Module 03 – CE Textile policies and enablers

1 Introduction to Circular Economy (CE)

2 CE in the context of textiles

3 CE Textile policies and enablers

4 Need and Potentials in India

5 Developing Policy Instruments

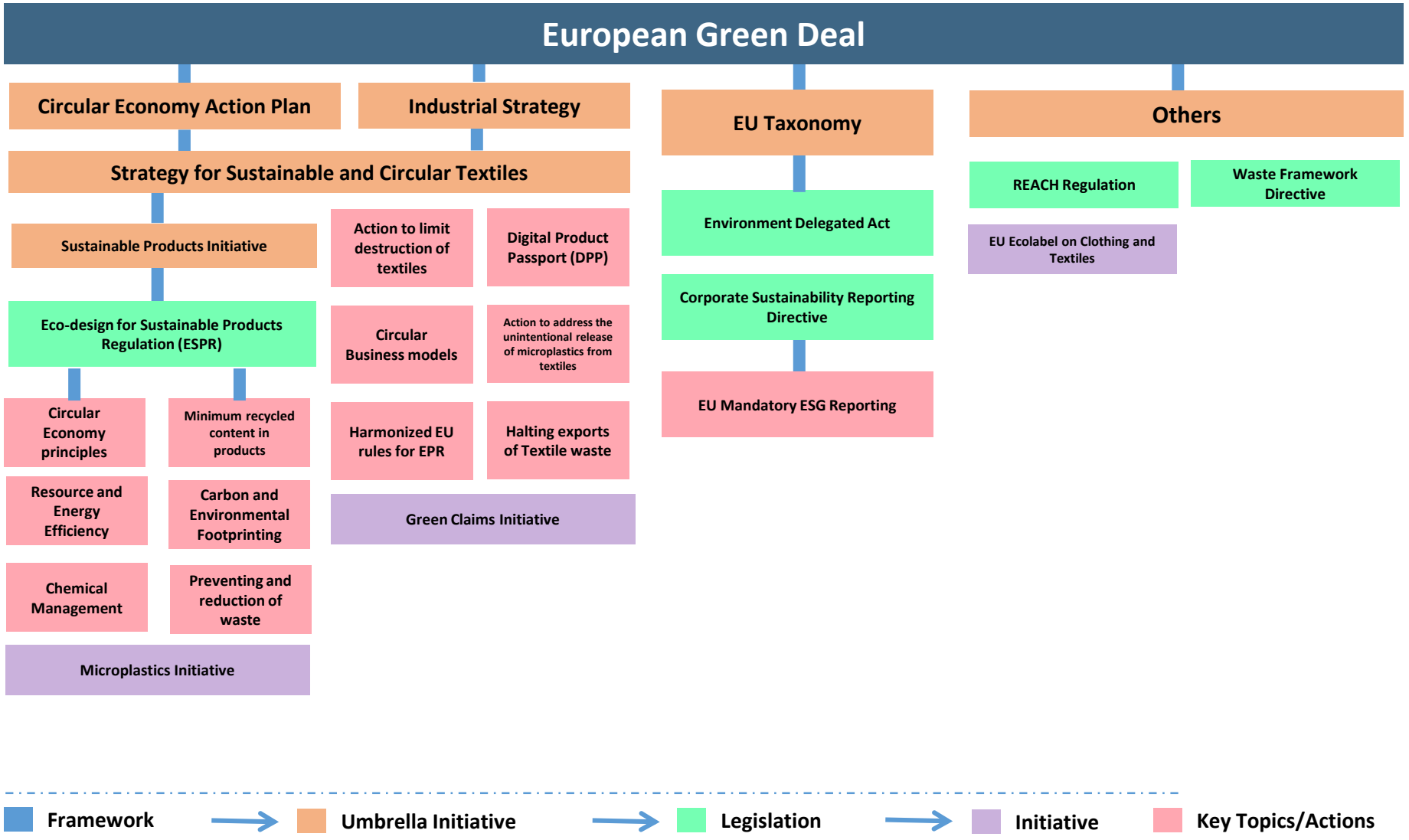
6 Best Practice Examples

7 Repository of Toolkits



Objective: This chapter has the objective of giving an **overview of different circular economy policies** and enablers for textiles on an international level, categorize those along the value chain and give some **best practice examples** for successfully implemented policies.

Module 03 – 3.1 International Policies related to Circular Textiles



Source: adelphi (2022)

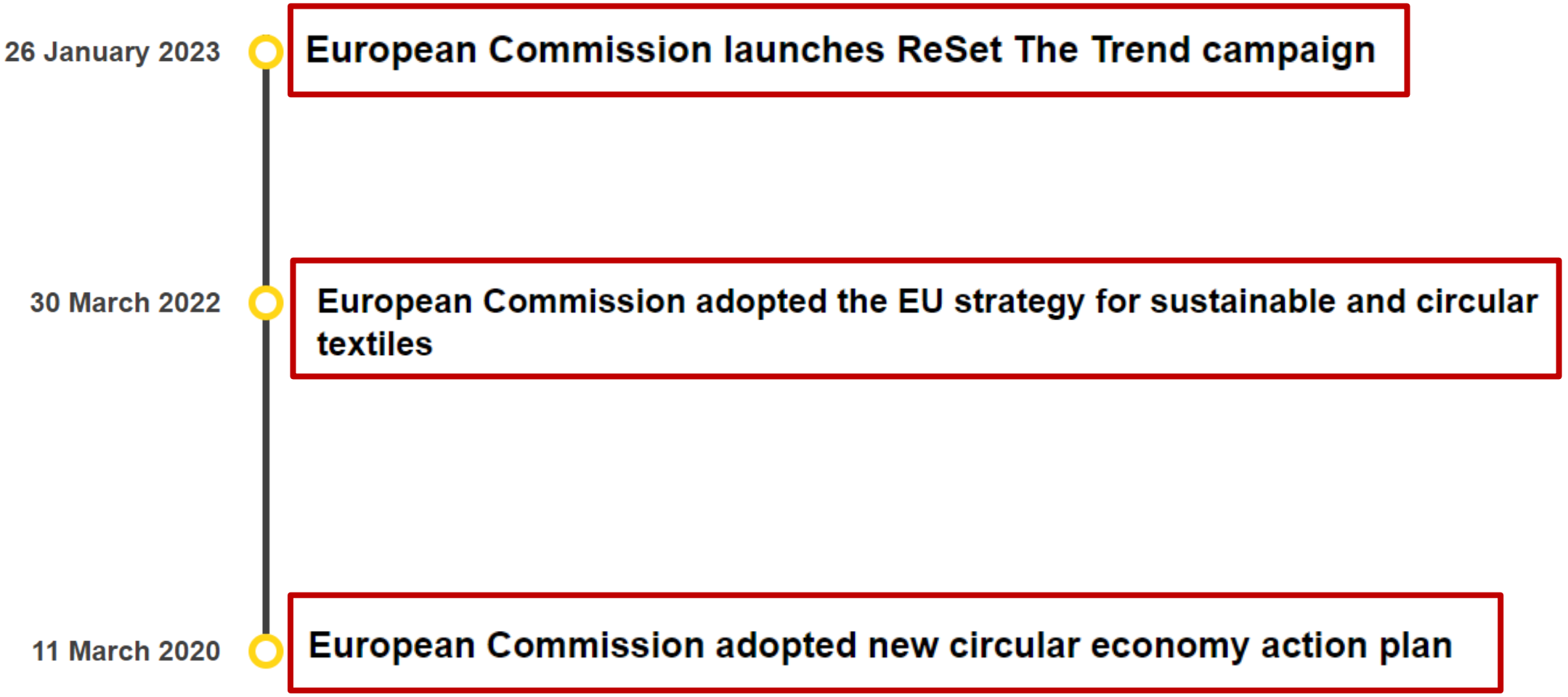
The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP)

KEY PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS

- Electronics and ICT
- Batteries and vehicles
- Textiles
- Plastics
- Packaging
- Construction and buildings
- Food, water and nutrients

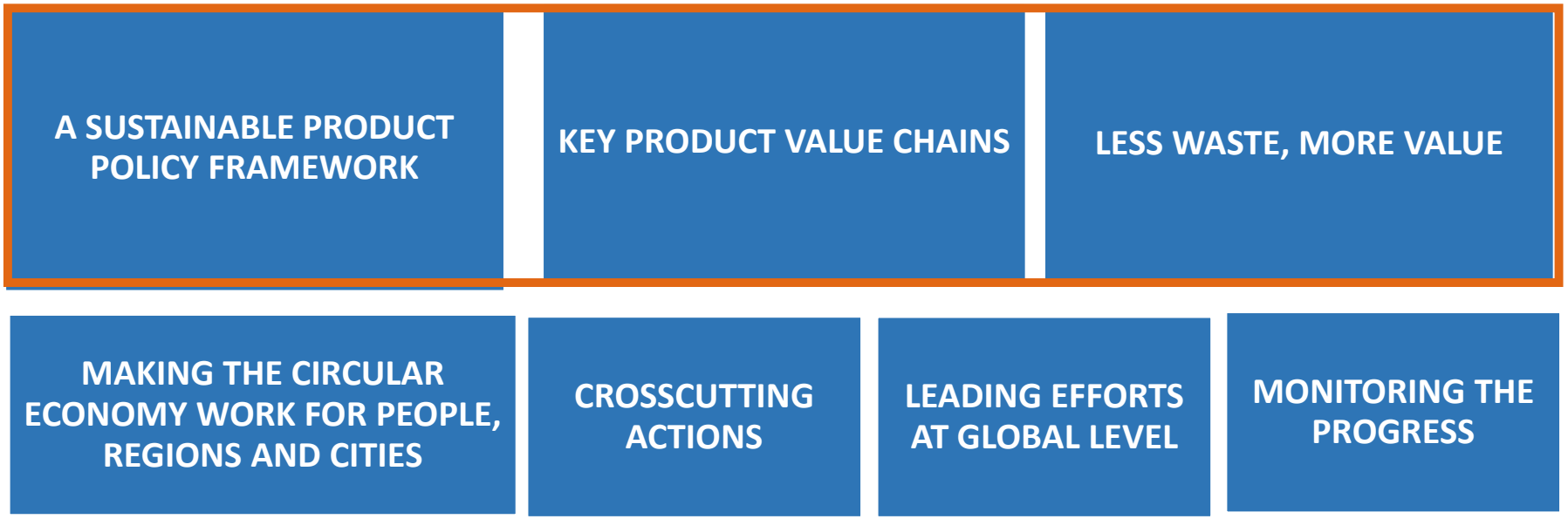
Source: European Union (2020): https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/45cc30f6-cd57-11ea-adf7-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-170854112

