

Textiles Sector Group



Newsletter

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Dear EEN Sector Group Textiles followers,

Welcome to the final edition of 2025! As Chair of the Sector Group Textiles, I'm delighted to share with you the latest news, funding opportunities, inspiring events, entrepreneurial success stories and forward-looking initiatives that are shaping the future of our industry across Europe and beyond.



In this issue you will discover:

- The impressive response to the first “Textiles of the Future” call under Horizon Europe (33 proposals, €165 million requested for just €10 million available)
- Highlights from key 2025 events: Torino Fashion Match, the CNA Lombardia mission to Biarritz, the vibrant Sector Group meeting in Valencia, the launch of Manchester Fashion Week and many more!!
- Upcoming dates to save, including Kyiv Fashion (28-30 January 2026) and Torino Fashion Match in late June 2026
- In-depth features on pioneering companies (Jeanologia, Care Applications, Vayoil Textil, Zebra Textil, 42K Running...) and innovative projects such as VERSE – the new Erasmus+ programme revolutionising fashion education
- A special spotlight on the shared textile heritage and green-digital ambitions of Valencia and Bursa
- The latest partner-search profiles and opportunities via the Enterprise Europe Network!
- Lastly, make sure to check out this month’s success stories, our latest **partnership proposals**, and upcoming events designed to help you expand your business worldwide.

And...if you're looking for commercial partners, remember that you can always send us your business offers or requests—we're here to facilitate valuable connections within our network!

A personal note from the Chair:

Just a few days ago, I and several members of our Sector Group returned from the Enterprise Europe Network Annual Conference in Aalborg, Denmark. The energy was extraordinary! We welcomed new Network members, forged fresh connections with delegates from Mexico, Singapore and Taiwan, and rekindled collaborations with long-standing colleagues. These meetings have already sparked exciting new project ideas and cross-continental cooperation opportunities that will benefit the textile and fashion community throughout 2026 and beyond.

Stay tuned – many of these initiatives will be unveiled in the coming months!

For any enquiries, reach out via our social media channels or find your local EEN contact at <https://een.ec.europa.eu/local-contact-points>

#EENCANHELP leverage your business!

Wishing you some inspiring reading and a wonderful start to the festive season!



Federica Leonetti

Chair of the Sector Group Textiles

Funding, EU Initiatives and Textiles related news



The European textile Research & Innovation community has responded with remarkable energy and ambition to the **first call of the *Textiles of the Future Partnership under Horizon Europe***, HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-MATERIALS-31: Digitally enabled local-for-local textile and apparel production, which has just closed.

In total, **33 proposals** were submitted, reflecting the strong mobilization and commitment of universities, research institutes, SMEs, and industry leaders across the textile value chain.

With **only €10 million available**, it is expected that just **two projects** will ultimately receive funding. Given that each proposal could request up to **€5 million in support**, the call has generated an estimated **€165 million in requested funding**, underscoring both the urgency and the scale of innovation needs within the sector.

Evaluation results are anticipated in early 2026, with successful projects expected to launch in the **spring of that year**.

Further information on the *Textiles of the Future Partnership* and the activities organised by Textile ETP can be found [here](#).

Past Events



B2B FORMAT Fashion Match: Where Creativity Meets Global Opportunity

The tenth edition of the international B2B event [Torino Fashion Match](#), dedicated to the textile and fashion sector and aimed at **manufacturing companies, fashion designers, and innovative fashion enterprises**, was held in Turin (Italy) at the GreenPea venue in June 2025, during [Torino Fashion Week 2025](#). The event welcomed 200 participants from over 30 countries, with approximately 400 B2B meetings conducted.

Around half of the companies engaged in significant international meetings, and about 20% are expected to initiate commercial partnerships in the short term.

This year's key innovation was the launch of a buyer scouting service by *Unioncamere Piemonte* (main organizer of the B2B and former member of the Enterprise Europe Network), in collaboration with three Italian Chambers of Commerce abroad (**Thailand, Hong Kong, and Türkiye**).

This initiative enabled the participation of **10 international buyers**.

These buyers scheduled meetings with registered B2B companies, with a particular focus on innovative brands from around the world. Notably, one Thai buyer plans to return in the autumn to visit ateliers in the EU and finalize commercial agreements.

Nine thematic talks were also organized on strategic topics for the *fashion industry*, including *innovation, sustainability, internationalization, female entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence, and intellectual property*.

More than 20 speakers participated, including companies and both local and international stakeholders.

Fashion Match is an international matchmaking event format where cultures, innovation, and key players from the textile, fashion, and sports industries come together to shape a sustainable future.

Since 2016, the **Textile & Fashion Sector Group of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)** has developed the successful *Fashion Match* format, hosting two annual B2B events: [EU Fashion Match](#) (at Modefabriek Fair in Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and [Torino Fashion Match](#) (during Torino Fashion Week in Turin, Italy).

This shared format creates synergy, visibility, and loyalty among brands, SMEs, and stakeholders. It simplifies organization and attracts high-quality participants.

Each edition includes B2B meetings, workshops, and trade fairs or fashion shows.

Held alongside *Torino Fashion Week*, *Torino Fashion Match* benefits from the international spotlight of the fashion show, boosting visibility and success for participating companies. It serves as a global stage for independent, creative, and sustainable fashion. The event celebrates niche markets, cultural heritage, and visionary brands, while supporting SMEs and recognizing fashion icons. TFW has become a launchpad for style revolutions—where ambition meets opportunity and international visibility turns into real business growth.

