

FTN: GLOBAL COMPACT Communication on Engagement 2015

Participant ID: 15617

Introduction

This “Communication on Engagement” provides an overview of activities by FTN and her members.

Activities and results

In her role as the Dutch Federation of Textile Services, FTN develops activities to boost

- Innovation in, and
- Professionalism

of the industry.

Initiatives that support the key values of the association:

- Sustainability;
- Quality and
- Services.

These core values connect to the Ten principles of the Global Compact.

Basical principles

FTN and members act according to the statutes and internal regulations. These declare that the FTN improves the image and reputation of the textile service industry.

Labour and organization

FTN initiates a broad spectrum of activities in this field. Goals are safe and healthy working circumstances for employees, stimulating personal development and technical expertise but also making the industry more attractive for potential newcomers.

1. Working circumstances

- Innovative techniques and working processes are available and prescribed in the industry to improve working circumstances and minimize physical strain.
- Protocols and means are available to reduce the impact of physical strain, noise, indoor environment, workload, biological agents/cytotoxic agents and improving OHS infrastructure.
- Protocols and appropriate means reduce work disability and sick leave considerably. FTN manages the “Catalog on Labour working conditions and safety linen rental companies and laundries” covering an inventory of risky and dangerous working circumstances and guidelines and protocols to eliminate these. One of the protocols is the “Protocol Working healthy and safe” that prescribes:
 - Special mats for working standing/upright
 - Special work boots/shoes with springy soles
 - Folding tables with right height
 - Containers with big wheels
 - Containers with variable/automatic adjusting bottom
- To identify risks and develop a plan of action the sector has the web-based tool “Risk inventarisation & evaluation (RI&E)”, a practical tool that connects to the Labour catalog.

2. Employment for people with a distance to the Labour market

In production locations of various FTN members people who have a distance to the Labour market due to handicap or work disability are employed. Cooperation of FTN and her members with Cedris, the association for sheltered workshops, and individual workshops has resulted in employment of a

5% share of the total workforce. Expected is that participation of people with a distance to the Labour market will lead to a share of 8% in near future. Production locations have been established by

- Lamme Textielbeheer Schiphol
- Synergy Health Logistic Centre Gemert
- Newasco Van Houten Hoofddorp
- Eper Stoom en Wasserij B.V. Epe
- Moderna Textielservice Hardenberg

The Dutch state secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment visited some of these locations praising the demonstrated efforts and results as a good example of how the recently introduced Dutch government policy should be effectuated. The policy was introduced in 2015.

The industry also offers lots of career opportunities to another group of employees with a distance to the labour market. Namely immigrants having difficulties with Dutch language. The industry offers low-skilled labor. This kind of labour is very suitable for this group of people and helps them with the start of a career as professional.

3. Collective Labour Agreement

Every three years FTN negotiates, on behalf of the industry, working/labour conditions. Various aspects of the CLA, which is binding for the industry, guarantee – amongst other things - a safe and healthy working environment, adequate salaries and opportunities for training and development. The CLA is a result of negotiations between employers and employees who are represented by their own associations. The CLA is established by the responsible ministry. Employers are required/forced to follow. An independent body checks whether parties respect the agreement.

4. Training

The industry invests heavily in safe and sound working conditions so providing knowledge about various aspects of their work to employees is stimulated. Various – large scale – companies run their own training/education program.

FTN as social partner sector is involved in developing dedicated training programs aimed at increasing technical expertise and stimulating personal development.

The scope of courses is broad. Topics are machine safety and working with various cleaning processes and the specific chemicals used in these processes. But also language courses are offered for immigrants to improve social and working relations but also safety and health

Environment and sustainability

The industry with a poor reputation in this respect has changed the image completely. Textile service has developed in a sustainable, modern and high tech industry. This was achieved by all kinds of developments which were also promoted by the projects and activities of FTN. That the industry is energy efficient and sustainable is demonstrated by reports¹ of the independent institute TNO show that professional textile service has an environmental impact which is 20% of the impact laundering at home has. Energy efficiency is up to three times better when the same hygienic quality level is to be achieved.