EU Policies



Sources:
European Commission (2023): https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/reset-trend-2023-01-26_en#:~:text=ReSet%20the%20Trend%3A%20EU%20calls%20on%20young%20people,the%20EU%20Strategy%20for%20Sustainable%20and%20Circular%20Textiles.;
European Commission (2023): https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/615d8686-21f4-11ee-94cb-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-289573476
European Union (2020): https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/45cc30f6-cd57-11ea-adf7-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-170854112

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) - Textiles



Source: European Union (2020): https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/45cc30f6-cd57-11ea-adf7-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-170854112

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) - Textiles

A SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT POLICY FRAMEWORK

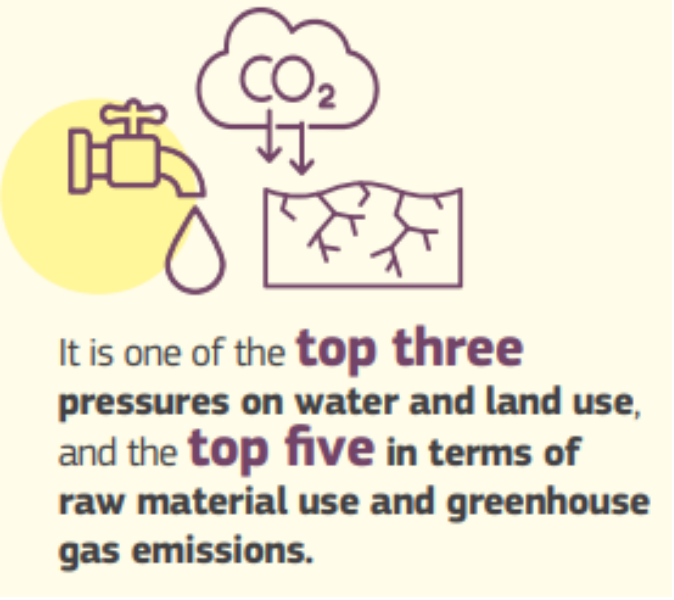
KEY PRODUCT VALUE CHAINS

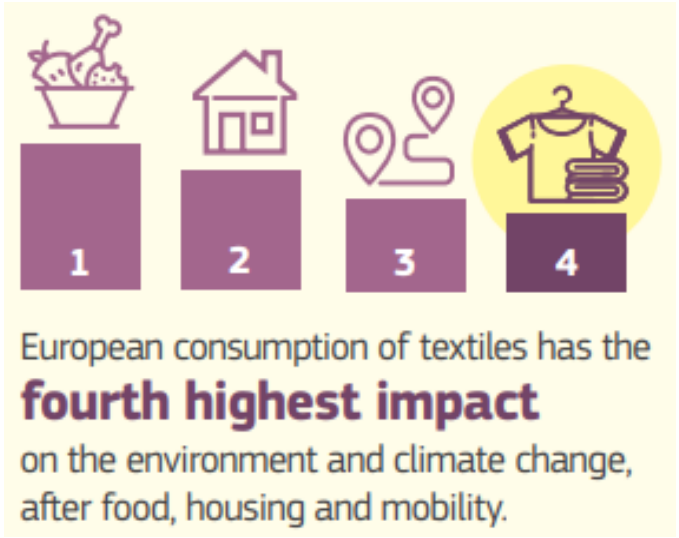
- Priority groups of the CEAP will electronics, ICT, **textile** and furniture but also high impact intermediary products (steel, cement, chemicals, etc.)
- Application of a **new sustainable product framework for textiles** includes developing eco-design measures to make textile products fit for circularity, ensure the update of secondary raw materials, tackling the presence of hazardous chemicals and empowering business and private consumers to choose sustainable textiles and have easy access to reuse and repair services.
- **Improving the business and regulatory environment** for sustainable and circular textiles in the EU by providing incentives and support to product-as-a-service models, circular materials and production processes as well as increased transparency through cooperation
- Guidance to **achieve high levels of separate collection of textile waste by 2025**
- Reach higher levels of reuse and recycling of textiles by innovative, encouraging **industrial applications and regulatory measures like extended producer responsibility (EPR)**

Sources: European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

Why a strategy on textiles?







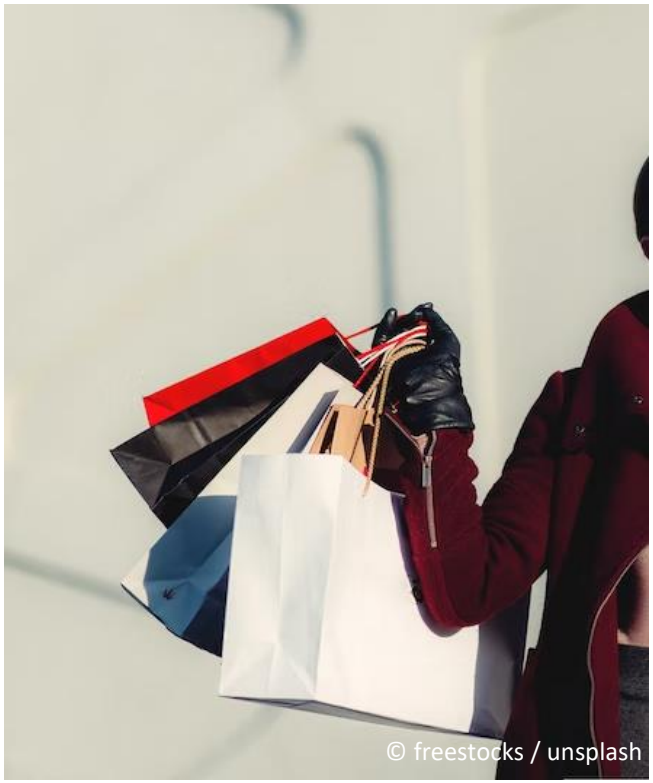
Source: European Week for Waste Reduction: https://ewwr.eu/thematic_focus/circular-and-sustainable-textiles/

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

Why a strategy on textiles?

Challenges:

- Raw Materials
  - The global **production of fibre doubled** from 58 million tonnes in 2000 to 111 million tonnes in 2019
- Processing and garment production
  - Spinning raw materials into yarns, weaving into fabrics and fabric dyeing are **energy-intensive** processes requiring **large amounts of water and chemicals**
- Transport and distribution
  - **Most textile raw materials and final products are imported into the EU**, implying long delivery routes.
- Consumer use
  - **Environmental impacts of the use phase** in the lifecycle of clothes arise from the water, energy and chemicals used in washing, tumble-drying and ironing, and the microplastics shed into water.
- End-of-life
  - Globally, **less than one per cent of all materials that are used in clothing is recycled back into clothing**



Source: European Parliament (2022): https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/729405/EPRS_BRI(2022)729405_EN.pdf

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

- The textile strategy implements the commitments of the European Green Deal, the new circular economy action plan and the industrial strategy
- **Vision for 2030:**

"By 2030

- *Textile products placed on the EU market are long-lived and recyclable, to a great extent* ***made of recycled fibres, free of hazardous substances*** *and produced in respect of* ***social rights and the environment****.*
- ***Fast fashion is out of fashion and*** *consumers benefit longer from* ***high quality affordable textiles****,*
- *Profitable* ***re-use and repair services*** *are widely available.*
- *In a competitive, resilient and innovative textiles sector,* ***producers take responsibility*** *for their products along the value chain, including when they become waste.*
- *The circular textiles ecosystem is thriving, driven by sufficient capacities for innovative* ***fibre-to-fibre recycling****, while the* ***incineration and landfilling of textiles is reduced to the minimum"***

Sources: European Commission (2022): https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/textiles-strategy_en

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

- **Action Points:**
  - Set **design** requirements for textiles to make them last longer, easier to repair and recycle
  - Introduce clearer **information** on textiles and a **digital product passport**
  - Empower consumers and tackle greenwashing by **ensuring the accuracy of companies' green claims**
  - Stop **overproduction and overconsumption**, and discourage the **destruction of unsold or returned textiles**
  - Harmonize **EU Extender Producer Responsibility rules for textiles** and economic incentives to make products more sustainable
  - Address the unintentional **release of microplastics** from synthetic textiles
  - Address the challenges from the **export of textile waste**
  - Publish a **transition pathway** for actors in the textiles ecosystem to successfully achieve the green and digital transitions and increase its resilience

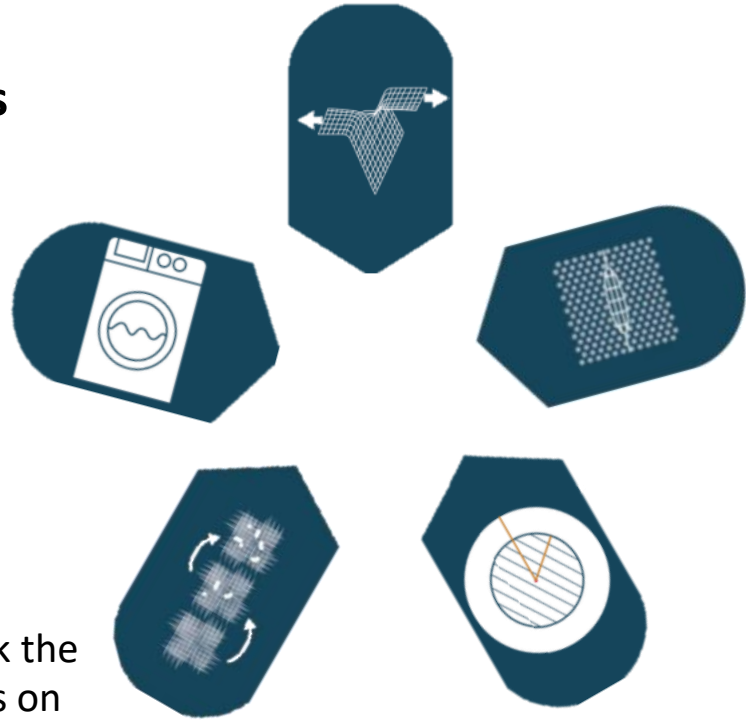


Sources: European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

Key actions – Introducing mandatory Eco-design requirements



- Introducing mandatory **Eco-design requirements**
  - The Commission will develop binding product-specific eco-design requirements to increase textiles' performance in terms of
    - Durability
    - Reusability
    - Reparability
    - fibre-to-fibre recyclability
  - and **increase mandatory recycled fibre content**, to minimise and track the presence of **substances of concern** and to reduce the adverse impacts on climate and the environment.
  - The Commission also encourages businesses to **prioritise** their efforts on **fibre-to-fibre recycling** over **PET** bottle recycling.
  - By developing criteria for safe and sustainable by design chemicals and materials, the Commission will **support industry** to substitute as much as possible and otherwise minimise the substances of concern in textile products placed on the EU market.

