

Textiles Sector Group



Newsletter

June 2025



een.ec.europa.eu



Dear EEN Sector Group Textiles' Followers,

We're back with another insightful edition of our newsletter, crafted by the textile experts of the Enterprise Europe Network. Our goal is to keep you informed about European sectoral policies, actions, programs, events, and tailored initiatives designed to help you—entrepreneurs—grow and innovate globally, despite geopolitical challenges.



This month, we are excited to share a major milestone: our strengthened collaboration with EEN colleagues in India! This marks a significant step forward in fostering international business opportunities. In January, our Indian partners launched a year-long program for 60 Indian SMEs in the plastic/textile & fashion waste management sector. Within the Textiles & Fashion industry, 24 SMEs are driving innovation in:

- Waste management, including collection, segregation, and sorting through advanced technologies and community-based initiatives;
- Processing waste into value, by repurposing discarded textiles into new products, raw materials, or energy sources, reducing reliance on virgin resources;
- Development of sustainable alternatives, such as biodegradable, carbon-neutral textiles.

You'll find detailed profiles of the most relevant companies inside this newsletter—don't miss the opportunity to connect with them!

On the policy front, the European Commission has rolled out a new plan to boost circular and efficient products within the EU. Take some time to explore the details and see how this could impact your business.

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. 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!

For any inquiries, 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!

Federica Leonetti

Chair of the Sector Group Textiles

Funding, EU Initiatives and Textiles related news



The Leeds Institute of Textiles and Colour ([LITAC](#)) is open for **opportunities to collaborate on Horizon Europe schemes** and would **invite connectivity from potential partners who may be coordinating an application** that falls under the general themes of **Textiles, Colour or Fashion**. It would specifically be interested in opportunities from Horizon Europe's Pillar 2 Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness and associated clusters.

LITAC is a world leading research institute within the School of Design at the [University of Leeds](#). It brings together multi-disciplinary academic expertise in design, technology, science and engineering. It works collaboratively with partners globally to tackle important research challenges across textiles, colour and fashion.

Its expertise is built on a history of 150 years of research in textile technology and colour science, working together with industry, charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – including some of the world's most well-known organisations and brands.

As a globally-facing collaborative research institute, it works with partners to create solutions that address the needs of industry, society and the environment. We develop new materials, novel innovative processes, manufacturing methods, digital tools and technology. Through this activity its seek to influence decision-making and inform future interventions to find solutions to global challenges. Increasingly these challenges are about reducing environmental impact and creating circular systems.

Its research is underpinned by one of the most advanced textile and colour infrastructures globally, including:

- Chemistry and materials testing laboratories for fibre development, dye synthesis, and material performance analysis;

- A 3D weaving and yarn innovation centre with spinning, fibre extrusion, and nonwoven capabilities;
- Lighting and psychophysics labs for colour perception and behavioural research using LED systems and eye-tracking;
- A fashion design studio with 3D CAD/CAM tools, garment construction facilities, and access to unique archives such as the Marks & Spencer Company Archive.

Combined with its wide-ranging expertise, this has enabled them to lead and contribute towards numerous University-Industry and inter-University research programmes, including the development of plant-based leather, using digital systems for optimised wool coloration, robotic 3D weaving, innovations to enable a circular textile economy, and the creation of healthcare materials with the Clothworkers' Centre for Textile Materials Innovation for Healthcare (CCTMIH), amongst many other projects. More information can be found [about the facilities here](#).

Please contact LITAC's Business Engagement Manager, [Kate Fenton](#) k.e.fenton@leeds.ac.uk if you'd like to start a conversation. Thank you for listening!





Dignified Jobs Accelerator (DJA):Circular Innovation Cohort – A Global Markets Acceleration Program for Circular Textile & Fashion SMEs

[Global Business Inroads](#) (GBI) (EEN - India and member, SG Textiles) has partnered with Upaya Social Ventures and rePurpose Global to execute a global market acceleration program for Indian SMEs in the **Plastics and Textile/Fashion Waste Management** sectors - the Dignified Jobs Accelerator (DJA):Circular Innovation Cohort.

[Dignified Jobs Accelerator \(DJA\):Circular Innovation Cohort](#)

Launched in January this year, this year-long program is for 60 Indian SMEs in the plastic/textiles & fashion waste management industry.