Save the date for the 2026 edition of *Torino Fashion Match*: late June 2026!



CNA Lombardia Mission to Biarritz: Exploring France's Circular Textile Model



Exchange and collaboration pave the way for sustainable innovation in fashion and textiles

A delegation from **CNA Lombardia** recently completed an institutional mission to **Biarritz, France**, aimed at exploring best practices and successful models in the **sustainable transition of the textile and fashion industry**. The visit was part of the activities promoted by the **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)**, in which CNA Lombardia participates as a partner through the **SIMPLER Consortium**.

A European framework for a circular fashion system

Organized in collaboration with **ADI Nouvelle-Aquitaine**, the French EEN partner and regional innovation agency, the initiative focused on studying France's advanced approach to the **circular economy in textiles**, recognized today as one of the most forward-thinking in Europe.

At the European level, the **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles (2022)** and the **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR, 2024)** set ambitious 2030 goals: all textile products placed on the EU market must be **durable, repairable, recyclable, and largely made from recycled fibers**, produced with full respect for social and environmental standards.

The textile industry employs around **1.7 million people in Europe**, yet it ranks **fourth in overall environmental impact**—after food, housing, and transport—and is among the largest consumers of water, land, and raw materials. Starting in **2025, separate collection of textile waste will become mandatory** in all EU Member States, with harmonized extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes and eco-modulated fees to support circular practices and local job creation.



France as a pioneer of circular transition

France has taken a pioneering role through the **Anti-Waste Law for a Circular Economy (Loi AGEC)**, adopted in **February 2020**, which aims to **reduce waste, promote reuse**, and extend producer responsibility across multiple sectors, including textiles. At the heart of this system is **Refashion**, the national EPR organization for textiles, which funds eco-design, technological innovation, and awareness projects through a differentiated eco-contribution, driving the sustainable transformation of the industry.

Visiting the innovation ecosystem in Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Through the Enterprise Europe Network, CNA Lombardia supports companies with **information, advisory, and cross-border cooperation services**, enhancing the competitiveness of Lombardy's production system in line with ecological and digital transition goals. During the mission, the delegation visited key organizations within the French textile innovation ecosystem, including:

- **CETIA – Centre Européen du Textile Innovant et de l'Automatisation**, a European platform founded in 2021 by ESTIA and CETI, providing industrial testing infrastructure for technologies in textile recycling, material sorting, and process automation.
- **ESTIA – École Supérieure des Technologies Industrielles Avancées**, an engineering school in Bidart that bridges education, industry, and research with a strong focus on multidisciplinary innovation.
- **Chaire BALI – Biarritz Active Lifestyle Industry**, a research chair established in 2017 that promotes sustainable development in the fashion, sport, and lifestyle sectors through collaborative research and local partnerships.

Biarritz Good Fashion 2025: innovation meets collaboration

The delegation also took part in **Biarritz Good Fashion 2025**, one of France's leading events dedicated to innovation and sustainability in fashion. The event provided valuable opportunities for networking with companies, startups, and research centers, as well as discussions and workshops on the emerging frontiers of circularity in textiles.

Building bridges for a circular future

The Biarritz mission highlighted how **cross-border collaboration and regional dialogue** are key to advancing sustainability goals. CETIA, ESTIA, and Chaire BALI represent an integrated ecosystem where **research, innovation, and local development** work hand in hand to shape the **future of circular fashion**. The partnership between **CNA Lombardia** and **ADI Nouvelle-Aquitaine** opens the door to **new opportunities for cooperation, knowledge exchange, and joint growth** within Europe's evolving sustainable textile landscape.

"This experience was extremely insightful," said **Matteo Parimbelli**, President of **CNA Federmoda Lombardia**.

"We were warmly welcomed by local companies and had the opportunity to appreciate the quality of their research and facilities. It was inspiring to see such a technologically advanced and collaborative ecosystem. France is clearly ahead, both in legislative terms and in fostering public-private cooperation through strong partnerships among institutions, associations, and universities."



EEN Sector Group Textiles meeting 2025: Driving change and expanding horizons in Valencia, Spain



The Enterprise Europe Network's **Sector Group Textiles (SGT)** gathered in **Valencia, Spain**, from **23-25 September 2025**, bringing together experts and network partners to discuss the future direction of the textile industry and upcoming activities for the period **2025–2028**, company visits, stakeholder meetings, working-group sessions. Hosted by **Cámara Valencia** and chaired by **Federica Leonetti** from Unioncamere Piemonte, the meeting combined on-site and online participation, reflecting the group's commitment to collaboration and innovation

The programme combined on-site visits to leading local companies with high-level discussions and international exchange. On 24 September participants visited textile innovators such as **Jeanologia**, **Care Applications**, **Vayoil Textil**, **Zebra Textil** and **42KRunning**, gaining first-hand insight into eco-efficient finishing, sustainable production processes, technical sportswear and local custom manufacturing. These visits highlighted Valencia's vibrant industrial ecosystem and set the practical context for the sector meeting that followed. across borders.

The core Sector group meeting day opened with a warm welcome from **Luz Martínez** (Cámara Valencia), **Federica Leonetti**, and **Sara Machiels** (EISMEA). Participants were briefed on the new EEN activity period and recent developments in sector and thematic groups. A lively "Tour de Table" session followed, providing space for members to introduce themselves and share updates from their organizations. The group reviewed the **Rolling Plan 2025** and then turned to designing the **Activity Plan 2026**, prioritising events, company missions and cross-group collaborations.