Sources:
OVAM (2021): https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/ecodesign_criteria_for_consumer_textiles.pdf
European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

Key actions – Stopping the destruction of unsold or returned textiles

- Proposal of a transparency obligation requiring large companies to **publicly disclose the number of products they discard.**
- Introduction of **bans on the destruction of unsold products**, including as appropriate, unsold or returned textiles.
- Assessment of **digital tools** with industry, how they could reduce the high percentage of returns of clothing bought online, **encourage on-demand custom manufacturing**, and improve the **efficiencies** of industrial processes



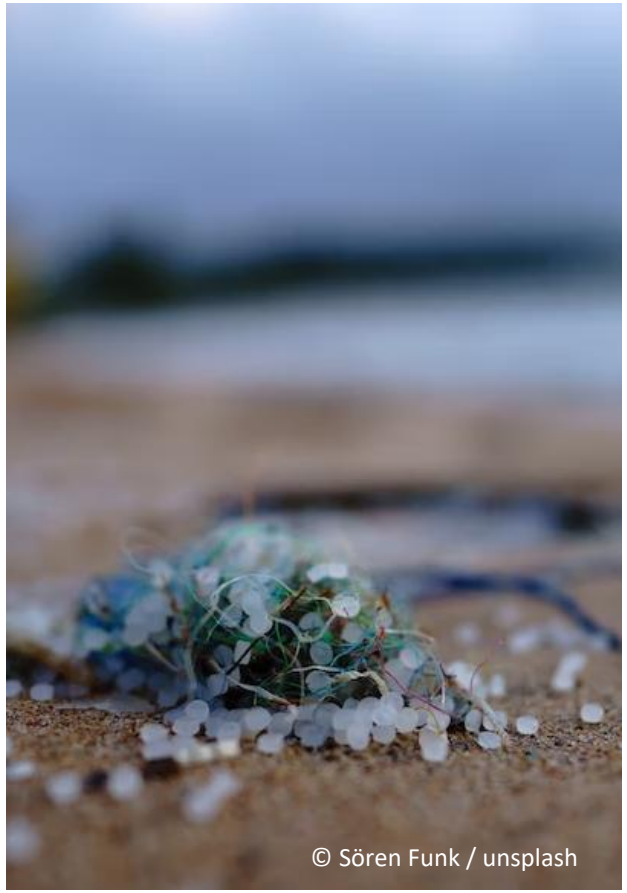
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Source: European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

- **Key actions - Tackling microplastics pollution**
  - Set of **prevention and reduction measures**, notably **through binding design requirements to be introduced under the Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation,** as well as under the forthcoming Commission initiative to address the unintentional release of microplastics in the environment, to be presented
  - ongoing **standardisation** work on the establishment of **test methods** to measure microplastics release **from washing of synthetic textiles**

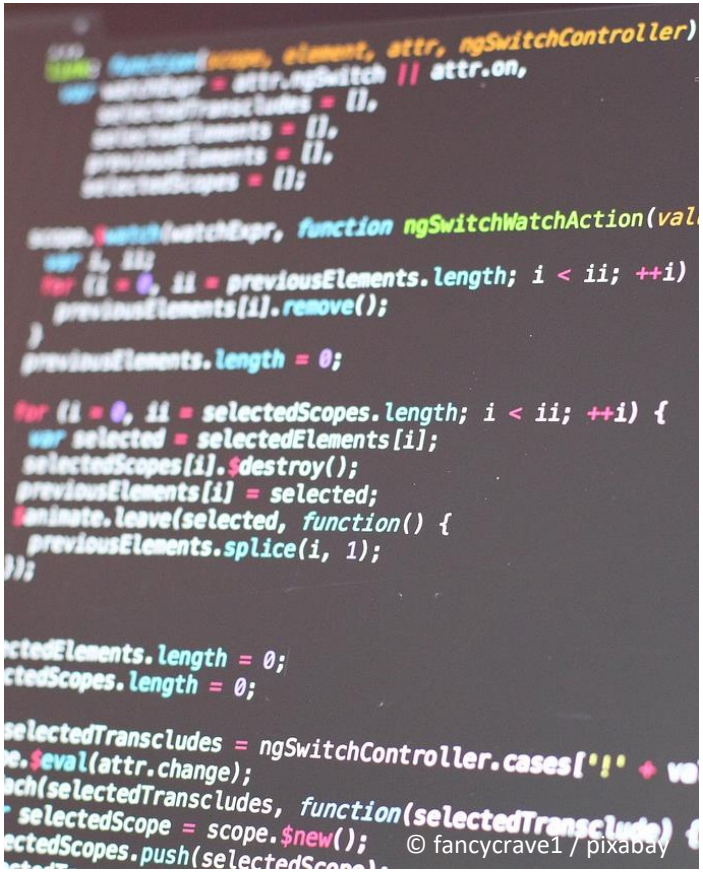

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Sources:
OVAM (2021): https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/ecodesign_criteria_for_consumer_textiles.pdf
European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

- **Key actions - Digital Product Passport**
  - Under the new Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation, the Commission will introduce a **Digital Product Passport for textiles** based on mandatory information requirements on circularity and other key environmental aspects
  - **Review of Textile Labelling Regulation**, which requires textiles sold on the EU market to carry a label clearly **identifying the fibre composition**.



Source: European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

Key actions - Green claims

- The new EU rules will ensure that **consumers are provided with information** at the point of sale about a **guarantee of durability** as well as information relevant to repair, including a **reparability score,** whenever this is available.
- **General environmental claims**, such as “green”, “eco-friendly”, “good for the environment”, will be allowed **only if underpinned by recognised excellence** in environmental performance, for example basing on the **EU Ecolabel.**
- **Voluntary sustainability labels** covering environmental or social aspects **must rely on a third party verification** or be established by public authorities.



Source: European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

- **Key actions - Extended producer responsibility**

  - For boosting **reuse and recycling** of textile waste the current Waste Framework Directive will be revised in 2023.
  - **Harmonised EU extended producer responsibility rules for textiles** will be introduced – producers will the responsible for the end-of-life related impacts and cost; **fees** will be applied for contributing to such costs and promoting the implementation of eco-design criteria.
  - Contributions made to EPR schemes will also be **dedicated to waste prevention measures** and preparing for reuse.
  - **Separately collected textile waste** from households is regarded as the necessary first step.
  - Study with a view to proposing mandatory **targets for preparing for re-use and recycling of textile waste.**



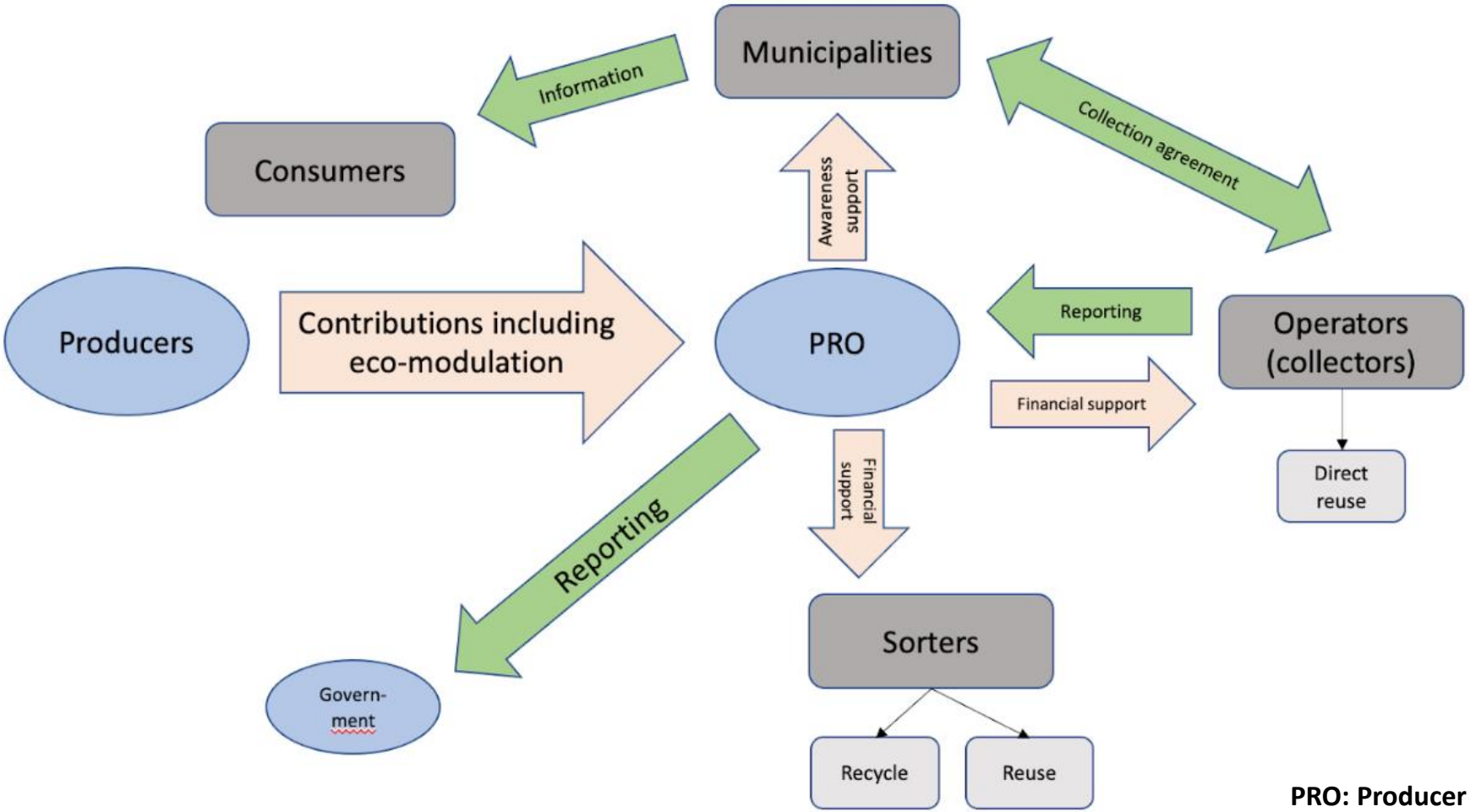
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Sources:
European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF
Redress (n.d.): https://www.redress.com.hk/takeback

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

- **Key actions - Extended producer responsibility**



PRO: Producer Responsibility Organization

Source: Lewe (2023): https://finix.aalto.fi/extended-producer-responsibility-in-the-textiles-industry/

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

Key Actions - Fast Fashion

- Driving fast fashion out of fashion. A new paradigm of **attractive alternatives** to fast changing fashion trends. Companies should become **the champions** of this paradigm shift.
- **Re-shaping the purchasing habits** of consumers is difficult unless **companies provide for new circular business models** (product-as-service models, take-back services, second-hand collections and repair services). **Transition Pathway to engage with stakeholders t**o facilitate the scaling up of resource-efficient manufacturing processes, reuse, repair.
- As fast fashion is linked to the growing use of fossil-fuel based synthetic fibres, shifting to more sustainable business models will reduce both the **dependency of clothing producers on fossil fuels** and **their impacts on climate change and microplastic pollution.**



Source: European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

Key actions - scale up of new business models

- Member States also have an important role to play. In addition to measures to support the reuse and repair sector, **taxation measures**, can be a particularly useful tool.
- The Commission will develop **guidance on promoting circular business models through investment, funding and other incentives**, which will feature the opportunities to create circular value and jobs in the textiles ecosystem.
- **Financial support for the sector's transition will be available** under Horizon Europe's European Partnerships, the LIFE programme, and the Digital Europe Programme for the **development of skilled experts** to support the textiles industry in its digitalisation
- **Boosting social enterprises active in the reuse sector is particularly important**, as they have considerable potential to create local, green and inclusive businesses and jobs in the EU



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Source: European Commission (2022): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:9d2e47d1-b0f3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

Key actions - export of textile waste

- The Commission **proposal for new EU rules on waste shipments** will allow the export of textile waste ton non-OECD countries only under certain conditions.
- Countries must notify the Commission that they **wish to import this waste** and **demonstrate their ability** to manage it sustainably.
- To avoid waste streams being **falsely labelled as second-hand goods** when exported from the EU, the strategy proposes the **development of specific EU-level criteria to distinguish waste properly**.
- The Commission will also work to **increase transparency and sustainability in global trade in textile waste and used textiles**.



