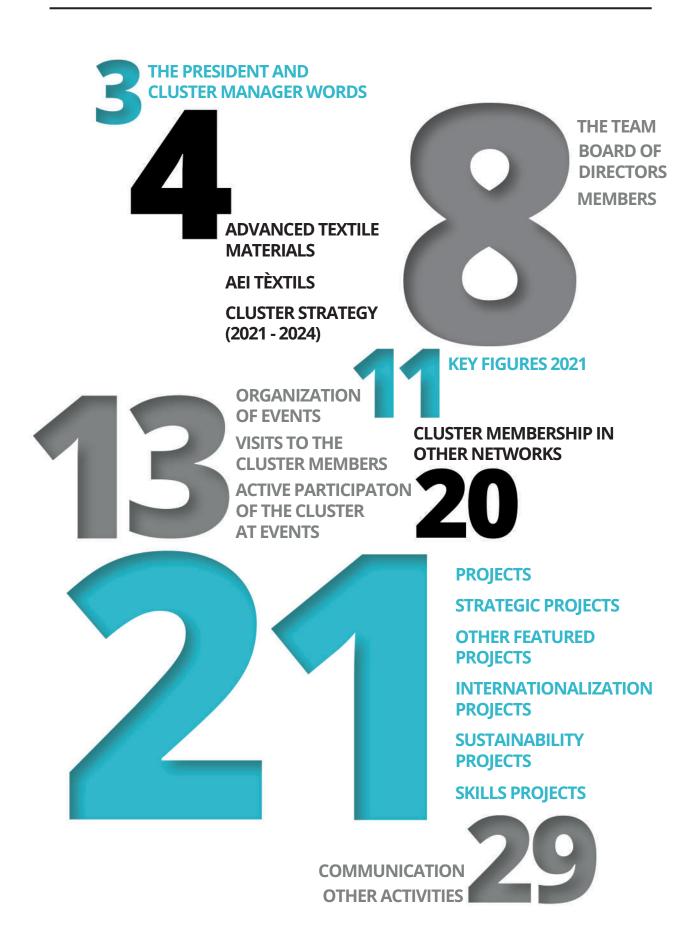
ANNUAL REPORT



CATALAN CLUSTER OF ADVANCED TEXTILE MATERIALS



TABLE OF CONTENTS



THE PRESIDENT AND CLUSTER MANAGER WORDS





2021: Looking back on the year of resilience

The year 2021 was critical for companies in the sector, which have had to assume extreme situations with flexibility and learn how to overcome and adapt to the adversities of the environment.

AEI Textils had also to adapt to the novel post-crisis era, reviewing its activities and services that support its members and their new needs.

With this in mind, we worked on the strategic review of the cluster during May and June 2021, together with our members, in a co-creative approach. The reviewed strategy is presented herein.

In the new strategy, we have two transversal axes that shape it: sustainability and digitalization, two key factors in the resilience of the sector. Digital transformation and green transition require a complex and sometimes an overwhelming journey, but necessary to stay at the forefront of competitiveness and to drive future innovations.

In order to facilitate the process, the cluster launched in July a new service: "the Road towards digital transformation and green transition", as a collaborative journey to move forward the transition plans of its members.

The cluster is a tool that contributes to increasing the competitiveness of SMEs and this is demonstrated by the main annual key performance indicators (KPIs): 87% active participation of members in the cluster's activities, 65% of members participating in proposals or projects with the support of the cluster, 16 ongoing innovation projects and obtaining more than €720,000 in funding for our associated members.

We encourage all companies and organizations linked to the advanced textile materials sector in Catalonia to join the cluster and be part of an environment of collaboration, dynamism, and new opportunities.

Sergi Artigas, President Ariadna Detrell, Cluster Manager

ADVANCED TEXTILE MATERIALS

Advanced textile materials are materials that meet high technical-qualitative requirements (mechanical performance, thermal performance, durability, etc.), having the ability to adapt to a specific function and to the environment, whether in the traditional clothing or household sectors, or specifically in any of the final application areas.



