



**SVERIGES
TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND**
TEXTILSERVICEFÖRETAGEN

FOURTH SVERIGES TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT ON UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

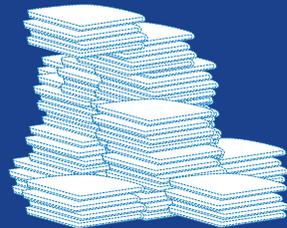
MARCH, 2023



800 TONS
/DAY



15 000 TONS
/MONTH



180 000 TONS
/YEAR



THE EMPLOYEES



5 000
PROFESSIONALS



4 044
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

55% WOMEN



45% MEN

50% OF THE WORKFORCE IS BORN
OUTSIDE SWEDEN



THE SWEDISH TEXTILE SERVICE ASSOCIATION

THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
REVENUE COMPARED TO THE
WHOLE INDUSTRY.

87%

THE  **BRAND**

VERIFIES THAT OUR MEMBERS, AFTER PASSING THE
AUTHORIZATION PROCESS, MEET ALL OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR
PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, GOOD ETHICAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES.

COMMUNICATION OF ENGAGEMENT 2023

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

An important part of a sustainable and circular textile industry

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is the leading industry association for textile rental service providers in Sweden, representing almost 125 companies within the Swedish textile service industry and almost 90% of the Swedish market. The Swedish textile service industry provides services which are fundamental to society every single day of the year. Consisting of around 5000 employees in 300 companies with a summarized turnover reaching 5,3 billion in 2021, the industry also delivers a substantial contribution to the society through payment of taxes and employment.

The launch of the EU strategy for a sustainable and circular textile industry in 2022 has made it clear that there is no longer room for wear and tear in the textile industry. The ambitious goals set out by the strategy are welcomed by the Swedish textile industry as our business model is inherently circular. Moving toward a rental rather than an ownership model of textiles allows for textile products to have an extended lifespan, with repair services operated by professionals allowing for products to remain in the textile value chain for a much longer period of time. However, we see great need for advocacy in coming years in order to make our contribution to the EU-strategy even more evident and reduce the risk of creating policies that could have a negative impact on circular achievements already made by the Swedish textile service industry.

We develop

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is constantly developing the support to our member organizations. In 2023 an EU-project investigating the possibilities of increased knowledge sharing of the member authorisation process in the Nordic countries was initialized. The aim of the project is also to recommend development of the authorisation processes to further reflect the ambitions of the EU-strategy on a sustainable and circular textile industry and create educational materials for textile service industry employees to increase their knowledge of sustainability. The two-year project The new Scandinavian Quality Control model is coordinated by Sveriges Tvätteriförbund in close collaboration with the Danish association BVT and co-funded by the Erasmus+ program.

We engage

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund participates in dialogues with several Swedish authorities with focus on issues such as reduced spreading of micro-plastics to the environment, increased reuse and recycling of textiles and decreased content of hazardous chemicals in textiles.

Our ethical guidelines take a clear stand against any kind of discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or expression, disabilities or age.

Our authorisation procedure assures that this is also the policy amongst our member organizations and their suppliers.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund *Sustainability Prize* is annually awarded to an individual that has presented outstanding efforts for enhanced sustainability within the industry. The association also supports two Swedish soccer clubs in their work with youth and for integration.

We welcome the Global Compact commitments

We are happy and proud to reaffirm the Sveriges Tvätteriförbund's commitment to the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. We welcome new members who live up to these standards and work on a commercial basis.

This Communication on Engagement (COE) is an opportunity for us to share how we and our members address the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainability and corporate responsibility. In this COE, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact into our strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders through our channels of communication.

Sincerely,

Jan Kluge

Chairman of the Board of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund represents textile rental and laundry firms and dry cleaner firms. Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is a non-profit organization founded in 1940 to represent and promote the interests of the Swedish textile service Industry. Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is an active member of the European Textile Services Association (ETSA).

Textile services offer supply, rental and maintenance of textiles, including but not limited to:

- Workwear and protective clothing for industry and services
- Hotel and restaurant linen
- Surgical and hospital textiles
- Dust mats and mops

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund continuously raises the standards within the textile service industry, by ensuring that members associations respect laws and regulations in areas such as taxes, environmental protection, working environment and anti-discrimination. Through this work, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund promotes not only fair competition within the industry, but also an increased level of sustainability in the industry as a whole.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has developed a framework of ethical guidelines, based on four key-words: *Competence, Quality, Environment and Social engagement*. These are guiding for all member associations and their suppliers.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has been a member of the UNGC since 2016. Through this fourth communication on engagement (COE), we are proud to re-confirm that we remain firmly committed to the 10 principles of Global Compact.

