Educational material for the new Scandinavian Quality Control model

A Swedish and Danish partnership for cooperation and exchanges of practices aims to create a forum for knowledge sharing and comparison of current Scandinavian Quality Control models for the textile services industry. More information and all the educational material can be found on scandinavianqualitycontrolmodel.com

SVERIGES TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND
TEXTILSERVICEFÖRETAGEN

Brancheforeningen for Vask og Tekstiludlejning
og Arbejdsgiverforeningen for Danske Vaskerier

Co-funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Climate & Energy

Why is the climate changing?

Around Earth, there is an atmosphere made up of several different gases. Some of the gases absorb the Earth's heat radiation. Instead of the heat being radiated into space, it is re-radiated and the heat remains in the atmosphere longer than it otherwise would.

The phenomenon is called the greenhouse effect and it is necessary for all life on earth. Without the natural greenhouse effect, the Earth would be about 30 degrees colder than it is today. Greenhouse gases act much like a blanket that keeps the earth warm.

About 300 years ago, humans started using fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, to produce energy. When fossil fuels are burned, carbon dioxide is released. Carbon dioxide is one of the gases that create the Earth's greenhouse effect. As the amount of carbon dioxide increases, the warming of the earth also increases at a rapid rate.



Photo by Abigail Lynn on Unsplash

What happens when the climate changes?

As the climate changes, glaciers melt, rainfall patterns change and the temperature of the world's oceans rises, affecting wind conditions and aquatic life. Today we see increased drought in some areas, and heavy downpours in others. Many millions of people in the world live along coasts and rivers that will flood due to melting glaciers and rising sea levels.





Images from Unsplash

You are part of something bigger

More and more companies in the laundry service industry in Scandinavia aim to switch from fossil to fossil-free energy in their facilities.

In 2023, a whopping 42% of member companies in Sweden's Laundry Association indicated that they already use 100% renewable electricity in their production facilities. Several member companies also produce their own electricity in their facilities using solar cells.

The textile service industry is also at the forefront of developing fossil-free distribution of textiles.

Based on this, the textile service industry shows high ambitions and many concrete examples that together contribute to reaching European and international climate goals.



How can we reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the textile service industry?

75% of the greenhouse gases that change our climate come from the energy sector. By reducing energy use, replacing fossil fuels with renewables, choosing electricity from renewable sources and installing solar cells, we contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Production of textiles also contributes to large emissions of greenhouse gases. According to the EU, consumption of textiles is the fourth most climate-impacting part of Europeans' consumption, after food, accommodation and transport.

By using textiles for a long time, removing stains, repairing them and using fabric or fiber for new products instead of throwing them away, we reduce the climate impact from textile production. Not using more chemicals, water and materials than we need and recycling packaging are also important parts of reducing the climate impact from our industry.

Case: Electric rails for faster and smoother charging

Elis in Swedish Veddesta is the first in Sweden to use electric rails for faster and smoother charging of electric trucks. The textile service industry contributes to implementing tomorrow's technology to contribute to reduced climate impact. Read more here.



Image from Unsplash

Chemicals & Water

Why do we use chemicals in the textile service industry?

Laundry chemicals are important for removing stains, allowing textiles to be used for a long time. They can also contribute to killing infectious agents and the use of energy to heat washing water can then be kept down.

What should we consider when handling chemicals?

For the chemicals not to cause problems, they must be handled carefully so that they are not spilled or you get them on your body.
There must always be protective equipment, e.g. safety glasses and gloves, nearby for the person handling chemicals.

For each chemical, there must also be safety data sheets that describe the properties of the chemical and what to do if you get it on your body.

To reduce the risk of chemicals escaping into the environment, they must be stored in troughs or embankments where they can be caught before they reach the drain. Hoses and connections must be checked so that they do not have damage that causes leakage.



Image: Unsplash

How much water is used in the textile service industry?