Civil engineering



Agriculture and fishing



Building and textile architecture



Medical-hygienicsanitary uses



Automotive and passenger transportation



Packaging and transport of goods



Personal protection



Sports and leisure



Industrial uses



Environmental protection



Technical textiles used at home and public buildings

and die



Technical textiles for clothing

AEI TÈXTILS



WHAT IS AEI TEXTILS?

AEI TEXTILS is a cluster, with a non-profit association structure, formed by companies in the value chain of the advanced textile materials sector in Catalonia and organizations other supporting innovation.

Its main goals are to promote innovation, especially in cooperation; to foster links in the Catalan advanced textile materials sector and to give visibility to the cluster and its members at an international level to boost the green and digital transition.

SERVICES



Free participation in periodic networking meetings between members and networking sessions organized with other entities.



Free access to sectoral reports and studies elaborated by AEI Textils on subjects and technologies of the sector.



Support in the preparation of proposals and access to European project consortia and continuous follow-up throughout the project implementation phase.



Free access to the calendar of events in the sector (congresses and fairs related to the different areas of application of advanced textile materials).



Direct access to similar European advanced textile materials clusters for the search of suppliers, partners, etc. Access to the EU-TEXTILE 2030 EEIG database.



Reduced fees for technical-commercial consultancy services specialized in the advanced textile materials sector (preparation of market research studies, etc.).



Organization of specific training on technologies in the sector.

NEW SERVICE: ROAD TOWARDS DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND GREEN TRANSITION

The state of the



CLUSTER'S STRATEGY (2021 - 2024)

STRATEGIC REVIEW PROCESS

The cluster conducted a strategy review process together with its members, in a co-creation approach, during May and June 2021. This process aimed at adapting the strategy to post-covid environment. The revised strategy was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

MISSION

To foster innovation to improve the competitiveness of our associated members in a closer and more personalized manner by promoting strategic collaborations.



VISION

To position the Catalan sector of advanced textile materials at the forefront of European innovation, facilitating innovative practices that boost its competitiveness, projection and international visibility.





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1. Promote and follow-up the companies in the sector in the process of innovation, encouraging the green transition and digital transformation.
- 2. Strengthen the cluster's internal and external links with the European advanced textile materials sector.
- 3. Technological and transversal training of cluster members.

and deep

4. To increase the visibility of the members at international level and to promote activities to favor their internationalization.

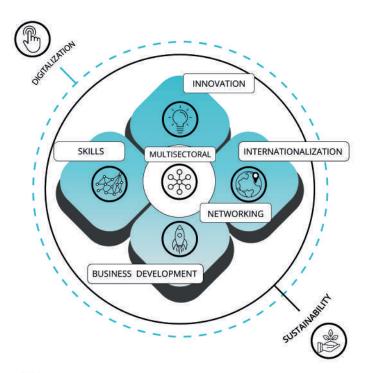
CLUSTER STRATEGY (2021 - 2024)

STRATEGIC AXIS



INNOVATION

Promote technological innovation and new business models as a driver of growth and competitiveness of SMEs in the sector. Promote cooperation among partners and with other innovative systems.





INTERNATIONALIZATION

Promote the internationalization of the cluster's innovative SMEs, facilitating their access to international markets and global value chains through the establishment of technological and commercial partnerships.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Position the Catalan sector at the forefront of innovation, increasing the visibility partners and boosting the high added value of their products at a global level through strategic communication.



SKILLS

Accelerate strategic and technological capabilities and attract talent to drive innovation and resilient growth in the sector.



MULTISECTORAL

Create business opportunities and cross-sectoral innovation, promoting transversal cooperation to develop novel applications and markets.



SUSTAINABILITY

Be the catalyst towards the green transition of the sector through innovation, internationalization, skills and business development.



NETWORKING

Connect the cluster and its associated members, strengthen internal links and strategic alliances with relevant national and international stakeholders.



DIGITALIZATION

Enhance the digital transformation of the sector through innovation, internationalization, skills and business development.

