
TEXTILE COLLECTION IN EUROPEAN CITIES

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Project Goal

Gather info on **approaches** to the collection of used textiles in **European cities** that can be used by ECAP to **inspire and guide** other cities/actors in Europe

Why cities?

- *Higher living density*
- *More high-rise and multi-apartment buildings*
- *Multi-cultural demographics*
- *Many competing actors*
- *Can act as a test bed for ideas*



City selection

- Increased collection rates
- Novel approaches – new focus
- Collaborations between actors
- Municipal led initiatives

Antwerp
Copenhagen
Gothenburg
Paris
Rome
Rotterdam
BEST bag, NL

Info collection

- Background context
- Description of initiatives/actors
- Communication approaches
- Challenges/solutions
- Next steps

General findings

Municipalities are getting more involved

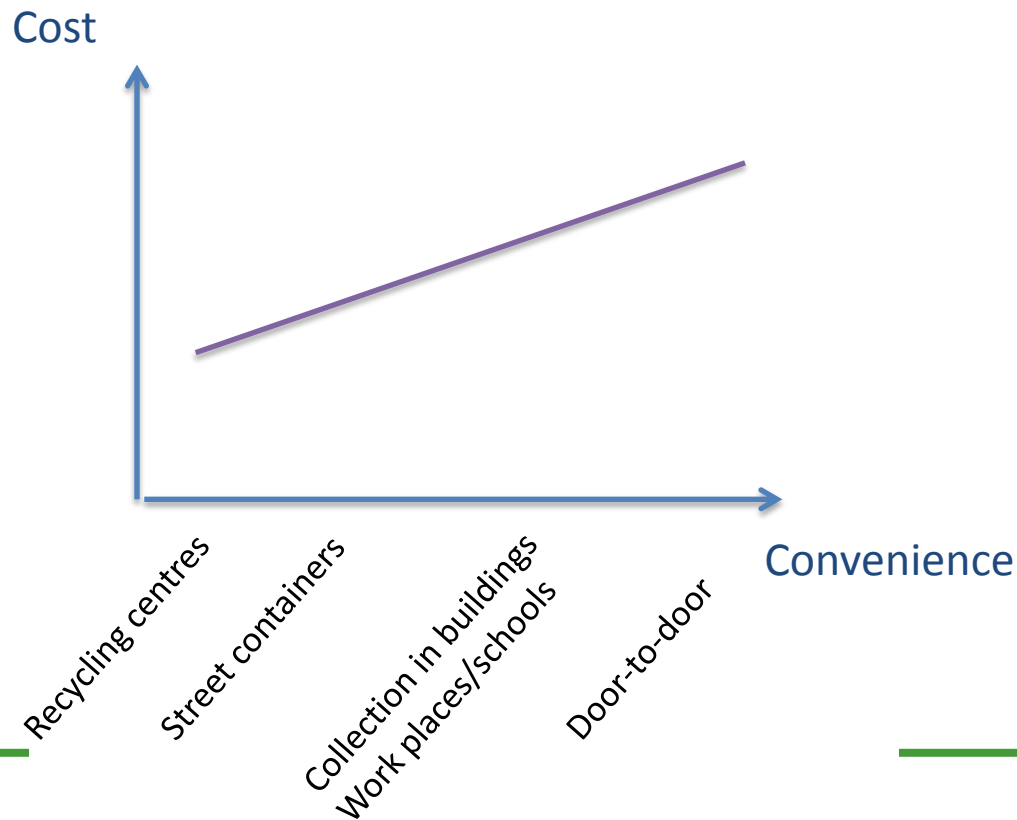
Why?

- Wish for increased transparency/control
- Waste prevention and circular economy agenda and targets
- Reduce costs of waste handling
- Social benefits

How?

- Tender/certification processes
- More active guidance of collection, demands for reporting
- Taking over collection and sale
- Charging a fee for collection

General findings



Range of collection methods can reach more people

- Costs of convenience
- But reduced contamination
- Cost reduction possible by combining with other streams

General findings

Collaborations can be stronger than sum of individuals

Because:

- Collection techniques can compliment one another
- Common brand can simplify and amplify message to citizens
- Potential for increased efficiency of processing/sale

Tips for building collaborations

- Municipality tenders should emphasise **cooperation** and range of collection methods
- Identify **partners with complimentary approaches**
- Agree early on **common vision**
- Do **not try to change partners activities from the beginning**. Develop a long term plan with gradually increasing cooperation
- Develop a **common brand and communication** from the beginning
- Hold **regular meetings** where partners discuss concerns and agree on solutions