"The amount of used textiles exported from the EU has tripled over the past two decades from slightly over 550,000 tons in 2000 to almost 1.7 million tons in 2019, according to a briefing published this week by the European Environment Agency (EEA)." (EEA, 2023)

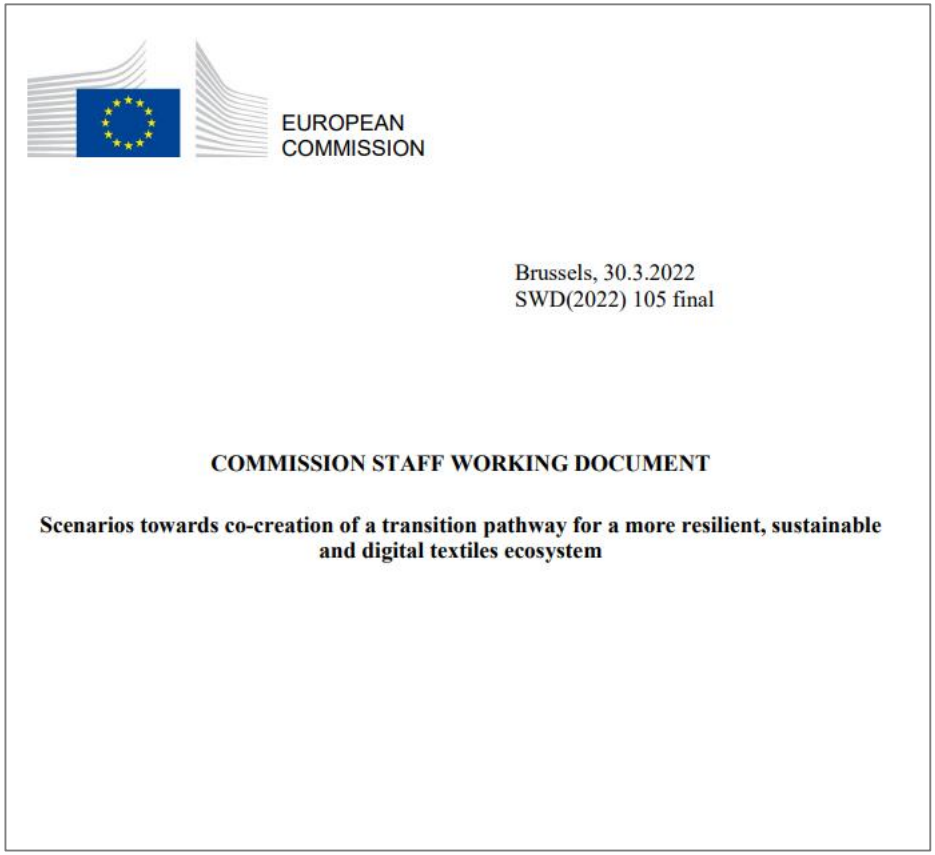
Sources:
European Commission (2020): https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_22_2015
European Environment Agency (2023): https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eu-exports-of-used-textiles

The Circular Economy Action Plan (EU CEAP) – Textiles

EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles (2022)

Key actions - Textiles Ecosystem Transition Pathway – Co-creation process

- The updated **EU Industrial Strategy** highlights the need to accelerate the **green and digital transitions** of EU industry and its ecosystems. To that end, it proposes **cooperation between industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders.**
- Together with the EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles, the EC invited stakeholders to join in the **co-creation of a transition pathway for the textiles ecosystem**. Through this inclusive process, **they identified** what the digital and green transitions and increasing resilience mean for the textiles ecosystem, and what **specific actions and commitments** need to accompany the transition.


EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.3.2022
SWD(2022) 105 final

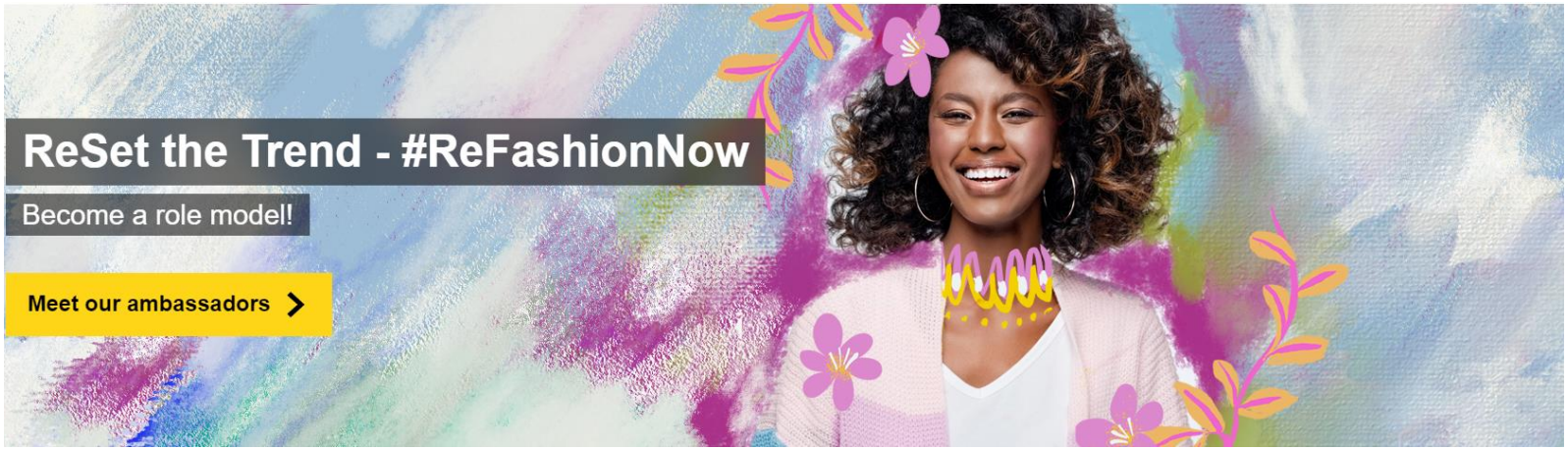
COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Scenarios towards co-creation of a transition pathway for a more resilient, sustainable and digital textiles ecosystem

Source: European Commission (2021): https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/consultations/scenarios-towards-co-creation-transition-pathway-resilient-innovative-sustainable-and-digital_en

EC – ReSet the Trend campaign (2023)

The campaign aims to engage Europeans in the battle against **fast fashion** and raise **public awareness** about the EU textiles strategy.



"Changes in textiles and the fashion industry will involve everyone: designers, producers, retailers and consumers – and you."

"The good news is we can all make a difference right now. It's easy. Join our campaign and help raise awareness across Europe about sustainable fashion."

"It's time to spread the word about what we can do to green the textiles sector. It's time to ReSet the Trend! "

"Make fast fashion out of fashion."

"Take action and become a role model"

Source: European Commission (2023): https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/reset-trend-2023-01-26_en#:~:text=ReSet%20the%20Trend%3A%20EU%20calls%20on%20young%20people,the%20EU%20Strategy%20for%20Sustainable%20and%20Circular%20Textiles.

