

Textiles Sector Group



Newsletter

December 2024



een.ec.europa.eu



Dear EEN Sector Group Textiles' Followers,

The year is coming to an end, and we from the Sector Group Textiles are truly excited to have accompanied you once again for 12 months in discovering new opportunities to strengthen your business internationally through our networking activities and the targeted partner search services (and more!) of the Enterprise Europe Network.



Attention is once again focused on what is happening at the European level regarding sustainability in the textile sector. In this final edition for 2024 of our Newsletter, we are presenting the latest updates on the topic. You are invited to check the different information amid that topic we shared.

On the top of them, I can start mentioning that Several *reports* have been released on this matter.

Notably, the '*The Status Report of European Fashion*' from the European Fashion Association, which provides an overview on the ongoing "battle" to protect both the economic future and the cultural identity of the sector.

The EFA advocates for shared interests, aiming to guide political discussions toward solutions that encourage innovation without compromising the identity and tradition of European fashion. The report, presented during a roundtable at the European Parliament in Brussels, marks a crucial moment for the fashion sector. The document concludes with a manifesto of 10 recommendations aimed at guiding the industry toward a sustainable and competitive future. Check out more details in the newsletter!

We also invite you to read the *Upstreaming Circularity Report*, from the Global Fashion Agenda and the *Circularity Gap Report* released by the Circle Economy, the sectoral global impact organisation based in Amsterdam.

Moreover, I invite you to follow our events planned in 2025. They will be unique occasions for you to meet potential new peers, clients, buyers and retailers, so do not hesitate to connect with us amid these opportunities!

As Enterprise Europe Network's textile experts the group remain dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs worldwide in the textile and fashion industries, helping them enhance their competitiveness and overcome barriers. In that regard, In November 2024, the group gathered in Thessaloniki for three full days of interactive sessions, networking, brainstorming, and an extensive decentralized training on circular economy and sustainability within the textile industry!

These moments of connection and collaboration showcase the immense potential of our network to create impactful solutions for SMEs across the globe!

During our discussions, we covered many key topics, such as The *Textile for the Future* partnership proposal under the Horizon Europe program, in collaboration with the European Commission; The *EU Cotton Initiative* alongside the European Cotton Alliance; *Circular Innovation* with our EEN International members from India and B2B meetings, company missions, and international fairs for 2025 within the textile sector. And of course we remain at your disposal if you are interested in discussing these themes.

In conclusion, take your time to read the success stories of this month and to check the latest partnership proposals from our international entrepreneurs looking for new collaborations across the globe.

Finally, please remember that you can always send to us your business offers or requests to be shared within member's contacts helping you reach the right commercial partners.

For any enquiries get in contact with us using our social network or find your local EEN contact here: <https://een.ec.europa.eu/local-contact-points>

#EENCANHELP leverage your business

Thanks for your kind attention!

As we celebrate the holiday season, we send our warmest wishes to all fashion and textile businesses.

May 2025 bring you continued success, innovation, and collaboration within the textile and fashion sectors...



Federica Leonetti

Chair of the Sector Group Textiles

Funding, EU Initiatives and Textiles related news



European Fashion Alliance: a roundtable at the European Parliament in Brussels presenting The “Status Report of European Fashion” Bruxelles, December 2024

The [European Fashion Alliance \(EFA\)](#) recently published a manifesto in Brussels, highlighting the growing concern for the future of the fashion industry. This report emphasizes the ongoing "battle" to protect both the economic future and the cultural identity of the sector. The EFA positions itself as the primary defender of fashion, advocating for policies that can address the specific challenges facing the industry.

The EFA manifesto focuses on crucial issues for the industry, such as sustainability, digitalization, and the protection of cultural heritage. At the same time, the organization expresses concern about the evolving regulatory landscape at the European level, which could negatively impact the industry if not properly balanced with the economic and creative needs of the various stakeholders, from small businesses to large brands.

The fashion industry is indeed undergoing a phase of transformation that requires critical decisions regarding sustainability, inclusion, and digitalization, without forgetting the need to preserve the cultural and creative integrity of the sector. In this context, the EFA advocates for shared interests, aiming to guide political discussions toward solutions that encourage innovation without compromising the identity and tradition of European fashion.

