



**SVERIGES
TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND**
TEXTILSERVICEFÖRETAGEN



Third Sveriges Tvätteriförbund Communication on Engagement on United Nations Global Compact June 2021

Introduction from our chairman

When the importance of hygiene became crystal clear for us all

We contribute

Consisting of around 300 companies, with a total of about 5000 employees, the Swedish textile service industry provides services that are fundamental to society every single day of the year. As the leading industry association for textile rental service providers, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund represents almost 125 companies within the Swedish textile service industry and nearly 90% of the Swedish market.

It is commonly stated that high-quality textile service many times will go unnoticed – until no longer there. And the members of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund take pride in remaining unnoticed, assured that this is a true indication of high quality and strong commitment.

However, in times of a pandemic, hygiene has become not only a matter of stain removal but truly a quality where no one would be willing to take risks. Thus, the importance of professionally managed operations, assuring the highest possible quality and hygienic standards, cannot have been proven more important.

We develop

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has responded through an increased focus on hygiene in our yearly authorisation procedure of member organisations. This is an example of how we continuously develop quality, environmental, social and economic requirements for the industry, ensuring that our authorisation procedure guarantees high-quality textile service.

By continuously improving our services, we help our customers to focus on their core business and what they do best – while we do what we do best.

We engage

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

We take a clear stand against any form 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 organisations and their suppliers.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund's *Sustainability Prize* is each year rewarded to an individual or organisation that has presented outstanding efforts for enhanced sustainability within the industry.

The association also support two Swedish football clubs in their work with youth and for integration.

We welcome the Global Compact commitments

We are happy and proud to reaffirm 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. Sveriges Tvätteriförbund welcomes new members who live up to these standards.

This Communication on Engagement (COE) is an opportunity for us to share how our member companies and we 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 organisation

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

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 care, working environment and anti-discrimination. Through this work, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund promotes fair competition and an increased level of sustainability within the industry.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has developed a framework of ethical rules based on four keywords: *Competence, Quality, Environment* and *Social engagement*. The ethical rules are guiding for all member associations.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is a member of the UNGC since 2016. Through this third communication on engagement (COE), we are proud to re-confirm that we remain firmly committed to the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact.

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement (COE)

From: 07.09.2019

To: 09.06.2021

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 form 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. Therefore, we engage in sponsor activities to support youth through primary school, making it possible for them to go further into secondary school. A degree from secondary school is an increasingly common requirement for employment in Sweden.

Implementation

It is mandatory for all members of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund to sign up to the ethical rules of the association. All members are also reminded of these rules as a part of the yearly member authorisation procedure. In the same procedure, members are also reminded of the necessity of using the Code of Conduct, developed in 2016, when subcontracting non-member organisations.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has been a sponsor and partner to MFF (one of Sweden's largest football organisations) and their football academy for several years. The academy uses football – and in later years other sports, to motivate youth to participate in school.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund also supports IF Brommapojkarna, the football club with the most active athletes and leaders in Europe. One of the IF Brommapojkarna's long-term goals is to, with football as a base, be an engine for integration and gender equality and contribute to positive societal development.

Measurement of outcomes

According to the latest statistics, an increasing number of our members have procedures to ensure their suppliers comply with our Code of Conduct. This means that our strong stand against any form of discrimination is echoed amongst many suppliers to our member organisations.

The Malmö FF football 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 the football academy classes present top-level results.

IF Brommapojkarna has 4000 active players and 260 teams in league games. In 3,2 per cent of all football matches played in Sweden, there is an IF Brommapojkarna team on the field. Due to its size, the football club can influence and be a role model for integration and gender equality. Since 2016 IF Brommapojkarna arranges night football for people aged 7-24, every Friday and Saturday evening all year round. For a few years now, night football has been expanded with additional activities.

Labour

Our commitment

Based on statistics from member organisations, wages/salaries account for around half of the laundry and textile services industry's costs. Thus, the industry is labour intensive and valuable from an employment perspective. In several Swedish municipalities, members of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund 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 excellent 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 newly arrived.

Implementation

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is through our members engaged in issues related to labour from several different aspects:

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

Some examples of how Sveriges Tvätteriförbund work in relation to these:

It is mandatory for all members of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund 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 organisations have a close collaboration with the Swedish Public Employment Service, with the mission to decrease unemployment. Several member organisations provide trainee programs – in some cases mixed with lessons in Swedish.