EC – ReSet the Trend campaign (2023) - Inspiring stories of change

Introducing Refashion

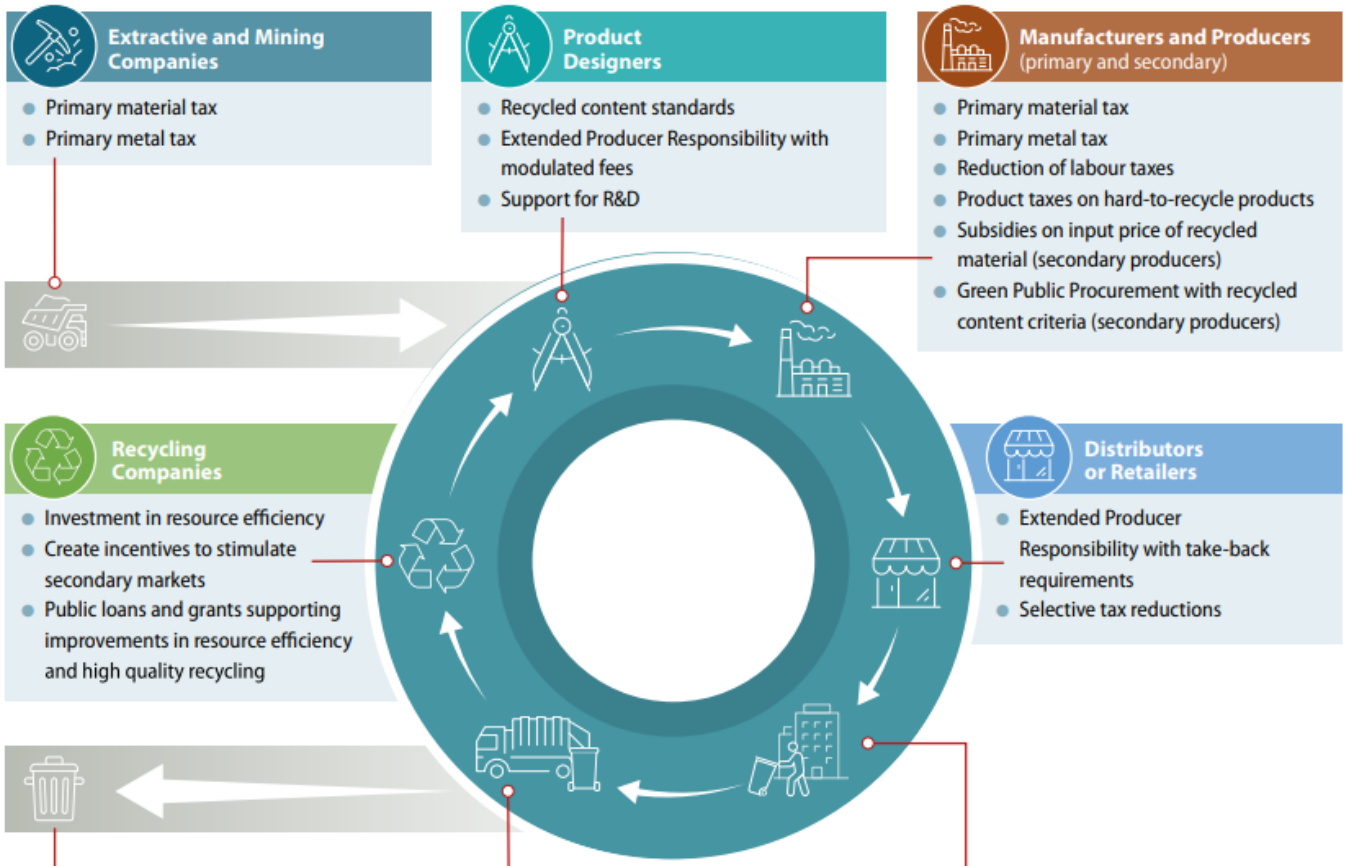
A circular zero-waste fashion system

- Refashion is a new approach to fashion that uses pre-designed multifunctional fabric blocks to create a wide range of styles.
- This circular fashion system is designed to be zero-waste and sustainable, utilizing the same fabric multiple times with the help of artificial intelligence (AI).
- After three years of collaboration, the team successfully created a proof-of-concept collection called Refashion.
- This collection features three pre-designed multifunctional fabric blocks, which can be transformed into 11 different refashionable styles, including a top, four dresses, two skirts, a bolero, two jumpsuits, and a reversible jacket.
- This showcases how versatile the fabric blocks can be. Each garment can be easily disassembled, redesigned, and remanufactured into another style.



Source: European Commission: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/reset-trend/get-inspired-stories-change/introducing-refashion_en

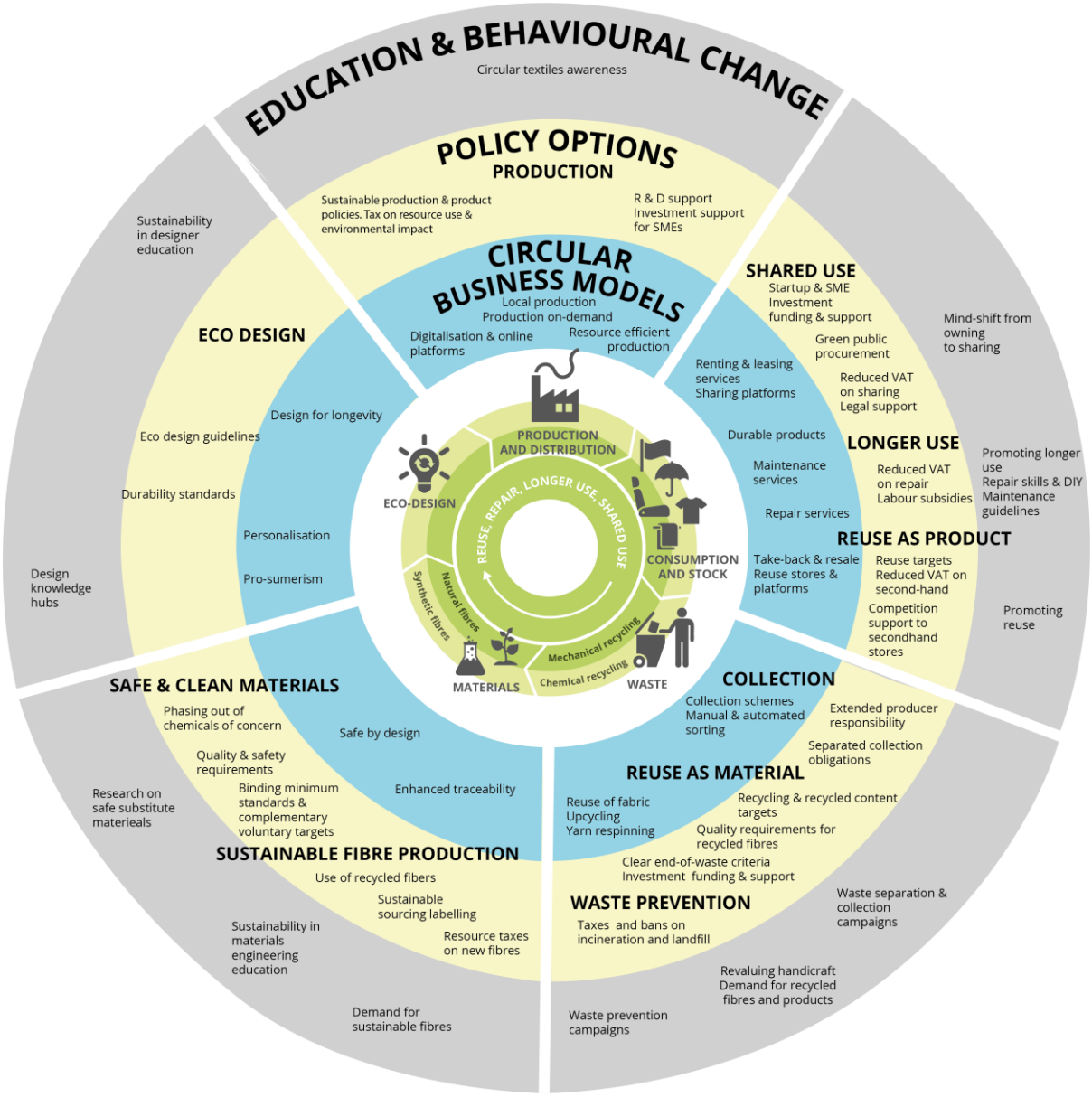
Different Policy models affecting stakeholders in the textile value chain



Source: OECD (2022c), *Synergies and trade-offs in the transition to a Resource-Efficient and Circular Economy*, OECD Publishing, Paris, https://doi.org/10.1787/23097841.

Source: OECD (2020): https://www.oecd.org/environment/synergies-and-trade-offs-in-the-transition-to-a-resource-efficient-and-circular-economy-e8bb5c6e-en.htm

Different Policy models along the textile value chain

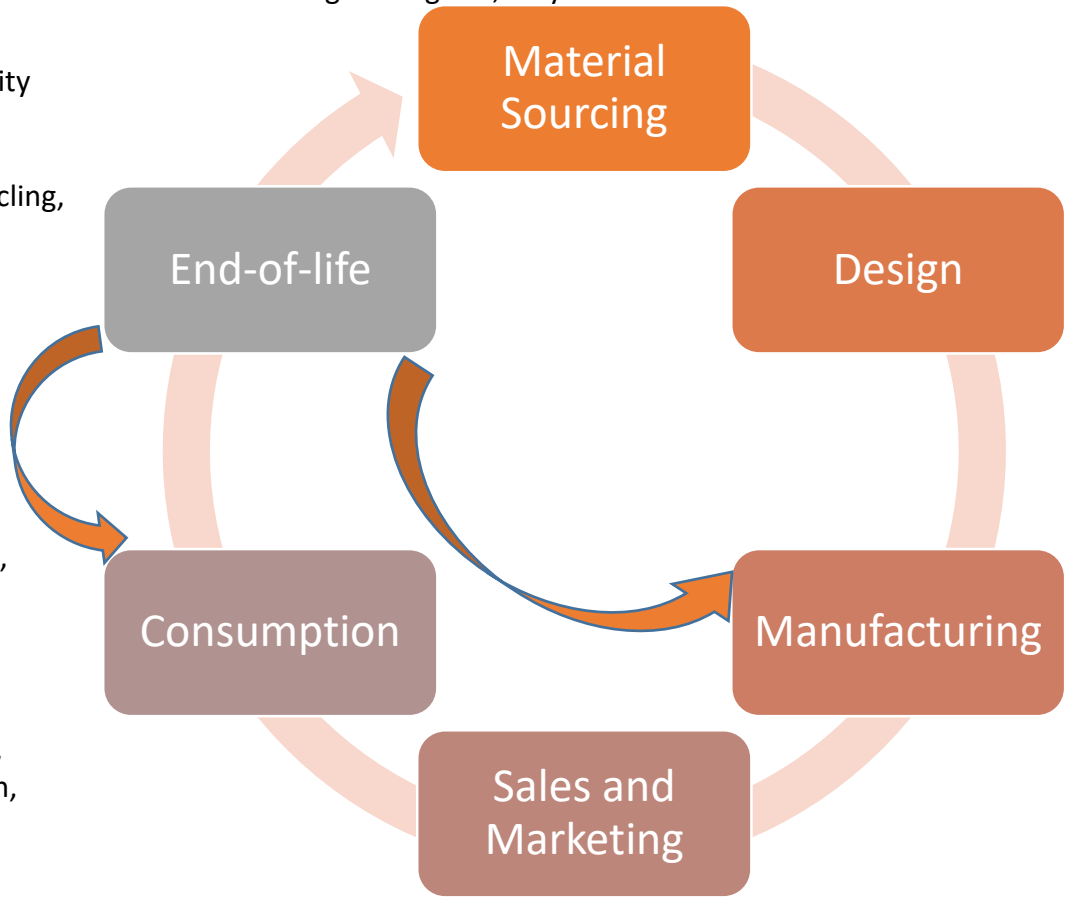


Source: EEA (2019): https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/textiles-in-europes-circular-economy/textiles-in-europe-s-circular-economy

Policy & Industry Solutions

Policy Level:
Primary Material Tax, Recycled Content Standard, Sustainable Material Standard, Due Diligence, CSRD, EPR with modulated fees, support for R&D

Industry Level:
Usage of organic, recycled or innovative material



Policy Level:
Extended Producer Responsibility

Industry Level:
Take-Back Schemes, Sorting, Recycling, Processing

Policy Level:
Legislation for ecodesign of sustainable products, Recycled Content Standard

Industry Level:
Design for Durability, Disassembly

Policy Level:
Legislation against planned obsolesce, minimum durability criteria, product repairability

Industry Level:
Repair Services, Subscription Models, Access over Ownership, Resell, Refresh, Upcycling

Policy Level:
Sustainable Textile Strategy EU, Product Taxes on hard-to-recycle products, Green Public Procurement with recycled content criteria (secondary producers

Industry Level:
Apply sustainable strategies (water & energy saving, etc. in the production phase)

Policy Level:
Digital Product Passport, Consumer Education, Rights and Protection

Industry Level:
Transparency, Awareness Raising on Website, Traceability

Material and product standards

Support for policy making

- Offer guidance and best practices, setting benchmarks that align with broader policy objectives
- Drive market transformation by incentivizing companies to adhere; as more businesses adopt these to remain competitive, it indirectly supports policy goals.
- Often have global reach, providing a common language and set of criteria transcending national borders.