In the context of the Textiles & Fashion sector, this includes 24 SMEs working on:

- **Waste management:** including collection, segregation, and sorting where advanced technologies and community-based initiatives ensure that materials are properly categorized and prepared for recycling or repurposing
- **Processing of waste to value creation:** such as reusing, upcycling or downcycling and transforming discarded textiles into new products, raw materials, or energy sources, thereby reducing reliance on virgin resources and minimizing waste
- **Development of sustainable alternatives** such as biodegradable, carbon-neutral textiles

GBI, with support from SG Textiles, TG Sustainability and various EEN nodes across the EU and the world, is supporting these 60 SMEs in their internationalisation efforts through this program, while preparing them through a capacity building program to enhance their business strategy, global market readiness, investment readiness etc.

A [sectoral catalogue](#) of these companies is available for browsing, along with their business and technology offers being available on the POD. GBI looks forward working together with SG Textiles and EEN network to create cross-border collaboration success stories that can support the Circular Transition in the Textile & Fashion industry and create greener global supply chains, in line with the EU Circular Economy Action Plan.

Here is a few profiles for interest:

2ND INNINGS HANDICRAFT PVT. LTD. (I WAS A SARI)



I was a
sari

I was a sari is a circular fashion label focused on zero waste, using pre-loved saris and fabric dead-stock to create contemporary ready-to-wear clothing, jewelry, and accessories. Handcrafted by female artisans in India, each piece is unique. Owned by 2nd Innings Handicrafts Pvt. Ltd., the brand has empowered 650 artisans and repurposed 1.7 million square meters of fabric. Since 2018, Gucci has been a key partner, training marginalized women to become skilled

artisans. They have also fulfilled corporate orders for brands like Gucci, Oxfam, and Brembo. In 2019, *I was a sari* won the Responsible Disruptive Award and the Circular Design Challenge Award.



Function

Waste-to-Value



Material

Textile Waste



HQ Location

Mumbai



Operational State

Maharashtra & West Bengal

ABOUT THE FOUNDER

Stefano Funari



Stefano Funari, an Italian-born entrepreneur with over 30 years of experience in academia, consulting, and multinational corporations, shifted his focus to social impact in 2011. Inspired by Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search For Meaning*, he moved to Mumbai to empower marginalized women. In 2013, he founded *I was a sari*, turning pre-loved saris into sustainable fashion and providing women artisans with economic independence. Stefano is globally recognized for his work in sustainability and social innovation.

KADAM HAAT BASKETRY BARN PVT. LTD.



Kadam Haat, India's first multi-fiber craft brand, offers sustainable handmade collections in fashion, dining, and home using nine regenerative local grasses. Collaborating with artisan communities, the brand blends modern needs with sustainability. In 21 months, *Kadam Haat* has generated ₹18M for 1,100 rural makers, grown 175,000 kg of grass on wastelands, sequestered 525 tons of carbon, and diverted the equivalent of 35M plastic bottles from landfills, attracting 42,000 loyal customers. [Visit their GTI profile to learn more.](#)



Function

Alternate Material



Material

Textile Waste



HQ Location

Kolkata



Operational State

West Bengal, Bihar & Uttar Pradesh

ABOUT THE FOUNDER



Payal Nath

Payal Nath, co-founder and CEO of Kadam Haat, has over 30 years of experience in the natural fibers sector. She has worked with organizations like the World Bank and UNESCO and founded Kadam NGO, focusing on cluster development and has earned her several awards, including Outlook Business: Women of Worth (2019), Amazon SMBHV: Social Entrepreneur of the Year (2020), and Niti Aayog & UN: Women Transforming India (2022).

ATMA (BANOFI LEATHER)



banofi

Banofi is a pioneering material science company transforming agricultural waste into sustainable alternatives to traditional leather, foams, and adhesives. By upcycling banana crop waste, *Banofi* creates eco-friendly products that use 95% less water and significantly reduce carbon emissions. Recognized as one of Vogue Business 100 Innovators for 2024.

Banofi collaborates with global fashion brands to promote cruelty-free and circular solutions. Beyond innovation, *Banofi* empowers farming communities by generating additional income streams and reducing agricultural waste. With a vision for sustainability and social impact, *Banofi* is redefining the future of materials in the fashion and manufacturing industries.



