

WINTEX project : Weaving innovation among academia and industry in the Tunisian textile sector

WINTEX biannual Newsletter



Weaving innovation among academia and industry in the Tunisian textile sector

LAUNCH OF THE INNOVATION CENTERS ACTIVITIES IN ISET-KH, ISMM AND USF

By Mr. Amine Hadj Taib (University of Sfax)

The Innovation centers activities in ISET-KH, ISMM and USF will open up a direct channel for contact between individuals (staff of the center, designers, researcher, managers and technicians from Tunisian textile companies) in order to boost cooperation and collaboration to thrive innovation in the sector.

Each Innovation textile center is equipped with equipment to account for specific needs and also to create synergies among them and maximize capacities installed. All the equipments of the Innovation Textile Center of the University of Sfax are already installed at the Higher Institute of Arts and Crafts. The MEB equipment of the Innovation Textile center at the University of Monastir is also installed at the Higher Fashion Institute of Monastir (ISMM). The equipment purchase of the Innovation Textile center of ISET Ksar Hellal are in progress. During October 2022, all the centers will launch their proposed services.

All the training sessions planned are also done successfully and some pilot tests are already done with students and professionals at the Innovation Textile center of the University of Sfax which has as strategic orientation in terms of textile, the digitalization textile together with the clothing design, the objectives are, among others;

IN THIS ISSUE

PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT

LAUNCH OF THE INNOVATION CENTERS ACTIVITIES

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TEXTILE ACADEMY COUNCIL

ELABORATION OF SUSTAINABLE BM OF THE WINTEX INNOVATION CENTERS

NEWS ABOUT R&I ECOSYSEM ACTIVITIES

**UPCOMING EVENTS
CLOSING EVENT
MASTERCLASSES**

reduction of the design time by 3D simulation, the reduction of raw materials and products consumption to meet the sustainability principles and standards, the development students' skills and competencies that are needed by the market. The pilot test operations will provide validation of the successful operation of the centers and their readiness.

Finally, the three textile innovation centers will aim to respond to societal challenges related to Sustainable development to transform the entire sector by making smart technologies accessible, integrating digital transformation into business lines and minimizing its environmental footprint, developing value ecosystems and deploying new business models (functional economy, circular economy).



SECOND ROUND TABLE WAS A SUCCESS!

by Dr. Narjes Rjiba (ATCTex)

On March 31, 2022, a second round table is held under the theme :

« Textile Innovation Centers : Entrepreneurial Opportunities, Technology Transfer and Innovation".

This meeting organized by the Tunisian Association of Textile Researchers (ATCTex) in collaboration with MFCPOLE, is made in the presence of 41 participants : 27 academics (directors, director of studies, directors of departments, directors of research laboratories, etc.), 8 industrial and 6 support structures; in the presence of the Genral Directors from the Ministry of Industry and SMEs and of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

By way of this meeting, the main points discussed in the first round table were recalled by MFCPOLE, a SWOT analysis on the textile sector was presented by FTTH and another on education and research was presented by LGTex.



LATEST NEWS

PROGRESS IN THE ELABORATION OF SUSTAINABLE BM OF THE WINTEX INNOVATION CENTERS

The WINTEX innovation centers are supported by MFCPOLE, ATCTex and CEDECs to elaborate their BM. In this context, two face-to-face workshops were organized: one in Neotex Technopark (MFCPOLE) and another in ISET KH to present the methodology to be followed in this activity and to refine the elaborated work by the HEIs. Furthermore, online meetings are scheduled in order to follow up the advancement in this task.

The practical methodology followed for the identification, launch, management and optimization of a portfolio of services is composed of 6 activities:

- Identification of key services: based on the industrial needs collected through WINTEX previous activities and on the ideal services map presented, a portfolio of services is identified by the HEIs.
- Description of marketing services: Each service should be described in a succinct way so that the activities associated with each service are clearly presented to the target group.
- Identification of the role and position of the WINTEX Innovation Center in the Value chain: Using the Value Network Methodology.
- Internal Vs External services analysis: After identifying the positioning of the Innovation Center, it will be possible to decide whether the service will be insourced or outsourced (using a ratings matrix).
- Business Model definition: This involves analysing each service according to the Business Model Canvas (Value proposition, Key activities, Key resources, Key partnerships, Customer relations, Distribution channels, Customer segments, Cost structure, Sources of income).
- Identification of KPIs (Key Performance Indicators).



