About FTA

The Foreign Trade Association (FTA) is the leading business association of European and international commerce, promoting values of free trade and sustainable supply chains. By uniting over 2,000 retailers, importers, brands and national associations, FTA pushes for a political and legal framework that is both sustainable and beneficial to trade. FTA offers members two kinds of services: advocacy, under our International Trade Policy (ITP) service, and operational, under FTA Sustainability. FTA Sustainability includes the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI), which supports participants to improve working conditions in factories and farms worldwide, and the Business Environmental Performance Initiative (BEPI), to facilitate improved environmental performance in global supply chains.

FTA Membership in Numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSCI/ITP</th>
<th>BSCI/ITP BEPI</th>
<th>ITP only</th>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>39</td>
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*Numbers as of 01/06/2017

Representing:

39 countries across 4 continents

FTA Network Activity Report 2016 - 2017
Dear Readers,

A key part of FTA's unique, open and sustainable trade offering is the powerful global network of National Contact Groups (NCGs) and Representatives behind it. Strategically placed in FTA's most important member and sourcing countries, our network of NCGs and Representatives supports members and their producers on the ground. In addition to guiding the implementation of FTA Sustainability's initiatives, BSCI and BEPI, our network closely monitors domestic trade and sustainable policy that is relevant to the businesses of our members and engages in constructive dialogue with local stakeholders.

Our network has continued to grow along with our ambitions. However, this report focuses on consolidation as well as expansion. After consolidating and improving our sustainability systems and tools, in the last year we have set about continuing this process throughout our network, in particular ensuring support reaches those who need it.

At FTA, we do not underestimate the everyday, practical challenges our members and producers face. That's why we believe it is important to have someone on the ground; someone with a deep understanding of the local context and business culture. In the last year, we have appointed new local NCG Coordinators and Representatives in six locations: Denmark, France, Spain, India, Turkey, and the USA.

“We've been working hard to integrate our network, increasing the collaboration between Representatives in sourcing countries, Coordinators in member countries and the FTA secretariat. This will continue in the coming years as the roles of Representative and Coordinator move closer together.”

To maximise our global leverage, we believe in the power of collaboration both within our own operations and with influential stakeholders. We’ve been working hard to integrate our network, increasing the collaboration between Representatives in sourcing countries, Coordinators in member countries and the FTA secretariat. This will continue in the coming years as the roles of Representative and Coordinator move closer together.

This report provides an overview of the range of ways in which our work and activities are of great value to our members. It would be impossible to cover all our work in such a small space, but we want to give you a flavour of the power of our network and the impact it has towards enabling sustainable supply chains globally.
A Global Network for Local Impact

Our international network has grown considerably in the past year. FTA now has some form of representation in 13 countries across three continents. That representation is divided between FTA Sustainability National Contact Groups (NCGs) and FTA Representatives.

All our NCG Coordinators and Representatives are established professionals in the fields of business and sustainability. They hold country-specific expertise and boast close relationships with key stakeholders at the local and regional level.

Our global network of NCG Coordinators and FTA Representatives provides support at the local level by:

> Facilitating exchanges between members: by encouraging the sharing of best practices and supporting the implementation of FTA’s operational supply chain initiatives, BSCI and BEPI;

> Liaising between members and the FTA secretariat: to ensure FTA’s values cascade down to the local level and feedback is shared with the secretariat. They also support members in attaining their minimum engagement requirements (see page 6);

> Communicating about FTA: promoting FTA and its services to external stakeholders and media;

> Leading the dialogue with stakeholders at the national level: by fostering constructive dialogue and staying abreast of emerging risks through proactively engaging key regional stakeholders and remaining alert to policy changes that could impact members.

Moreover, FTA Representatives can also support with:

> Capacity building activities: conducting workshops and training on BSCI and BEPI for local participants and producers;

> Monitoring activities: on the ground support for BSCI participants and producers in matters related to auditing and monitoring the quality of assessments.
NCG Switzerland

Coordinator: Pierre Strub
Chair: Jürg von Niederhäusern, Head of Social Compliance, Migros
Members: 93
Website: http://ch.fta-intl.org/

TEN YEARS OF NCG SWITZERLAND

NCG Switzerland is one of our most established NCGs, celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2017. The NCG held a celebratory event to mark the occasion, inviting long-term collaborators, such as Sibyl Anwander, former Chairwoman of BSCI, to share their memories and insights with the NCG team and over 50 members.