Key discussions focused on the **Rolling Plan 2025** and the development of the **Activity Plan 2026**, which will guide the group's strategic priorities and collaborations in the coming year. Topics included:

- New initiatives with **SG Digital** on **AI and blockchain in the textile industry**,
- Collaboration with **TG Sustainability** on **EPR, upskilling, and reskilling**,
- Joint efforts with **TG Women Entrepreneurship** through the **Match2Achieve** event celebrating women in textile and fashion tech, and
- Engagement with **NCPs** and European stakeholders on **“Textiles of the Future”** calls and opportunities under **Horizon Europe**.

Contributions from **DG GROW** (European Commission) and **EISMEA** provided valuable policy and programme updates, highlighting EU priorities in circularity, innovation, and SME internationalisation. A proposal for a **promotional video campaign** for SGT was also presented by **EISMEA's Communication Team**.

Contributions from **EEN USA** and **EEN India** broadened the discussion on global market access, circular innovation accelerators and trade show opportunities — reinforcing the SGT's internationalisation goals. The day closed with member profile presentations, wrap-up remarks and an evening networking dinner that cemented new contacts and partnership ideas.

The meeting concluded with presentations of new client profiles, an open discussion on next steps, and closing remarks by **Federica Leonetti** and **Sara Machiels**. The day ended with a networking dinner a fitting close to a productive and inspiring gathering.

Valencia's programme — capped by visits to **Mediterranea Fashion Week** backstage and shows on 26 September — demonstrated a balanced approach: grounding strategy in real-world industry practice while mobilising EU policy and international partnerships to support sustainable, digital and inclusive growth across textiles. The SGT returns from Valencia ready to implement a bold Activity Plan for 2026 and to keep driving change across the sector.

The Valencia meeting reaffirmed SGT's role as a dynamic platform driving innovation, sustainability, and international cooperation in the textile sector — paving the way for an ambitious agenda in 2026 and beyond.



Manchester Fashion Week - Where Heritage meets Innovation

Manchester Fashion Week opened with a celebration of sustainability, tech, fashion, and textiles September 9-11th 2025. It was the launch of a bold new event that positions Manchester as a global leader in ethical, sustainable, and forward-thinking fashion.



The Industrial legacy of Manchester was known as “Cottonopolis,” a city once known for supplying woven cotton products around the globe in the 19th & 20th century up until the 1970’s and gained global attention in 2024 when Chanel showcased its Métier d’Arts collection, an homage to Northern pop Culture in Manchester’s Northern District.

Manchester Fashion Week blends fashion with innovation, bringing together designers, tech pioneers, and conscious brands from across the UK and beyond. It’s where vintage meets visionary, and fashion becomes a force for change.

Safia Minney and Lavinia Muth opened debates about fashion’s global impact, while panel discussions such as ‘The Fabric of Britain’ examined the future of UK textile production, its perspectives, challenges and areas for expansion.

Tech innovation from Bridge Ai cohorts, with a panel of leading innovators in Tech & Textiles from 3D Style, Robotics, AI, Digital passports, Supply chain AI platforms and smart manufacturing sharing best practice and how we can improve the textile and fashion industry.

In August, the British Fashion Council pledged to decentralise fashion under new CEO Laura Weir, and hosted several “city-wide celebration” events across the UK in the run-up to London Fashion Week, Manchester was one of them.

Manchester Fashion Week championed sustainability, it celebrated Manchester’s textile history fostering economic growth, with a focus on the role of innovation in shaping the future of fashion and textiles. It is now expected to be a yearly event which no doubt will garner more innovation and support.

Future Events

Kyiv Fashion 2026



Subject: Discover the Future of Ukrainian Style at Kyiv Fashion 2026!

Mark your calendars for an immersive journey into the heart of Eastern European style! **Kyiv Fashion**, Ukraine's premier fashion and business event, is set to illuminate the iconic **IEC (International Exhibition Center)** from **January 28 to 30, 2026**.

This is more than just a fashion week; it's a powerful platform where creativity meets commerce. Explore the groundbreaking collections from over 200 leading Ukrainian and international brands across clothing, footwear, accessories, and homewear. Discover the entire fashion ecosystem under one roof, from established names to the most promising emerging designers who are shaping the global trends of tomorrow.

For industry professionals, it's an unmissable opportunity to:

- **Network** with key decision-makers, buyers, and media.
- **Source** unique products and find new partners.
- **Gain insights** from a rich business program featuring trend forecasts and expert discussions.

KYIV FASHION - INTERNATIONAL FASHION & BUSINESS EVENT

Details:

- **When:** January 28 - 30, 2026
- **Where:** International Exhibition Center (IEC), Kyiv, Ukraine
- **Website:** <https://www.kyivfashion.kiev.ua/>

Be inspired by the resilience, innovation, and sheer talent of the Ukrainian fashion scene. Secure your spot at the industry's most anticipated event this winter!

International Circular Fashion Week Conference



Dates: 16–17 March 2026

Location: Leeds Beckett University (Knowledge Exchange & Atrium)

Format: Two-day event (UK + international participants)

This event opens with networking at 9:30, followed by a welcome from Katie Dye, Climate Advisor at Leeds City Council. The programme includes talks and panels, upcycling and redesign communication, and presentations on innovations such as [SwitchDye](#) technology. Confirmed speakers include Francesca Favia (Italy) and a corset history expert from Liverpool, with additional speakers currently being finalised. International contributions will also include [Fawad Noori](#) from Pakistan.

