A zero waste vision for a circular textiles sector

This infographic is an attempt to capture a complex system in a simplified manner.

It presents a holistic vision of textiles' circularity and highlights which activities are preferable (green background) or less preferable (yellow or red). It also defines the boundaries of the circular system (i.e., the border around the circle) and indicates which activities are not considered circular (i.e., dark boxes outside of the circle—input of virgin material and residual waste treatment).

The dark lines indicate the path textile products and waste travel from one step to the next. Placing waste exports in the circular system is still challenging due to the lack of data on the benefits and harm of this practice. If well-regulated, reuse and recycling outside the EU can contribute to circularity. Inspired by JRC 2023: Techno-scientific assessment of the management options for used and waste textiles in the European Union.

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