Function

Alternate Material



Material

Agri-waste



HQ Location

Kolkata



Operational State

West Bengal

ABOUT THE FOUNDER



Jinali Mody

Jinali Mody, founder of Atma Innovations, developed *Banofi Leather*, a sustainable alternative to traditional leather made from banana crop waste. A Yale Sustainability Venture Prize winner and Vogue Business 100 Innovator for 2024, she combines her background in environmental management from Yale and experience at McKinsey & Co. to drive sustainability and social impact, empowering farmers globally.

ARTITECH (KOSHA.AI)



KOSHA.ai is an innovative technology platform focused on promoting circular fashion and sustainability. It integrates KOSHATrace, a cloud-based traceability system from fiber to fashion, with IoT-enabled solutions for transparent supply chains. *KOSHA.ai*'s offerings include KOSHA FibreSENSE, a low-cost NIR portable device for material authentication and recycling, capable of identifying textiles and plastics. [Visit their GTI profile to learn more.](#)



Function
Waste Collection



Material
Textile waste



HQ Location
Bengaluru



Operational State
Karnataka

ABOUT THE FOUNDERS



Vijaya Krishnappa 

Vijaya, co-founder of *KOSHA.ai*, brings 16+ years of experience in fashion and consulting, advising corporates and governments on strategy and policy. An XLRI graduate, he's also a minimalist and barefoot marathoner.



Ramki Kodipady 

Ramki Kodipady, co-founder and CTO of *KOSHA.ai*, has global leadership and technology experience, managing a 375-member multicultural consulting team. He specializes in transformation, managed services, and engaging with clients from operational to CXO levels.

Fashion Heritage Academy, a new advanced training institution in Turin (IT)



The Fashion Heritage Academy is dedicated to teaching fashion through direct experience, passion, and authentic knowledge-sharing. Its faculty is composed of top industry professionals, including designers, artisans, researchers, and experts in innovation and costume history. Each instructor has an international background and collaborates with prestigious fashion houses, theatres, and digital companies, ensuring students receive a comprehensive and solid tailoring education.

Beyond technical expertise, the Academy's educators emphasize experimentation, creativity, and cultural heritage - key elements in preparing the next generation of couturiers, costume designers, and digital fashion specialists. They work alongside students with a forward-thinking approach, offering projects that bridge tradition with innovation while fostering a multidisciplinary perspective on contemporary fashion.

Through hands-on learning, students “apprentice” with seasoned professionals, acquiring skills and insights that merge craftsmanship with modern technology.

Courses :

- Haute Couture
- Cinema, Theatre, procosplay
- Digital Fashion

More details : <https://www.fondazionemcube.it/en/fha/>

Commission rolls out plan to boost circular and efficient products in the EU



The European Commission adopted the [2025-2030 working plan](#) for the [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation \(ESPR\)](#) and [Energy Labelling Regulation](#).

The plan provides a list of products that should be prioritised to introduce ecodesign requirements and energy labelling over the next five years. This will foster sustainable, repairable, circular and energy efficient products across Europe, in line with the [Clean Industrial Deal](#) and the [Competitiveness Compass](#).

The priority products for ecodesign and energy labelling requirements are steel and aluminium, textiles (with a focus on apparel), furniture, tyres and mattresses. These were selected based on their potential to deliver on the circular economy.

Future ecodesign and energy labelling requirements for the selected products will cover two elements:

- product performance, such as minimum durability, minimum energy and resource-efficiency, availability of spare parts or minimum recycled content;
- and/or product information, including key product features such as the products' carbon and environmental footprint. Product information will mainly be made available via the Digital Product Passport or, for products with energy labels, via the European Product Registry for Energy Labelling ([EPREL](#)).

More details: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1071

Past Events

Sector Group Textiles meeting in London 18-20th Feb 2025



The fantastic EEN Sector Group Textiles gathered together in London in February for 3 packed days of collaboration, idea generating and knowledge swapping around such areas as **sustainability**, **upskilling** and **reskilling**, **technical textiles** and **digital applications**.

The group spent one day at [Source Fashion](#), networking amongst the array of 197 companies from 21 countries showcasing sustainable textile technology, products and services. Talks and debates included:

“Ecosystem thinking – redesigning for regeneration”, “Rethinking sourcing – India’s role in sustainable and ethical production” and “The urgency of transparency”.