Throughout the day, there will be exhibitions, workshops, planned primary school sessions, along with pop-up stalls and designer showcases.

Further details:

<https://circularfashionincubator.co.uk/international-circular-fashion-week-conference/>

Spotlight on a region



BELGIUM: A STRATEGIC HUB FOR THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

LOCATION

Belgium lies at the heart of the European Union. The central position makes the country an ideal logistics hub for both the production and distribution of textile products and is the perfect partner for just-in-time delivery, bordering major markets such as Germany, France, and the Netherlands.

Belgium's textile industry has put the country on the map by strongly focusing on innovation, sustainability, and high-quality niche products. Instead of competing with low-cost mass production abroad, Belgian companies have specialized in technical and smart textiles used in sectors like healthcare, automotive, and construction. Furthermore Antwerp, home of the renowned "Antwerp Six," has become an international showcase for Belgian fashion and textiles. Its reputation for high-quality, artistic design strengthens the global credibility of Belgian textile brands, particularly in premium market segments.

FACTS AND FIGURES

According to the latest reports by Fedustria, the federation of the Belgian textile, woodworking, and furniture industries, Belgium's textile industry achieved a turnover of €5 billion in 2024.

Data from the Central Economic Council and the Federal Public Service for Economy confirm the sector's strong export position, with a trade surplus of €1.1 billion (€3.6 billion in exports versus €2.5 billion in imports in 2024). By contrast, the clothing sector remains heavily import-dependent, with €4.2 billion in imports compared to €2 billion in exports.

More than 65% of Belgium's textile trade occurs within the EU, though non-European markets play a greater role in fibre spinning.

In terms of product performance, turnover for the main groups — technical textiles and carpets are the strongest segment within the textile industry in Belgium.





KEY CHALLENGES

The high energy consumption of textile production remains a significant bottleneck. As an energy-intensive industry, the sector faces challenges from elevated energy costs, making investment in energy efficiency and renewable sources essential for its long-term sustainability.

Another structural issue lies in the predominance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Larger companies with the capacity to scale up and expand internationally are relatively scarce. Enhanced support for growth-oriented businesses would help strengthen Belgium's global competitiveness.



RESILIENCE AND ADVANTAGES

Despite these challenges, the Belgian textile sector demonstrates strong resilience and adaptability. A solid network of SMEs enables flexible responses to niche markets, while ongoing investments in innovation, digitalization, and sustainability reinforce the sector's ability to withstand market pressures.

Proximity to universities, colleges, and research institutions – such as Centexbel and VITO – fosters rapid progress in R&D and innovation. Specialized subsectors, including technical textiles, interior fabrics, and upgrading activities, also help reduce reliance on mass production and apparel manufacturing.

Together with employer organizations, sector federations are implementing initiatives such as the Make2030 Agenda, which focuses on industrial renewal, structural improvement, and competitiveness strengthening.

Valencia and Bursa: Twin-Echoes in Textile Heritage and the Path to Green & Digital Future

The cities of Valencia (Spain) and Bursa (Turkiye) may lie on opposite sides of the Mediterranean, yet they share remarkable parallels in their textile legacies. From the production of silk to the evolution of textile clusters, both cities illustrate how craft-tradition and industrial modernity converge. In this article – prepared for the textile sector bulletin of the Enterprise Europe Network – we explore the historical and economic similarities between Valencia and Bursa, assess their roles in textile evolution, and focus on the twin imperatives of green and digital transformation in textiles.



Valencia

Valencia, located on Spain’s eastern Mediterranean coast, has long been a centre of trade, art-craft and industry. Historically, the city’s “Silk Exchange” (La Lonja) marked the peak of silk commerce and is today a UNESCO-listed site. In the modern era, Valencia is home to a dynamic textile business network (for example, the association ATEVAL — Association of Textile Businesses of the Region of Valencia) working to support textiles and technical materials. In summary: Valencia blends a historic craft identity (especially silk) with current business structures in textiles and apparel.



Bursa

Bursa, in north-western Turkiye, has been a key node in textile and silk production for centuries. As the earliest Ottoman capital and a hub on the ancient Silk Road, Bursa's silk-weaving tradition was central to its economy. Today, as part of Turkiye's textile heartland, Bursa hosts modern industrial zones, advanced textile factories and export-oriented operations. Thus, Bursa is a city where historical sericulture converges with contemporary industrial textile dynamics.



Silk and Textile Heritage: A Comparative Lens

Valencia's textile identity is intertwined with silk. The "Silk Route" in Valencia highlights that the city "has Europe's largest archives relating to silk" and that the Velluters (velvet-makers) district emerged in the 15th-18th centuries thanks to the silk industry. The guild of silk merchants ("colegio del arte mayor de la seda") granted privileges in 1686 underscores the municipal importance of silk. Thus, Valencia already in early modern times stood as a silk-production centre, with craft networks, export trade and textile clusters.

In Bursa, sericulture (mulberry-silkworm-silk) has a tradition dating back to around 550 AD. During the late 14th to 17th centuries, silk-weaving in Bursa flourished, supplying luxurious fabrics sought across Europe. For example: "Between 1487 and 1513, the imports of raw silk into Bursa from the East reached record levels (some 120 metric tons a year)." Hence, Bursa's heritage is built on being a storied silk centre – from raw material import (e.g., from Persia/China) to weaving and export.