The report titled *“The Status Report of European Fashion”* by the European Fashion Alliance (EFA), presented during a roundtable at the European Parliament in Brussels, marks a crucial moment for the fashion sector. The document concludes with a manifesto of 10 recommendations aimed at guiding the industry toward a sustainable and competitive future, considering the current challenges.

During the event, **Jessika Roswall**, the new European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resources Management, and Circular Economy Competitiveness, spoke, emphasizing the importance of supporting the fashion industry during this period of transformation. Roswall reiterated the European Union's commitment to promoting a circular economy, highlighting the central role that fashion can play in achieving sustainability goals without compromising the competitiveness of the European sector.

Sustainability and Circular Fashion

edited by

Francesca Romana Rinaldi

CIRCULAR FASHION MANAGEMENT

Ideas, Perspectives and Tools to Catalyze Change

Foreword by **Marie-Hélène Pradines**, DG GROW, European Commission
Preface by **Mauro Scalia**, EURATEX



BOCCONI
UNIVERSITY
PRESS

CIRCULAR FASHION MANAGEMENT: IDEAS, PERSPECTIVES AND TOOLS TO CATALYZE CHANGE

The new book by Francesca Romana Rinaldi, Director of the Monitor for Circular Fashion SDA Bocconi, presents an original ESG approach for circularity in the fashion sector.


Francesca Romana Rinaldi's new book, "Circular Fashion Management" published by Egea – Bocconi University Press contributes to creating a culture of circularity for the fashion sector.

Contributions for this book include our EEN Textiles Sector Chair, Federica Leonetti and also Sector Group Member Mariagrazia Berardi who contributed to the book in Chapter 10.

The context

There are many European directives and regulations to support the environmental and digital transition that have recently come into force or are on the way. The objective is to create the necessary conditions so that companies can innovate and invest in circular models, consistently with what is described in the European action plan for the circular economy. This change can be seen by companies as a great opportunity but also as a challenge.

Let's start with two current examples. The revision of the waste framework directive for extended producer responsibility in the sector is one of the most awaited legislative drivers to improve the reuse and recycling of textile products but alone it would not be decisive because it focuses on products already placed on the market.



The context of great change in regulations requires companies to focus on training and investments. The book *Circular Fashion Management* aims to be a concise but in-depth compendium of the key issues of circularity management in the fashion sector.

The book

When we talk about circularity we often focus only on environmental impact issues. *Circular Fashion Management* also adds a social and governance (ESG) approach, providing an overall vision. The book starts by considering the key role of technologies for the implementation of the circular model. We also discuss how fashion industry roles and careers will evolve, highlighting how technology - driven by circularity - will impact the skills and capabilities needed in the fashion industry. The "E" of the environment is presented through the battle for textile waste resources and focuses also on the path towards net zero in fashion. The "S" of social is presented as the need to integrate social sustainability into circular fashion supply chains. The "G" of governance for circularity is also presented in detail.


The holistic approach of the book is completed by a chapter dedicated to traceability, described as an enabler of circularity in fashion; one dedicated to regulations and policies for circular fashion; one on the need for better surveillance of the textile market; and a chapter on the dangerous role of greenwashing. Among the opportunities and challenges discussed, the need to involve small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a key part of the sector, becomes clear. Leveraging the work carried out within SDA Bocconi Monitor for Circular Fashion Research Observatory, in the book 27 experts on traceability, sustainability and circularity in fashion share ideas, perspectives and tools with the aim of catalyzing change for a more sustainable future.

The way in which a product is designed determines up to 80% of its environmental impact in its life cycle: this is why to address the issue of overproduction in the fashion sector, an ecodesign regulation was needed - the ESPR (Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation) – entered into force on 18 July 2024. The regulation explains the application of the regulatory framework to the textile and clothing sector, in line with the EU strategy for sustainable and circular textile products of March 2022, expands the range of products subject to ecodesign requirements and introduces minimum ecodesign requirements for each type of product

Among the testimonies, we mention below those of Marie-Hélène Pradines author of one of the two prefaces of the book.