MISCONCEPTION TO COLLABORATION

In early 2016, a Swiss NGO published a report on working conditions in the Chinese kitchenware industry. A subsequent public campaign made disparaging comments about the social compliance of two of FTA’s most high-profile and active members.

NCG Switzerland, along with the two members, quickly opened a dialogue with the NGO. The FTA secretariat and our Greater China Representative were brought into discussions. A well-balanced dialogue was established and the NGO acknowledged the effectiveness of the BSCI System and corrected their earlier communication. Discussions even extended to possible project collaborations and a representative from the NGO attended an NCG Switzerland event on sustainable supply chains in Basel, December 2016. In this case, swift and decisive joint action from the Swiss NCG and FTA secretariat was key to protecting members and bringing about a solution.

UTILISING OUR NETWORK: SUSTAINABLE TRADE WITH CHINA

FTA strives to maximise exchange of information and best practices between companies and external organisations that share the same objective of open trade and sustainable supply chains. Joint events help provide insights into key requirements and risks in sourcing countries. In December 2016, Joyce Chau, FTA Representative Greater China and Anna Vetsch, Sustainable Project Manager at Coop, showcased FTA’s work in Chinese supply chains and the challenges facing European retailers sourcing from the country at a public event organised by the Swiss NCG at the University of Basel.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LAW: FTA PUSHES FOR SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA

As a part of a wide-ranging stakeholder consultation process, hundreds of organisations including NGOs and the Swiss NCG participated in shaping the new Swiss public procurement law. FTA believes the Swiss government should include clear social and environmental criteria in the law, which would benefit companies through higher standards, and has been advocating for such change.

Swiss Federal Railways (SBB), a state-owned company and FTA member, already sets an example for high standards in sustainability by adhering to the BSCI Code of Conduct. Supported by the National Coordinator and Chairman, the implementation of the Code of Conduct in the field of textiles and infrastructure attests to their commitment to sustainable supply chains and also demonstrates their strategic sustainability leadership.
NCG Germany

Restructuring for Effective Support

NCG Germany underwent a restructuring in 2016 to improve the effectiveness of support available to German members. Having previously been coordinated and chaired by AVE, the Foreign Trade Association of the German retail trade, elections appointed Daniel Hopp, of Hopp KG, as Chair, and Maren Barthel, of Otto Group, as Co-Chair. Lorenz Berzau was appointed NCG Coordinator earlier in the year.

Letting Members Set the Agenda

While NCG Germany enjoyed promising membership engagement levels of over 70 per cent for much of last year, a concerted effort was made to increase that amount by encouraging members to set the agenda. A member committee, made up of six representatives from large and small companies and one association was formed to help establish what the NCG's priorities should be. To reach out to the full scale of FTA's huge membership in Germany, a survey helped identify relevant topics for NCG meetings. Topics such as the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles (PST), BSCI's new Commitment Formula and auditing best practice were of particular concern.

Raising Standards Through a Focused Approach

NCG meetings were held in both Hannover and Bad Soden, near Frankfurt, to make attending easier for members based at different ends of the country, and the meeting format was changed to two days. Day one became a half-day session to discuss the latest FTA developments and updates, followed by a networking dinner; day two focused on key topics, best-practice exchange and open discussion. Participants responded very positively to the updated format, with one long-term member calling it 'the best NCG meeting ever'.

Partnership for Sustainable Textiles

The primary objective of the PST is to create and implement minimum social, environmental and economic standards throughout the entire textiles and clothing supply chain. Twenty-three of FTA's German members are signatories of the PST, which, driven by the Ministry for Economic Development, has set an ambitious timescale. Backers of the PST will have taken inspiration from the recent successes of the Dutch Agreement on a Sustainable Garment and Textile Sector (see page 8). FTA fully supports the aims of the PST and has regularly participated in working groups and steering committee meetings of the initiative.

Minimum Engagement Requirements (MERS)

We measure the engagement of our sustainability participants against a minimum level of activity to make sure all members contribute towards our collective goal of sustainable supply chains. Those who fail to meet these requirements will be notified by the FTA secretariat and/or the NCG Chair or Coordinator. If no action is taken, companies can be excluded.
NEW LEADERSHIP

In September 2016, ACTE International, a global supply chain management consultancy, took on the role of Coordinator of NCG France. Anne Le Rolland and Sylvie Thonnerieux were appointed joint Coordinators.