Difference to traditional policies

- Unlike legally binding policies they are voluntary. Companies choose to comply as a means of differentiations, meetings customer demands, etc.
- Often developed in collaboration with industry stakeholders, leveraging their expertise and insights.



- Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
- Cradle to Cradle Certified
- OEKO-TEX Standard 100
- Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)
- Cotton Made in Africa
- Fairtrade Certified Cotton
- Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)
- Global Recycled Standard (GRS)
- Sustainable Apparel Coalition - SAC SANE Standard
- EU Eco-Label
- Bluesign
- OceanSafe Certified

Global Organic Textile Standard

Goal:

The primary objective of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is to establish guidelines that ensure the organic integrity of textiles, encompassing the entire journey from raw material harvesting to environmentally and ethically sound manufacturing, concluding with reliable labeling for consumers.

Requirements:

To earn GOTS certification, textile items must contain a minimum of 70% organic fibers. Additionally, all chemical inputs, including dyes and additives, must meet specific environmental and toxicological criteria. Accessory choices are restricted to align with ecological considerations. Moreover, any wet-processing facility involved is required to have an efficient waste water treatment plant, and all processors must uphold minimum social standards.

Source: GOTS (n.d.): https://global-standard.org/de/der-standard

Cradle to Cradle Certified

Goal:

"Cradle to Cradle Certified™ is a rigorous sustainability standard that evaluates products and materials based on their positive impact on people and the planet. It assesses *five key categories: material health, material reutilization, renewable energy and carbon management, water stewardship, and social fairness.* This certification encourages companies to design products with circularity in mind, ensuring they are safe for human health, can be recycled into new materials, utilize renewable energy sources, conserve water, and uphold fair labor practices.

Requirements:

To receive Cradle to Cradle Certified™ recognition, products must meet stringent criteria across these categories. Companies need to demonstrate that their products are not only environmentally friendly but also safe for human health, designed for circularity, utilize renewable resources, manage their carbon footprint, conserve water, and ensure fair labor practices throughout their production lifecycle.

Source: CradleToCradle (n.d.): https://c2ccertified.org/the-standard

OEKO-TEX® Standard 100

Goal:

The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 focuses on ensuring that textile products are free from harmful substances and safe for consumer use. It encompasses strict criteria and testing parameters across various categories to guarantee product safety. Key emphasis is put of consumer safety, stringent testing and a comprehensive scope (applying to various textile products, covering materials used in clothing, home textiles, accessories, and more.)

Requirements:

To obtain OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certification, textile products must undergo comprehensive testing for a wide range of potentially harmful substances. These tests cover substances such as harmful chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals, and other toxic compounds that could pose risks to human health. The standard sets limits and thresholds for these substances, ensuring that certified products meet stringent safety criteria.

Source: OekoTex (n.d.): https://www.oeko-tex.com/de/unsere-standards/oeko-tex-standard-100

Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) and Global Recycled Standard (GRS)

- The Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) and Global Recycled Standard (GRS) set the criteria for third-party certification of recycled materials and chain of custody. The GRS includes a higher (50%) minimum recycled content percentage and additional social and environmental requirements related to processing and chemical use.
- They have three main objectives: aligning definitions of “recycled” across different applications, verifying recycled content in products and giving brands and consumers a means to make informed buying decisions.
- Materials are verified to meet the ISO definition of “recycled”. Both pre-consumer and post-consumer material is accepted.
- The RCS and GRS are managed with the input of producers, suppliers, brands, and retailers from all parts of the globe.

Source: TextileExchange (n.d.): https://textileexchange.org/recycled-claim-global-recycled-standard/

Wrap up – Effectiveness of different standards

Name of instrument	Coverage of material efficiency aspects			
	Durability	Reusability	Repairability	Recyclability
EU Ecolabel	✓	✗	✗	✗
Nordic Swan	✓	✗	✗	✗
Textile Exchange – Global Recycled Standard	✗	✗	✗	✗
Textile Exchange – Recycling Claims Standard	✗	✗	✗	✗
Blue Angel	✓	✗	✗	✗
WRAP Sustainable Clothing Action Plan – Design for Longevity	✓	✓	✓	✓
WRAP – Clothing Longevity Protocol	✓	✗	✗	✗

Source: ecos (2021): https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/ecos-report-how-ecodesign-can-make-our-textiles-circular.pdf

Wrap up – Effectiveness of different standards

Name of instrument	Coverage of material efficiency aspects			
	Durability	Reusability	Repairability	Recyclability
Nordic Council of Ministers – Potential Ecodesign Requirements for Textile and Furniture	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interreg North-West Europe Fibersort – Policy recommendations towards a zero waste textiles industry	✓	✓	✗	✓
Global Organic Textile Standard v6.0	✗	✗	✗	✓
JRC – Environmental improvement potential of textiles	✗	✗	✗	✓
Ellen MacArthur Foundation – A new textiles economy: Redesigning fashion's future	✓	✓	✗	✓
Cradle-to-Cradle	✗	✗	✗	✓
OEKO-TEX Made in Green	✗	✗	✗	✗
Green Button	✗	✗	✗	✗
The Jeans Redesign Guidelines	✓	✗	✗	✓

Source: ecos (2021): https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/ecos-report-how-ecodesign-can-make-our-textiles-circular.pdf

Module 03 – 3.3 Best Practice Policy Examples



Brazil: Minimum Durability Criteria -
The legislation establishes the National Policy for Natural Resource Conservation and stipulates that all products sold in Brazil must feature a "Durability Seal" prominently displayed in an easily readable format, disclosing the anticipated lifespan of the product under regular usage conditions



Argentina: Product Repairability -
The law mandates that producers, importers, and vendors of long-lasting consumer products must guarantee the provision of sufficient technical support and a steady availability of components and replacement parts.



France: EPR, Repair Incentives -
France introduced its initial legal structure for handling textile waste through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy in 2007 (reference Article L-541-10-3 of the Code de l'Environnement, effective from January 1, 2007). This policy's objective is to assign responsibility to textile manufacturers for the collection and recycling of discarded clothing, linens, and shoes at their end of use



The Netherlands: EPR -
The introduction of EPR for textiles in the Netherlands began on July 1, 2023, impacting manufacturers, local and foreign retailers selling textiles to Dutch consumers, and importers supplying textiles to other businesses in the Netherlands—all required to register with a legally recognized EPR system and provide specified information, while also obligated to offer collection containers for customers to deposit used textiles.

Module 03 – 3.3 Best Practice Policy Examples



Sweden: Tax break for repair services -
Sweden's tax breaks on repairs for various items aim to curb its throwaway consumer culture, reducing VAT on clothes and bikes from 25% to 12%, allowing income tax reclamation on repair labor for white goods, with hopes of altering consumer behavior to align with environmental goals



USA – Care Labelling Rule -
The Care Labeling Rule obliges manufacturers and importers of textile clothing and select piece goods to attach care instructions; exemptions include certain apparel items like shoes, gloves, and hats, while specific guidelines ensure complete care instructions or warnings to prevent substantial harm to the product, requiring a reasonable basis for the provided instructions.



Germany: The Textile Labelling Act -
The textile labelling act mandates labeling for textiles sold or imported into Germany, specifying their composition based on weight fractions of textile raw materials, ensuring consumer protection and requiring disclosure in commercial materials.



South Africa: Consumer Protection Act -
The article 57 of this Act requires that a service provider must warrant every new or reconditioned part installed during any repair or maintenance work, and the labour required to install it, for a period of three months after the date of installation or such longer period as the supplier may specify in writing.



EPR Policy in France for Textiles

- EPR has been a legal requirement since 2007 for clothing, linen and footwear items.
- It requires producers to contribute to the collection, sorting and recovery costs of used textile items.
- Re-Fashion is a take-back scheme operator who is the acting PRO (Producer Responsibility Organization)
- With contributions paid by producers, they ensure the waste management and prevention costs.
- All producers concerned by the EPR must register with an administrative authority. This registration guarantees a membership to a take-back scheme operator, or the producer can instead implement an individual waste management system.
- The eco-fee modulation is the first driver for progress in order to promote high environmental value products.
- The fees for producers vary between 10 Cents and 4.50€ with an average of 0.5€ per item. Those who design or import goods in an ecological way will benefit from a bonus in regards to the financial contribution.

Sources:
Lewe (2023): Extended Producer Responsibility in the textiles industry – Finix (aalto.fi)
Nazena (2022): Extended Producer Responsibility: EPR for textiles (nazena.com)



EPR Policy in France for Textiles

- 250,000 tonnes of textile waste were collected, out of the 648,000 tonnes of textile products placed on the market, with a collection rate of 38%.
- Of the total amount of waste recovered, 58% was reused, 33.5% recycled, 8% used for energy recovery and only the remaining 0.5% went to incineration.
- France therefore has an average of 3.7kg of fabric recovered per inhabitant.



Sources:
Lewe (2023): Extended Producer Responsibility in the textiles industry – Finix (aalto.fi)
Nazena (2022): Extended Producer Responsibility: EPR for textiles (nazena.com)



The Netherlands´ EPR for Textiles

- **Background:**
  - In the Netherlands, households discarded 305 kilotons of textiles in 2018, with only 44.6% collected separately. This increase in waste is attributed to rising production and consumption
  - Circular Textile 2020-2025 programs announced the introduction of an extended producer responsibility scheme for textiles.
  - Previous attempts via subsidies or voluntary agreements for EPR didn't significantly increase separate collection, hence the necessity for this Decree.
- **Specific contents of the decree:**
  - **Producers:** The party introducing a textile product into the Dutch market professionally is considered the producer, including importers
  - **Textile scope**: Initially covers newly manufactured clothing and household textiles with a potential extension to other textile products.
  - **Obligations:** Producers must annually report the quantity of textiles placed on the Dutch market for sale and use, excluding goods intended solely for transit.

Sources:
Government of the Netherlands (2023): https://www.government.nl/documents/decrees/2023/04/14/decree-rules-extended-producer-responsibility-for-textile-products



The Netherlands´ EPR for Textiles

- **Targets for 2025**
  - 50% of textiles placed on the market prepared for re-use or recycled.
  - 20% prepared for re-use, with the rest through recycling or re-use.
  - 10% intended for re-use in the Netherlands.
  - 25% of recycled material must be fiber-to-fiber.
- **Targets for 2030:**
  - 75% of textiles prepared for re-use or recycled.
  - At least one-third prepared for re-use, rest via recycling or re-use.
  - 15% intended for re-use in the Netherlands.
  - 33% of recycled material must be fiber-to-fiber.

- ❖ Combined targets offer flexibility for producers to focus on recycling or re-use, maintaining minimum percentages for each
- ❖ Emphasis on high-quality fiber-to-fiber recycling.
- ❖ Targets based on an independent study report from the Rebel Group, indicating achievable and realistic goals for the textile industry.