Marie-Hélène Pradines, Head of Unit, Unit G1 – Tourism, Textiles DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs European Commission

"This book exemplifies well many of the important aspects for a shift towards increased sustainability and circularity, both for the fashion industry and consumers, ranging from design of products to textile waste, social sustainability, greenwashing, innovation, traceability and transparency, and market surveillance. I believe this book can be an inspiration and driver towards a necessary change, not just for the textile and fashion industry but also to help consumers understand the impact of their choices and encourage more sustainable and circular decisions. It is clear that the path to more sustainable and circular textiles, and fashion, requires the efforts and commitments of all stakeholders. Everyone has a role to play, so let's start today with ourselves, rethinking our actions and embracing more sustainable and circular choices."





From the [CIRCLE ECONOMY](#) website :

- Click [HERE](#) to download the [Circularity Gap Report](#)

[WORLD of WASTE:](#)

This map displays countries with available textile waste data.

[True Cost Calculator:](#)

A free online tool recently launched by [VITO](#) and [Flanders DC](#) after 3 years of development. This tool, created as part of the H2020 SCIRT project, enables users to calculate and compare the total environmental and social impact of their fashion collections. It provides a detailed overview of a garment's impact at every stage of its life cycle, from fiber production to end-of-life processing.

[True Cost Calculator](#) | [True Cost Calculator](#)



From the [GLOBAL FASHION AGENDA](#):

The Global Fashion Agenda have just published an [Upstreaming Circularity Report](#).
Look out for details in the above website link.

Past Events



textile sector group meeting

Thessaloniki, Greece 2024

#EENCanHelp



As experts in textiles with Enterprise Europe Network, the group is committed to assisting entrepreneurs globally in the textile and fashion sectors, helping them boost their competitiveness and overcome challenges. In November 2024, the group convened in Thessaloniki for three full days of engaging sessions, networking opportunities, brainstorming, and comprehensive decentralized training focused on circular economy and sustainability in the textile industry!

Future Events



Announcing the Inaugural International Textile and Colour Conference (ITCC) 2025 at the University of Leeds

There are few more suitable homes for the first International Textile and Colour Conference than Leeds, a city region with a rich heritage of textile excellence, built on a history of textile processing, international cloth markets, and some of the very first large-scale woollen manufacturing and flax spinning facilities in the UK. As such, it is with great pleasure that the Leeds Institute of Textiles and Colour (LITAC) and the School of Design at the University of Leeds host this conference, which will focus on innovation to support systemic and sustainable development of industry. Taking place 25 - 26th June 2025 at Nexus, University of Leeds.

ITCC2025 will discuss new approaches, strategies, technologies and innovation targeted at sustainable development of textile and colour industries, as well as their associated supply chains. Commensurate with the complexity of the challenges faced by industry, the conference will be truly multidisciplinary in scope, covering product design, fibre and material science, yarn, fabric and garment manufacturing, robotics, as well as digitalisation and machine learning, colour science and technology, cultures and behaviours, environmental emissions, waste management and the creation of valuable circular economies.

ITCC2025 will bring together an international audience of academic researchers, industry leaders, policy-makers and NGOs to explore new ideas through open discussion to find creative solutions to the challenges of sustainable development across global textile and colour industries. This is an opportunity to explore the most recent progress and thinking, as well as to network and establish new contacts.

Professor Stephen Russell, Chair of ITCC2025 and Director of LITAC: “Environmental targets, shifting regulation and the practical implementation of viable circular economies are just some of the many challenges faced by industry tackling the green transition. This inaugural international conference will bring together experts from different disciplines, to share new data and the latest results of research and innovation, as well as to provide perspectives on progress.

LITAC is delighted to host ITCC2025 and to provide delegates with the collective opportunity to help inform the future of our textile and colour industries”.