Water use varies between different types of garments and conditions. In general, water use has been radically reduced in recent years. This is thanks to greater awareness and better machines.

Resource consumption is a focus area for the textile service industry. In 2023, ETSA presented a major European study.

How can we reduce water use?

Modern washing methods and machines have been developed to reduce water use. Clear routines and accuracy that reduce the need to rewash textiles also reduce the use of, among other things, water. There are also laundries that have implemented processes to reuse wash water.

Case: Circular water flows

Hr Björkmans Entrémattor saves 14 million liters of water, or six 50-meter basins of water, every year thanks to a proprietary water recycling technology. Water recycling means that washing water is biologically purified and reused in the next wash. Water consumption at Hr Björkmans Entrémattor can thus be kept to a low 0.45 liters per kilo of laundry. Read more here.

At Elis Textile Service in Veddesta, the reuse of purified water from the internal treatment plant has greatly reduced water use. A quarter of previously outgoing water can now be reused, which also means that energy use is reduced, as the need to heat incoming cold water is reduced. Read more here.

You are part of something bigger

Chemicals used in laundries have properties that contribute to efficient washing and textiles such as protects workers in hazardous occupations. However, if these chemicals get into the environment, they can cause problems.

Sewage treatment plants are not built to take care of environmentally hazardous chemical substances. On the contrary, these chemicals can negatively affect the processes in the treatment plants, so that dirty water is no longer cleaned as effectively before it reaches our seas and lakes.

You who work in the textile service industry can contribute to a cleaner environment by never using more or more harmful chemicals than necessary and by ensuring that chemicals do not reach drains.



Image from Unsplash



Photo by David Becker on Unsplash

PFAS

PFAS – Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are chemicals that make textiles water-, grease- and dirt-repellent as well as fire-resistant. Used in textiles, outer garments (eg GoreTex), umbrellas, bags, tents, mats, furniture fabric, impregnation agents for functional clothing, personal protection equipment (PPE) for firefighters and welders, among others.
According to the EU's chemicals authority, approx. 92,000 tonnes of PFAS/year are produced for use in textiles.

Why is PFAS harmful?

PFAS "leaks" when washed and used. Emissions to the environment from textiles amount to approx. 23,000 tonnes/year. PFAS do not break down in the environment and spread all over the globe with precipitation. PFAS have been found in both penguins at the South Pole and polar bears at the North Pole. Unfortunately, the amount of PFAS builds up in animals and humans over time and can cause cancer.

In order to reduce the spread of PFAS, laws are created to limit their use in, among other things, textiles. Development takes place to find other products that can have the same positive properties as PFAS but without harming people and the environment.



Photo by Craig Whitehead on Unsplash

You are part of something bigger

In many parts of the world, access to clean water is not a given. Even in Sweden and Denmark there are areas where access to drinking water may be limited.

In 2021, irrigation bans prevailed in 43 Swedish municipalities and a clear call for water conservation in a further 21 municipalities. It shows that even in Sweden we cannot take clean water from the tap every day of the year for granted.

Machines in modern laundries are designed to provide minimal water use. You who work in the textile service industry contribute every day to reducing water use in society.

Image: Unsplash



Circularity & Waste

How does textile production affect our environment?

Textile production affects the environment negatively through vast use of land for the production of biological fibers (cotton or cellulose), the use of fossils for the production of synthetic fibers, transports, and the use of energy and chemicals in textile factories. Globally, the production of textiles comes in third place in terms of water use and land use. Textile production is calculated to be responsible for about 20 % of global clean water pollution, due to dyeing and finishing the products. Extending the lifespan of textiles is therefore very important for the environment.

How does the textile service industry contribute to circularity?

In the textile service industry, textiles are used efficiently by the same textiles being gently washed, repaired if necessary and can be returned to the customer many, many times. More and more laundries today have circular solutions for textiles that can no longer be returned to customers.

Some concepts:

Reuse: Textiles are reused by re-sewing.