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement (COE)

From: June 9, 2021

To: March 9, 2023

HUMAN RIGHTS

Our commitment

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is committed to the principles of human rights embodied by the UN Global Compact.

Our Ethical rules and Code of Conduct take a strong stand against any kind of discrimination, whether based on gender, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.

We strongly believe that education is fundamental for all individuals and engage in activities to support youth through school, making it possible for them to go further into secondary school, which is an increasingly common requirement for any employment in Sweden. We also engage in projects to develop dedicated educational material to ensure life-long learning amongst employees in our member organizations.

Implementation

It is mandatory for all members of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund to sign up on the Ethical Guidelines of the association. This is reinsured every year as a part of the yearly member authorisation procedure. Members are also yearly reinsuring the use of the Code of Conduct developed by Sveriges Tvätteriförbund when subcontracting non-member organizations.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has since 2015 been engaged as sponsor and partner to Malmö FF (one of Sweden's largest soccer organizations) and their soccer-academy, using soccer – and in later years also other sports, to motivate youth to stay and participate in school. The association is also a sponsor and partner to IF Brommapojkarna, BP, the soccer club in Europe that has the most active athletes and leaders. One of Brommapojkarnas long-term goals is to, with soccer as a base, be an engine for integration and gender equality and thereby contribute to a positive societal development.

Measurement of outcomes

According to results from the latest authorisation process amongst member organizations, an increasing number of our members reported having structured procedures to ensure that the same ethical guidelines that apply to our member companies also are complied with by their suppliers. This means that our strong stand against any kind of discrimination is echoed also amongst a large number of suppliers to our member organizations.

The Malmö FF soccer-academy has expanded to 18 schools in southern Sweden and is open for both girls and boys. Using sports as motivation for these youth has been very successful, and these public-school soccer-academy classes present top level results when compared to other public schools

LABOUR

Our Commitment

Based on statistics from member organizations, payroll accounts for around 49% of the laundry and textile services industry's costs. Thus, the industry is labour intensive and important from an employment perspective. In several Swedish municipalities, members of Sveriges Tvätteriförbundet are amongst the most important local employers.

In addition, many of the jobs created in our industry are ideally suited for entry-level positions. This provides great opportunities for those who, for whatever reason, find themselves far from the labour market. We consider diversity to be a strength and our industry employs the young, those with shorter educations, and the newly arrived immigrants.

Implementation

Sveriges Tvätteriförbundet is engaged in issues related to labour from several different aspects:

- Increasing the number of employees within the industry as a whole
- Ensuring sound working conditions for all employees in the Swedish textile service industry
- Creating possibilities for individuals with fewer opportunities to enter the working market
- Eliminating undeclared employments
- Promoting initiatives that assure sound working conditions up-streams, in the production of textiles
- Promoting continuous learning and development of skills amongst employees within in the industry
- Assuring a welcoming ambient for all employees, independent of who they are (see non-discrimination above)

Some examples of how the Sveriges Tvätteriförbundet's work in relation to these:

It is mandatory for all members of Sveriges Tvätteriförbundet to report any work-related illness or accidents to the Swedish Work Environment Authority. If controls by the same authority have resulted in any demerits, measures must have been taken to make needed adjustments prior to authorisation.

Many of our member organizations have a close collaboration with the Swedish Public Employment Service, with the mission to decrease unemployment. Several member organizations provide trainee-programs – in some cases mixed with lessons in Swedish.

The association participates in a group in collaboration with the Swedish Tax Agency, with the aim of reducing undeclared employment and other forms of economic crimes.

Through collaboration with several other national industry organizations and the European Textile Services Association (ETSA), members of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund get access to the e-learning platform *E-Washboard – Improving E-learning in the textile care sector*. The program is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The aim of the programme is that employees can develop their knowledge within different aspects of the textile service industry in their own phase in a modularly constructed e-learning environment.

Measurement of outcomes

The number of cases of work-related illness and accidents, as reported to the Swedish Work Environment Authority, is followed up and reported yearly in the Sveriges Tvätteriförbund's sustainability report.

The percentage of machine operators (largest employment group in the textile service industry) born outside of Sweden has increased steadily over the last decade, reaching 50% in 2021. This clearly shows that the Swedish textile service Industry plays an important part in the integration of new Swedes.

ENVIRONMENT

Our Commitment

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund strives for a constant reduction of negative environmental impacts from the professional textile service industry. The safety measures ensured by annual member authorisation procedure should vastly decrease the risk of emissions of hazardous chemicals to the environment.

Environmental engagement amongst member organizations should be credited and good examples spread in order to inspire others.

The association participates actively in the shaping of new legislation with great impact on the possibilities for the industry to improve the environmental performance and in activities where new possibilities for an ever-greener professional textile service are investigated and developed.