Getting to know the citizen and the importance of communication

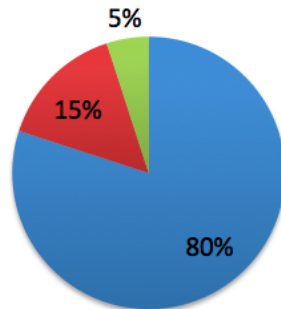
- Some **very motivated/some not at all**
- **Many people care** what happens to their textiles but feelings can differ
- If **social/humanitarian impacts important** – these should be catered for
- In Albano Laziale, Rome **increased collection quantities by 65% simply via transparency** on fate of textiles and money raised

General findings

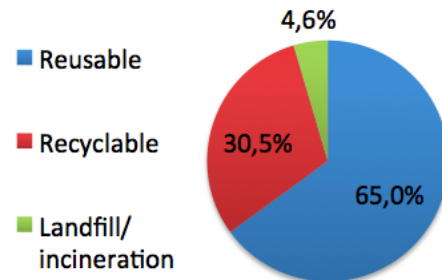
The worn-out textile conundrum

- **Acceptance of worn-out textiles** is key to increasing collection rates
- But **squeezes economics of collection** – sorting costs increase and revenue decreases
- **Communication** can be a tricky

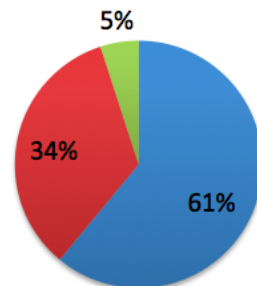
Average UFF collection



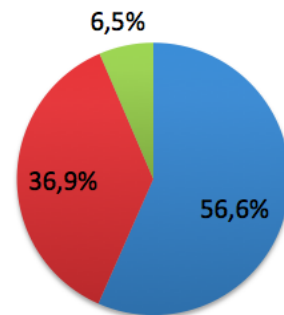
ARC recycling centres



Multi-apartment housing - waste rooms



Local recycling centres



The local solutions conundrum

- Provides **local jobs**
 - Taking **responsibility for own waste**
 - **Higher processing costs**
 - **Reuse options limited**
 - **Recycling solutions very limited**
 - Environmentally **not advantageous**
- BUT ALL THIS MAY CHANGE**

General findings

Need for financial support?

Quadruple hit for collectors:

- Asked to advertise for worn-out textiles
- Asked to provide local solutions
- Sometimes pay a fee for collection
- Global prices are dropping especially for lower grades

In Paris, Antwerp, Rotterdam **financial support is being provided** in return for these efforts

- From producers, municipalities or regions
- Wage support for sorting processing
- Investments in recycling R&D
- Social and environmental returns on investment

Considerations for municipalities and collectors

Set measurable targets and set up systems for monitoring

Carry out a citizen survey before designing measures for meeting targets

Consider increasing/ensuring transparency in the fate of collected textiles and how the money raised from them is used e.g. Nordic Commitment. Many citizens care what happens to their textiles

Consider providing a range of collection/delivery possibilities. Citizens differ in their daily habits and motivation. City landscapes vary

A collaboration between different actors can strengthen collection, subsequent processing and sale.

Make use of existing actors experience and knowledge of textile collection, used textile processing and global markets. This is a huge asset

Considerations for municipalities and collectors

Consider a common brand for all types of collection activities, containers and actors to reduce confusion/inaction among citizens and strengthen messages

Ensure the economic viability of collection and processing for all actors in the value chain otherwise collection initiatives will not last.

Ensure that collection and processing solutions adhere to national legal frameworks. Existing collectors of used textiles may not be permitted to advertise for non-reusable textiles without becoming registered waste collectors

Be pragmatic about local solutions. Goal that all textiles will be reused and recycled locally can reduce environmental and social benefits of the textiles in the short term. Think long-term.

Social, circular economy and environmental gains can be made by combining wage support for long-term unemployed, or disadvantaged groups in employment/training in collection and processing

Ensure clarity on communication on non-reusable textiles

Thank you for listening!

**Any questions please contact me at
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Useful links:

- [Textile collection in European cities](#)
- [Fate and impact of used textile exports](#)
- [Developments in global markets](#)
- [LCA on discarded textile treatment](#)