Sources:
Government of the Netherlands (2023): https://www.government.nl/documents/decrees/2023/04/14/decree-rules-extended-producer-responsibility-for-textile-products

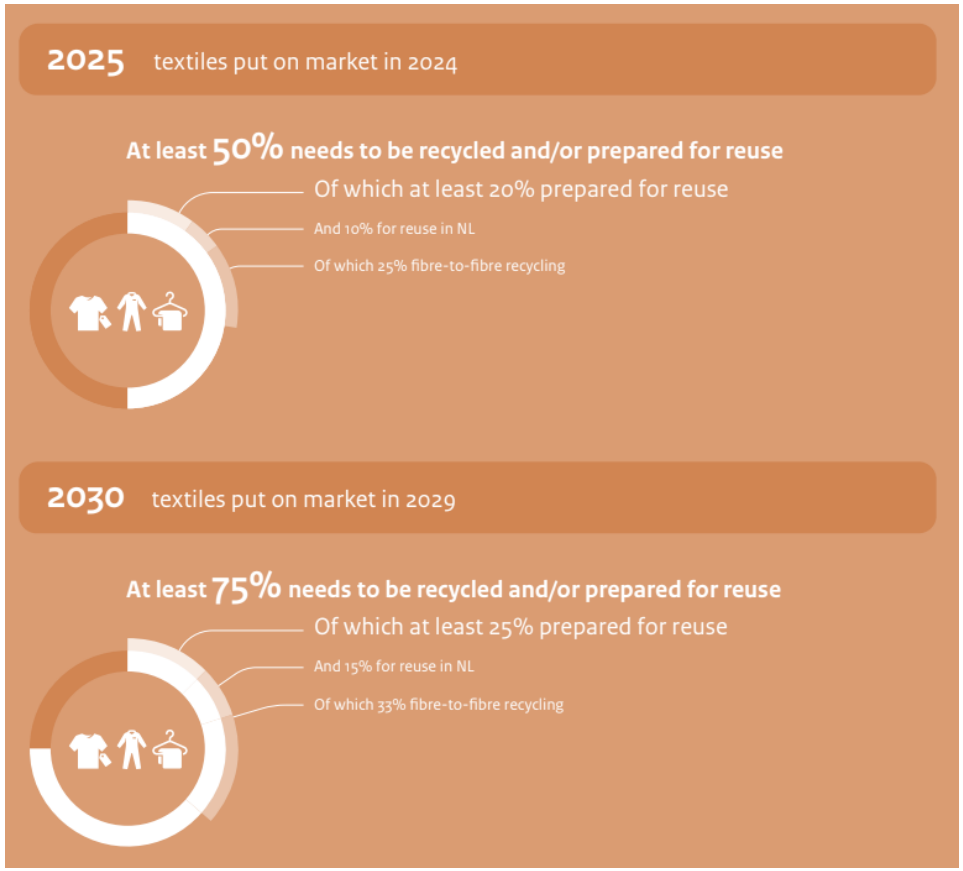
The Netherlands´ EPR for Textiles – Wrap-up

Which textiles are covered under the EPR scheme?



The EPR does not apply to parties that sell second hand clothing

What are the goals/requirements?



Source: Government of the Netherlands (2023): https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/05/01/infographic-extended-producer-responsibility-for-textiles

Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC)

The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) is a global, non-profit alliance of 300 leading apparel, footwear, and textile brands, retailers, manufacturers, sourcing agents, service providers, trade associations, NGOs and academic institutions.

SAC has developed the Higg Index in collaboration with their members, to create a global approach for effectively measuring and evaluating the social and environmental impacts of value chains and products.



Product Tools

Purpose: To understand the environmental impacts of different production choices when designing a product



Facility Tools

Purpose: To identify opportunities for continuous sustainability improvement in manufacturing facilities



Brand & Retail Tools

Purpose: To identify opportunities for continuous sustainability improvement in company operations

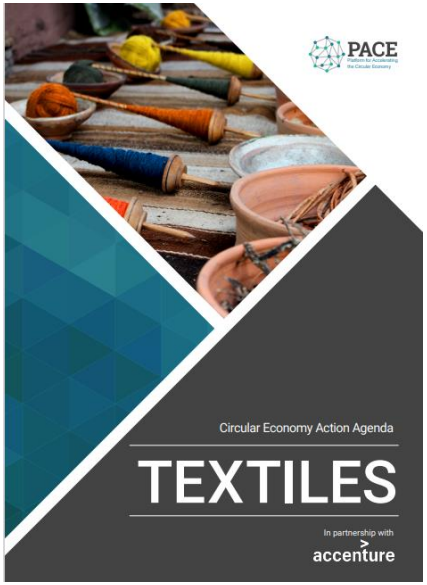
SAC tools support resource efficiency and circularity across the value chain, particularly through the product tools which promote eco-design.

Sources:
SAC (n.d.): https://apparelcoalition.org/tools-programs/higg-index-tools/;
Worldly: https://worldly.io/resources/new-sustainability-tool-helps-brands-evaluate-total-environmental-impact-of-products-and-pursue-circularity-goals/

Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE) / Textiles Program

PACE is a public-private collaboration platform made up of global changemakers and their organizations working together to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. PACE was launched by the World Economic Forum and is a delivery platform hosted by the World Resources Institute.

PACE's Textiles Program builds collaborative actions guided by the **Action Agenda** and informed by the PACE community. It focuses on transforming the textiles industry to a circular economy by keeping textiles in use for longer, making them recyclable, and using safe, recycled, or renewable inputs for textiles



1. Incentivize and Support Design for Longevity and Recyclability

3. Encourage the Market to Use Less Clothing, and for Longer

4. Guide and Support New Business Models for Environmental, Financial, and Social Triple-Win

Source (n.d.): PACE: https://pacecircular.org/textiles-action-network

Global Fashion Agenda

Global Fashion Agenda is a non-profit organization that fosters industry collaboration on sustainability in fashion to accelerate impact. With the vision of a net positive fashion industry, it drives action by mobilizing, inspiring, influencing and educating all stakeholders.

Circular Fashion Partnership

The Circular Fashion Partnership is a cross-sectoral initiative to support the development of effective circular fashion systems in textile, garment and footwear manufacturing regions, by capturing and recycling post-industrial fashion waste.



It aims to accelerate textile-to-textile recycling to reintroduce ‘waste’ materials back into fashion products. Currently active in Bangladesh and Cambodia, the partnership demonstrates shared responsibility by facilitating circular commercial collaborations between manufacturers, recyclers and fashion brands.

Brands, manufacturers, collectors, sorters and textile recyclers are eligible to participate in the Circular Fashion Partnership when they are committed to demonstrating shared responsibility for the valorization of post-industrial textile waste.

Source: GFA (n.d.): https://globalfashionagenda.org/

Organic Cotton Accelerator

Organic Cotton Accelerator is a multi-stakeholder organization advancing farmer prosperity whilst creating a transparent, resilient, and responsible organic cotton supply chain.



Since its establishment in 2016, with its founding partners Laudes Foundation, H&M, Kering, Eileen Fisher, Textile Exchange, Tchibo, Inditex, and C&A, OCA has committed to convening the sector around a common agenda and to act as a catalyst for change.

OCA has made a commitment to bring integrity, supply security and measurable social and environmental impact to organic cotton. OCA programs deliver the key solutions required for the organic cotton sector to flourish. OCA Platform facilitates the collaboration needed to create meaningful impact throughout the value chain.

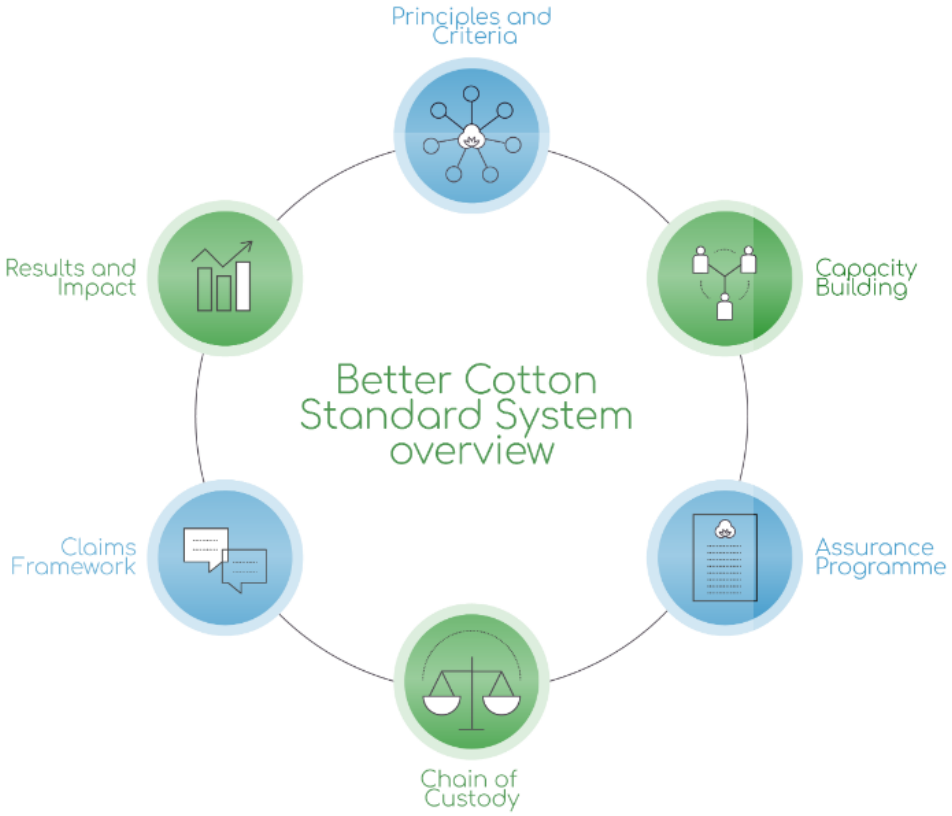
Three focus commitments:

- Convening the sector around a common agenda
- Improving farmer profitability and prosperity
- Enhancing the integrity of the organic cotton sector

Source: OCA (n.d.): https://organiccottonaccelerator.org/

Better Cotton Initiative

Better Cotton is a sustainability initiative for cotton. Their mission is to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while protecting and restoring the environment.



Along with the extensive network of partners and members, BCI is making cotton farming a more climate-resilient, environmentally friendly and responsible business. Already nearly a quarter of the world's cotton is produced under the Better Cotton Standard.

BCI has a network of almost 70 partners working with farmers on-the-ground. They work with donors, civil society organizations and governments and other sustainable cotton initiatives too.