LEARN ABOUT OUR PROJECTS

THE TEAM

ARIADNA DETRELL Cluster Manager



MIGUEL VAZ



JOSEP CASAMADA Responsible for managing cluster projects

Business development



MÒNICA CASTELLÀ Internationalization

MARTA CASADESÚS Textile technology and sustainability



DAVID GÓMEZ Communication and business development





RAQUEL CABELLO Communication



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

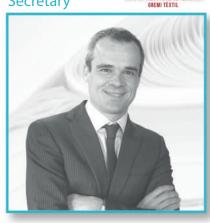




SERGI ARTIGAS

Secretary





RICARD CIMA

Member



LIASA LA INDUSTRIAL ALGODONERA









JAIME CABRÉ



PAULÍ ALUART



MARC PONSA

Member





RAIMON SELLARÈS

Member





JOAN PERA

MEMBERS

FOUNDING, SUPPORTING AND ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS (DECEMBER 2021) CSIC















COMPANIES (DECEMBER 2021)











































































NEW MEMBERS (NOVEMBER 2022)



























KEY FIGURES 2021

PROJECTS

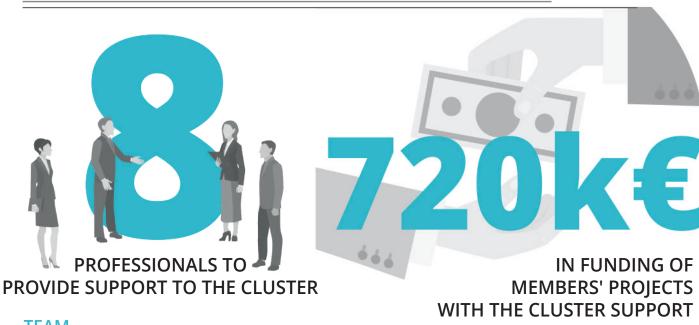
We have participated in the implementation of 15 projects (4 national and 11 international) together with other partners: companies, clusters, research centers, etc. We have prepared more than 55 project proposals members and the cluster itself.



E GET BACK TO IN-PERSON ETINGS WITH OUR **MEMBERS**

TRAINING

The staff of the cluster is continuously trained to keep abreast of industry trends and to meet the needs of its members.



TEAM

The cluster staff has grown, to provide the team with more efficiency, ambition and management capacity in achieving the cluster's goals.

MEMBERS

We have increased the number of members, expanding the representation of the advanced textile materials' sector in Catalonia.

KEY FIGURES 2021

COLLABORATION WITH

COLLABORATION WITH







EUROPEAN CLUSTERS

COUNTRIES

NETWORK

We have increased our network of international contacts: clusters from other sectors, companies, research centers, etc. We are active members of the European Economic Interest Grouping EU-TEXTILE2030.

EVENT ORGANIZATION

We have organized 23 events with multiple formats: international conferences, seminars, workshops, networking meetings, visits, etc.

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

We have attended more than 60 international events of interest for our members related to advanced textile materials: exhibitions, conferences, seminars, etc. contributors of ideas, opportunities and network.

PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL **CONFERENCES**

HOURS DEDICATED TO PROMOTE INNOVATION

VISIBILITY

We have appeared in several national and international media, with more than 260 press impacts, 1.400 followers on Linkedin and 22.053 unique users on the website.

PRESS IMPACTS

CLAMTEX Virtual Marketplace: Towards industry 4.0

Virtual, January 20th - February 24th

Presentation of the project objectives, debates on challenges and industry 4.0 opportunities in the textile sector. Presentation of funding programs for SMEs from the European Commission.



Learn more about the CLAMTEX project

Webinar about the call for Promotion of the Circular Economy

Virtual, January 21st

Presentation, in collaboration with the LEITAT Technology Center, of the Circular Economy Promotion funding call of the Catalan Waste Agency.



DESTEX Hackathons

Virtual, January 28th - 29th & March 11th - 12th

Organization of the Hackathons of the project to find circular solutions for textile waste from the cluster members participating in the challange definition: FINSA and CP ALUART.