Recycling: Textiles are processed so that the fibers in them can be used for materials that can then become new textiles or other products.



Image: Unsplash

Case: Reuse of textile

Stormie Poodle and Resused Remade are two examples of companies that receive used textiles from several different laundries and transform them into new textiles. Cloth bags, bathrobes, toiletries, hair ties etc. are made from bed linen and bath towels.

Stormie Poodle

Reused Remade

You are part of something bigger

Every European throws away 11 kg of textiles annually. By ensuring gentle washing, effective stain removal and repairs that make textiles last a long time, you who work in the textile service industry contribute to reducing the amount of textiles that become waste.

You also contribute by managing waste correctly so that it can be recycled and reused.

Image: Unsplash





Photo by Dmitry Ganin on Unsplash

In the industry, techniques are constantly being developed to dispose of fibers from textiles and use them for new textiles. Laundries have an important role in separating end-of-life textiles into different fractions based on how they can be used or fiber recycled and creating collaborations with actors who can take care of the material in the best way.

It is also important to already ensure when purchasing new textiles that they can be recycled or reused when they are discarded, e.g. through material selection, or ease of removing prints and details for reuse/recycling.

Case: Colors that disappear

A common reason why textiles are not reused is that they have company names printed on the chest or back. For example, profile clothes or work clothes used within a regions and municipalities.
In 2020, Vividye received Textilia's sustainability grant for an innovative technology where prints on textiles can be washed away. In this way, prints on textiles that have been used within an organization can be washed away so that they can be used by other organizations or by private individuals. Read more here.

Finally, it is important that laundries also demand products that are created circularly through the reuse and recycling of textiles by marketing such opportunities to customers.

Case: Textilia Upcy

At Textilia, all used textiles go to their circular initiative Textilia Upcy. The clothes are redesigned in a way where holes that cannot be mended or stains that cannot be washed are separated from whole and clean parts. The parts are redesigned into new textiles and can be brought in as a complement to existing stock, replacement items or as completely new items. 2,000 blouses can be created from striped duvet covers from a hospital and chef's coats can be derived from restaurant tablecloths. Read more here.

Case: Circular collaborations

Södra has developed processes to recycle textile fibers on an industrial scale.

In its world-unique OnceMore technology, the forestry company Södra can separate cellulose from polyester and recycle the materials so that they can be used for new textiles.

The material has been used in collections by, among others, Lindex. Read more here.

How can the textile service industry contribute to reduced amounts of waste?

Reducing the amount of textiles being discarded, through careful washing, stain-removal and mending, is the most important factor in minimising waste from textile services. Circular handling of discarded textiles, through reuse and recycling, comes next. However, there are other fractions generated within a laundry that can be recycled. Packaging must be sorted into these fractions for material recycling:

- paper and cardboard,
- plastic,
- metal,
- coloured glass,
- clear glass,
- plastic bottles and metal cans intended for a return system
- wood and,
- other packaging material (it can be packaging made of cork, porcelain, ceramics, fabric, etc.)



Photo by Zuzanna Szczepańska on Unsplash

Empty containers for washing chemicals may need to be handled as hazardous waste. This also applies to e.g. broken batteries and electrical products such as printers, computers etc.

By using returnable packaging, the amount of waste generated within the business can be reduced. Return packaging must always be cleaned before it is used for clean textiles.

Returnable packaging

Washed clothes must be kept clean until they are used. Therefore, packaging is often used around washed textiles. Using returnable packaging instead of plastic can be a way to reduce the use of resources and reduce the amount of waste.

Working environment

What work environment risks are there in the textile service industry?

Work tasks at laundries can be repetitive and heavy. They can involve strenuous work positions e.g. heavy lifting, bent or twisted working position, work above shoulder height, work below knee height, and unilateral movements.



Photo by Afif Ramdhasuma on Unsplash

What can we do to reduce the risks of a poor working environment?