We were also privileged to hear a number of fantastic presentations from some of the UK’s leading lights in the textile world such as Susan Postlethwaite, leader of the [Robotics Living Lab](#) at Manchester Metropolitan University, Nish Parekh from [KAPDAA - The Offcut Company](#) about transforming UK’s garment waste into worth and the brilliant Professor Parik Goswami from the [Technical Textiles Research Centre](#), University of Huddersfield about his groundbreaking work around medical textiles. The group even managed to squeeze in a show at the West End after three days hard work!



French Textile company mission in the Netherlands



Thanks to the support services of the Enterprise Europe Network via the Sector Group Textiles, a French delegation of 16 people from the textile industry participated to a mission to measure company mission from the 10 -12 March 2025. The representatives of 7 textile companies ([CETIA | From goods to materials](#), [MOUTET Weaver of Basque and Jacquard linen](#), [BIARRITZ ACTIVE LIFESTYLE CHAIR](#), [E-SCM Manage and supervise your fashion & luxury supplies](#), [Gebetex](#), [DECATHLON Évoluer vers une économie circulaire](#), [Groupe ERAM | Agir pour une mode plus responsable](#)), the Nouvelle Aquitaine regional council and the Innovation and Development agency, benefited from a 2 day program organized by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

The program aimed to explore innovative practices of the Dutch textile industry, which has a head start in waste recovery, recycling, traceability, repairing solutions and circular economy models : [House of Denim foundation](#), [Reshare](#), [Spinning Jenny](#), [fastfeetgrinded](#), [WIELAND](#), [Brightfibers Textiles](#), [Tex.Tracer](#), [usetappr](#), [Saxcell](#), [unitedrepaircentre](#).

"These meetings with other innovative eco-systems are essential for feeding our work and our roadmap. They enable us to challenge our vision of circularity and enrich our thinking." Chloé SALMON LEGAGNEUR - Director of CETIA

"We were able to discover innovative initiatives in three business sectors: traceability, eco-design and recycling. Two days of rich exchanges with inspiring leaders and opportunities for collaboration ahead" . Valentina JACQUIER-NARDI Head of the BALI Chair



Future Events



B2B TORINO FASHION MATCH Turin, Italy (1-3 July 2025)

One Month to Go Until B2B [Torino Fashion Match](#) 2025

You still have time to register until **June 25th** for this unique experience, organised by **Unioncamere Piemonte** as proud partner of **Enterprise Europe Network**, the largest international support network for SMEs!

◇ Who is it for?

This event is tailored for the [textile fashion](#) industry—including designers, manufacturers, retailers, providers of [digital](#) & [sustainable](#) solutions, and industry experts.

What to expect?



July 1-2: Two days of pre-scheduled B2B meetings to connect with global partners.



July 3: A Talk Day featuring international experts and speakers sharing insights and trends.

The event is part of the 10th edition of [Torino Fashion Week](#), a week of international runway shows with brands from all over the world.

This year, we're excited to welcome businesses from across [Europe](#), as well as [Brazil](#) and [Thailand](#), alongside top international [buyers](#)!

Don't miss out—join us in shaping the future of fashion!

Register here : <https://www.b2match.com/e/b2b-torino-fashion-match-2025/components/53077/info>

TALK DAY (3 JULY)

Be part of the future of fashion, innovation and sustainability.

Get ready for a full day packed with sector-specific talks featuring international speakers and industry experts. Whether you're looking for game-changing insights, innovative strategies, or valuable connections to boost your business, this event is designed to inspire and equip you with practical knowledge.

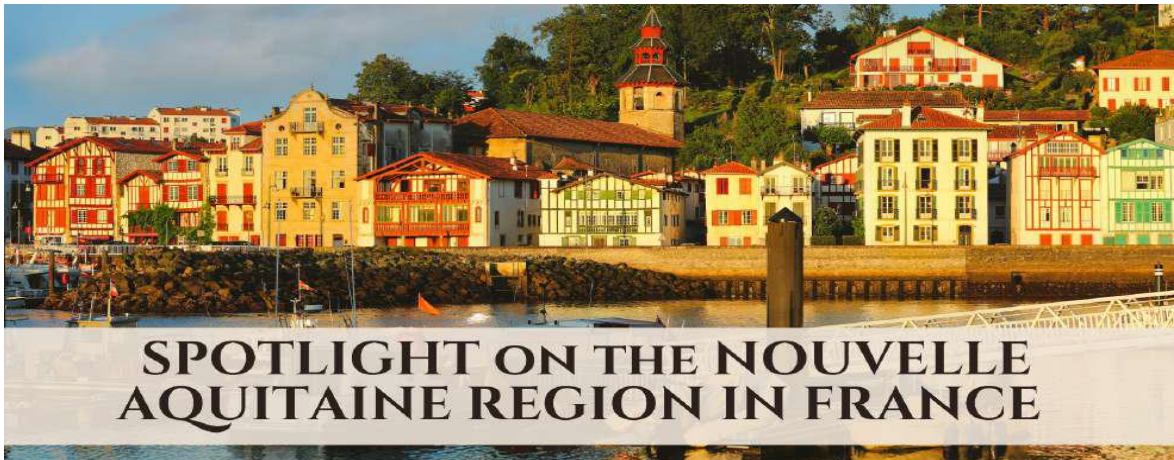
TALK DAY brings together thought leaders, professionals, and stakeholders, both local and international, to discuss key trends shaping the future of the industry. Expect deep dives into cutting-edge topics, including:

- *Pioneering Progress: EU Strategies & Sectoral Synergies;*
- *Internationalization In Action: Build, Grow & Thrive Worldwide;*
- *From Vision To Venture: Women Entrepreneurs & Investors;*
- *Reimagining Fashion: Sustainability At a Critical Juncture;*
- *Closing The Loop: A Dynamic Conversation On Circular Fashion;*
- *Intellectual Property Rights: Training Session;*
- *Driving Change: Case Studies from European Initiatives;*
- *Ai-Powered Fashion: Transforming Marketing, Sales & Customer Experience;*
- *Beyond the Thread: Slow Fiber & Slow Finance Shaping the Future.*

Download the program here: <https://www.b2match.com/e/b2b-torino-fashion-match-2025/components/53077/wHMTwR5zNBEf>



Spotlight on a region



SPOTLIGHT ON THE NOUVELLE AQUITAINE REGION IN FRANCE

KEY INSIGHTS



With almost 2,200 companies, the French textile industry employs over 62,000 people. Their activities cover the many stages in textile manufacture: spinning, milling, weaving, knitting, finishing, etc. Textiles are used in a wide range of applications, including clothing, household linen and medical products, as well as in many industrial sectors, particularly for technical textiles.



The textile industry in France currently accounts for 2% of the added value of the manufacturing industry and employs around 103,000 people. By 2025, it is expected to generate sales of over €9 billion, with average annual growth of 3% over the last five years. Although the industry has lost two-thirds of its workforce over the last twenty years, it remains dynamic, particularly in the technical textiles and luxury segments.



In 2023 France exported €14 billion worth of clothing. The European Union remains its biggest customer, with €7.6 billion (+1%), compared with €6.5 billion for the rest of the world (-3%).

The French Anti-Waste for a Circular Economy Act (Loi AGECE) came into force on 1 January 2021. The law aims to limit waste – including textiles – and preserve natural resources, biodiversity and the climate by fundamentally transforming our system: its goal is to move from a linear economy (produce, consume, throw away) to a circular economy. Refashion is the approved eco-organization dedicated to the textiles and footwear industry within the framework of the AGECE law and the first one in Europe.

There are 5 main textiles regions within the 18 French regions : Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Hauts-de-France, Grand Est, Occitanie, Normandie.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE NOUVELLE AQUITAINE REGION IN FRANCE

OUR STORY



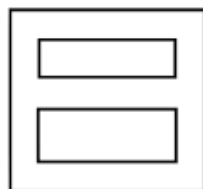
The Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region in the South West of France is not a historical textile region in France but it stands out due to its strong representation in the luxury and craftsmanship sectors, and aims to become a reference in sustainable fashion.

- 1,000 industrial establishments (9,000 employees) in the fashion, textiles and leather goods segments (40% in leather goods)
- 8% of the national workforce in those sectors : 6th region in France, 1st in shoe manufacturing, and 4th in leather goods
- 6 recognized IGIA (European recognition of geographical indications (GIs) for craft and industrial products to protect ancestral know-how and the use of specific raw materials), 4 are from the fashion/textile sector : Aubusson tapestry, Aubusson rug, charentaises shoes, Basque linen and "Basque beret"

Alongside network and innovation leaders such as the Chaire-Bali |, the regional clusters such as EuroSIMA (surf, sliding and cycling sports), Reso CUIR (Leather) and LAINAMAC (Wool), the region has contributed to the emergence of solutions to reduce the environmental impact of the fashion sector by supporting ambitious and unique projects such as the creation of the technological platform CETIA - Innovation platform dedicated to the recyclability of textile and leather articles, and many R&D projects for a more responsible fashion industry.