Shared Patterns & Convergence

- Craft to industry transition: Both cities began with silk/craft weaving traditions and have evolved toward industrial textiles.
- Trade-gateway role: Valencia served Mediterranean trade networks; Bursa sat at a crosspoint of East-West silk routes.
- Cluster organisation: In Valencia the textile-business association (ATEVAL) indicates organised regional sector support. In Bursa, textile zones, export-associations and infrastructure reflect a mature cluster.
- Heritage branding: Both cities leverage their textile heritage for cultural identity and tourism (Valencia's silk route, Bursa's silk revival).



Green and Digital Transformation in Textiles

The Green Imperative

The textile sector globally is under pressure to decarbonise, reduce water use, adopt circular-economy models, and lower chemical footprints. For both Valencia and Bursa, this means aligning heritage strengths with sustainable future-readiness.

In Spain/Valencia, the textile sector is engaging in policies and declarations around sustainability: the “Valencia Declaration” emphasises cooperation, innovation and fairness in a sustainable textile future.

In Bursa, recent reports emphasise sustainable production, eco-friendly dyeing, circular economy initiatives (for example, water-saving technologies in Turkish factories) in the Bursa textile region.

Thus, both cities are at a juncture where historic textile identity must be married with green credentials in production, supply-chain transparency and design-for-circularity.

The Digital / Industry 4.0 Imperative

Digitalisation in textiles covers smart factories, digital supply chain, data-driven manufacturing, on-demand production and advanced materials.

Valencia’s textile cluster (through ATEVAL and other bodies) is positioned to adopt advanced materials and digital manufacturing, aligning with Spanish and EU priorities for smart specialisation.

Bursa’s industrial fabric is already modernising. The presence of technical textile production, export-intensive factories, and proximity to European markets position it well to adopt digital textile manufacturing and value-chain integration.

In short: textile actors in both cities need to invest in digital platforms (e-commerce, traceability), smart manufacturing, high-value fabrics (technical textiles, smart textiles) and sustainable processes to remain competitive.

Concluding Thoughts

Valencia and Bursa present a compelling case study of two cities bound by textile heritage and poised for future transformation. While presence on different geographic fronts, their shared lineage in silk, textile trade and cluster culture offers fertile ground for collaboration. For the textile sector, the key will be embracing **sustainability**, **digitalisation**, and **heritage-driven innovation**. By leveraging Valencia’s design-distribution know-how and Bursa’s manufacturing depth, partnerships can yield new value in the EU market and beyond.

Representative organisations of the Enterprise Europe Network, KOSGEB Bursa (Turkiye) and the Valencia Chamber of Commerce (Spain), will continue to contribute to the development of these two wonderful cities.



Stories from entrepreneurs in the fashion industry



Jeanologia: Technology at the Service of Sustainable Fashion

In today's landscape, the fashion industry faces one of its greatest challenges: transforming its processes to become truly sustainable. Jeanologia has emerged as a key player in this change, offering technologies that redefine how denim—one of the most water- and chemical-intensive garments—is produced, with an ethical, ecological, and efficient spirit.

Founded in 1994, Jeanologia was born with the mission to transform the textile industry through the development of disruptive solutions that reduce environmental impact without sacrificing creativity or quality.

Its approach is based on providing operational models and technological ecosystems that help laundries and finishing plants transition from traditional production toward a more automated, digital, and sustainable model.

The company integrates innovation at every stage of the process—from fabric to finishing—supported by software that monitors and controls production.

In addition, Jeanologia operates under an ambitious goal called MISSION ZERO, which aims to eliminate 100% of the waste generated in the manufacturing of jeans by 2025, minimizing water use, removing hazardous chemicals, and reducing pollution.

What is truly inspiring about Jeanologia is not only its technology but also how it has successfully persuaded global brands to adopt these sustainable models. Its approach demonstrates that innovation and ethics can go hand in hand in an industry traditionally associated with high resource consumption. Jeanologia exemplifies how a technology-driven enterprise can spark deep transformation within the fashion sector.

<https://www.jeanologia.com/>

Care Applications: Smart Technologies for a More Sustainable Textile Finishing



In an era where sustainability and efficiency have become essential for the textile and fashion industry, Care Applications stands out as a pioneering company driving the transformation toward responsible and intelligent production models.

Founded in Valencia, Care Applications designs and manufactures advanced technologies that optimize the dyeing and finishing processes of garments and fabrics, drastically reducing water, chemical, and energy consumption. Its commitment is clear: to offer sustainable, cost-efficient, and high-quality solutions that meet the growing environmental and industrial demands of the global market.

At the core of Care Applications' innovation is SmartDyeing, a system that allows the uniform application of chemicals and dyes through precise nebulization instead of traditional immersion methods. This technology represents a paradigm shift in textile processing, enabling reductions of up to 90% in water use and significant savings in chemicals and energy.

The company's philosophy is based on continuous innovation and sustainability, offering textile manufacturers the tools to modernize their operations while minimizing their environmental footprint. By integrating automation, digital control, and resource optimization, Care Applications demonstrates that it is possible to align industrial performance with ecological responsibility.

Today, Care Applications collaborates with major international brands and textile producers who share its vision of a cleaner, smarter, and more competitive industry. Its success exemplifies how technological creativity and environmental awareness can come together to reshape the future of fashion manufacturing.

<https://www.careapplications.com/en>

Vayoil Textil: Heritage and Innovation in Hotel Textile



In a world where sustainability, durability, and design are becoming indispensable, Vayoil Textil has carved a distinct path in the textile sector by specializing in high-end linens and textile solutions for hospitality. The company combines tradition, innovation, and environmental commitment to deliver products that meet the rigorous demands of hotel environments.

