



**Power to the SMEs**

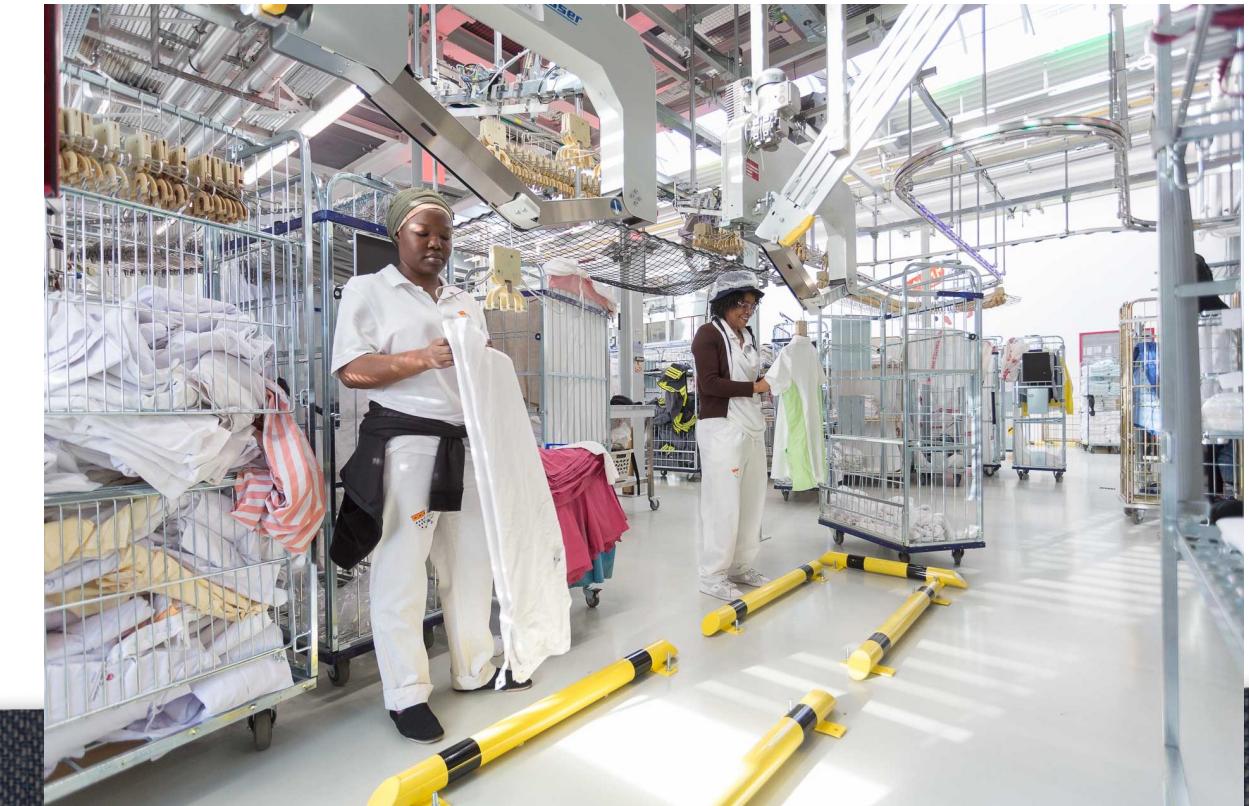
**Standards knowledge as a key success factor**

# Laundries and drycleaners

## Service industry with complex products and machinery



- **200-300 standards** relevant for textile care industry (textiles, machinery, detergents, hygiene, water quality, protective equipment, medical devices ...) and still increasing!



# DTV – SME organisation



- DTV is the German association for laundries and drycleaners – 800 members, 95% of them SMEs – member of SBS (Small Business Standards aisbl)
- Purpose of the organisation:
  - to represent economical, social and technical interests
  - to support innovation and research for SMEs
  - to support members with legislation, technical guidance
  - to develop vocational curricula for the industry (bachelor professional and apprenticeships)



# Vocational education in for standards

## Increasing expertise and knowledge of standards



- DTV is a certified educational institution (AZAV)
- Our initiatives for access to information and education in standards:
  - **vocational training course** to prepare for the Bachelor Professional (Meister) in textile care (European Qualifications Framework: 6); curriculum includes teaching units on standards and regulations
  - **access to the 200 most important standards** for textile care industry (online portal developed together with DIN)
  - **regular information** about new or revised standards; DTV working group of standards experts;
  - in cooperation with SBS: **4 experts in ISO/CEN WGs**
  - **networking for standards experts** and next gen standards experts



# Teaching technical standards

## Why is it so important?



- SMEs need to have knowledge about standards for
  - the **implementation of legislation**: some products fall under EU regulations (e.g. harmonized standards for PPE or medical devices)
  - the **production, quality control, hygiene management**, e.g. for textile product standards, machines, digital standards, management standards
  - the **cooperation in supply chains**: products and precursors which SMEs apply for their products and services

Product and test standards should be tailor-made for the practical application in businesses – not an academic construct. Education in vocational training and the inclusion of SMEs is therefore essential.

# Key units of education in standards

Why standards? How are standards made? What standards?



- What do we teach about standards?
  - the **correlation between legislation and technical standards** – develop knowledge on how standards help to comply with legislation
  - relevance of **harmonised standards** – for PPE, medical devices etc.
  - the **international, European and national standardisation system** and how standards are developed
  - why **standards are relevant** in their own SME processes and products
  - the **contents of important sector standards** relevant for their business
  - how standards can help with **processes and product testing**



We need to contextualise standards and regulations for the daily processes. If they are lost with standards, businesses will struggle to adapt to technical, digital and innovative change!

# Curriculum for standards in DTV

Theoretical AND practical – in line with their specific business



Content of the unit Standards and Regulations (8-12 hours)

- General introduction: **regulations and (harmonised) standards** (European and national)
- **Economic implications** of standards for businesses
- Current **regulations with a high relevance** for businesses in our industry
- **Important standards and certifications** for the textile care industry (e.g. CE marking, product standards for PPE/medical devices, standards for washing and cleaning processes, machine standards, textile labelling standards, hygiene standards etc.)
- **Implementation** of standards into business processes: product testing, sources for standards, managing standards, adjusting processes
- **General standards for businesses**: environmental standards, health and safety standards, management standards

# SMEs need standards experts

No education – no experts!



SME inclusion in standardisation work is key

- **develop and support SME experts** for the standardisation work (SBS) (inclusion of SMEs in EU Regulation 1025/2012)
- **ongoing education** on most recent technical standards for all industries essential
- **transfer of standards knowledge** from experienced experts to next gen experts
- **development of SME-friendly standards**: SMEs need to have knowledge about standards and how they are developed

# Proposals

## How to implement standardisation in vocational training?



- Standards need to be implemented in **curricula for vocational training** as well as in continuing education programmes!
- An **early start for standards in the education system** with information on the importance and relevance of standards!
- We need to develop **standardisation training programmes** for SME experts – and teachers with practical experience from the industry!
- Free **access to standards** during the vocational education period (e.g. DIN is working on a tool together with providers of vocational education)
- Cooperation between **SME organisations, NSOs and educational institutions**



# Many thanks!

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