Learn more about the DESTEX project

4th meeting of the CONTEXT Management Committee

Virtual, February 3rd

Organization of the 4th meeting of the CONTEXT Management Commitee, a network lead by the cluster.



Learn more about the CONTEXT project

Webinar: "State-of-the-art of advanced smart textiles"

Virtual, February 25th

Presentation of state of the art reports on advanced textile materials prepared by experts from CONTEXT working groups.



Learn more about the CONTEXT project

Virtual members' meeting-

Virtual, March 10th & April 15th

Regular meetings with the aim of facilitating interaction among cluster members and to update them on the cluster initiatives.



GALACTICA Matchmaking & Info Day

Virtual, March 24th

Presentation of the GALACTICA first call for proposals, an instrument with 1,2M€ of financial support available.



Learn more about the GALACTICA project

First GALACTICA Hackathon

Virtual, March 18th & 19th

First GALACTICA Hackathon in which participants developed innovative solutions for cross-sectoral value chains (textiles, aeronautics/aerospace and advanced manufacturing).



Learn more about the GALACTICA project

Webinar "Funding opportunities and success stories for the development of smart textiles" by CONTEXT

Virtual, March 25th

Presentation of EU funding mechanisms and cascade funding projects to support the development of innovative products, followed by a review of smart textile success cases.



Learn more about the CONTEXT project

Webinar about Next Generation EU funds

Virtual, March 26th

Webinar co-organized with the Industrial Institute of Terrassa, about the Next Generation EU Funds.



GALACTICA national Info-day

Virtual, April 22nd

Info-day at national level to present the first call for proposals under GALACTICA.



Learn more about the GALACTICA project

Webinar "For a more sustainable textile industry"

Virtual, April 28th

Webinar about the green transition in the advanced textile materials sector of Catalonia, featuring diverse initiatives of the cluster and its members on the subject.



ETP Strategy programs presentation: circular economy and bio-based fibers

Virtual, May 18th

Presentation of a summary of the strategic programs of the European Textile Technology Platform.



Masterclass on advanced textile materials

Virtual, June 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Within the framework of the FOSTEX project, organization of a masterclass with the participation of 13 experts as speakers, 4 of which are members of the cluster.



Learn more about the FOSTEX project

Annual General Assembly

Virtual, June 28th

Presentation of the main activities and indicators for 2020, objectives for 2021 and the strategic redefinition process that was carried out together with the members.



Webinar "The value of internationalization with AEI Textils"

Virtual, September 15th

Presentation of international business opportunities through various European projects in which AEI Textiles participates.



EUTT Conference: Impact of the pandemic on the future developments and use of technical textiles, 5th edition

Virtual, September 30th

Co-organization of the conference through CONTEXT network and EU-TEXTILE2030.



EU-TEXTILE2030 follow-up meeting

Brussels, October 5th

Members' meeting to define the EU-TEXTILE2030 strategy.



CONTEXT follow-up meeting

Guimarães, October 19th & 20th

Annual meeting of the Management Committee and meetings of the network working groups.



Learn more about the CONTEXT project

GALACTICA Learning Expedition

Terrassa, November 29th & 30th

Hosting of a learning expedition with 12 companies from all over Europe from the aeronautical/aerospace, advanced manufacturing and textile sectors, to explore the Catalan textile innovation ecosystem.



Learn more about the GALACTICA project

Organization of the 2nd GALACTICA Hackathon

Terrassa, November 30th & December 1st

Organization of the final of the 2nd GALACTICA hackathon in Terrassa with 9 international participating teams.



Learn more about the GALACTICA project

Webinar "Mission in Mexico: strengths and opportunities"

Virtual, December 2nd

Presentation of the opportunities in Mexico for advanced textile materials' companies, as well as the mission to Mexico, organized by the cluster within the framework of the TEXGLOBAL project.