Call for Papers

Researchers are invited to submit a long abstract (600- 800 words) by **15th January 2025** on any topic relating to at least one of the areas listed below. It is important that the relevance to the sustainable development of industry is clearly addressed:

- Textile materials (including biobased fibres, or with fibre-to-fibre recycled content).
- Product design (in relation to the circular economy / sustainability).
- Innovative fibre, yarn, fabric and garment manufacturing (including use of robotics).
- Fibre characterisation, measurement and detection.
- Intelligent and smart textiles.
- Digital technology, data science, and AI technologies.
- Track & trace technologies (e.g. relating to the transparency of supply chains).
- Innovative sustainable textile supply chains.
- Circularity and Net Zero compliance strategies.
- Environmental impacts (of textile/fashion or colour industries).
- Eco-metrics and standards.
- Influencing behaviour and culture in relation to sustainability & circular economies.
- Advanced waste management: collection, automatic sorting, recycling, reuse, waste valorisation, and circular economy development.
- Colour science and technology.
- Innovative colour communication for fashion.
- Total colour appearance measurement and perception for fabrics and garments.
- Colour forecasting technologies.

Please register for the conference via the conference website:

<https://conferences.leeds.ac.uk/itcc2025/>

For enquiries, please contact Giorgio Grande, LITAC Communications Officer at:

g.grande@leeds.ac.uk

school of design



Torino Fashion Week 2025 + B2B Torino Fashion Match 2025



SAVE THE DATE:

27 June - 3rd July 2025, Turin (IT)

The TFW is turning 10°!!

After 9 years of success, this international, independent and innovative event addressed to emerging fashion designers, innovative startups and manufacturing companies, bringing together brands, cultures, industries, and different traditions from all over the world, is having it's 10° edition anniversary!

For **7 days** international brands from all over the world will perform in Turin in dedicated **fashion shows**, bringing to the city a huge dynamism that will give the fashion industry a bit of a shake-up!

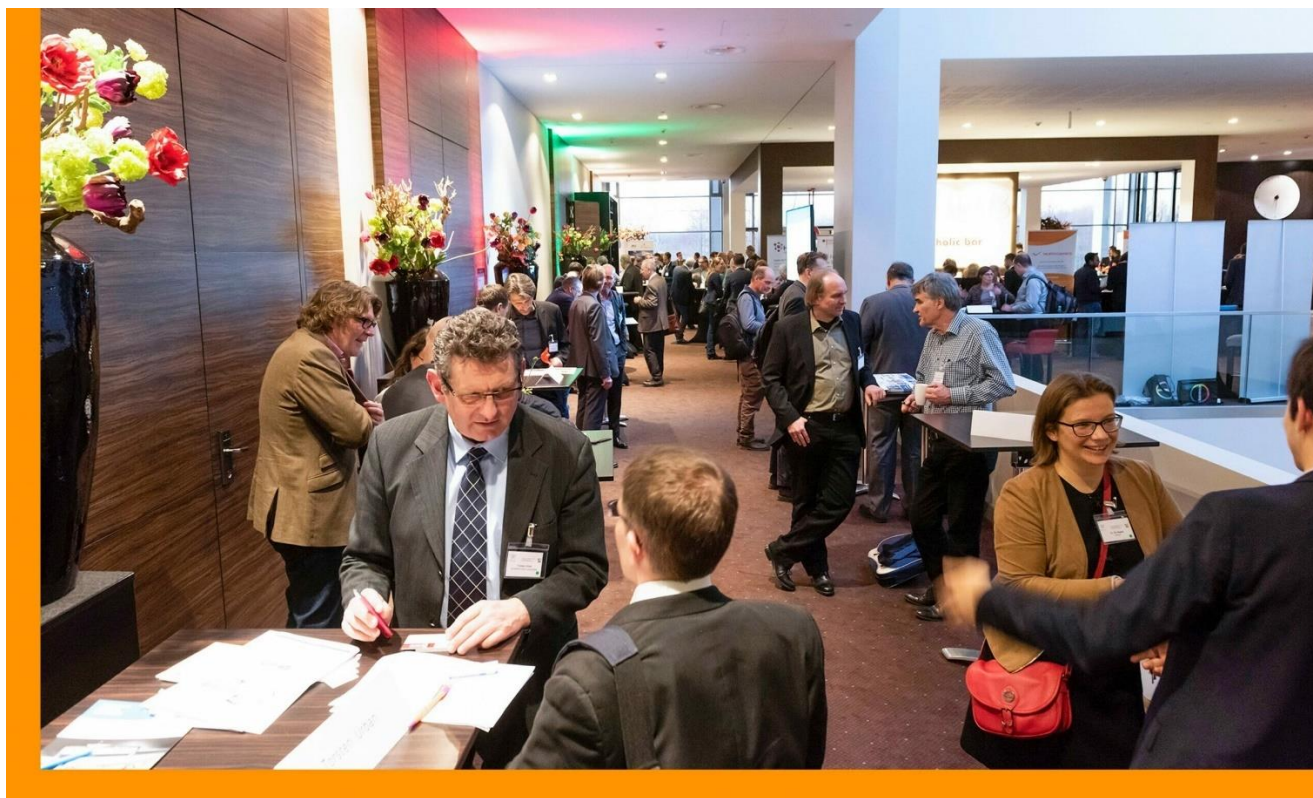
Alongside the event, the local EEN nodes, in collaboration with the **Sector Group Textiles** and its EEN members, will **organize 3 days of B2B sessions for the Textile and the Fashion industry and 1 TALK -DAY** with international speakers.

