



Collection and Sales of Second-hand Clothes

It starts with an act of solidarity

Thousands of people in Europe know that clothes, shoes and textiles which are available in abundance in Europe are in short supply in many places in Africa. When these people discard their used clothing, often before the clothing is worn out, they deliberately deliver it to charitable clothes collections such as HPP. It is an act of solidarity. The donors know that their clothes are good, and they want to pass them on to others who need them and who will use them again and again.

The clothes collections and sorting centers (SC) are essential in capturing the full potential of the used clothes, shoes, and textiles. The collection- and SC staff perform the very important work of collecting discarded material, remove waste from proper textiles and to elevate clothing items in the Waste Hierarchy, ultimately removing many of the items from being waste so they become useful products again. In doing so the collection- and SC staff become guarantors of the act of solidarity while also securing a more environmentally sustainable handling of the clothing.

Collection is a community service in Europe and at the same time the backbone of the entire value chain. Sorting is highly professional work, requiring comprehensive knowledge and continuous learning about materials and styles. All this work recovers the full value contained in the second-hand clothes.