Founded more than three decades ago, Vayoil Textil started as a family enterprise and has grown into an international benchmark in hotel textiles. With headquarters in Paterna and a production and logistics hub in Ontinyent, the company designs and fabricates bedding, bath linens, spa wear, restaurant textiles and more—all tailored for the hospitality industry.

A defining characteristic of Vayoil's strategy is its sustainability focus. The company offers fully certified sustainable textile collections (GOTS, OCS, RCS, Oeko-Tex) and promotes the use of recycled materials—such as their Ocean line, made from recycled plastic bottles and natural fibers.

It is one of the few Spanish companies able to fully outfit a hotel—from rooms to bathrooms to restaurants—with 100 % eco-textiles.

Vayoil's reach is global: over 2,000 hotels across more than 25 countries trust its products.

In 2024, the company reported turnover surpassing 13 million euros, with a core team of 34 professionals and more than 100 indirect jobs supported through its network of local textile workshops.

Innovation also drives its business model: in recent years, Vayoil has launched Hottels.es, an online shop focused on small hotels, boutique establishments and apartments; and Stora, a brand for personalized textile decor for contract projects.

What makes Vayoil particularly inspiring is how it integrates values—heritage, quality, social commitment, and environmental care—while successfully growing in a competitive international market. Its example shows that even in a resource-intensive sector like textile and hospitality, thoughtful innovation and responsibility can coexist and drive real impact.

<https://vayoiltexil.es/en/>

Zebra Textil: Textile Design & Home Fashion Innovators



In a sector where customisation, design, and home comfort increasingly define consumer demand, Zebra Textil has built its niche as a creative and flexible textile manufacturer specialising in home décor fabrics and tailored textile products.

Founded in the mid-1990s and rooted in Ontinyent (Valencia), Zebra Textil combines craftsmanship with versatility and responsive service. The company produces bespoke and standard items such as sofa covers, roller blinds (estores), cushions, bed linens and upholstery fabrics, offering both decorative flair and functional textile solutions.

What sets Zebra Textil apart is its commitment to personalization and small series: clients can choose from a rich library of designs or even provide their own images or motifs to print on roller blinds or covers.

The firm's ability to balance design freedom with production efficiency allows it to serve both homes and interior-design projects.

Moreover, Zebra Textil evolved within a challenging textile environment, reflecting on its business model from the ground up. It embraced a hybrid of made-to-order and catalog-based sales, while maintaining agility to respond to changing styles and client tastes.

Despite being a small company—reporting around 9 employees and operating with moderate capital—Zebra Textil sustains its operations through design differentiation and client-oriented services.

It actively maintains presence in industry fairs to showcase its textile collections for the home sector.

What is truly inspiring is how Zebra Textil demonstrates that even small and medium textile firms can compete via design, customization, and responsiveness, rather than relying solely on scale. Its story illustrates that in today's fashion and home-textile world, value can come from agility, creativity, and direct customer focus as much as from cost leadership.

<https://www.zebratextil.com/en/>

42K Running: Innovating the Sporting Event Textile Experience



In the competitive world of sport and running events, 42K Running has distinguished itself by blending technical textile expertise with event support services, elevating the visual identity and experience of races across Europe.

Born in Valencia, 42K is more than a sportswear brand: it is a full-service provider for running events, offering customized apparel, race bibs, finish arches, banners, and full event branding solutions.

With a presence in over twenty countries and collaborating with more than 1,500 races annually, 42K has turned its “Eventos Deportivos” division into a strategic pillar.

The process is straightforward but powerful: race organizers select the garments or materials they want to brand, coordinate the design (logos, motifs, sponsors) and 42K handles production, printing (via serigraphy, sublimation, DTF, etc.), and delivery — often in remarkably short lead times.

42K’s textile offering is not limited to standard wardrobes: it includes technical performance gear, club uniforms, and race-day garments that combine comfort, durability, and aesthetics. The brand also maintains a “Custom / Eventos” line, specifically tailored to the needs of race organizers and sporting events.

Beyond apparel, 42K supplies arcos de meta inflables (finish arches), banderolas (flags), dorsales (race bibs), and banners / fly banners as part of its event branding suite. These elements enhance visibility, cohesiveness, and the branding impact of races.

What inspires about 42K is how it fills the intersection between sport, textile design, and event management. It positions itself not only as a supplier, but as a partner to organizers, helping them deliver memorable, professional, and branded experiences to runners and spectators alike.

<https://42krunning.com/en/>

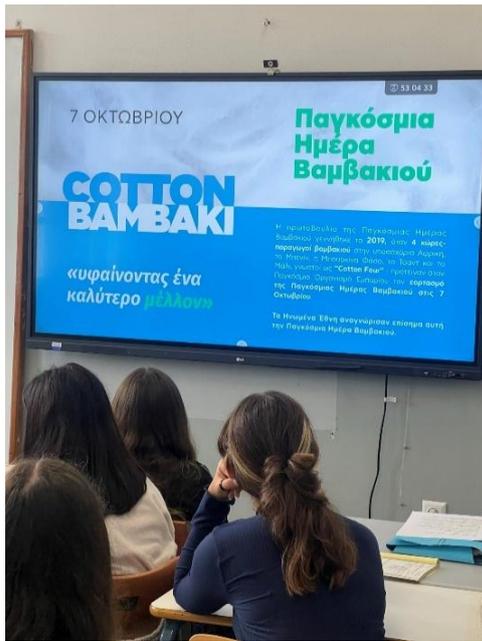


Greek Cotton: Driving Sustainability, Traceability & Innovation in Europe's Textile Value Chain

As the European textile ecosystem accelerates its transition toward sustainability, transparency and circularity, cotton plays a decisive role in shaping a climate-responsible and competitive industry. Greece — the largest cotton-producing country in the European Union — is investing in a new vision for its “**white gold**”, connecting agricultural excellence with modern textile value chains and consumer awareness.