Learn more about the TEXGLOBAL project





ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE CLUSTER AT EVENTS

Training session of the Singular Project promoted by the Regional Council of Vallès Occidental

Virtual, January 25th

Introduction to advanced textile materials and the different projects of the cluster in terms of circular economy and sustainability, as well as success stories of its members.



Meeting of the FASCINATE project consortium

Virtual, February 3rd

Presentation of the EU-TEXTILE2030 experience during the project consortium meeting, organized by MODACC.



EU Industry Days & EU Industry Week 2021

Virtual, February 26th

Participation in the panel of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, as one of the most active registered clusters and for its consolidated experience in collaborations between clusters.



Webinar "Opportunities for SMEs" by TEX4IM

Virtual, March 16th

Presentation of GALACTICA and CONTEXT projects.



Webinar on cascade funding

Virtual, March 31st

Presentation of GALACTICA's first call for proposals with a €2M budget to support cross-sectoral innovation between the textile, aeronautical/aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors, at the webinar organized by the ETP.



Learn more about the GALACTICA project

TEX4IM Final Conference

Virtual, April 20th & 22th

Two presentations: "CONTEXT: Facilitating the market uptake of new advanced textile materials, Reducing the gap between research and industry" and "Advanced Textile Materials: innovative textile products with diversified applications – cross sectoral collaborations".



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE CLUSTER AT EVENTS

Opening session of the ETP Masterclass on smart textiles

Virtual, April 21st

Presentation of the cluster and related activities to smart textiles.



Round table "The Textile Cluster as an engine of the central counties"

Ontinyent, June 8th

Participation in the round table, to present our experience, as a cluster with more than 12 years of experience in the field of advanced textile materials.



Muncunill Innovation Awards, 5th edition

Terrassa, October 7th

The Cluster Manager of AEI Textils was one of the members of the jury. The cluster member FINSA was nominated for the business category.



International Conference of Applied Research on **Textile and Materials**

Virtual, November 13th

Presentation of two papers: CONTEXT and the circular economy initiatives of the cluster.



Learn more about the CONTEXT project

Circular Economy Hotspot Catalonia

Barcelona, November 16th

Presentation of the circular economy initiatives of the cluster and showcase how its members are driving towards the green transition.



Policy Learning and Capacity Building on Clusters **Driving the Green and Digital Transition Session**

Paris, November 21st & 22nd

Presentation of the different financing models led by the cluster to support the dual transition: GALACTICA and CLAMTEX.



Learn more about the CLAMTEX project

CLUSTER MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER NETWORKS



Founding member and Secretary of the European Economic **Interesting Grouping EU-TEXTILE2030**



Member of the European Textile Technology Platform



Member of the Board of **Institut Industrial de Terrassa**



Adherent member of the **Circular Economy Observatory** of Catalonia



Coordination of the European network of experts in advanced textile materials CONTEXT



Member of the Dornbirn Glogal Fiber Congress Committee



Member of Federación Nacional de Clusters y AEIs



Supporting organization of **ITMA 2023**

PROJECTS

STRATEGIC PROJECTS





















OTHER PROJECTS































































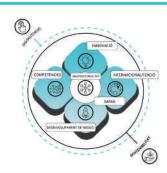








CLUSTER STRATEGY



STRATEGIC PROJECTS

LED BY THE CLUSTER IN 2021





Facilitate the creation of new industrial value chains around the textile and aerospace industries based on advanced manufacturing.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CLUSTER MEMBERS

Knowledge and access to aerospace and advanced manufacturing innovation ecosystems through learning expeditions. The project facilitates the participation of the cluster members at calls for proposals with a lump-sum funding scheme and increases their visibility.



2021 ACTIVITIES



Three of the beneficiary companies are members of AEI Textils, coordinator of GALACTICA (Cinpasa, Etisilk and E.Cima). GALACTICA project has selected a total of 26 innovative projects from 40 innovative European SMEs.



In the framwork of the project, two activities were held in Terrassa: a Learning Expedition, with the participaton of 12 European companies and the final of the second Hackathon, with 9 finalist teams.