The **B2B** will **gather Startups, manufacturing companies, fashion designers, investors, retailers, commercial agents and sectoral experts** interested in developing international partnerships or in discovering new innovative trends and solutions during pre-scheduled meeting sessions.

The **matchmaking event**, managed by **Unioncamere Piemonte** (Regional Union of Chambers of Commerce of the Piedmont Region), in collaboration with the Turin Chamber of Commerce, as members of the Enterprise Europe Network, **allows to create commercial and technological agreements** or partnering in exciting consortia to join new European projects with international participants coming from all over the world!

STAY TUNED AND MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW IN EARLY 2025!!

HORIZONT NRW



Successful R & I in Europe 2025

12th European Networking Event

For the twelfth time, the conference invites researchers and entrepreneurs from North Rhine-Westphalia and all other regions throughout Europe to find new research and innovation (R&I) partners for Horizon Europe projects.

Participants are invited to give a short presentation (ideas and/or results) with a focus on Horizon Europe calls, where a budget of approx. € 95.5 billion is available up until 2027.

The networking event is structured in parallel workshops focussing on eight topics:

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Creative Industries
- Cluster 4: Digital Technologies
- Cluster 4: Industrial Technologies
- Cluster 5: Energy
- Cluster 5: Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- Innovation Procurement (PCP/PPI)

The event addresses in particular universities and research institutes as well as companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. Participants are invited to become involved in established and new technology networks between researchers, entrepreneurs and multipliers related to Horizon Europe.

Giving a short presentation (ideas and/or results) or finding a partner by talking to decision-makers opens doors for new research and innovation projects in Europe with a focus on Horizon Europe.

Conference fee: € 150 (€ 120 one day) per person including VAT.

Invoices will be despatched in February 2025 before the event.

Free participation for speakers in sessions 1 to 4.

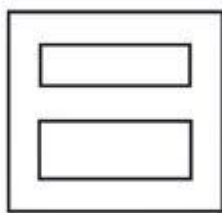
Please note that the event organizer does **NOT** cover any travel expenses, costs for hotels etc. The conference fee includes dinner on 6 March, lunch on 7 March, tea/coffee/cold drinks during the breaks and the airport-venue shuttle (solely as provided by the organizers). Registration is binding. We reserve the right to charge the participation fee if a delegate fails to cancel their attendance by sending an email to successful@zenit.de by 28 February 2025.

Registration deadline is **28 February 2025**. The deadline for submitting proposals in the call for presentations is **19 January 2025**. See below link to register

[Successful R & I in Europe 2025 – Horizont NRW](#)



Stories from entrepreneurs in the fashion industry



Essemme Studio Turin, IT

Start up | Emerging brand

Among the protagonists of the latest edition of the B2B Torino Fashion Match 2024 and the 9th edition of Torino Fashion Week, this young brand, made up of a group of young, bright, and talented individuals, has won everyone over with their dynamism and their innovative, yet most importantly, sustainable sportswear collection. Indeed, Essemme Studio uses only sustainable textiles and materials, or specific waste products, which characterize each creation. They design and produce garments with particular attention to the quality of materials and environmentally friendly production processes.

Esemme Studio was born from the passion and determination of a group of young people committed to revolutionizing the fashion world. With a clear and ambitious goal, we dedicate ourselves to producing high-quality, eco-sustainable clothing, respecting both the environment and the people involved at every stage of the production process.