BRINGING FRENCH MEMBERS UP TO SPEED

Our members in France were having difficulties in reaching their Minimum Engagement Requirements (MERs – see box on page 6), so the first step was to offer them support. A ‘Tour de France’, featuring four meetings in three cities, Lyon, Lille and Paris, provided a refresher for established members, ensured new members were fully informed, and introduced potential members to the benefits of FTA.

Existing members received practical training on how to use FTA tools, including the online platform, FTA Academy (see page 14) and Sustainability Intelligence Dashboard, while potential members were presented with an introduction to FTA’s sustainability initiatives and services. Meetings have since been supplemented by the launch of a French newsletter, keeping our members in France up-to-date with all NCG and relevant domestic news.

FRENCH LAW FOLLOWS THE BSCI EXAMPLE

The duty of care bill passed in February 2017 obliges French companies to implement a diligence plan for preventing human rights violations and negative environmental impacts in their supply chains. France is the first European nation to adopt such legislation, and hopes are high that neighbouring countries will follow suit. Developing due diligence practices has been at the core of BSCI 2.0 (see page 9) since its inception, making FTA well-placed to advise and support French companies in responding to this pioneering legislation.

GETTING TOUGH ON CORRUPTION

France also passed a law intended to fight corruption and increase transparency. Loi Sapin II, as the law is known, strengthens prosecutors’ powers to pursue acts of corruption committed abroad. Corruption is specifically targeted under BSCI Performance Area 13: Ethical Behaviour. The guidance provided to BSCI participants puts them in a good position to respect and go beyond international and domestic legislation, improving the lives of workers and supporting companies to fight corrupt practices in their supply chain.
NCG Netherlands

**Coordinator:** Norma Snell  
**Chair:** Monique Ansink, Owner, Excellent Products  
**Members:** 328  
**Website:** [http://nl.fta-intl.org/](http://nl.fta-intl.org/)

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**DRIVING QUALITY MEMBERSHIP THROUGH PERSONALISED SUPPORT**

NCG Netherlands’s principle objective was to improve the quality of existing membership by making sure members are engaged and taking full advantage of FTA services. The NCG and FTA secretariat led a concerted effort to reach out to members, address any issues they were having, and provide personalised support. The result has been a considerable increase in members attending workshops and understanding their commitment towards sustainable supply chains.

**IMPACT LOANS FOR HIGH PERFORMING BSCI PARTICIPANTS**

In June 2016, we unveiled a partnership with Rabobank, the largest green savings bank in the Netherlands. A direct result of strategic engagement by our Dutch NCG, this made the top 25% of Dutch BSCI participants eligible for a special ‘impact loan’ from Rabobank and the European Investment Bank (EIB). BSCI was chosen as part of the selection criteria for allocating shares of €100m of fresh lending to sustainable SMEs and mid-cap companies. It is the first time we’ve collaborated with a financial institution to acknowledge and financially reward sustainable business practices.

**FTA RALLIES BEHIND THE DUTCH GARMENT AND TEXTILES AGREEMENT**

The Sustainable Garment and Textile Sector Agreement is a unified effort to promote workers’ rights and reduce negative environmental impacts. The agreement is backed by a broad coalition that includes the Dutch government, international NGOs, trade unions and more than 20 BSCI participants. In July 2016, FTA signed a statement of support for the agreement to fully endorse its goals through our FTA Sustainability services.

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A workshop on the BSCI online platform for Dutch members in March 2017

NCG Finland

**Chair:** Pirjo Heiskanen, Tuko Logistics  
**Members:** 35

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**DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP**

Finland is home to 35 FTA members, 74% of which are SMEs, and two of which are the largest retailers in the country. Pirjo Heiskanen is the NCG Chair and also serves on the FTA Board of Directors.