🇸🇪 Systematic work environment work, SAM, is the basis for all activities related to the work environment. According to the Swedish Work Environment Act, employers must investigate, assess, remediate, and follow up on all conditions and efforts relating to the work environment to prevent ill health and accidents among their employees. The risk assessment must be documented in writing.

If an employee suffers ill health or an accident at work and if a serious incident occurs at work, the employer must:

- investigate the causes so that risks of ill health and accidents can be prevented in the future
- immediately or as soon as practicable implement the measures needed to prevent ill health and accidents at work
- take the measures that are otherwise needed to achieve a satisfactory working environment. Actions that are not implemented immediately must be noted in a written action plan, which also states who is responsible for the action being implemented. Implemented measures must be checked.

An important part in reducing the risk of occupational injuries is rotation between different work steps with different types of stress on the body.

Accidents that occur at work and work-related illnesses must always be reported to the Swedish Work Environment Agency. Their statistics show that between 60 and 80 accidents occur annually in the Swedish textile service industry. Vehicle accidents, missteps, heavy lifting and overloading are the most common causes.

🇩🇰 The Danish Working Environment Authority is responsible for workplace assessments (WPA). All companies with employees are required to carry out a WPA. WPA is an important tool for improving the working environment and is a mandatory process to ensure that the company addresses and prevents any potential occupational health and safety issues. The WPA consists of the following key elements:

1. Mapping the company's working environment conditions and assessing any risks and occupational health and safety issues.

2. Assessing factors in the working environment that may contribute to sick leave.

3. Developing an action plan that outlines the issues and specifies how and when they should be addressed.

4. Implementing the action plan and following up to ensure that the solutions have the desired effect.

Read more here: Arbejdsmiljøloven – Læs mere om arbejdsmiljø & arbejdsforhold (arbejdsmiljoegruppen.dk)

You are part of something bigger

Accidents that occur at work and work-related illnesses must always be reported to the Swedish Work Environment Agency. Their statistics show that between 60 and 80 accidents occur annually in the Swedish textile service industry. Vehicle accidents, missteps, heavy lifting and overloading are the most common causes.

By actively contributing to work environment work, e.g. participate in safety rounds or alert your employer to risks, you can contribute to reducing the number of accidents and work-related illness in our industry.

Photo by Susan Wilkinson on Unsplash



Hygiene & Quality

What hygiene risks exist in the textile service industry?

Washing textiles should remove stains, keep textiles fresh, and reduce the risk of infectious agents spreading between people. Infectious substances can be e.g. bacteria, viruses, and fungi that cause disease.

Many laundries receive textiles from environments such as hospitals, nursing homes, and preschools. In these environments, infectious agents occur and the laundry's task is to ensure that these disappear in the washing process. It is also important that those who work in laundries are not themselves infected by incoming textiles.

Good hygiene and the killing of infectious agents is therefore very important – both for those who work in the laundry and for those who use washed textiles.

How can we contribute to good hygiene and reduced spread of infection in society?

Good hygiene is created through:

- Adapted premises and logistics within the laundry
- Thoughtful routines around the staff's work clothes, hand hygiene, and personal items



Photo by Mélissa Jeanty on Unsplash

- To maintain good quality of washed textiles, clean and dirty textiles must be kept separate in the laundry.
- Clean and dry textiles must not be stored in a mixed zone.
- Dirty water must be handled so that it cannot splash on clean textiles and textiles that roll on the floor must be washed again.
- There must be clear rules for hygiene within the laundry. The rules must be posted at the laundry so that everyone can read them.
- To reduce the risk of those working in the laundry soiling clean textiles, both work clothes and hands must be hygienic.
- People who work in both dirty and clean areas of the laundry must wear protective clothing or change when changing between these areas, and work clothes must be changed daily.
- There should be clear rules and routines for sanitizing personal items, such as mobile phones, headphones and jewellery.

You are part of something bigger

At Christmas 2018, a major outbreak of VRE, resistant intestinal bacteria, occurred at the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm. The bacteria spread to several other hospitals in Sweden. In total, close to 250 patients were affected.

