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## Follow the Thread

Meet the Textile ETP Members



**Meet Heli Kangas from Valmet**  
Heli Kangas works as a Development Manager in Valmet's Stock Preparation and Recycled Fiber business unit with a focus on development of textile recycling concepts. Her background is in Forest Products Chemistry with Doctor of Science (Technology) degree from Helsinki University of Technology (2007). Before joining Valmet in 2023, Heli worked at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland for 12 years in different roles; moving from Senior Scientist to Research Team Leader and Technology Manager. At VTT, she worked with developing innovations based on renewable materials, including cellulose nanomaterials. Heli is also an experienced project manager and coordinator of demanding projects.

**Want to meet people like Heli? Join Textile ETP!** With our strong community of professionals, you will have access to a vast network of textile experts, opportunities to participate in collaborative research projects, and stay updated on the latest textile trends and developments.

[Join Textile ETP](#)

## Textile ETP News and Events



**Register now for the Textile ETP Annual Conference 2026!**  
Registrations are open for the 20th Textile ETP Annual Conference 2026, taking place 26-28 May in Amsterdam, hosted by the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.

This year's conference will focus on the **digital transformation of the European textile and apparel industry**, covering topics such as AI in digital product creation, on-demand manufacturing, data management and Digital Product Passports, digital printing and microfactories, and sustainable business models. The event will feature panel discussions, breakout sessions, and valuable networking opportunities with professionals from across Europe.

**Textile ETP members benefit from a special discounted rate, and a few early bird tickets are still available! Members can also attend the "Textile ETP on Tour" event on 28 May, organised with Saxion University of Applied Sciences.**

[Discover the programme and register](#)



### Textile ETP at VERDEinMED final event

Last Friday, our Sustainability Programmes Manager Tilla Kross took the stage at the VERDEinMED final event in Thessaloniki, Greece. She highlighted the work carried out within our ECOSYSTEX community and shared the key objectives of the PESCO-UP project. The conference showcased the project's main activities and achievements, and included two engaging roundtable discussions with external experts who have benefited from VERDEinMED's initiatives, including textile companies and project mentors.

[Learn more](#)

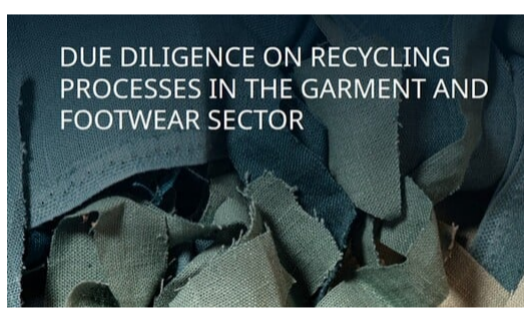


### Textile ETP on Tour visits Lombardy, a premier European hub for technical textiles

On 23-24 March, Textile ETP members visited Lombardy's rich technical textile heritage. Members toured Centrocot's extensive testing and certification laboratories, attended a lively panel discussion on defence and protection technologies, and took part in a speed dating session to forge new cross-European collaborations. The second day brought exclusive visits to two historic manufacturers: global filtration and technical fabrics leader SAATI, and family-run workwear specialist GRASSI 1925 offering an inside look at their advanced production processes.

[Learn more](#)

## Knowledge Centre



### Due diligence in textile recycling: addressing risks in the garment and footwear sector

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report highlights that while recycling can support the textile sector's transition to a circular economy, it also introduces complex social, environmental and governance risks. Companies must extend due diligence practices to recycling processes, engage with new actors in circular value chains, and consider how purchasing practices and product design influence recycling outcomes.

[Read the report](#)



### Circular by design: Why textile services matter for Europe

The European Textile Services Association (ETSA) released an opinion article in POLITICO Europe, the political digital newspaper reporting on political affairs of the European Union, arguing that the textile services industry already delivers circular economy solutions through rental, reuse, and repair models. ETSA Secretary General calls on EU policymakers to recognise and support these models in upcoming legislation, including through mandatory green public procurement rules and lifecycle costing criteria.

[Read more](#)

## Coming Up

The Calendar of Events



### Techtextil 21-24 April, Germany

As the global hub for innovation in textile technology, Techtextil brings together industry leaders, researchers, and visionaries from across the world to showcase cutting-edge materials, smart textiles, sustainable solutions, and advanced production technologies.

[More info](#)



### ECOSYSTEX Conference 2026 22-24 Sept, Belgium

Save the date: the 4th ECOSYSTEX Conference will take place as a physical event on 22-24 September in Antwerp, Belgium, in partnership with the University of Antwerp. This event will bring together experts, innovators, and industry leaders to explore circular textiles beyond recycling.

[More info](#)



### E-Textiles Conference 2026 24-25 Nov, Czechia

The conference will gather experts to discuss the latest developments in electronic textiles, including research, sustainability, applications, manufacturing, design, and reliability. **Researchers are invited to submit 2-4 page extended abstracts for oral or poster presentations by 30 April 2026.**

[More info](#)

## Exploring the World of Textiles

Lutz Walter's Monthly Blogpost



### Towards a European Textile Strategy: Part 2 – Mapping the Volumes and Growth Prospects of the Main Textile Market Segments

"Currently, only about 20-25% of textile waste is collected separately in the EU. The remaining 75-80% is lost to incineration or landfill. With mandatory collection coming into force, those volumes may go up over time and may double by 2035. However, investors in recycling infrastructure must be careful: this "growth" is just a shift in the waste stream, not an increase in the total amount of available material. And as the product composition (complex blends) and the spectrum of use cases (re-use locally & abroad, repurposing to wipes, tearing for nonwovens etc) will remain reality, available volumes suitable for recycling may still grow slowly. Building business cases on the assumption of ever-growing waste piles is a recipe for stranded assets."

In his latest blog post, our Secretary General Lutz Walter dismantles the myth that EU textile consumption is on an endless upward trajectory. Drawing on 15 years of data, he argues that the European market has been largely stagnant, and will remain so, with demographics, rising costs and the booming second-hand market all acting as headwinds.

[Read "Towards a European Textile Strategy: Part 2 – Mapping the Volumes and Growth Prospects of the Main Textile Market Segments"](#)

## Social Post of the month

**Textile ETP**  
11,348 followers  
54 · Edited · 9

Wrap of our Day 2 of our Textile ETP on Tour in Lombardy, dedicated to company visits!

In the morning, SAATI opened the doors of their headquarters in Appiano Gentile: after a brief introduction of their history and corporate culture spanning over 90 years, Paolo Canonico and Giacomo Michele Zaina took us for a tour of two of their production plants in the area. The visit concluded with a presentation of SAATI's protection fabrics with Monica Principi exploring the technologies that save lives worldwide 🇮🇹

The afternoon took us to GRASSI 1925, a leading Italian company specialising in designing, manufacturing, and distributing high-performance technical workwear, protective clothing, and uniforms for public administration, military, and corporate clients. Simone Grassi and Giulio Grassi introduced their portfolio and their fully verticalised production chain before presenting a small production line onsite.

Thank you to all members who joined us for these 2 days in the Lombardy textile ecosystem! Other Textile ETP on Tour events will follow, so if you're not yet a member, consider joining Textile ETP to take part in future tours and experiences 📌

Matteo Mainiero and 44 others · 2 reports