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ETP Fibres Textiles Clothing
EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

Issue #42 - June 2026

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Follow the Thread
Meet the Textile ETP Members

Meet Pirjo Heikkilä from VTT

Dr. Pirjo Heikkilä is a Principal Scientist and Project Manager at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. She studied chemical textile technologies, earning her M.Sc. in textile and clothing technologies in 1999 and her D.Sc. in materials sciences in 2008 from Tampere University of Technology. With over 25 years of experience in textile and fibre materials research, including 14 years at VTT, her recent focus areas include textile recycling, circular economy, and sustainable textile materials. She has led several national joint research projects in Finland over the past decade and is currently coordinating the Horizon Europe-funded tEXtended project, which aims to facilitate sustainability transitions in the textile sector.

Want to meet people like Pirjo? 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 ECOSYSTEX Conference!

Registrations are now open for the fourth edition of the ECOSYSTEX Conference! Join us from **22 to 24 September 2026** in **Antwerp, Belgium**, hosted in partnership with the University of Antwerp.

This year's theme, *circular textiles beyond recycling*, sets the stage for two days of thought provoking conversations to address the full lifecycle of textiles within a circular economy.

What can you expect?

- Two days of **insightful discussions, networking, and cross-sector collaboration** with interactive sessions led by CISUTAC, Circula-TEX, SOLSTICE, FABRIX, JUST FASHION, and CRAFT-IT4SD..
- Publication & presentation of the **Bioeconomy Innovation Strategy for the European Fibres, Textiles and Apparel Industry** by Textile ETP
- Two **exclusive private tours**:
  - A CISUTAC pilot showcase where you will visit a **semi-automated repair station** at De Kringwinkel Antwerp, designed to cut repair times and make garment care accessible to all staff
  - A **Fashion & Sustainability Walk through Antwerp**, guided by MoMu Fashion Museum

Register now

Knowledge Centre

Digital Transformation of the European Textile and Apparel Industry

Presented during the 20th Textile ETP Annual Conference in Amsterdam, and developed collaboratively by in the DigitX Innovation Hub over six months, The Digital Transformation of the European Textile and Apparel Industry sets out a comprehensive plan to help European textile businesses become fit for the digital future.

Read the article

Analysis of the EU Textile & Clothing industry external trade in 2025

This report offers a detailed insight in the performance of the European T&C industry on global markets. It highlights the diversity of products within the sector, trends in foreign trade with focus on our main trading partners. This year, the report includes a section on challenges in e-commerce imports.

Read more

Coming Up
The Calendar of Events

65th Dornbirn GFC
16-18 September, Austria
The Congress brings together over 100 expert speakers, leading innovators, and global stakeholders. As global challenges mount (from decarbonisation pressures to shifting markets), this year's congress reaffirms its role as a key platform for forward-looking solutions and collaborative progress

More info

Textile Recycling Expo
22-24 Sept, Germany
The Conference, organised by the nova-Institute, isa international meeting place for innovators, companies and brands, investors and policymakers to come together to develop and shape the future renewable carbon economy.

More info

ITC&DC 2026
4-7 Oct, Croatia
This international forum is organised to present and exchange knowledge, experience, results and information related to the newest scientific achievements in the field of textile and clothing technology, as well as in fashion design and marketing of textile and clothing.

More info

Exploring the World of Textiles
Lutz Walter's Monthly Blogpost

90%+ Fossil: Whether You Wrap It or Wear It

"Bio-based plastics have been commercially available for decades, enjoy a clearer climate rationale for substitution in their predominantly short-lived applications, and are now backed by a concrete EU regulatory framework in the PPWR. Yet the study's own scenarios project bio-based substitution of conventional fossil-based materials reaching only 10–30% by 2050. If that is the best case for packaging (a sector where the product is simple, the material streams are cleaner, the recycling infrastructure is more mature, and the policy framework is more advanced), then anyone claiming that fossil-free textiles are around the corner is not making a forecast. They are selling fairy tales."

In his latest blog post, our Secretary General Lutz Walter draws a parallel between the plastics packaging and textile industries, both of which remain over 90% fossil-dependent, using a newly published European Commission study to deliver a sobering reality check on the prospects for bio-based materials. With evidence that even the packaging sector is projected to reach only 10–30% bio-based share by 2050, he makes the argument for why the textile industry must stop chasing material substitution myths and focus instead on the sustainability levers that can actually make a difference today

Read "90%+ Fossil: Whether You Wrap It or Wear It"

Social Post of the month

Textile ETP
11,810 followers
3d • 🌐

📢 **Are you writing a project proposal for an EU-funded R&I call? Are you interested in receiving the ECOSYSTEX services for your project?**

ECOSYSTEX offers flexible subcontracting packages designed to support EU-funded R&I projects at every stage, from proposal to final reporting. Whether you're coordinating a large consortium or leading a smaller initiative, having the right platform in place from the start to boost your dissemination, strengthen your stakeholder engagement, and foster cross-project collaboration can make a real difference, both for your proposal's competitiveness and for your project's impact down the line.

Several tiers are available to fit different needs and budgets:

🤍 **STANDARD**: Enhanced onboarding, structured dissemination support, cross-project collaboration opportunities, and access to ECOSYSTEX's communication channels, ideal for projects that want to maximise their reach and engage meaningfully with relevant stakeholders throughout their lifetime.

🤝 **PREMIUM**: Everything in STANDARD + a dedicated custom project webpage, unlimited use of all ECOSYSTEX communication channels, and featured opportunities in high-impact events and media. The go-to choice for projects seeking maximum visibility and long-term influence.

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