The 18th Scientific-Professional Symposium
Textile Science and Economy – Education, Research and Industry: A Bridge Towards Stronger Development of the Fashion, Textile and Leather Sector

Zagreb, January 27, 2026
https://www.ttf.unizg.hr/tekstilna-znanost-i-gospodarstvo/1194

The 18th Scientific-Professional Symposium "Textile Science and Economy" – TZG 2026, entitled "Education, Research and Industry: A Bridge to Stronger Development of the Fashion, Textile and Leather Sectors", was held at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Textile Technology on 27th January 2026. The symposium brought together representatives of the academic community, industry, institutions and professional organisations to exchange knowledge, present current research activities and encourage cooperation between science, education and industry in the fields of textiles, fashion and leather. The symposium was made possible with the support and patronage of numerous institutions and organisations, including the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, the University of Zagreb, the City of Zagreb, the Croatian Chamber of Economy, the Croatian Academy of Engineering, the Croatian Employers' Association, the Croatian Textile Engineers' Association, the Zagreb Innovators' Association and the Croatian Leather and Footwear Society. Additional support for the symposium was provided by Galko d.o.o. as a donor. As part of the programme, the activities and products of the textile companies Tvornica Tekstila Trgovišće d.o.o., Čateks d.d., Splendor tekstil d.o.o., Galko d.o.o., Odjeća d.o.o. and KAP-KO d.o.o. were presented, giving participants an insight into current production activities and development directions in the domestic textile industry. The research activities of staff members of the University of Zagreb Faculty of Textile Technology were also showcased, including the FashionTEX project, the SPIN project ARTI, cooperation with PlayStation Croatia and the Erasmus+ project AEQUALIS4TCLF. The programme also included the promotion of the scientific-professional journal *Koža i obuća*.

The TZG 2026 symposium programme featured lectures by experts from the public sector, industry and the academic community, as well as presentations of current projects, research activities and professional initiatives in the fields of textiles, fashion and leather. Particular emphasis was placed on linking education, research and industry; funding opportunities for entrepreneurial and development projects; current development directions in the textile and clothing industries; innovation; digitalisation and optimisation of production processes; and the sustainable development of the textile sector through process optimisation in accordance with the principles of the circular economy. Within the scientific-professional programme, opportunities to use funding sources for entrepreneurial and development projects, current development directions in the textile industry and the importance of stronger links between industry, scientific institutions and the education system were presented. The importance of institutional and professional cooperation in connecting science, the profession and industry, as well as in developing the Croatian textile sector, was emphasised.

Researchers from domestic institutions and abroad contributed with their research papers. Through poster presentations, available both alongside the presentations at the faculty and in digital form on the official symposium website, eight institutional projects and a total of 29 papers were presented, including 10 scientific papers, four review papers and 15 professional papers. Additional visibility for the symposium was ensured through collaboration and the publication of selected full papers in the journals *Tekstil* and *Koža i obuća*. Six papers were selected for publication in the journal *Tekstil*, four of which are presented in this issue and two in the next one. The papers address current topics in textile technology, fashion education and digital technologies, emphasising the connection between scientific research and sustainable development, innovation and contemporary teaching practice. These contributions confirm that interdisciplinary approaches, digital technologies and cooperation between science, education and industry provide the foundations for the development of innovative, functional and sustainable textile and clothing solutions.

Guest Editors:
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