During the discussion, several points were raised:

- The role of the WINTEX Textile Innovation Centers and their contribution in the textile value chain (in harmony with other existing structures).
- How to guarantee the sustainability of these centers, how to cover the costs and how to evolve while relying on similar experiences already lived.
- Strengthening the networking of the various stakeholders in the Textile value chain to ensure good performance (One of the solutions proposed within the framework of the WINTEX project is the composition of a committee (or a council composed by academic and industrial executives in textiles).

The event was a success and resulted a good way to discuss about the strengths and opportunities for the textile sector in Tunisia and how to tackle challenges within the new capacity building environment.

7TH TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING IN ROME

By Mrs. Monica Ardanuy (UPC)

On Wednesday 6th of July, Wintex consortium met for its 7th Transnational Project Meeting. The event began with the General Director of the Link Campus University, Roberto Russo, giving a warm welcome to all the partners. Afterwards, they provided a brief presentation of the University as well as an explanation of other similar and relevant projects they are involved in, such as the FACTIVE project, another Erasmus+ initiative.

After this wellcome, UPC gave a general overview of the progress of all the Deliverables. It is highlightable the progress with the deliverable objectives advances very well, accomplishing all the objectives. Furthermore, UPC gave some financial and management indications to take into account in the last period of the project.

Then, the University of Sfax presented advances of WP2 and together with the rest of the partners, discussed the next steps. Among other issues, about the definition of the D2.7, the Virtual collaboration platform that will gather industry, HEIs and other stakeholders. It will be launched in October. Next, the focus of the debates was on WP4. Particularly, on the recommendations of the new textiles' centres, for them to be dynamic and effective region developers, as well as the sustainable business model for these centres. All these resources will be developed after the pilot testing and their respective reports have been made in each centre, so the possibilities they would have in the future regarding the textile industry dynamization have been studied, contrasted and are tangible.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVANCED TEXTILES' MASTERCLASS

Wintex project organized a unique and international Masterclass on Advanced Textiles, taking place on 3rd and 4th October 2022 in the Tunisian cities : Sfax and Monastir.

The Masterclass will cover different topics related to Advanced Textiles (advanced textile manufacturing technologies and transition, innovation, sustainability in advanced textile materials).

The Masterclass involves the international advanced textile experts:

- Amine Haj Taieb, Univeristy of Sfax (Tunisia);
- Sergi Artigas, Leitat (Spain);
- Raul Figueiro, Fibrenamics (Portugal);
- Ariadna Detrell, AEI Tèxtils (Spain);
- Josep Casamada, AEI Tèxtils (Spain);
- Daniela Zavec, Titera (Slovenia);
- Judith Bosch, ETP (Belgium);
- Joan Santamaria, Hilaturas Arnau (Spain);
- Francesc Solà, Hilaturas Arnau (Spain);
- Jamie Meehan, IDEAM Cluster (Ireland);
- Myriam Vanneste, CENTEXBEL (Belgium) and
- Omar Cherkaoui, ESITH (Morocco).

The aim is to provide knowledge and exchange of good practices from EU to Tunisia, to generate business opportunities and synergic meetings.

Date and Place:

3/10/2022 from 14 to 17:30h CEST
Institut Supérieur des Arts et Métiers 34;
Avenue 5 August, Sfax, 3002, Tunisia.

04/10/2022 from 11 to 13h CEST

ISET- KH, The Higher Institute of Technological Studies of Ksar Hellal; BP 68 Av. Hadaj Ali Soua, Ksar Hellal 5070, Tunisia.

Target Group:

These masterclasses are addressed to companies, students, researchers, etc. and responsables of the textile centers in Tunisia.



NEWS ABOUT TUNISIAN R&I ECOSYSTEM ACTIVITIES: FROM COOPERATION TO INNOVATION IN THE TEXTILE AND FOOTWEAR SECTORS

by Dr. Yosra Braham (MFCPOLE)



The Cre@ctive project (Innovation for bringing creativity to activate Traditional Sectors in MED area) is funded by the ENI CBC MED program. It is a collaborative initiative between 11 partners (including MFCPOLE and ATCTex) from 6 countries. It aims to foster value chains and business alliances among MSMEs in Mediterranean textile, footwear and leather sectors in order to encourage the creation of new products and business growth, by building bridges between these sectors and the creative industry. Since its launch on November 2020, the project has made a great progress in its activities among which we can mention:

- The support in the creation and/or development of 6 Cre@ctive labs through a technical and/or financial support.
- Provision of subgrants for the innovative projects' holders: 16 new business alliances are supported directly to establish new market opportunities. As a result of these grants, at least 24 new direct long-term jobs will be created.