That textiles used in care environments are free from infectious agents is a very important part of preventing similar outbreaks. Here, you who work in the textile service industry contribute every day by following rules and routines regarding hygiene at your workplace.

Image: Unsplash



Non-discrimination, inclusion & Contribution to society

What is discrimination?

All people have the right to be respected for who they are. There are seven legal grounds for discrimination:

1. ethnicity
2. gender
3. age
4. sexual orientation
5. religion or other belief
6. disability
7. gender identity, or gender expression

Discriminating a person in a work environment can be criminal.

How can the textile service industry work against discrimination?

In many cases, the textile service industry offers jobs for people who are establishing themselves in society or have various types of disabilities. As an industry, we are proud to contribute to a safe working environment, where everyone feels respected and feels good.

In the textile service industry, we have zero tolerance for discrimination and encourage you who feel victimized or see or hear that someone is being victimized to raise this with the manager, ombudsman or the union, so that this ceases.

In Sweden, all employers with more than 50 employees must have an internal whistleblower function since the 17th of December 2023. Employees, volunteers, interns, consultants, and shareholders must be able to turn to the whistleblower function to report wrongdoing – without risk of reprisals.



Photo by Nathan Anderson on Unsplash

Why is inclusion important?

All people need to feel included to be safe and feel good. Every year, around 1,000 people are treated so badly at their workplace that it is reported as a work-related injury to the Swedish Work Environment Authority. Around 100 people a year are feared to feel so bad that they commit suicide.

Adult bullying exists, can have terrible consequences for the victim, and should never be accepted or normalized.

How can the textile service industry contribute to inclusion?

All employers have a responsibility for a good working environment – including psychosocially. If you are affected and feel that the situation is not resolved by clearly speaking out, you should talk to your boss, an ombudsman or the union.
It is very common for the person who is affected to feel ashamed, which makes them shy away from addressing the problem. However, you who are affected are not to blame and bullying can affect anyone.

It is also common for bullying to be initiated by one or a few people, while many more know about it and choose not to act to stop it. As a bystander to bullying, you can make a huge contribution by showing that you don't think it's ok, or raise the situation yourself with the manager or ombudsman at the workplace so that they see to it that this ends.

Case: Case Learning a language at work

The textile service industry is a personnel-intensive and important industry that offers job opportunities without the requirement of further education or extensive experience.

Surveys* have shown that of all the unemployed who are hired in the laundry industry in Sweden, almost 40% are immigrants from Asia or Africa. That is significantly more than other industries.

The report confirms that we as an industry are good at recruiting and employing people who might otherwise have difficulty entering the labor market. Here we take advantage of what people can do rather than what they can't.

Source: Handels Forskningsinstitut 2018:05 Vilka företag bryter utanförskapet bland utrikesfödda?

Case: Hire without prejudice

Magnus Berger works in the IT department at Danish Textilia. Before being hired, he completed a 10-week internship. Magnus has autism and needs a quiet work environment and a smaller team to work in. During his internship, Magnus showed that he can contribute to the business and was immediately offered employment.

The introduction of Magnus had a particular focus on social relations. Initially, Magnus had a contact person, and then this has developed over time – a way of introduction that can suit people with autism.

By hiring without prejudice, listening and exploring new ways to introduce new hires to the organisation, the textile services industry can provide enormous security and professional pride to people who might otherwise struggle to find their place in professional life.

Read more here.

You are part of something bigger

Work is an important path to integration and meaningful everyday life for people who are putting down roots in a new country.

Elis in Ockebo has collaborated with Svenska För Invandrare – SFI. Newly arrived students from different countries were invited to practice at Elis while taking part in language courses. Students who participated in the course were then offered summer jobs at Elis and several of them got employment after the summer job.

Close collaboration with the municipality and committed supervisors among the employees at Elis Ockelbo during the internship and summer job was one of the key factors for success.

