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Abstract

The European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing (Textile ETP) is the largest European network dedicated to textile research and innovation. Its main objectives are to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the EU textile and clothing industry through collaborative research across national borders in Europe and a rapid translation of research results into industrial innovation.

Keywords: textiles, innovation, networks, sustainability, cooperation

1. Introduction

The European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing (Textile ETP) was created in 2004 to match research and innovation needs and priorities of the European industry (represented by companies, associations and clusters) with the knowledge, scientific and technological capacities of universities, research organisation and technology developers. **The aim is to raise the textile competitiveness through intensified collaborative research and innovation.**

Since 2013 the Textile ETP has been established as an international non-profit association under Belgian law with its permanent premises based in Brussels.

Textile ETP counts 300+ member organisations from industry, research and higher education with a **total of over 1200 registered individual experts.**

According to the current strategy, adopted in 2018, the Textile ETP acts as Strategic Connector, Think Tank and Advocate, and Intelligence and Funding Access Provider to all our members across Europe. Therefore, the main activities of the Textile ETP revolve around Networking, Learning and EU Funding.



Fig. 1. Dr. Marina Crnoja-Ćosić –the newly appointed President of Textile ETP und Lutz Walter – ETP Secretary General

Networking

The Textile ETP is known as **the biggest networking organisation for textile research and innovation in Europe.** Through online member platform, and regular networking events, conferences and webinars, textile innovation experts from across Europe get to build connections and start collaborations for mutual benefit (Fig. 2.)



Fig. 2. Textile ETP President Marina Crnoja-Ćosić delivered a keynote address at the official kick-off event of 'New Textile Ecosystems' (NEWTEXECO), September 21st 2023, Arnhem, the Netherlands

All events and communication channels are also at the disposal of our members to disseminate the results of their collaborative research or innovation projects.

EU Funding

The Textile ETP provides its members with timely and focussed access to information on EU funding opportu-

nities. The **TEPIES programme** is the members-only brokerage system to facilitate access to EU funding by supporting members in forming strong project consortia for successful funding applications.

Together with full members **EURATEX**, **TEXTRANET**, **NETFAS**, and **EU-TEXTILE2030**, we also engage with European policymakers to inform them about textile innovation potential and research needs to have them reflected in EU policies and funding programmes.

Learning

The Textile ETP organises year-long **Masterclasses** and **Expert Communities** on various topics.

- Monthly **Masterclass** webinars provide in-depth knowledge and understanding of research and **innovation** trends related to specific textile subjects.
- **Expert Communities** offer an excellent opportunity to network with companies, researchers and technology developers, and to help develop new partnerships. They also provide opportunities to participate in key thematic webinars and in-person meet-ups.

Strategic roadmap - Ready to Transform

The Textile ETP is based on three pillars, which at the same time represent the three crucial elements of the long-term vision that will exploit these strengths while at the same time benefiting from general societal and economic trends:

- A move from commodities towards specialty products from high-tech processes along the entire value chain from fibres to final products with highly functional, purpose-targeted properties
- The establishment and expansion of textiles as a material of choice in many sectors and application fields
- A move toward a new industrial era characterised by customisation, personalisation as well as flexible, on-demand production.

The Textile ETP collaborates with its members to generate strategic roadmaps or themed opinion and position papers that address the primary goals of the “European Textile Strategy.”

The latest comprehensive roadmap entitled “**Ready to Transform**” was adopted in 2022.

Four strategic Innovation Themes have been singled out as particularly impactful for the successful and rapid transformation of the European textile ecosystem.

- Smart, high-performance materials for new growth markets
- Digitised textile materials, products, manufacturing, supply chains and business models
- Durable, circular and biobased materials and processes
- Safe, low footprint products, processes and responsible supply chains.

For each theme, several research and innovation topics and subtopics are defined followed by a listening of con-

crete research and innovation targets and promising technology approaches.

The implementation of the **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles** must be accompanied by a policy framework that fosters innovation and skills development at all levels. An investment program is required to bring about the expected massive systematic change. On this path of transformation the textile and clothing, industry in Europe is facing great challenges and opportunities,

Textile ETP acts as a reminder of the collaborative effort required to transform the industry and have a worldwide influence.

It supports national initiatives, e.g. French Re_fashion with a mission “For a 100% circular textile industry” (Fig. 3).

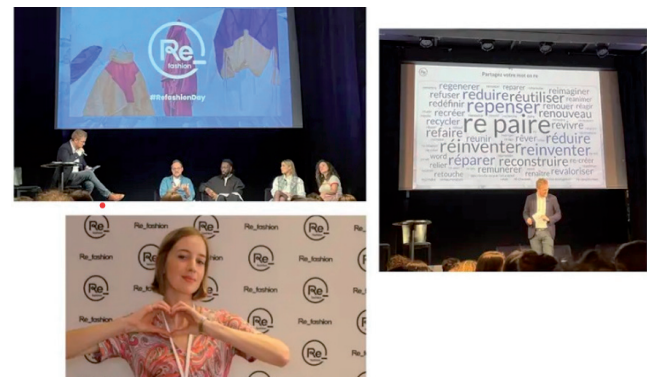


Fig. 3. Textile ETP attended the event Re_fashion Day in Paris, October 2023

Sustainability, innovation and cooperation are essential parts of these developments. The ETP continuously offers a platform on which research and development in the textile sector in Europe are optimally networked. This will make it possible to bring innovations to the market faster and more efficiently and to implement the EU textile strategy. By doing this, the European textile sector will remain competitive.

Sources: ETP internal documents, ETP Roadmap “Ready to transform”

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