More information

More information

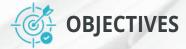


This Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 872336.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

LED BY THE CLUSTER IN 2021





Strengthen cluster management to boost its specialized innovation eco-system by promoting the cross-sectoral and cross-regional collaboration to facilitate the uptake of digitalization.



New and improved services thanks to the capacity building of the cluster team and to the exchange of information and experiences with other European clusters. Possibility to participate in missions and training.



2021 ACTIVITIES



The cluster and its members played an active role in the **CLAMTEX Virtual Marketplace: Towards Industry 4.0**, with a total of 6 webinars and 6 matchmaking sessions. The event, held between January 20 and February 24, joined more than 180 participants.



AEI Tèxtils organized an 80h training program for the clusters that are part of the consortium with the aim of improving the general services offered to textile materials manufacturing companies and advanced manufacturing companies in Southern Europe .

More information

More information



STRATEGIC PROJECTS

LED BY THE CLUSTER IN 2021

November 2018 - April 2023



















Join efforts at European level to facilitate the market uptake of new advanced textile materials, reducing the gap between research and industry.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CLUSTER **MEMBERS**

Access to a wide international network of experts in the smart textiles' field, facilitating connections and the development of their innovative projects and solutions.



2021 **ACTIVITIES**



AEI Textils organized the webinar "Funding opportunities and success stories for the development of smart textiles".



AEI Textils organized the 4th meeting of the Management Committee of the CONTEXT network, in which representatives from more than 30 countries participated, out of the 35 that are part of the network.

More information

More information







OTHER FEATURED PROJECTS

September 2019 - April 2022







Promote the uptake of creativity culture as a catalyst to unlock the innovation potential in the advanced textile materials' sector.



Access to innovative tools and resources aimed at supporting the green transition in collaboration with higher education institutions through hackathons and other training activities.



1st HACKATHON

2nd HACKATHON



DESTEXPROJECT.EU

May 2021 - May 2024











Lead international cluster cooperation in advanced manufacturing and advanced textile materials as an enabler for globally competititive sustainable products functional in a broad range of high-end applications.



OPPORTUNITIES
FOR THE CLUSTER
MEMBERS

Access to market studies and possibility to participate at exploratory missions to United States, Japan and Canada with individual agendas and travel vouchers.



The value of internationalization



INTERNATIONALIZATION PROJECTS



European Innovative Textiles Go International: Innovative Global Value Chain Creation And Textile Global Markets Exploration.



OBJECTIVES

Supporting the growth, the competitiveness and industrial modernization of European Textile companies by facilitating internationalization and innovation activities.



CLUSTERCOLLABORATION.EU /CONTENT/TEXGLOBAL







Fostering innovation in the Jordan and Moroccan textile industry.



OBJECTIVES

Stablish a collaboration between the participating European organizations and the ones in Jordan and Morocco, by creating a network, which may benefit the textile industry in the countries involved in the project.



FOSTEXPROJECT.EU

Weaving innovation among academia and industry in the Tunisian textile sector.



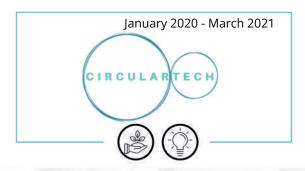
OBJECTIVES

Fill the gap in the area of specialized services for the Tunisian textile sector with the establishment of three innovation textile centers located at the participating Universities in Tunisia.

WINTEXPROJECT.EU



SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS



Circular Economy guide for technical textiles.



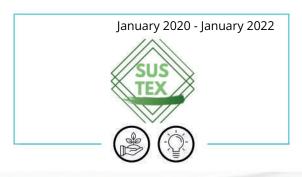
OBJECTIVES

Develop a sectoral analysis of technical textiles to identify barriers and obstacles to implement actions fostering circular economy.





TEXTILS.CAT/CIRCULARTECH



Promoting substitution of hazardous chemicals used in finishing processes in the textile industry.