Image: Unsplash



Value chain

What is the textile service industry's value chain?

A value chain is used to describe the entire chain of actors involved in delivering a final product or service. In the textile service industry, the chain begins with the production of raw materials used to make textiles. It could be a cotton field, an oil platform or a forestry – depending on the materials in your textiles.



Photo by Karl Wiggers on Unsplash

The materials must then be transported to factories, using energy and chemicals to become textiles. This often takes place in several stages, with intermediate transports, before the textiles finally reach the laundry. The laundry also uses chemicals and products that are also produced from raw materials in different parts of the world.

These processes create jobs and tax revenue, but in all parts of this chain there are also risks of negative environmental impact or that one of all the people who work in cotton fields, factories and in the transport sector will get hurt.

How can the textile service industry reduce the risk of negative impact on the value chain?

By gaining knowledge of all the links in the business's value chain, risks can be identified and action plans drawn up to minimize them. It can e.g. be choosing suppliers in countries that have clear laws and regulations regarding the working environment and reduced environmental impact, or making site visits to ensure that production in factories takes place in a way that is compatible with international agreements on workers' rights.

An important part is to create clear requirements for suppliers in how they should work to reduce negative environmental impact and ensure that all workers have a good working environment and pay.

Increased circularity can also be a way to reduce risks in the supply chain by requiring fewer raw materials to be supplied.

Case: Controlling the supply chain

Textiles are often manufactured far away from Scandinavia. Having control over what happens in all factories and all intermediate stages is very difficult. One way to deal with this is to cooperate with companies that specialize in checking that suppliers live up to the customers' requirements.

Amfori BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative) is one such organization. Their code of conduct deals with the working environment, zero tolerance against child and forced labour, reasonable working hours and wages, the right to organize a trade union, but also environmental protection and business ethics (e.g. anti-corruption).

Every year, BSCI ensures that several site visits are carried out at, among other things, textile producers based on their code of conduct. The suppliers are graded between A to E. As a customer, you can decide that your suppliers must reach at least a certain level on this scale.

Read more here.



Photo by Moonstarious Project on Unsplash



Photo by Ibrahim Rifath on Unsplash

Case: Certified supply chain

One way to handle control of the value chain is to request suppliers who are certified according to SA8000.
SA8000 shows that the supplier has a third-party certified systematic work to ensure good working conditions.

Some examples of requirements for certified companies are:

- Prohibition of child labor (under 15 years in most cases) where certified companies must set aside funds for the education of children who may lose their jobs as a result of the certification.
- Workers should not be forced to hand over their identity documents or pay "deposits" as a condition of employment.
- A maximum of 48 hours of work per week, with at least one day off per week and a cap of 12 hours of overtime per week which is compensated with a premium.
- Wages must meet all legal minimum standards and provide an income sufficient to cover basic needs, with at least some leisure income.

Governance

The term “Governance” describes management and the possibility of accountability in companies. Important parts in this area are the description of powers for different types of decisions at different levels in the company and the division of responsibilities in different matters between the CEO and the board.

In most larger companies, the operations are often governed by different policies. In a policy, the company’s management or board has decided how various issues should be handled on a principled level. Based on these principles, employees then act, without every decision having to go up to the highest level.

An important type of policy is an internal code of conduct. The content of such may vary, but questions that are often addressed are:

- Zero tolerance against discrimination
- Prevention of corruption/bribery and conflicts of interest
- Health and safety
- Relations with competitors
- Principles regarding supplier relations
- Overall environmental considerations
- Handling of personal data



Photo by Brooke Cagle on Unsplash

Case: Code of Conduct

Elis Textile Service highlights in its “Group Ethics” how the company’s employees are expected to act in a number of different areas. In addition to clear guidelines, the document also contains a range of potential situations that employees may face, and answers to what action is expected based on the company’s code of conduct.

Read more here.

