

Reduction of the waste generation through prolongation of the service life of textile products

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This presentation aims to highlight that dematerialization - represented by prolongation of the service life of textile products - is one of the effective and environmental ways how to prevent or reduce the textile waste generation.

A study was carried out on the influence of changed material composition of textile in case of the end-of-life hospital rental laundry. The importance of this waste stream is underlined by the fact that it is well localised stream, with almost known material composition and processing. The results confirmed that change of the material composition may extend the service life of the laundry which results into the reduction of textile waste generation and raw materials consumption.

The important conclusion resulting from this pilot case is also that sustainable approach is to use a service life of the textile products expressed as number of washing cycles as a main parameter in public tenders for supplies of textiles for public sector as hospitals, other medical facilities or public offices.