OBJECTIVES

Provide tools and knowledge to the Catalan textile industry in order to promote substitution of hazardous chemicals used in the finishing processes to enable the application of environmental criteria in the manufacturing of its products.





TEXTILS.CAT/SUSTEX









Clean and Innovative Textiles Strategy for Circular Economy.



OBJECTIVES

Promote the uptake of circular economy and eco-design concepts to improve the skills of students in textile engineering and workers in the sector through cross-sectoral cooperation in HEIs in order to tackle the main pollution problem in textile industry and reach a more sustainable sector.



CLEANTEX.EU

September 2021 - December 2022







The Circular Marketplace of advanced textile materials in Catalonia.



OBJECTIVES

Develop a sectorial study to promote the circular economy in the advanced textile materials sector in Catalonia, providing novel end-uses for the waste it generates.





CIRCULAR.TEXTILS.CAT

SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS



Study to promote the implementation of sustainable packaging in the advanced textile materials sector.



OBJECTIVES

Develop a study to promote the implementation of sustainable packaging in the advanced textile materials sector.

TEXTILS.CAT/TEXSOSPACK

SKILLS PROJECTS



Flipped classroom training approach for Clothing and Textile Innovative VET Education.



OBJECTIVES

Enhance the quality and relevance of the learning offer in Textile and Clothing VET training by developing an innovative learning approach to improve the level and the assessment of learners' competences and equalize the VET training quality to the current needs.



FACTIVEPROJECT.EU



Textile digitalization based on digital education and innovative e-Tools.



OBJECTIVES

Support innovative approaches and digital learning technologies to accelerate innovation, teaching and learning in the field of medical, protective, sensorial and smart textiles design, testing and manufacturing.



E-DIGITEX.EU





COMMUNICATION

GRAPHIC MATERIAL TO POSITION THE CLUSTER









We produced promotional videos to highlight some of the projects lead by the cluster (CONTEXT and ADMANTEX2i) as well as the activities of the cluster in the advanced textile materials' sector.



We developed infographics to promote our members' projects with our support and to highlight their best practices.



We created communication materials to present the benefits of being member of the cluster.

VISIBILITY

We prepared and disseminated press releases in the main national and international media, with news of the cluster and its members. 41 press releases sent in 2021 with more than 260 impacts.

We launched a new website to provide more information and visibility to the cluster members.





manufactor



Walley Willy

COMMUNICATION

SOCIAL MEDIA



In order to communicate the cluster and the cluster members' activities, we have profiles in the main social and professional networks.

NEWSLETTERS



We prepare a monthly newsletter to inform our members about the cluster activities and main events in the sector. 12 newsletters published in 2021.



We collaborate in the edition of the CONTEXT newsletter, including news of the network members. 2 newsletters published in 2021.



We collaborate in the edition of the EU-TEXTILE2030 newsletter, which includes success stories of companies. 1 newsletter published in 2021.

INTERNAL COMMUNIATION



We keep permanent communication with members, through several channels as well as virtual and face-to-face meetings, and an information session every 15 days where all the important information for the members is summarized.

THE SELECTION OF THE PERSON OF

We created the Textils.cat Hub, a meeting point for the cluster and to provide and share information with the members.



Comments.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

WE GENERATE KNOWLEDGE

We have published the report "State-of-the-art on graphene and its applications in the textile sector".



We have collaborated in the report: "Market research and potential growth of the value chain".



We promote the green transition and digital transformation of our members.



We encourage our members to partcipate in the European projects of the cluster.



WE INFORM

We offer an information service about tenders at Catalan level.



WE GET TRAINED



We participated at the Innovating in Smart Textiles Masterclass of the European Textile Technology Platform together with our members.

We received more than 300h of training to keep abreast of our members' needs.

WE CONNECT

We signed a collaboration agreement with EIT Manufacturing, Sport Forum, EUSME Center and International Circular Construction Cluster.



We contribute to the maintenance of EU-TEXTILE2030 members' database.



WE INCREASE VISIBILITY



We are present at the **European Cluster Collaboration** Platform.