Whistleblower law

🇸🇪 🇩🇰 In Sweden and Denmark, all employers with more than 50 employees must have an internal whistleblower function. Employees, volunteers, interns, consultants, and shareholders must be able to turn to the whistleblower function to report wrongdoing – without risk of reprisals. Read more here: Whistleblowerordning – hvad betyder det for din virksomhed? – DI (danskindustri.dk)

It can be about e.g. suspicions of corruption, discrimination, money laundering, or safety deficiencies in workplaces. There are no rules regarding what can be reported via a whistleblower system and it is always positive to use the system if there are suspicions.

Whistleblowers must be protected against reprisals from employers. Retaliation means that whistleblowers e.g. misses out on promotions or reasonable raises. If a whistleblower is subjected to reprisals, there must be a right to compensation.

Whistleblower alarms must be handled by specially appointed persons or units that must be independent and independent.

🇸🇪 In Sweden, the Swedish Work Environment Agency is the supervisory authority to ensure that employers meet the legal requirements to establish internal whistleblower functions. Read more here.

🇩🇰 In Denmark, the Danish National Whistleblower Scheme under The Danish Data Protection Agency is the supervisory authority to ensure that employers meet the legal requirements to establish internal whistleblower functions. Read more at Den Nationale Whistleblowerordning

The European Green Deal



Image: Photo by Cheng Chieh Hsu on Unsplash

The European Green Deal is a large number of political initiatives launched in 2021 to transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. The ambition is to have no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, while ensuring strong economic growth and improved social conditions. Several of the initiatives linked to the Green Deal will have a direct and indirect effect on the textile service industry. Below you can find some of the words or abbreviations that you will probably run into if you work in the textile service sector.



Photo by Guillaume Périgois on Unsplash

CSRD – Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

EU directive that aims to create the best conditions for meeting the Net Zero objectives by 2050. The directive means that companies and organizations will report according to European sustainability standards (ESRS).

ESRS – European sustainability reporting standards.

New standard that should result in comparable, sufficient, and qualitative information from companies about how they affect people, the environment, and the climate. The reporting will increase transparency and comparability.

ESG – Environmental, Social and Governance

E: Questions relating to reduced climate impact, environmental pollution, resource efficiency, etc.
S: Topics such as equality, human rights, working environment and equality.
G: Issues in corporate governance such as sustainability reporting, due diligence, business models, regulatory compliance, and whistleblower systems.

CSDDD – Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

Proposal for a directive from the EU that will enable faster green transformation and protect human rights. The proposal means that companies above a certain size will be obliged to identify and prevent, minimize, or stop negative effects on human rights or the environment in their value chains.

SPI – Sustainable Product Initiative

An EU initiative with focus on more sustainable products on the European market, for example by regulation of harmful chemicals in textiles, electronics, furniture, and building materials, improved lifetime of products through possible refurbishment and reuse, as well as improved product information. ESPR and DPP are two proposals under the SPI.

DPP – Digital Product Passports

A set of sustainability data that enables circular products and business models. The product pass gives each product a unique identity that can be linked to one or more data sources with information about that particular product.

ESPR – Ecodesign for Sustainable Product Regulation (Ecodesign Directive)

Proposal for a regulation from the European Commission to adapt products for climate neutrality, resource efficiency and a circular economy, reduce waste, and make sustainable products the norm within the Union.

CEAP – EU Circular Economy Action Plan

Part of the EU's Green Deal for climate neutrality in 2050. Umbrella framework that contains 35 measures and aims to achieve a circular economy by 2050. Focus on seven areas: electronics and IT, batteries and vehicles, packaging, plastics, textiles, the construction industry, and buildings and food.

EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles

The EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles addresses the production and consumption of textiles, whilst recognising the importance of the textiles sector. The strategy looks at the entire lifecycle of textile products and proposes coordinated actions to change how we produce and consume textiles. It consist of several initiatives aimed at decreasing negative environmental and social impacts along the lifecycle of textiles, as well as increasing reuse and recycling of textiles.