The association contributes to environmentally sound decisions amongst stakeholders, by supporting development of information presenting the environmental impacts from the sector.

The association engages in dialogue with authorities on relevant environmental themes and provide information when possible.

The association participates in development projects that can push the industry towards increased environmental sustainability and circularity.

Implementation

The yearly member authorisation procedure aims at checking the compliance of environmental laws, regulations and recommendations. Irregularities are followed up upon, and continuous non-compliance results in exclusion from the Sveriges Tvätteriförbund. This process also includes the follow-up of subcontractors, using a Code of Conduct, developed by Sveriges Tvätteriförbund. The authorisation procedure is constantly developed in order to reflect new laws and regulations.

Data collected in the authorisation procedure and other statistics collected by Swedish authorities is annually presented and analysed in Sveriges Tvätteriförbund's Sustainability report. The report is publicly available through the organization's webpage.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has during the reporting period developed a position paper on an EU-level extended producer responsibility system for textile waste, and engaged in one of Sweden's largest research and development projects in this area – TexChain3.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund plays an important role in spreading good examples of environmental efforts amongst member organizations, through newsletters, yearly chronicle and sustainability reports as well as member meetings (twice every year).

Measurement of outcomes

Progress in this area is accompanied through results in the yearly authorisation procedure for members. Based on results from the reporting period, the following can be ascertained:

- An increasing number of facilities operated by member companies have implemented environmental management systems and achieved certification according to ISO 14001, alternatively the Nordic Swan.
- Member organizations have good knowledge of how to correctly manage chemicals and waste in their premises, thus reducing risks for environmental damage.
- More and more member organizations have a close collaboration with textile recyclers, charity organizations or up-cycling designers for reuse and recycling of their textile waste.
- More and more member organizations invest in renewable energy production through solar panels on their premises or use of renewable fuels in laundry processes and transports.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Our Commitment

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund strongly believes that the professional textile service industry will be best served by market conditions characterised by healthy competition and takes a clear stand against any form of corruption.

The ethical guidelines of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund require that members pay taxes and fees, have ordered finances, and that accounting is done according to generally accepted principles. Each member organization must ensure that they are aware of the principles in the ethical guidelines, and this is controlled yearly through the yearly authorisation procedure for members

Implementation

All new member organizations must present approved tax declarations and annual reports prior to authorisation as members of the Sveriges Tvätteriförbund. Approved tax declarations and annual reports are also a requirement in order to maintain authorisation.

The annual member authorisation procedure also ensures that all member organizations fulfil the required level of personnel ledger, and any remarks from the Swedish Tax Agency on the personnel ledger must be corrected prior to membership and re-authorisation.

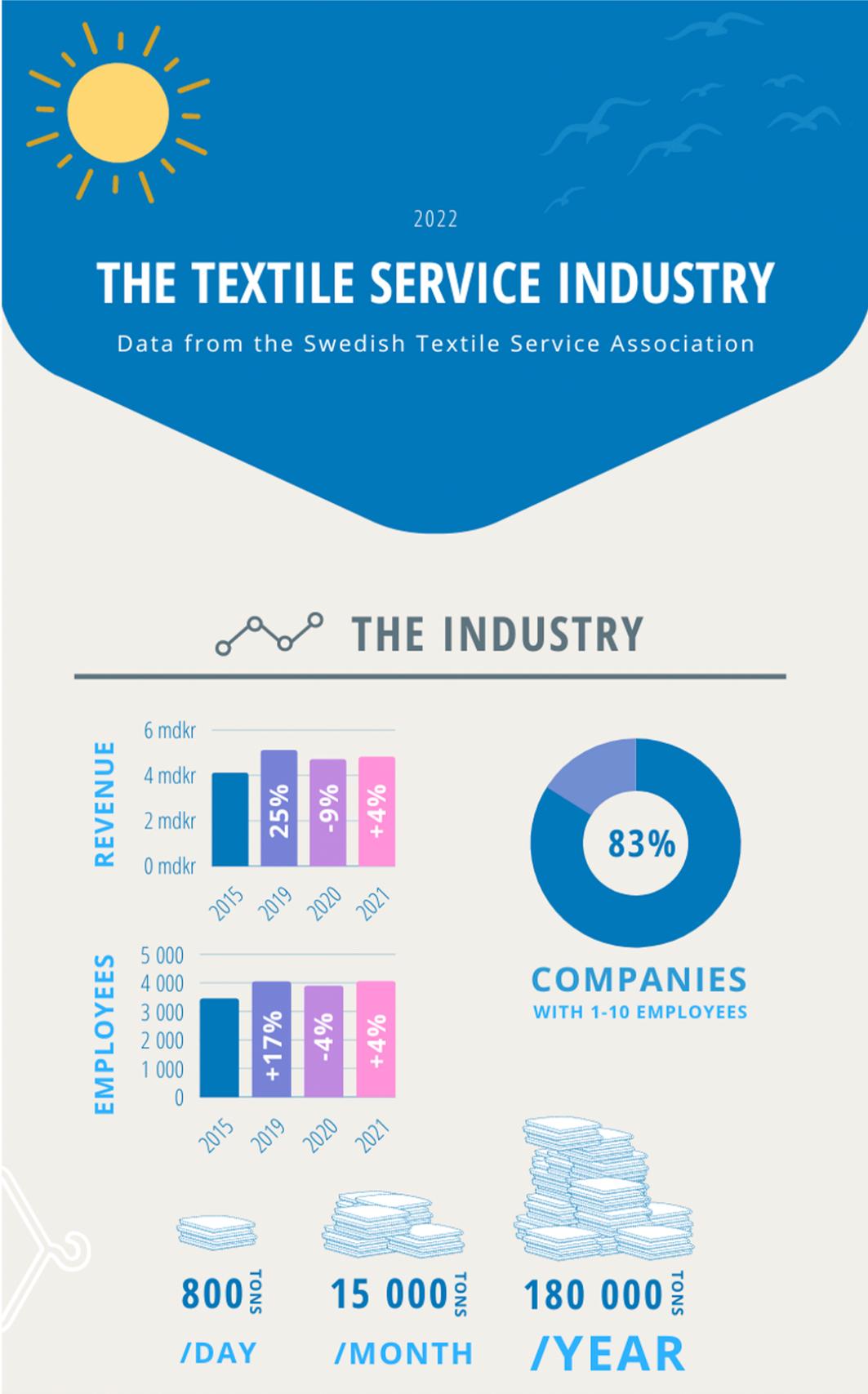
Another requirement checked in the member authorisation procedure is that private consumers always are given a machine-stamped receipt stating the corporate identity number and VAT.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund participates in a group organized by the Swedish Tax Agency, with the aim of reducing undeclared employment and other forms of economic crimes.