**FINNISH MEMBERS GET TO GRIPS WITH NEW FTA TOOLS**

Over 2016/17, three NCG meetings were held, with special focuses on the BSCI commitment Formula and BEPI’s Chemical Module. Anouschka Jansen, FTA’s Senior Manager Environmental Programmes, presented a full overview of the Chemical Module and its benefits. The Module is of particularly pertinence to Finnish members striving to comply with EU regulations such as REACH.
Sweden is home to the NCG with the second-highest membership engagement level. In 2016, Coordinator Martin Horwitz and Chair Catherine Nasser were focused on helping members develop a better understanding of BSCI 2.0 and the new audit methodology.

NCG MEETINGS: ENGAGING EXPERTS

Three Swedish NCG meetings were held in 2016, each with a participation rate above 50 per cent. The meetings included presentations from experts on different issues sharing knowledge and insights:

- Social Auditing (Parul Sharma, Chair of the Swedish government’s UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) delegation);
- Audit expertise and workers’ surveys (Cecilia Berntsson, Elevate Ltd);
- Whistleblowing (Petter Tiger, LANTERO AB);
- Cooperation between business and academia (Simon Flato, Sustainergies); and
- Workers’ training (Josefin Belin, QuizRR).

STAKEHOLDERS TURNED COLLABORATORS

NCG Sweden’s year proved a good example of the importance FTA places on engaging stakeholders. High-level meetings strengthened relationships with: Axfoundation, a non-profit organisation with a sustainability focus that has since contributed to the FTA Roundtable event in Thailand in May 2016, and the FTA led panel session on forced labour and human trafficking at the UN Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights in November; the Swedish Wine and Spirits Association, which continues to provide helpful guidance and market access to the BSCI Sustainable Wine Programme; and Parul Sharma, Chair of the Swedish government’s delegation to the UN SDGs, who will speak at the FTA Conference 2017 and remain an active collaborator in the years ahead.

Partnerships formed throughout the course of the year also resulted in NCG Sweden co-hosting an event with the Stockholm School of Economics and Save the Children, in which the Center for Child Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility (CCR CSR) from China held a seminar for FTA members.

MANDATORY SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

A new Swedish law on mandatory sustainability reporting came into effect in December 2016. The law is based on a EU directive, which states that all medium-sized and large companies must report on environmental and social issues. The BSCI and BEPI systems are designed to help companies measure supply chain performance, making reporting easier and more accurate.
ESTABLISHING A PRESENCE TO DRIVE ENGAGEMENT

Jonas Schrøder was appointed the new coordinator of NCG Denmark in May 2016, when membership engagement was at 79 per cent. The NCG ended 2016 with an engagement level of 85 per cent, the highest of all NCG countries, reflecting the benefits of an in-country presence. Two NCG meetings for members were held following Jonas’s appointment – one in which members attended workshops based on their own suggestions, and another co-hosted with NCG Germany to introduce FTA’s Representatives to members.

INTRODUCING MEMBERS TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

The joint event hosted by the Danish and German NCGs in December 2016 offered the chance for members to receive first-hand insights from our five Country Representatives. Insights were focused on trade issues in their respective countries, key social and environmental challenges, CSR developments, and how Representatives can support members’ work, particularly when implementing BSCI and BEPI.

FIRST SPANISH NCG

In July 2016, we launched our first-ever NCG in Spain. Based in Madrid, Isabel Castillo was appointed Coordinator and Delia Garcia, of El Corte Inglés, was voted Chair at the NCG’s first official meeting in March 2017.

SUPPORTING SMES

91 per cent of Spanish members are SMEs that need to gain maturity in the field of sustainability, so the first-ever NCG meeting in March 2017 was a chance for them to become acquainted with FTA’s tools and services. As well as workshops held by the NCG and FTA secretariat, external businesses, such as Mango (now an FTA member) and Cortefiel, shared best practices and gave practical training through real-life examples.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXTEND OUR REACH

In June 2016, FTA signed an agreement with Forética, the leading association of companies and professionals in corporate social responsibility and sustainability in Spain and Latin America. In July 2016, BSCI and Forética co-hosted an event on transparency and integrity in the supply chain. The day also marked the launch of a new FTA National Contact Group (NCG) in Spain.
MEDIA SPOTLIGHT ON FTA

China has long been the top sourcing country for FTA members, with more than 31,000 Chinese producers registered on the BSCI and BEPI platforms. However, the soon-to-be world’s largest economy is transitioning from an FTA sourcing country to a member country. Almost half of FTA’s 54 Chinese members joined in the past two years.

