



INNOVATIVE DESIGN PRACTICES FOR ACHIEVING A NEW TEXTILE CIRCULAR SECTOR

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Design4circle e-Newsletter #1

Project identification

The project **Design4Circle** – *Innovative design practices for achieving a new textile circular sector* – was launched in December 2018 to create an innovative training curriculum to meet the needs of designers in the textile and fashion industry. The objective is to motivate designers from the textile sector to design products that will reduce their environmental impact during the product's life-cycle, while developing new and innovative business models within the principles of circular economy. In order to achieve such purpose, a Strategic Partnership under the Erasmus+ programme has put together 6 organisations from 6 different countries combining complementary expertise in the different fields of the proposed project: two Universities experts in textile design and technologies: **RTU**, Latvia and **TUIASI**, Romania; one company expert in circular economy and new business models: **ECORES**, Belgium; and three business associations and VET providers that support different sectors of the textile industry through a strong expertise in eco-design: **TTA-TC**, Macedonia, **AMUEBLA**, Spain and **CTCP**, Portugal.

In the initial phase of the project, 29 European companies from 7 countries have been interviewed to identify how their circular economy strategy was implemented. Company representatives were asked to analyze different skills and competencies necessary for the successful implementation of their circular business models. In parallel, 29 higher education institutes and training experts were interviewed to understand which skills and competences are emphasised in their circular economy related training programmes.

Upcoming Event:



22.11.2019 | Portugal, Porto
Third Technical Meeting – Design4Circle

Events

First Technical Meeting – On 18th of January 2019 the 1st Technical Meeting was held in Institute of Design Technologies at Riga Technical University – Riga, Latvia – the Lead project partner

The project partners made review of the whole project covering the project aims, objectives, activities, inputs and goals, paying attention on cooperation framework – timetable, administrative issues and Erasmus+ Procedures. In addition Standard Contractual procedures – Grant Agreement – Bilateral Agreements – Financial Regulations and Procedures were discussed among project partners. In the second part of the day the host of the event organized a visit tour to the Institute of Design Technologies at Riga Technical University.

Second Technical Meeting was held in Brussels on 23th of May in the premises of ECOREX company, project partner and expert in circular economy and new business models.



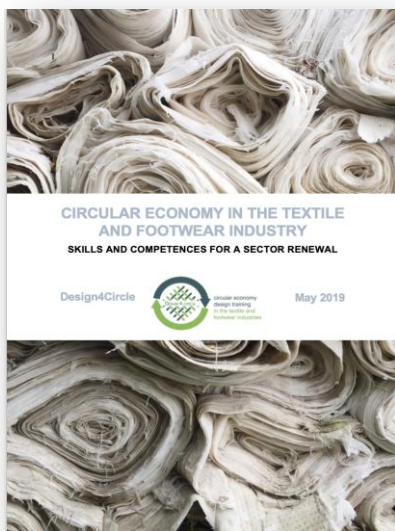
Institute of Design Technologies at Riga Technical University

Report

Circular economy in the textile and footwear industry

Assess skills gap in implementing circular economy practices in the textile and footwear industry

Through companies interviews and HEI feedback, get a better understanding of the skills set that need to be developed in order to develop an integrative training curriculum aimed at equipping designer in the industry with circular skills.



Key skills organised taking a life cycle perspective:

- *Resources and materials skills*
- *Ecodesign skills*
- *Manufacture and end of life*
- *Retail and use*

Set of transversal skills:

- *Sustainability and environmental management*
- *Entrepreneurship*
- *User-centered skills and marketing*
- *Systems thinking and collaboration*



Best practice:

SC CottonTex SRL (Romania) is part of the TExmarket Company (Italy), a company which is specialized in the production of custom-made sportswear, owned by Widman family. In 2017, Michael Widman and Andreas Godman shared a vision: Sustainability in the shape of upcycling and fair production conditions. They create Airpaq company which produces trendy bag packs from airbags and old safety belts. These bag packs are sewn in Timisoara.



Airpaq Yellow



Airpaq Unicolor Yellow

Workshops

Skills and Competences for a Sector Renewal

Workshop for presentation of preliminary results and pioneer business cases

The workshops for the presentation of preliminary results and pioneer business cases of the Design4Circle project were organized during the period 15th till 30th of June in Latvia, Romania, Portugal, Spain and North Macedonia.

The workshop in Latvia was organized by Rigas Tehniska Universitate and took place at the premises of the Institute of Design Technologies of Riga Technical University. In the workshop 12 representatives of companies, manufacturers, consultancy, designers and HEI participated covering such areas as manufacturing of work wear, leisure clothing, upholstered furniture, designing and manufacturing of specialized sportswear, design for environment as well as HEI and consultancy for timber industry federation since.



