

# EUROPEAN SUPPLEMENT

## TEXTILE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



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### RESET Project

RESET is an Interreg Europe funded project which aims to generate a policy change in the way European Structural Fund policies and programmes are implemented in the projects partners' regions.

Its key objective is to improve policy instruments in the partners' regions in order to promote a more sustainable approach to the production processes and product development in the EU's textile and clothing sector. This means supporting policy improvement and capacity building in the partners' regions leading to the creation, management and enhancement of Research and Development and Innovation infrastructures, in order to develop greener and more sustainable textile and clothing products and processes. More sustainable approaches to the market, including the promotion of ecological, safety, ethical, social and economic values, will distinguish the products of partner regions' companies from those of their competitors who base their competitive strategy on cost reduction and market price.

Textile and clothing accounts for 4% of the total added value of EU manufacturing.

The sector in Europe includes 173,000 companies with a turnover of €165 billion.

The sector still employs more than 1.87 million people in the EU-28.

While it is a mature sector, its competitiveness is linked to increased investment in innovation and research, both public and private. While this has traditionally been in terms of productivity, product innovation and technology development, more recently the focus has shifted towards new drivers such as sustainability and environmentally friendly production. This is due to the significant impact textile and clothing production has on the environment. The sector consumes high levels of raw materials and natural resources such as fibres, water, energy and chemicals. At each stage of production vast amounts of energy, water and chemicals are used. In turn, production generates air, water and soil pollution through often untreated effluent disposal and waste generation, which places a heavy burden on the environment. Ideally information about sustainable solutions developed and adopted by textile and clothing companies in other regions, and effective measures to revitalise the sector through sustainable products and processes, should be widely available. Informing both stakeholders and policy makers about existing good practices and solutions would allow those solutions to be adopted in other regions.

The project is exploiting the learning potential arising from interregional exchange between the partners to share and promote take up of best practice. It supports excellence in Research and Development, promoting investment by businesses in the sector, developing the skills of textile and clothing sector stakeholders and allowing a greater integration of the Research and Development policies that impact on the sector's sustainability. It addresses 6 key themes:

- Recycling in textile and waste disposal
- Water consumption and energy saving, sustainable company organisations
- New sustainable chemistry, including reduction of chemical substances
- Smart textiles and new ways of production
- Eco-creativity, natural fibres, short value chains
- New materials and new applications

Action Plans will be agreed to ensure that the lessons learned from the project are acted upon and good practices deployed within regional policies. The plans will provide details on how policy instruments are to be improved in each region, indicating the actions, timeframe, players, possible costs and funding sources to implement them.

They will be designed in collaboration with the partners' stakeholders in order to strengthen common ownership and will be embedded into the participating regions' Structural Fund Programmes with the aim of significantly reducing the environmental impact of textile and clothing production across Europe whilst increasing the competitiveness of the sector.



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**INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE FOR THE FASHION AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY?**

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**Contact Bill Macbeth | T: 01484 346500 | [billmacbeth@textile-training.com](mailto:billmacbeth@textile-training.com)**  
**Textile Centre of Excellence | Textile House | Red Doles Lane | Huddersfield | HD2 1YF | UK**