



ECO TEX

Circular Economy  
Innovative Skills in the  
Textile Sector



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Welcome to the first Newsletter of the ECO TEX project.

In this newsletter, we would like to inform you about the project “Circular Economy Innovative Skills in the Textile Sector” with acronym “ECO TEX”, the reasons why we initiated the project, who is involved, and what the project activities are.

The Project ECO TEX is a 30 months’ duration project, supported by the European Commission and is co-funded by the Erasmus+.

## PROJECT IDEA

Over the past decade, generating a circular economy has become a priority for businesses wishing to move towards sustainability. A circular economy offers an alternative model to our take-make-waste model of consumption by keeping materials in circulation (and out of the landfill).

Sustainability in the Textiles industry is seen as a subject of the major producers, with many brands divulging their concern about protecting people and environment and adopting an environmental friendly communication approach.

For Textiles Sector’s companies (especially SMEs), the circular economy provides an opportunity to create new profit streams, increase their resilience to volatile input costs, and support their efforts to become completely sustainable and socially responsible.

The market for “green textiles” is in an expanding development, reflecting the big change in the consumer behaviour, worldwide, representing a huge opportunity of growth for the Textiles sector in Europe.

EU Textile industries urgently need a flexible workforce that can respond to the development and the globalized market and the need for sustainable design and manufacturing in order to respond to the global demand for sustainable creative products.

The project grew up from that need and foresees to design and develop an innovative and comprehensive training toolkit on the subject of “How to implement circular economy techniques in Textiles Industry”.



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## WHO IS INVOLVED?

The consortium of the project consists of 5 partners from Spain, Greece, Romania, Latvia and Portugal. Coordinator of this project is the Confederación de la Industria Textil - TEXFOR (Spain).

The constitution of the partnership based on the cooperation of education and employment in order to better achieve the objectives of the project. The purpose was the development of sustainable partnerships between education and employment.



**TEXFOR**  
Confederación de la Industria Textil  
**Spain**

TEXFOR is the main Textile association with almost 300 members. It represents the interest of the textile sector at regional, national and international level. With a competitiveness oriented attitude, provide specific solutions to textile companies to be developed in a global and competitive market.

TEXFOR has vast training experience as it has closely worked with the Spanish Regional Department of Education to develop the contents of the first textile regulated vocational training certificate in textiles.



**SEPEE**  
Hellenic Fashion Industry Association  
**Greece**

The Hellenic Fashion Industry Association has vast experience in EU projects coordination and implementation and represents Greek companies from all sub-sectors of the fashion industry. Participating in the negotiation of sectoral and regional collective agreements; providing information and consulting relating the commercial, industrial and social policy matters including training and education consulting and support; involvement in adult education.

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### **TUIASI**

Technical University of Iasi "Gheorghe Asachi"  
**Romania**

"Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University has an important research dimension. It has teaching and research staff as well as modern facilities for all fields of clothing and textile industry. - involvement in curricula development, defining occupational profiles, research on new skills demands in the textiles, clothing and footwear sectors; consultative role in the field of education, training and human resources development; partnership with research centers, HEIs, companies, alumni etc. in research and educational projects; involvement in adult education. involvement in adult education.



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### **CITEVE**

Centro Tecnológico das Industrias Textil  
e do Vestuário de Portugal  
**Portugal**

CITEVE is the Technological Centre for the Portuguese Textile and Clothing Industry, created in 1989. As a private non-profit organization, it has 600 associated companies and more than 2000 customers. CITEVE's main activities are technology transfer, laboratorial analysis, IPR information, training, technical and vocational secondary education, certification & standardisation activities and R&D activities at national and European level.



**RIGA TECHNICAL  
UNIVERSITY**

### **RTU**

Riga Technical University  
**Latvia**

RTU is an accredited internationally recognized European University. It is the second largest university in Latvia with 15000 students. RTU collaborates with the enterprises in major industries in Latvia and abroad as well as with state and local government institutions. Supported by European Structural Funds, RTU is taking active part in various research projects as well as in establishing of Competence Centres and National Research Centres.



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## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The ECO-TEX project focused on the training of professionals who work in the Textiles and clothing Sector (especially SMEs), in circular economy techniques and production of sustainable textile and clothing products, and in the definition and implementation of a common framework based on EQF principles for the identification and reference of the "Expert in Sustainability" for the Textiles Sector. The project is complementary to other EU Projects implemented in the frame of LLP and Cross-border cooperation programs regarding the textiles and clothing industry.

The overall objective of ECO-TEX project is the design and piloting a new job qualification profile and correspondent training curricula on the subject of "How to implement Circular Economy techniques in Textile Industry". The platform will focus on online training and will facilitate dissemination of knowledge and sharing of experience. Moreover, it will serve as a medium for all stakeholders in the field to share concerns and advice, as well as promote employment opportunities.

## EUROPEAN ADDED VALUE

The project proposal relies on European cooperation and demonstrates strong European added value by bringing together multi-disciplinary excellence from different EU countries. Moreover, the project results will have an international impact and will contribute to the improvement of education and training in the frame of Life Long Learning, of textiles and clothing SMEs

## ACTIVITIES

The project is divided into eight (8) activities and each activity produces deliverables and Intellectual Outputs. Specifically project activities are:

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**A1** Project Management and Implementation

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**A2** Quality Assurance and Evaluation

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**A3** Background Research and Anticipating Skills Reporting

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**A4** Methodological Adaption/  
Guide on the adapted methodology

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**A5** Development of the Training Toolkit

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**A6** Development of the e-learning Digital Platform

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**A7** Pilot Testing and Validation

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**A8** Dissemination Campaign and Sustainability

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## FIRST STEPS!

**Kick Off Meeting in Barcelona:** The kick-off meeting took place in Barcelona (Spain) in February 2018. It was a very good opportunity to meet each other in person and to coordinate all the work which will take place during the first project year analyzing in details the first semester expected results.

**Quality Assurance and Evaluation:** TEXTFOR was the partner responsible for the elaboration of our Quality Management Plan.

**Background Research and Needs Analysis:** For the purposes of the common research which is conducting simultaneously in Spain, Greece, Romania, Latvia and Portugal, a questionnaire was prepared by TEXTFOR and SEPEE in English and disseminated to the partners.

Each partner was responsible for the translation of the questionnaire and distribution to national companies. At total 38 questionnaires received reflected the needs of the companies of the sector from partner countries.

**Methodological Adaption:** SEPEE is the partner responsible for the elaboration of the Guide on the Adapted Methodology which will contain a brief analysis of the economic situation in fashion industry, the maps of the education system of each country partner as well as their VET systems, the descriptors defining the EQF levels, the ECVET principles and its linkage to the EQF and the commitment of each country partner to the implementation of the ECVET principles.

### Website of the Project and Social Networks:

Responsible for the development and operation of the Website of the project and social networks' accounts is the Lead Partner TEXTFOR. The Website of the project will be soon operational. Also, the project has its own Facebook and Twitter page.



Facebook



twitter

### Project Coordinator:

TEXTFOR



### Project contact person:

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### KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training

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