At national level, the **Hellenic Cotton Association of Ginners & Exporters (HCA)** has launched a comprehensive **five-year cotton promotion programme**, implemented by the **Association of Industries of Thessaly & Central Greece (AITCG)**. The initiative informs young consumers and future professionals about the value and sustainability of Greek cotton, while supporting a culture of transparency, responsible production and traceability across the sector.

Activities include nationwide outreach in Greek high schools, approved by the Ministry of Education, consisting of educational presentations, printed materials, digital videos and awareness campaigns on cotton cultivation, fiber properties, its role in the economy, and its sustainability advantages — such as biodegradability, low water footprint and negative carbon balance. The initiative has reached thousands of students across the country, encouraging new generations to understand the cotton value chain — from farm to fashion — and the professional opportunities within it.



This national effort complements Europe-wide actions through the **EU Cotton / EUCOTTON initiative** of the **European Cotton Alliance (ECA)**, co-funded by the European Union under the “**Enjoy it’s from Europe**” programme. The EUCOTTON label certifies cotton grown in Europe from **non-GMO seeds** and produced under strict **EU environmental, social and traceability standards**, offering brands and manufacturers a credible pathway to verifiable, high-quality and responsibly produced fiber sourcing within the EU.

In an era of supply-chain disruption and rising regulatory demands — including the EU Strategy for Sustainable & Circular Textiles, Digital Product Passport requirements, and growing scrutiny on imported fiber impacts — **European cotton provides proximity, transparency, and sustainability assurance**. Its controlled cultivation conditions, high fiber quality, and full traceability system support durable, recyclable textile products and reduce environmental footprint through local production and reduced transport distances.

Greek and European cotton therefore form a strategic asset for brands seeking reliable, sustainable and circular raw materials aligned with EU policy goals and consumer expectations. Through education, certification and coordinated promotion, the Greek cotton programme and the EUCOTTON initiative jointly empower the textile and fashion value chain to “think local, act sustainable” — reinforcing Europe’s leadership in responsible fiber production.

 Learn more:

Interprofessional Hellenic Cotton Association (HCA) – <https://hca.org.gr/>

EU Cotton / EUCOTTON – <https://eucotton.eu/>



VERSE: Shaping the Future of Fashion Education in Europe

The fashion industry is at a turning point. Faced with the dual challenge of environmental sustainability and digital transformation, the sector needs professionals who combine creativity with ethical and technological awareness. This is precisely where [VERSE – Visionary Education for Responsible Sustainable Eco-Fashion](#) steps in.

VERSE is a three-year **Erasmus+ project (2025–2027)** that reimagines how fashion and design are taught across Europe. Its mission is to build a new educational model that integrates **sustainability, digitalization, and entrepreneurship** into every stage of learning — bridging the gap between education and the real needs of the fashion industry.

Led by **Confindustria Toscana Servizi (Italy)**, the consortium brings together **10 partners** from **Italy, France, Portugal, Greece, and Ukraine**, combining academic excellence, industry know-how, and social innovation:

L'École supérieure des Arts et Techniques de la mode (ESMOD) – France; **Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave (IPCA)** – Portugal; **Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (iED)** – Greece; **Dnipro University of Technology (DUT)** – Ukraine; **Association of Industries of Thessaly and Central Greece (AITCG)** – Greece; **Associação Portuguesa de StartUps (APSU)** – Portugal; **TMG – Tecidos para Vestuário e Decoração** – Portugal; **BRAINSHOT** – Greece; and **VERSON VLIES & COURCIER (VVC)** – France.



In addition to its core partnership, **VERSE** also collaborates closely with higher-education and VET institutions, fashion and textile enterprises, startups, and industry experts across Europe — ensuring that **real-world needs and perspectives are embedded in every stage of its methodology**.

Courses & Learning Innovation

The VERSE curriculum **blends theory and practice** through its interactive digital platform — platform.versedesign.eu — where students and educators collaborate in **challenge-based learning environments**.

It is structured around two main pillars:

Theory & Innovation: design thinking, sustainability, ethics, and the creative and philosophical foundations of innovation.

Practice & Industry Connection: business strategy, responsible models, digital and 3D tools, new materials, and real case studies provided directly by fashion companies.

Learning is collaborative and international, with mixed teams of students addressing real challenges from the fashion industry to create practical, **market-ready** solutions.

The Pilot Programme

The VERSE Pilot Programme, **implemented from October 2025 to April 2026**, offers an **interdisciplinary educational experience** that redefines fashion education through the integration of sustainability, digitalization, and ethical innovation.

The programme encompasses a broad range of thematic areas that reflect the complexity and transformation of the contemporary fashion industry.

It covers key topics such as:

- **Sustainable and Responsible Fashion**
- **Innovative Materials and Textiles**
- **Digital Design and 3D Tools**
- **Emerging Technologies and Innovation**
- **Design Thinking and Problem Solving**
- **Communication and Greenwashing Awareness**
- **Specific Creative and Technical Module**

The programme includes **80 hours of synchronous online learning**, combining theoretical lectures, practical workshops, and agora sessions (all available for replay), and **76 hours of applied learning** focused on solving real-life business challenges in collaboration with industry professionals.



