



RepaNet Reparaturnetzwerk Österreich

Austrian social textile collection

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

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*:

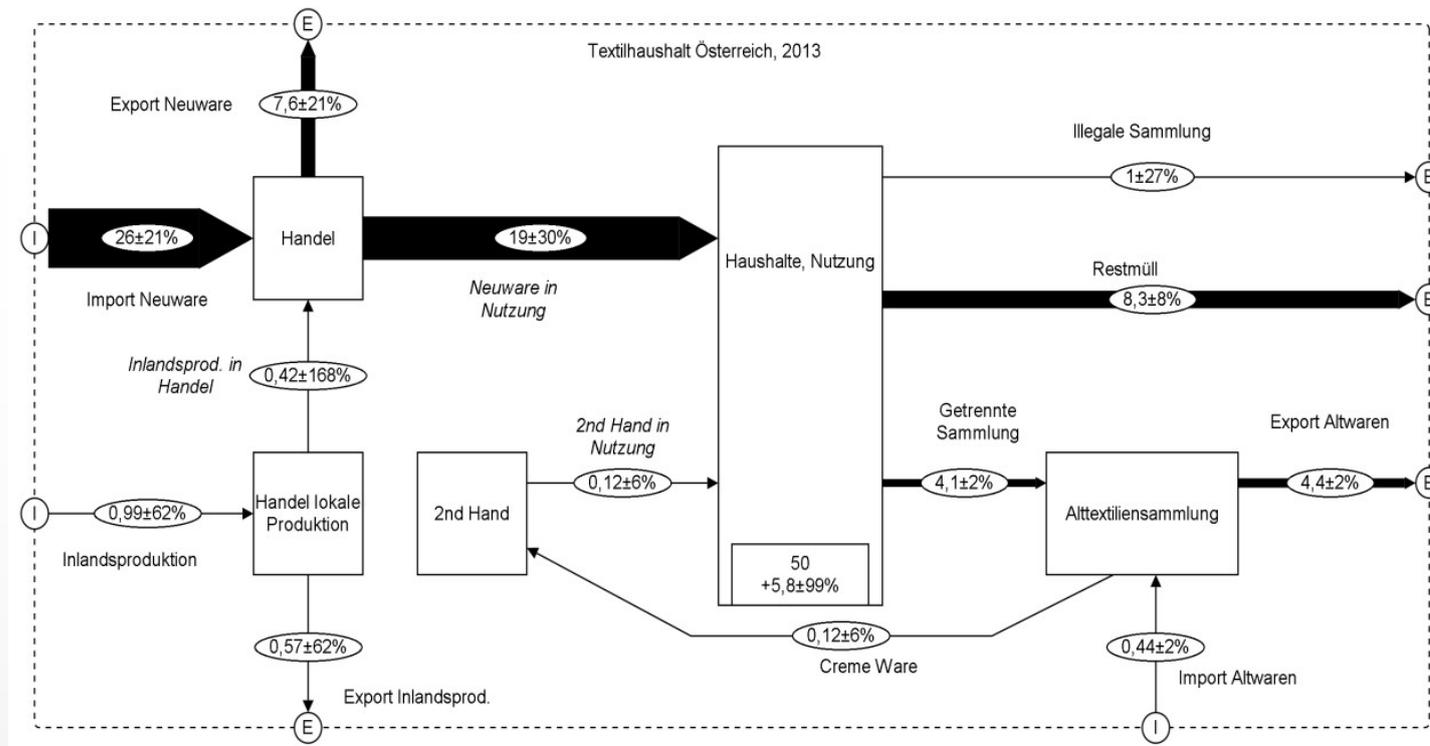
- Textiles in residual waste (not recovered!): 71.000 t
- Illegal containers: 8.800 t
- commercial collection**: 19.500 t
- social enterprises collection RepaNet-members: 12.500 t
- social enterprises collection non-members: 3.000 t

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....**

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.



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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RepaNet – Re-Use & Repair Network Austria

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