Stories from entrepreneurs in the fashion industry



SUCCESS STORY FROM AN ITALIAN FASHION BRAND ESSEMME STUDIO (Turin, IT)

Essemme 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, the brand dedicates itself to producing high-quality, eco-sustainable clothing, respecting both the environment and the people involved at every stage of the production process. Its mission is to promote a fashion industry that prioritizes sustainability and ethics.

Located in Turin (IT) ESSEMME STUDIO is a brand of very young talented entrepreneurs that produces **sustainable sportswear and streetwear**. They exclusively use sustainable fabrics and materials or selected waste, making each creation unique. They design and manufacture garments with particular attention to the quality of materials and environmentally friendly production processes.

received several awards, most notably a collaboration with the local Store Green Pea Retail Park established after their participation in fashion shows. They collaborate with brands, stakeholders, and international artists, have taken part in various initiatives and events, and are experiencing significant growth.

THE SUPPORT FROM THE EEN NODE IN TURIN (IT):

- Unioncamere Piemonte (as a local EEN node actively engaged with the local textile industry ecosystem);
- Engaging with them during the 2024 edition of the B2B event, Torino Sport & Fashion Match;
- Actively connected with numerous international suppliers and clients, driven by their ambitious vision to expand their business into new markets;
- Their focus was on fostering international collaborations that would enable them to promote and develop innovative projects aligned with their core values and philosophy: revolutionizing the fashion world while making it increasingly sustainable.

The Italian sustainable fashion brand advocating for a more ethical and **sustainable industry** were looking for:

- International partnerships;
- Access new markets;
- International commercial agents, stores and retailers;
- Access to finance;
- Sectoral brokerage events and international sectoral exhibition fairs where to showcase;
- New projects.

RESULTS AND THEIR TAKEAWAYS: STRATEGIC SUPPORT & GLOBAL EXPANSION ACROSS ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK

- Expert Guidance from SG Textiles & EEN Advisors International EEN experts assisted in scouting potential new clients worldwide, including key connections within the US node.
- Signposting : Legal & Brand Development Support Through our Consortium partner in Turin, we provided guidance on IP rights and brand registration abroad, ensuring strong legal foundations for international expansion.
- Extensive Networking Opportunities Leveraged sectoral stakeholders to initiate new collaborations, fostering strategic partnerships for market growth.
- Brand Promotion & Visibility Supported the brand by utilizing communication materials from B2B events and fashion showcases to enhance market positioning.
- Showcasing Excellence & Success Stories Conducted an exclusive interview highlighting expertise, achievements, and ambitions while documenting success stories, including:
 - International commercial agreements with a buyer from Germany
 - New projects underway, including a collaboration in Senegal with local institutions and companies

This structured approach has enabled business development, visibility, and long-term strategic growth.

Essemme Studio experience 2024 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4ozHDF2Ss4>



Enterprise Europe Network

Profiles of interest



BOGB20250224024 - UK farm-to-fibre pioneer of regenerative agriculture in textiles seeks sales agents in Europe for commercial commission-based partnership

BRDE20250515011 - German toy development company is looking for a development and production partner experienced in smart textile, soft plastic materials and embedded electronics under an outsourcing agreement

BOGB20250507015 - UK company seeks commercial partners to facilitate the next stage of production and further development of its innovative digital waterless fabric dyeing systems

TOTR20250509002 - SME from Türkiye develops a chemical-free, cellulose-based material that offers a circular and sustainable solution for the textile and leather industries

RDRIT20250409017 - Italian company seeking partner for for Creative Europe (CREA-CULT-2025-COOP-1 small scale) Cultural Cooperation "FASHION BRIDGES" Project

BOFR20250304005 - French company specializing in textile design and manufacturing is looking for industrial partners seeking production capacity in Europe

BOIN20250210043 - Indian company offering sustainable textile fibres/bio-material made from dairy waste looking for wholesale and distribution partners globally

BODE20250414031 - German women's brand seeking commercial partners, agents, distributors, retailers for its unique style high-end garments

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](#)



Innovate
UK

Business
Growth



ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK

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

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the European Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of the information contained herein. The views in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the European Commission.