Their mission is to promote a fashion industry that prioritizes sustainability and ethics. Esemme Studio is committed to creating high-quality garments using innovative and environmentally friendly production techniques. To reduce ecological footprint, they recycle fabrics and collaborate with local suppliers, ensuring transparency and integrity in every phase of production.

They adopt low-impact production techniques to minimize harm to the ecosystem and ensure that each piece reflects our core values. selecting materials responsibly and ethically, working with producers who adhere to strict ethical and environmental standards, using low-impact dyes and locally sourced natural pigments, supporting local communities. Esemme Studio is not just a brand but a movement.

They believe in passionate, creative, and ecological fashion, working hand in hand with industry organizations, hosting workshops and labs that engage young people, inspiring them to explore the world of art and fashion sustainably. Esemme represents respect for nature. Esemme signifies affection and gratitude for those who welcomed and taught the brand.

Esemme sees no borders, has a hunger for knowledge, and is curious like a child discovering the world without judgment, smiling back at those who smile. Esemme Studio stands out for its commitment to total eco-sustainability in every project and collaboration. Main focus on uniqueness and personalization allows them to approach each initiative with a tailored approach, ensuring distinctive and high-quality results.

Download link to video:

<https://youtu.be/xNxfmyPGV80>





ZERØTEC

ZERØTEC: Revolutionizing Pattern Design with Sustainable Material Optimisation

Following a highly successful beta program, ZERØTEC is thrilled to announce the launch of its innovative pattern design and nesting software, set to debut in January 2025.

The Challenge: Reducing Production Waste

Each year, an estimated 60 billion square meters of material are lost in production globally from missed opportunities for material optimization, that's enough to cover Austria annually! This waste is bad news for our wallet and the environment

ZERØTEC's Solution: A Circular Design Tool for Smarter Manufacturing

ZERØTEC is a pattern design and nesting platform that helps manufacturers optimize material usage; keeping costs down without restricting creativity. Their AI-powered tech improves material efficiency in product development for up to 15% reduction in material usage compared to existing technology, saving up to £1.70 and 2KGs of carbon per garment made.

Since launching in 2024, ZERØTEC has expanded across the UK, EU, US, and Taiwan, and are on track to cut 500K tonnes of CO2 from manufacturing over the next 5 years as more industry leaders recognize the benefits of a solution that is both cost-effective and sustainable.

Join the Program

ZERØTEC invites designers & manufacturers to join the program and experience ZERØTEC's impact on their profits and environmental footprint as we prepare for the full launch!

Contact nicholas@zerotec.eco for further details



A SUSTAINABLE FASHION SUCCESS STORY: FROM VISION TO CIRCULAR TRANSFORMATION

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EEN AND THE GROUP TEXTILES SECTOR