FTA’s activities in China during 2016/17 have garnered a lot of media attention and resulted in new partnerships to be explored and exploited in the year ahead. Joyce Chau, FTA Representative Greater China, and her team of four based in Hong Kong, have been engaging stakeholders, promoting initiatives and supporting new and existing members.

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS AND THE MEDIA

In November 2016, FTA and the World Trade Organization (WTO) China Tribune co-hosted the 15th Sino-European CSR Roundtable Forum in Shanghai. The roundtable, part of a larger three-day CSR event, was a chance for business representatives and other stakeholders to analyse the advantages brought by the UN SDGs.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

In June 2016, FTA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the China World Trade Organization Tribune to further develop corporate social responsibility in Zhejiang Province. In September, FTA also signed an MoU with China Electronics Standardization Association (CESA) on the joint promotion of CSR in the Zhejiang Province with a special focus on the ICT industry and capacity building programmes.

NETWORKING FOR MEMBERS

In early 2016, FTA Representative Joyce Chau and her team launched an initiative of member networking sessions. Five sessions were organised in Hong Kong and Shanghai over the course of the year, each attended by at least 20-30 members. Members used these sessions to share best practice and receive key updates and training from the FTA secretariat.

CHINA’S INCREASING ENGAGEMENT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A commitment to sustainability is now not only driven by overseas buyers and standards but also by domestic political pressure. The Chinese government has integrated the UN SDGs into the 13th Five-Year Plan, a significant acknowledgement of the prominent role the country plays in promoting sustainability. China’s major cities are witnessing first-hand the effects of environmental pollution, but the inland migration of manufacturing from eastern coastal provinces has also increased CSR awareness.
FTA’s Long-Standing Presence in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a very important sourcing market for FTA members. The country is the second biggest ready-made garment exporter worldwide, with the industry providing jobs for more than four million people, 80 per cent of whom are women. FTA has established itself locally as a hub of training and guidance, and internationally as a reliable source of expertise.

Is Bangladesh Still a Success Case?

In late 2015, an FTA brochure posed the question: Is Bangladesh a Success Case? The brochure charted the extraordinary successes of Bangladesh and the challenges ahead. It remained in wide circulation in 2016, and was presented by Daniel Seidl in May 2016 at a European Parliament meeting of the International Trade Committee (INTA) Monitoring Group for South Asia.

Putting Capacity Building at the Heart of the Agenda

Over the course of the past year, FTA has taken steps to help Bangladeshi producers and suppliers bring their sustainability standards up to the level of their world-beating production capabilities. Factories are feeling the pressure to raise sustainability awareness through training. FTA capitalised on this demand to help foster a culture of sustainable practices by opening a new office and appointing a capacity building coordinator, who will began work in June 2017.

Cooperating and Coordinating Efforts

Stakeholder engagement is vital in a country that finds itself dealing with a burgeoning economy, worker protests and the encroaching realities of climate change. For this reason, our Representative on the ground maintains an open dialogue with trade unions, NGOs, business associations, local media and the Bangladeshi government.

High-level meetings and roundtable discussions over the past year focused on compliance, productivity, trade barriers and women’s empowerment.
INCREASING THE LEVELS OF SUPPORT

India is home to the second-largest number of our members' producers, making it a key sourcing country for FTA. In June 2016, Natasha Mehta Majumdar was appointed Representative to support producers in India, build on existing FTA activities and reach out to member representatives and stakeholders in the region. Natasha is joined by a team of two in her office at the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce headquartered in Mumbai.

SOURCING COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

We recently initiated member meetings in India, providing a unique opportunity for members with a presence in the country to engage with each other and receive customised support. The first of these meetings was in February 2017, hosted by FTA member Migros in Gurgaon, with a special focus on BSCI’s monitoring operations and capacity building activities in India.

MORE ACCESS TO TRAINING FOR PRODUCERS

One of the biggest successes in 2016 was the dramatic increase in capacity building workshops for producers in India and the burgeoning attendance rates of those workshops. This trend has so far continued in 2017, with attendance numbers already reaching beyond double that of last year’s.