Anita Grase - Mākonis | Cocktails & Design, Dizaina Ministrija, Ltd - Latvia

"Creating new materials is also in the eyes of Latvian scientists and researchers with remarkable achievements. Our company supports the development and implementation of the proposed program"

Mario Gil – Klaveness - Comfort footwear manufacturer -Portugal

"...to create a platform for footwear where each company would be able to share what are their wastes in order other company from other sector could use them in a perspective of valorization"

The workshop in Romania was organized by TUIASI - Technical University of Iasi. 14 representative persons (designers, managers and engineers) of clothing companies participated at this event. The companies are producing fashion clothes, personal protective garments, automotive covers and specialized sportswear (cycling).



The workshop in Portugal was organized by Centro Tecnológico de Calçado de Portugal and it took place at the premises of CTCP in Felgueiras, one of the most relevant location of the footwear industry. The 16 participants of the workshop, among entrepreneurs and other representatives of footwear companies, manufacturers, consultants, designers and VET entities, covered all the footwear value chain, namely footwear production, soles and insoles production, design, marketing and sales, and one representative from textile sector.



The workshop in Spain was organized by Amuebla and took place at the premises of the Technological Centre of Furniture and Wood's facilities in Yecla. The workshop was attended by 6 designers, 4 consultants and 2 VET teachers, all of them from the furniture sector and its related industries.



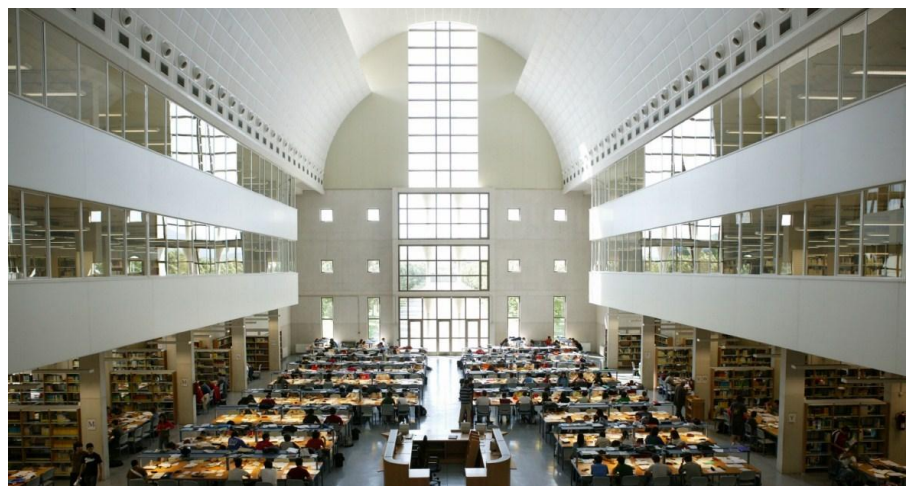
The workshop in North Macedonia was organized by Textile Trade Association - Textile Cluster and took place at premises of Economic Chamber of Commerce where TTA-TC is situated. The workshop attended by 13 participants: companies, consultants, VET teachers, HEI teachers, Agency for employment and Center for adult education.

Generally speaking, the workshops were very well succeeded what concerns to share practices and worries about circular economy and how to implement the best practices. The groups were already aware of the issues in discussion, very focused on solutions and giving contributions. Participants agreed that project consortium has an important and challenging job to do because they have to try to cover complex and diverse topics. The curriculum should not be as much a separate program as a module in the study program for designers since it should become one of the instruments of design creation (design thinking) processes already at the early stages of research and idea development. Such a program / module should be made on a larger scale (broader context), that would address the entire design industry, but which would also have specialized modules related to the specific industry (clothing / fashion).

Best practice:

NAE (No Animal Exploitation) is Portuguese vegan footwear brand. It propose a fair and animal-friendly alternative against human exploitation and respect to the environment.

"Our strategy is to create modern products that are designed for everyday use. The products are manufactured only in certified factories in Portugal, where employees are respected and don't use any product from animal origin or that damages the environment"



Education

Campus Iberus is a consortium composed by four universities (Zaragoza, Lleida, L Rioja and Public University of Navarre) aiming to the excellence in the education. Campus Iberus is currently processing the implementation of a joint master's degree on Circular Economy (90 ECTS credits) in order to take profit of the occurrence of several research groups on the subject, the previous experience on the education of related matters (e.g., Sustainable Chemistry), as well as the interest from public and private institutions.