The association participates in a task force in collaboration with the Swedish Tax Agency, intending to reduce undeclared employments and other forms of economic crimes.

Between 2018–2021, we have collaborated on the *Educate! E-learning for the textile care sector* with industry organisations for laundry and textile services from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, our European partner organisation ETSA and the HeurekaNet Institute, which specialises in vocational and adult education. The project is co-funded by the

Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project aims to develop employees' knowledge within different aspects of the textile service industry at their own pace in a modularly constructed e-learning environment.

By constantly developing and improving authorised professional laundry and textile services, we can work together for a society based on sustainability and a circular economy. We are proud to walk with our European colleagues in the project and of the platform E-Washboard that we have developed.

Using a digital platform with learning modules and tutorials and interactive explanatory videos, employees in the textile service industry will be given new opportunities in the future.

The flexible approach that the training offers strengthens the employees' self-confidence and ability to reflect, promotes new forms of learning and at the same time fosters media and digital skills.

The co-worker can study at their own pace and use a mobile phone or tablet for maximum flexibility. The business-centric and media-innovative approach to this project promote gender equality, integration and social inclusion. The focus of Sustainable competitiveness is in line with the EU Green Deal and the European Skills Agenda.

Measurement of outcomes

The number of cases of work-related illness and accidents, as reported to the Swedish Work Environment Authority, is followed and reported yearly in Sveriges Tvätteriförbund's sustainability report. These statistics show that the number of reported work-related accidents are stable, while work-related illness has decreased over the last decade (from 2010 and onwards).

The number of machine operators (largest employment group in the textile service industry) born outside of Sweden has increased steadily over the last decade, reaching almost 1500 persons in 2018. This clearly shows that the Swedish textile service industry plays an important part in integrating new Swedes.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has for years advocated that a tax deduction on household services should also be applicable when private consumers buy from professional laundry service companies. The Swedish parliament approved this in 2020, and since January 2021, it is possible to get the deduction. Because of the new deduction, the number of employees in the industry is expected to rise in the coming years.

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 the annual member authorisation procedure should vastly decrease the risk of emissions of hazardous chemicals to the environment.

Environmental engagement amongst member organisations should be credited, and good examples spread to inspire others.

The association should participate actively in shaping new legislation with a significant impact on the possibilities for the industry to improve its environmental performance. It should also participate in activities where new opportunities for an ever-greener professional textile service are researched and developed.

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

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 result in exclusion. This process also includes the follow-up of subcontractors, using a Code of Conduct developed by Sveriges Tvätteriförbund. The authorisation procedure is constantly upgraded 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 organisation's webpage.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has participated actively in a government investigation on the possibility of increasing the reuse and recycling of textiles during the reporting period. The association is also 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 organisations through newsletters, yearly chronicle, sustainability report and member meetings.

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:

- Member organisations are increasingly aware of environmental precautions and know how to correctly manage chemicals and waste, thus reducing risks for environmental damage.

- 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.
- 35 % of member organisations report using renewable energy to a level of more than 75 %.
- More and more member organisations collaborate with charity organisations or up-cycling designers to reuse their textile waste.

Since 2021, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund, together with several member organisations, participate in the multi-sector innovation project TexChain3, focusing on connecting suppliers and users of textile waste to close material loops.

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 rules 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 organisation must ensure that they are aware of the principles in the ethical rules, and this is controlled yearly through the yearly authorisation procedure for members.

The members are also obliged to ensure that their sub-contractors follow Sveriges Tvätteriförbund's Code of Conduct.

Implementation

All new member organisations must present approved tax declarations and annuals before authorisation as member of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund. Approved tax declarations and annuals are also a requirement to maintain authorisation.

The annual member authorisation procedure also ensures that all member organisations fulfil the required level of personnel ledger, and any remarks from the Swedish Tax Agency on the personnel ledger must be corrected before 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 task force organised by the Swedish Tax Agency, intending to reduce undeclared employments 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 area where the risk of corruption is higher than 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).