Measurement of outcomes

No cases of corruption within the industry have been reported during the reporting period. The level of corruption is in general low in Sweden. The textile service-industry has previously been pointed out as one of the areas where the risk of corruption is higher compared to the average. However, in the latest available summary of all corruption accusations in Sweden, the textile service-industry is no longer presented as a risk-sector (BRÅ, 2013 – Den anmälda korruptionen i Sverige). The Swedish Institution against bribery (Institutet Mot Mutor, IMM) investigates and disposes all known cases of bribery in Sweden yearly. IMM has not reported any cases of bribery with connections to the textile service industry in any of their yearly reports. The first report was published in 2017.

INFOGRAPHICS





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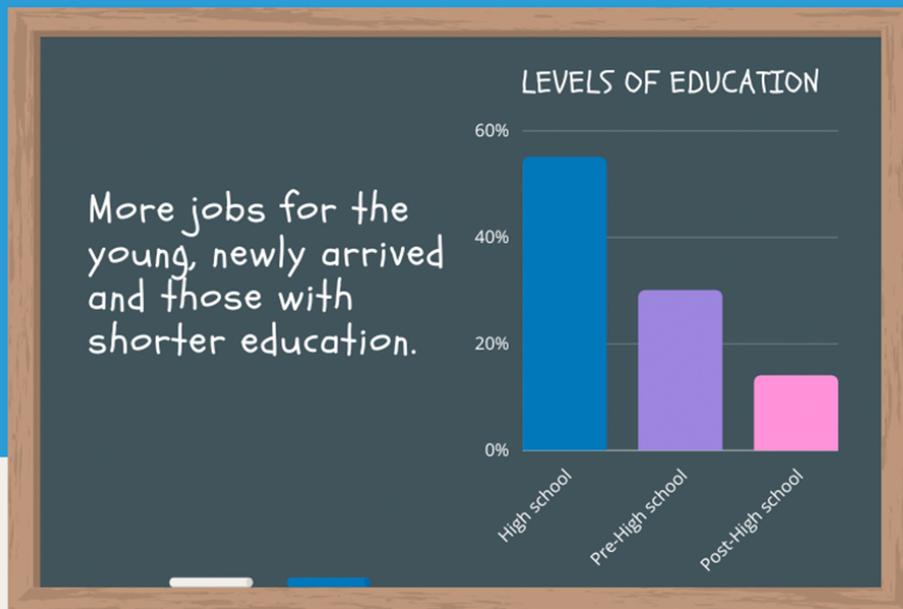
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DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE? CONTACT US AT
INFO@TVATTERIFORBUNDET.SE OR READ MORE AT OUR WEBSITE.

WWW.TVATTERIFORBUNDET.SE

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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