The official language of instruction is English, with subtitles available to ensure accessibility for an international cohort of learners.

Graduates will receive **EU-recognized Micro-Credentials**, validating their skills in sustainability, innovation, and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Earlier this year, **VERSE was presented at Première Vision Paris**, one of the world's most influential textile and fashion fairs. The event offered an inspiring opportunity to share the project's vision with professionals, educators, and innovators from across the globe — and to highlight the true heart of VERSE: its students. Their creativity, commitment, and passion for responsible design embody the project's belief that education can transform fashion into a force for sustainability and change.



In Greece, **VERSE was also presented at JOIST Innovation Park in Larissa**, as part of a vidcast and open discussion.



As VERSE unfolds, it invites fashion professionals, educators, and students to join a growing community of **conscious creatives**. Follow the journey, explore collaboration opportunities, and be part of Europe's movement toward a **more ethical and innovative fashion ecosystem**.

Learn more: www.versedesign.eu
Follow VERSE: [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)



Luisa Fortuny Studios and Internationalization

Supported by EEN

Luisa Fortuny Studios, an artisan atelier based in Trebaseleghe (Padua), was founded in 1990 through the entrepreneurial initiative of Luisa Fortuny. The atelier specializes in creating high-end women's tailoring and sportswear for both men and women, blending artisanal tradition with stylistic research and an openness to cultural influences gathered through travel, while exploring new techniques.

Luisa Fortuny embodies the operational soul of the atelier, combining the skills of a seamstress, designer, and technical expert. Each collection and garment is the result of in-depth conceptual research.

Alongside her dedication and passion, Luisa Fortuny Studios has had to overcome several challenges along the way. "Every professional journey has its obstacles": as a female entrepreneur, she has faced gender-related difficulties in a context where "men in society have easier access to every position." Nevertheless, her determination enabled her to overcome stereotypes and focus on her goals.

Despite its manufacturing excellence, Luisa Fortuny Studios faced challenges common to artisan businesses, including limited access to financial resources to support growth, the need to expand its network of contacts in the fashion sector, and the necessity of identifying funding opportunities to consolidate business development.

The relationship with Unioncamere Veneto and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) represented a valuable opportunity for the atelier. EEN advisors provided support in tackling these challenges. EEN's support materialized in several actions:

- **Participation in matchmaking events:** Luisa Fortuny Studios took part in events such as B2B Torino Fashion Match 2023 and B2B EU Fashion Match 13.0 at Modefabriek Amsterdam. These events allowed the atelier to connect with numerous industry players, with whom future collaborations are currently under development. Thanks to EEN, Luisa Fortuny Studios met individuals who, like them, were seeking collaboration.
- **Information and guidance on funding:** Unioncamere Veneto provided the atelier with information on regional calls and funding opportunities.

• **Internationalization through Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs:** Unioncamere Veneto also supported Luisa Fortuny Studios through the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs program, hosting a young Danish entrepreneur who collaborated for six months on the development of the atelier's marketing and social media areas.

The actions undertaken with EEN's support contributed to:

• **Creation of new business opportunities:** Participation in B2B events allowed the studio to expand its network and lay the foundation for future collaborations with young entrepreneurs.

• **Business development:** EEN's support facilitated access to valuable information for company growth. Luisa Fortuny Studios is pursuing the goal of consolidating its growth by enhancing product quality and human capital. The atelier hopes for greater support in participating in trade fairs and meetings with potential clients, both in Italy and abroad. Luisa Fortuny Studios emphasizes the challenges it faces as a self-sustaining artisan studio, highlighting flexibility in responding to market demands as a strength, but also noting the limited economic investment capacity as a weakness.



Photo taken at Torino Fashion Match 2023

Enterprise Europe Network

Profiles of interest



BODE20250729023: German start up seeks distributors, garment manufacturers and sustainable brands in Tunisia and Turkey for its high quality surplus fabrics

BOTR20250819004: Sustainable clothing brand from Türkiye seeks partners for textile innovation

BOTR20251030001: Gaziantep-based brand offers handcrafted products blending traditional Gaziantep arts with modern design, seeking international buyers and boutique retailers

BRFR20251006005: Manufacturer of inflatable rubber sheaths (sleeves) with reinforcement fabric and extruded rubber membranes is sought for pressuremeter probes.

BRSE20251006009: Swedish start up company seeks manufacturers for custom-designed student caps

TRGB20250922008: UK sustainable clothing SME seeks R&D partners to develop on-demand micro-factory model for zero-waste fashion

BRSE20251014011: A Swedish start-up is looking for organisations to recycle or transform pre-sorted outdoor apparel, workwear, and related textiles with membrane into new materials

BRFR20251008002: French Leather and imitation leather Shoe Company Looking for EU Manufacturing Partners

BRDE20250909024: German fully integrated knitting mill looks for suppliers of confection in Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic for the production of different clothes.

BRDE20250926001: A German fashion retailer seeks new suppliers for women's wool sweaters "Made in Europe".

TRGB20230310007: Long-established UK manufacturer of wool-based textiles for a variety of industrial purposes seeks technical expertise to help develop new applications and products, under a research cooperation agreement

Click on the below links for details of the above profiles and many more opportunities and also to find your local EEN contact point:

[Partnering opportunities | Enterprise Europe Network](#)
[Find your local contact point | Enterprise Europe Network](#)



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<http://een.ec.europa.eu>

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