CHILD LABOUR LAW REVISION

India has amended the 1986 Child Labour Act, establishing a minimum age for employment that’s consistent with the age for compulsory employment. FTA released a position paper on the changes and how they might affect producers. We welcome the amendment to the Child Labour Act, as it represents a step towards the alignment of Indian legislation with the ILO Convention on minimum age of employment. FTA has also provided guidance for auditors on how best to ensure producers adhere to this amendment.

MATERNITY BENEFITS ACT

In March 2017, the Indian Parliament approved the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill. The law permits an extended paid maternity leave period from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for women employed in the organised sector. FTA welcomes the approval of this act and has informed all auditors undertaking BSCI audits to to remain vigilant when checking adherence to this law. We are also strongly encouraging producers in the BSCI system to ensure it is incorporated and that its benefits are available to workers.
BUILDING ON OUR PRESENCE

Establishing a satellite office in the USA was a logical step towards FTA's ongoing ambition to serve our members wherever they and their operations may be. While there are currently only ten FTA members located in North America, growth is expected and a large number of European members source from the region. Kelli Hoggle was appointed USA and Canada Representative in December 2016, and has since set about supporting existing and potential members with training and workshops.

INTRODUCING FTA TO THE US MARKET

Home to many mature companies with knowledge of sustainability, demand is high in the US for initiatives that affect change at the producer level. Kelli spoke at the Global Responsible Sourcing Summit in California in March 2017, alongside industry leaders, to introduce FTA's unique trade and sustainability offering.

INFLUENTIAL MEMBER STARTS BEPI IN THE US

German retail giant Aldi South showed their confidence in FTA by enrolling their US branch into the BEPI system. The branch has since received thorough training and guidance on how to make the most of FTA's environmental initiative, including online training on the FTA Academy.

POLICY CHANGES THAT COULD AFFECT MEMBERS

The new Trump administration has brought rise to the possibility of an updated Border Adjustment Tax, which could charge companies a 20 per cent tax on imports. The administration has also made clear its intentions to change the Dodd-Frank Act, an act intended to improve accountability and transparency. Change could require investment from companies to remain compliant. FTA’s Representative will continue monitoring the situation and update members on any change.

THE FTA ACADEMY

Launched in 2015, the FTA Academy is our online learning hub, featuring courses, webinars, tutorials and a host of other tools for BSCI participants and their producers. The FTA Academy allows BSCI participants to follow a specific learning path, assign courses to their producer and track their progress. Areas cover the basics of BSCI to practical reporting information. Producers are now also able to flag online courses they would like to follow, increasing their overall engagement.
Muge Tuna was appointed FTA Representative Turkey in July 2016 to build on the association’s increasing presence in the country. Based in Istanbul, Muge has spearheaded FTA’s response to the challenges facing our members’ almost 2,000 Turkish producers.

SCALING EFFORTS TO MEET DEMAND

Workshop attendance rates in Turkey hugely increased over the 2016/17 period as producers reacted to having an established FTA contact in the region. All Q1 and Q2 workshops were at full capacity and had waiting lists, highlighting the need for yet more workshops in the remainder of the year.

MAKING TRAINING MATERIAL ACCESSIBLE TO PRODUCERS

Increased producer engagement led to demand for more training materials in Turkish. Muge worked in close collaboration with the FTA secretariat to translate video tutorials and other resources, which were then made available on the FTA’s online learning platform, the FTA Academy.

LEADING GUIDANCE ON SYRIAN WORKERS IN TURKEY

The influx of Syrians fleeing conflict in their home country has introduced a huge population of working age people vulnerable to exploitation. To date, only around 14,000 work permits have been issued to Syrians working across all sectors, leaving around 400,000 to work informally.

In July 2016, Muge helped draft a guidance package on Syrian workers in Turkey. The package included insights into the status of Syrians in the country and clear guidelines on how best to mitigate exploitation in supply chains. A month after its release, the package was commended by UN Special Rapporteur Maria Grazia Giammarinaro.

TURKEY REMAINS AN ATTRACTIVE SOURCING MARKET

The past year has proved a tumultuous period in Turkish politics. The attempted coup d’état in July 2016 caused a degree of disruption, while worsening diplomatic relations between Turkey and some European governments have stalled what once seemed like sure accession to the European Union.

Despite these uncertainties, the competent workforce and short factory deadlines in comparison to the Far East still make Turkey an attractive proposition for FTA’s European members.