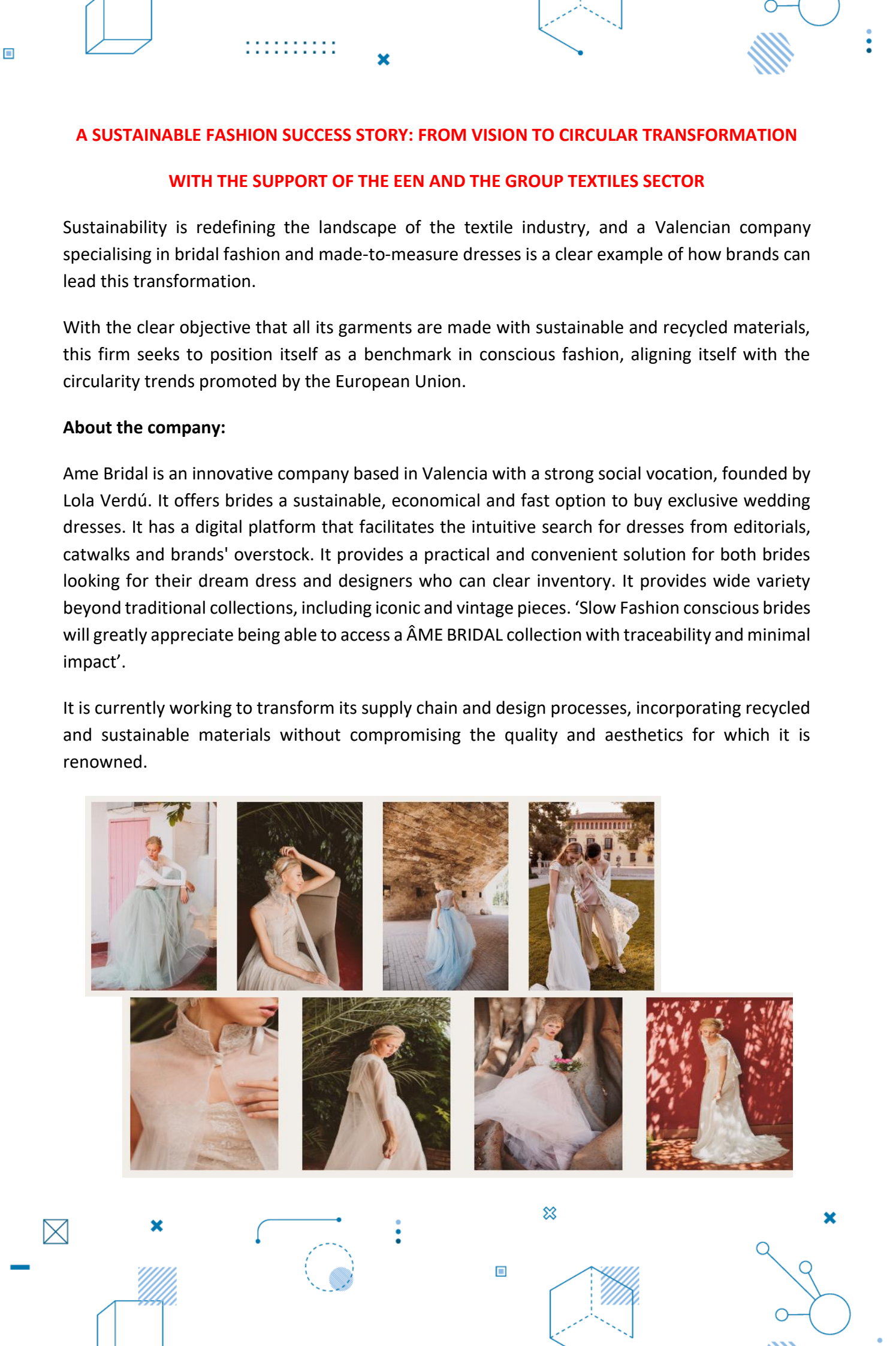
Sustainability is redefining the landscape of the textile industry, and a Valencian company specialising in bridal fashion and made-to-measure dresses is a clear example of how brands can lead this transformation.

With the clear objective that all its garments are made with sustainable and recycled materials, this firm seeks to position itself as a benchmark in conscious fashion, aligning itself with the circularity trends promoted by the European Union.

About the company:

Ame Bridal is an innovative company based in Valencia with a strong social vocation, founded by Lola Verdú. It offers brides a sustainable, economical and fast option to buy exclusive wedding dresses. It has a digital platform that facilitates the intuitive search for dresses from editorials, catwalks and brands' overstock. It provides a practical and convenient solution for both brides looking for their dream dress and designers who can clear inventory. It provides wide variety beyond traditional collections, including iconic and vintage pieces. 'Slow Fashion conscious brides will greatly appreciate being able to access a ÂME BRIDAL collection with traceability and minimal impact'.

It is currently working to transform its supply chain and design processes, incorporating recycled and sustainable materials without compromising the quality and aesthetics for which it is renowned.





OUR PARTNERSHIP: FROM IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION:

Over the course of several consultancies, the company has received strategic guidance to move towards its objectives. Focusing on:

Material Optimisation

- Identification of recycled and sustainable textile suppliers, including organic, recycled and biodegradable fibre options.
- Developing material selection processes that minimise environmental impact without compromising product quality.

Training Workshops

- The company has participated in workshops we have organised, acquiring key tools to transform its business model.

Connection with Sustainable Trade Fairs

- We are facilitating access to international fairs specialised in sustainability, to showcase their innovations and connect with key actors in the sector.
- These fairs are essential to strengthen your presence in the market and consolidate your reputation as a brand committed to sustainability.

