaged** groups
- **direct donation** of clothes to persons in need
- **revenues** only for **social** aims (no private profit)
- wholesale only to **trustworthy**, legally licensed partners
- clear, transparent and **non-misleading information**

Criteria for sustainable textile collection:

Economic Criteria:

- **full control** of social enterprise, **no „logo selling“**
- **subcontracting** allowed, but only if own capacities are limited, full control, no hidden private profits through non competitive conditions for unfair benefit of private subcontractor
- **surplus revenues**, if not invested within the social enterprise itself, must be invested in **other social projects**
- **fair, transparent trade partnerships** with trustworthy wholesale buyers with **long-term high revenues**

Criteria for sustainable textile collection:

Ecological Criteria:

- value-keeping processes along the process chain to secure **maximum re-usability**
- fulfilment of all relevant **waste laws**
- sorting with maximum consideration of **waste hierarchy**
- **non-reusable** textiles recovered according to waste hierarchy and waste laws
- maximising re-use / recovery **within region** / country



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