CLOSING EVENT IN TUNISIA THE FINAL PROJECT MEETING

The final project meeting will be organised in January in Sfax Tunisia. This meeting will review all project results and the focus will be especially sustainability issues. The final conference will be organised by USF with support from ATCTex, ISMM, MFCPOLE, CRNS and ISET on the last month of the project coinciding with the final project meeting. The final conference in Tunisia will be organized as a major event for the “official” launch of the innovation textiles’ centers on a sustainable way after the pilot that will be conducted during the project. The conference will highlight the first users’ innovations during the pilot phase, the staff of the center, the innovation potential as well as the different results from the project. Students from Tunisia will also participate with presentations of some of the innovative approaches they used with the support from the centers training. During this event different dissemination and exploitation tools will be presented as videos and posters in order to promote the visibility of the innovation potential that is still latent in Tunisia. Those tools will also be used to attract students and textile managers to the centers as points of encounter for innovation boost. Finally, the conference will allow the meeting between project members and stakeholders from Tunisia and will aim at promoting the transfer of the project. Recommendations “How innovation textiles’ centers are useful for the economic development of the region” will be printed and disseminated during the event. During the conference the recommendations and innovation plan will be presented. It will also include networking among industrial partners and HEIs will be promoted and encouraged.

From the part of the Tunisian partners, MFCPOLE and ATCTex, the establishment of the Tecno-L@B is completed and actually, the coaching phase is launched and the follow up and support of three pilot projects is in progress:

- **Educatif accessories based on 100% natural resources:** The NATDYES startup had developed a range of vegetable dyes made essentially from agriculture waste. These dyes have specific properties: once applied to textiles, they give these fabrics the property of changing colour immediately by applying a colourless and harmless natural reagent. This reagent is safe in case of contact with the skin, it is safe even in case of ingestion. It can also be returned to the original colour immediately by applying another colourless reagent that has the same safety properties. By exploiting this innovation, the project holder will produce educationnnal accessories that provide young people with new possibilities to develop their creativity.

- **VESTGO: INTEGRATED SMART TEXTILE SOLUTION**

VestGo is a customizable product that can be fixed on any surface. You can put it on your hoodie back or backpack or on the delivery food box. Vest Go solution can be sold as a gadget product or an integrated smart textile solution.

- **3D SCANNING PLATFORM (LIFIT):**

The objective of this project is to develop a new high accuracy & fast, 3D scanning platform mainly dedicated to TCFL industry to accelerate the development & design process as well as developing a platform which could be used in the future by small entities operating in TCFL craft field to scan their products to be 3D displayed on online e-commerce platforms as well as used in new virtual fitting platforms.

Furthermore, three training sessions were organized in the TecnoL@B in order to support the subgrantees in the exploitation of the L@B equipment and hence in the implementation of their projects.



NEWS ABOUT R&I ECOSYSTEM:

GUIDED VISIT TO THE TECHTEXTILE TRADE FAIR

Mr Ramzi Zammali (MFCPOLE)

Within the Frame of TEX-MED ALLIANCES project, funded by ENI CBC MED program, MFCPOLE co-organised on June 23, 2022 with the collaboration of the Spanish Innovation Center Texfor a guided tour of Techtextile fair in Frankfurt.

The aim of this activity was to show to the participant companies (from Tunisia, Spain and Italy) the most relevant novelties of the textile sector, especially technical fabrics.

It was also a great opportunity for learning the Innovation of the last trends in fibers, yarn, textile and new techniques, view the several exhibitors' companies and take the opportunity to be present in the Techtextil forum that host the top-class speakers for textile-related topics likes sustainability, filtration, smart textiles, composites, textiles in urban spaces, digital transformation, and textiles for medical application.

Networking activity was also leaded to build up cooperation opportunities between SMEs and R&D entities and other textile value chain Stakeholders.

Two experts were recruited to organise the guided tour: an expert from Texfor and a researcher from The National Engineers School of Monastir-ENIM. The objective was to be able to present to the participant companies the technology trends of the technical textiles market.



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