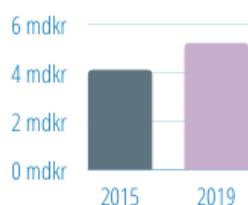
2020

THE TEXTILE SERVICE INDUSTRY

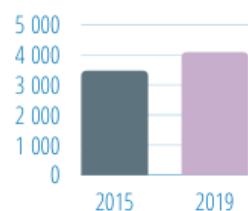
Data from the Swedish Textile Rental Association



THE INDUSTRY

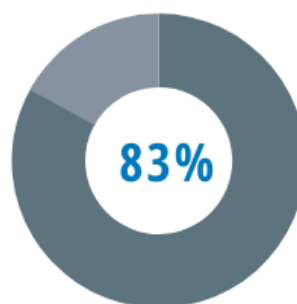


27%
INCREASE
IN REVENUE



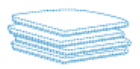
**18% IN-
CREASE
IN REVENUE**

17%

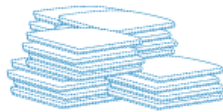


**COMPANIES
WITH 1-10 EMPLOYEES**

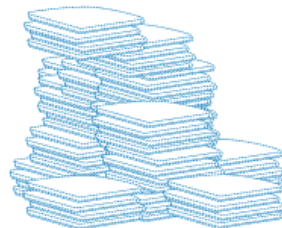
83%



800 TONS
/DAY



15 000 TONS
/MONTH



180 000 TONS
/YEAR



THE EMPLOYEES



5 000
PROFESSIONALS



4 000
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES

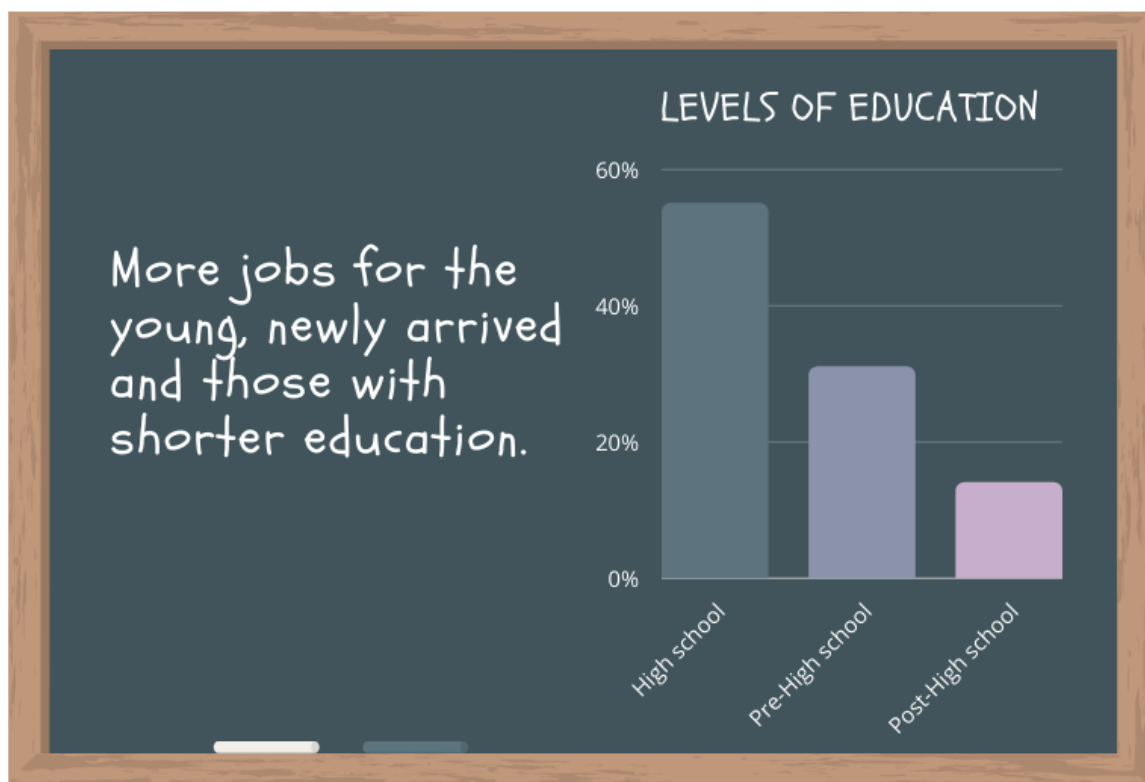
55% WOMEN



45% MEN



OF THE WORKFORCE IS BORN
OUTSIDE SWEDEN



THE SWEDISH TEXTILE
RENTAL ASSOCIATION

125 
MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS

FOUNDED
1940

THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
REVENUE COMPARED TO THE
WHOLE INDUSTRY.



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.**

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

WWW.TVÄTTERIFORBUNDET.SE

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Contact information

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