FUTURE RESULTS AND OBJECTIVES

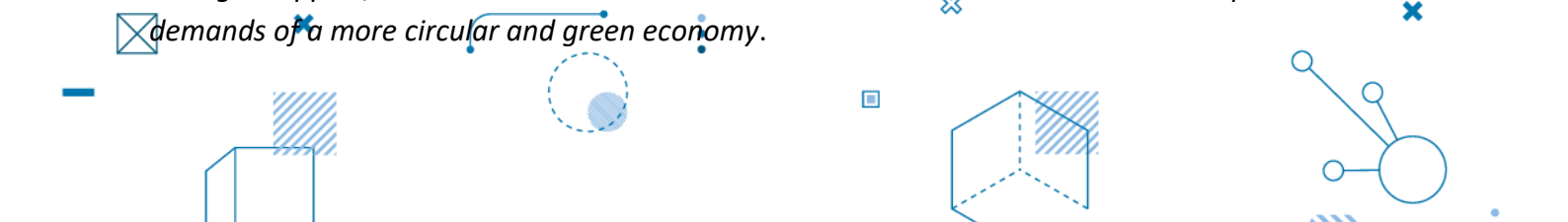
The company is progressing towards its goal of offering a 100% sustainable collection. Notable achievements include:

- **Increased Use of Recycled Materials:** A significant percentage of their current collections already incorporate recycled fibres.
- **Active Participation in the Circular Economy:** They are exploring internal recycling systems to reuse textile waste generated in their production process.
- **International Recognition:** Their participation in sustainable workshops and fairs has increased their visibility as a leader in conscious fashion.

THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE FASHION

This case exemplifies how a clear vision and commitment to sustainability can transform a bridal fashion brand into an industry benchmark. The integration of recycled materials, the focus on innovation and the participation in specialised events have been key to its evolution.

We are proud to be part of the process that will lead this company to fulfil its goal of combining luxury and sustainability, demonstrating that conscious design and artisanal excellence can coexist to build a more sustainable future for fashion. This success story is a reminder that: *with the right support, even the most traditional industries can reinvent themselves to respond to the demands of a more circular and green economy.*



Enterprise Europe Network

Profiles of interest



BOPL20240216008 A Polish company from textile sector is offering various types of fabrics and seeks partners to conclude commercial agency or manufacturing agreement

BOPL20240416024 Narrow textiles offered by the Polish manufacturer to trade and industrial partners under commercial and manufacturing agreements

BOPL20240516002 A Polish laundry centre offers finishing services to producers of readymade textiles under subcontracting agreements and seeks partners for recycling and upcycling projects

BRIT20241210018

An Italian company is looking for Silk Accessory (Necktie and scarf) Manufacturer in Europe

BRES20240524012

A Spanish SME manufacturing high-end bags requires suppliers of new materials of organic origin (textiles, leather, fibers) that have the flexibility of natural fibers. Synthetic fibers are admissible as long as they have a circular-economy origin.

BRPT20240112012

Portuguese Sustainable Fashion brand seeks vegan or synthetic leather suppliers

BOGB20241028024

A UK-based engineering company that specialises in providing cutting-edge technologies, equipment, and services for the textile industry (particularly dyeing) seeks to establish a commercial agreement with companies overseas

BOGR20240521013

Greek company producing sustainable clothes specialized in natural dying textiles techniques, is looking for companies from the fashion – textile industry, who wish to upcycle old white garment under a commercial or an outsourcing agreement.



BOGR20240925014

Greek knitwear manufacturer of women’s apparel, is looking for fashion agents, wholesalers, or showroom representatives to collaborate with, under a commercial agreement



Click on the link for details of the above profiles and many more opportunities:

[Partnering opportunities | Enterprise Europe Network](#)



Merry **CHRISTMAS**

As we celebrate the holiday season, we send our warmest wishes to all fashion businesses. May 2025 bring you continued success, innovation, and collaboration within the textile and fashion sectors.

TEXTILE SECTOR GROUP





**Innovate
UK**

**Business
Growth**

MIRO 
FOUNDATION



EGE BÖLGESİ SANAYİ ODASI
AEGEAN REGION CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY

ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK

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

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