¹ Wijpkema, A.W., Milieuverantwoord, hygiënisch wassen, TNO rapport 060.03693, 9 december 2014

5. Long Term Agreement energy efficiency

FTN and her members participate in the energy efficiency program of the Dutch government. By underwriting the Long Term Agreement FTN and participating members are committed to achieve a minimum improvement of energy efficiency of 2% average annually over the period 2005 – 2020.

With the continuous support of companies and the projects of TKT the track record of FTN has been consistently good as is shown in the table below.

Effects/results	2014 relative to 2013	2014 relative to 2005
Improvement Process efficiency	2,20%	25%
Savings in the chain [TJ]	6	38
Renewable energy [TJ]	-0,4	47

Table²: Results FTN in LTA

To prolong this track record FTN continuously develops new projects for the long and for the short term. Examples of short term projects are: Low temperature laundering, Heat pump drying, continuous drying, Textile composition, Ecotool (Life cycle analyse re-usable textiles) and Cycle (closing the water cycle).

Next to these projects with a focus on the production processes, long term projects have more focus on the entire value chain of textile service and are developed in the context of the Roadmap.

6. Roadmap Textile Service 2030

FTN developed this Roadmap on invitation by the Dutch ministry of Infrastructure and Environment to investigate the prospects of extra improvement of energy efficiency. FTN conducted a study to explore the opportunities for achieving extra energy efficiency on top of established targets.

By investigating the expected developments of the main market segments till the year 2030, FTN has described in what ways the industry should develop to help customers and users of textiles cope with their challenges in the coming years. This provides an outlook on how extra energy efficiency can be accomplished in the entire value chain of textile service.

A research agenda was established for years to come covering three main areas, namely materials, treatment, ICT and logistics. Various projects are developed, partly under the heading of Green Deals.

7. Green Deals

Green Deals are an initiative of Dutch government and are agreements between ministries and industries aimed at development of projects aimed at improving sustainability. Under this heading FTN is performing various projects, namely “electrical distribution”, “solar energy”, “intelligent monitoring” and “energy performance testing and certification”. The overall objective of these projects are the reduction of the carbon footprint of textile services.

a. Electrical Distribution

This project explores the possibilities of implementing electrical and hybride vehicles for distribution purposes. In co-operation with members pilots are developed.

b. Solar Energy

The technique of solar energy has developed rapidly over the last years. This has enlarged the possible applications and therefore usage of solar energy. This projects explores the possible applications for textile service companies, aiming at the reduction of mainly gas consumption.

² Source: report LTA-monitoring 2014 Textileservice, May 7th 2015, reference 1235678/LH/156012

c. Intelligent Monitoring

A project aimed at improving the monitoring of energy consumption by offering techniques to monitor not only the overall consumption but also the consumption of individual machines and sub-processes. This can lead to more dedicated improvements.

d. Energy Performance Testing and Certification

FTN participated in this pilot project of the Dutch government which aimed to develop ideas to stimulate SME-companies to implement systematic energy management and improvement of energy efficiency. FTN developed an idea based on a certification program which includes periodically audits.

8. Training and education:

Safe and sustainable processing is in the hands of employees. With the right skills and knowledge employees are aware of the risks machineries and chemicals and can act accordingly. FTN is actively involved in the development of courses and/or making these available for the industry.

- The Training Centre Textile Care offers various trainings which inform/educate employees on working safely with machines, processes, chemicals and other hazardous substances.
- CINET, the international umbrella association of textile care, offers the course E-Industrial Laundry which FTN makes available free of charge to all members/ E-Industrial Laundry is a comprehensive e-learning course which informs and educates on all environmental issues to stimulate a safe and responsible operation.



Federatie Textielbeheer Nederland

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Annex: brief introduction FTN

FTN, the Dutch Federation of Textile Service companies, entered the Global Compact program in December 2011.

FTN represents almost all prominent Dutch laundry and linen rental companies. Also suppliers are connected. For FTN key values are quality, sustainability and services.

Textile service is the preferred indication of member activities. In early days the core business was laundering. In modern companies the focus has shifted towards logistic services and other additional services besides laundering. This transformation is still in progress and will be intensified over the next years. FTN is the catalyst of research and development within the entire value chain of textile service. Value chains include suppliers and users in the market segments health care, recreation and leisure and industry.

Website: www.ftn-nl.com