They have a 10-year strategy mapped out to deliver real, measurable change, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Source: BCI (n.d.): https://bettercotton.org/

Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) Program

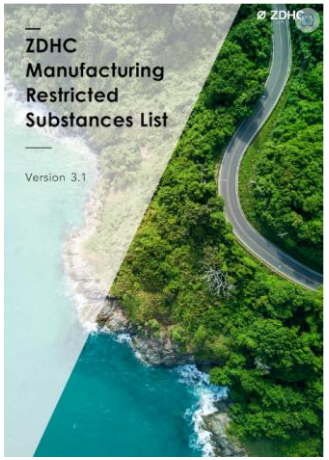
ZDHC is a multi-stakeholder organization comprising over 320 signatories from across the industry including Brands, Suppliers, Solution Providers and Chemical Suppliers.

The Roadmap to Zero Program, by ZDHC, leads the fashion industry to eliminate harmful chemicals from its global supply chain by building the foundation for more sustainable manufacturing.

Input

Safer chemicals

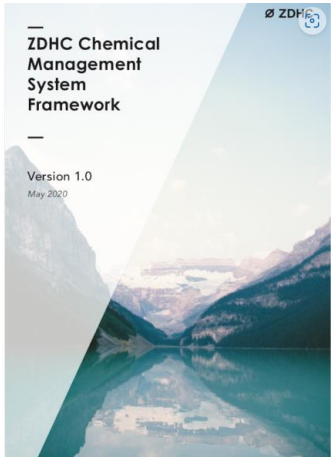
A good start transforms the end result.



Process

Smarter Processes

The positive impact of doing things right



Output

Better Outputs

Safer and cleaner - for producers, people and planet



The Roadmap to Zero Program is organized into three focus areas which are interlinked to improve chemical management. Within each of the focus areas, it is our priority to develop and maintain the ZDHC Guidelines, Platforms and Solutions to enable and accelerate the implementation of the program.

Sources:
UN Global Compact (n.d.): https://ceowatermandate.org/resources/zero-discharge-of-hazardous-chemicals-zdhc-programme-2018/
ZDHC Foundation (n.d.): https://www.roadmaptozero.com/

Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action

UN Climate Change has initiated a climate action work program, convening fashion stakeholders to develop a coherent, unified position on climate. The work program aims to connect the diverse stakeholders in the fashion industry, including raw material producers, textile producers, apparel manufacturers and brands, to identify new areas for action and to scale up existing initiatives that connect the value chain.

The Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action goes beyond previous industry-wide commitments. Companies should pursue Science Based Targets or 50% absolute reductions and commit to decarbonization no later than 2050. The Charter provides a plan pointing to key areas of focus in commitments and requires accountability through public reporting and preparation of reduction pathway plans to be submitted to UN Climate Change.

The Charter's primary mission is to drive the fashion industry to net-zero GHG emissions no later than 2050. In addition, signatories commit to key principles on climate action that go beyond **industry-wide commitments**.

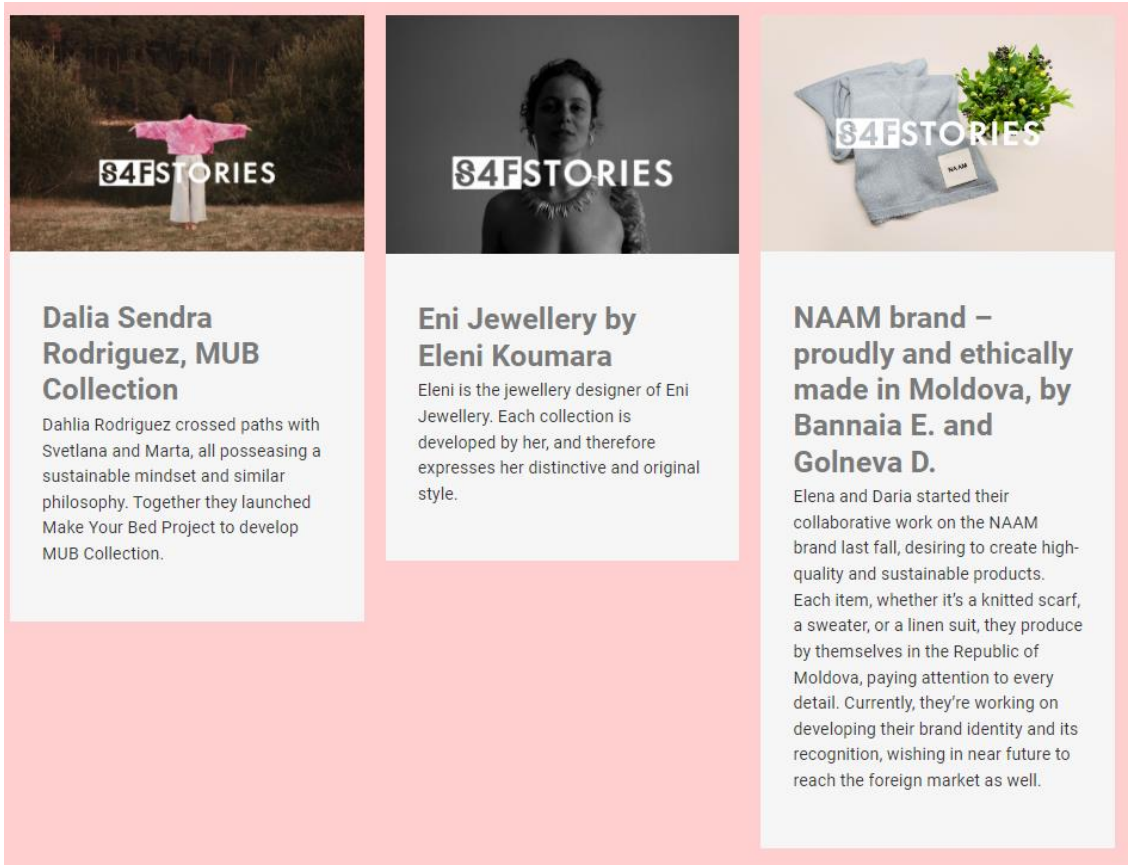
The commitments also include supporting the movement towards circular business models and acknowledging the positive impact this will have towards reducing GHG emissions within the fashion sector.



Sources:
UNFCCC (n.d.): https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement-for-climate-action/fashion-charter?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIitnos-eGgwMVLYdQBh2JoARoEAAYASAAEgLQUvD_BwE
UNFCCC (2020): https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20_REP_UN%20FIC%20Playbook_V7.pdf

S4Fashion

"S4Fashion" is dedicated to empowering SMEs in the fashion industry to adopt sustainable and circular practices. Its goal is to showcase and enhance the most effective and current methods for a more environmentally friendly fashion sector. Chosen partnerships stand to receive direct funding of up to EUR 15,000 for their innovative projects, accompanied by additional business support services including workshops, mentorship, networking events, and investment forums. The project is backed by an international consortium consisting of the European Creative Hubs Network, Envolve Entrepreneurship, DataScouts, Istituto Europeo di Design, and ZIPHOUSE.



Source: S4F (n.d.): https://s4fashion.eu/

Circular InnoBooster

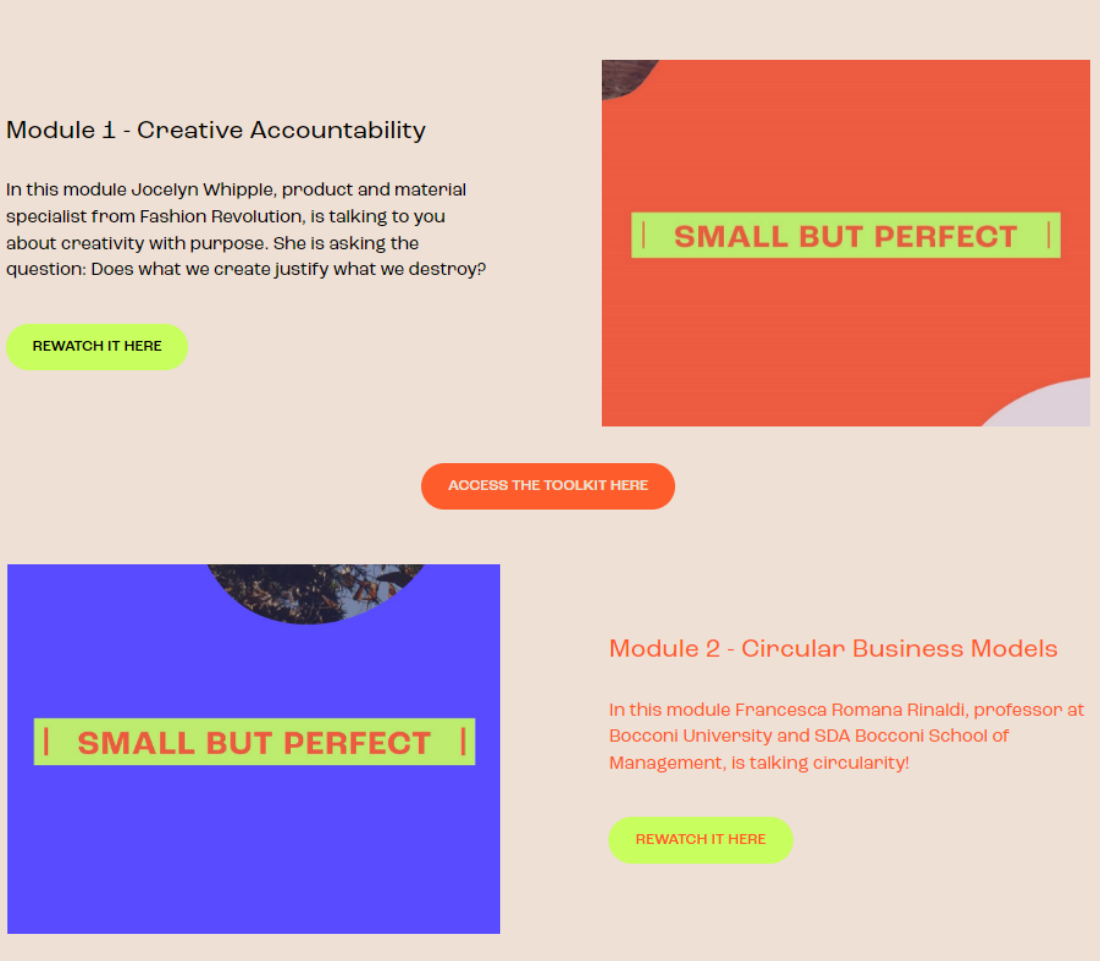
CircularInnoBooster Fashion and Textile (F&T) is a European Union-funded project under the COSME Programme. Its centerpiece is the innovative Business Support Scheme known as CirCoAX. Over a 2-year period and with a budget of €1,128,000, mostly financed by the European Commission, it aims to revolutionize the fashion and textile industry, steering companies towards sustainability, circularity, and regeneration. Led by the European Institute of Design (IED) in collaboration with Texfor, Circulab, Finnova, and The Circular Project with HumanNation, the project adopts a holistic approach to the circular economy, focusing on environmental, social, and economic aspects.

PARTNERS

Source: Circular InnoBooster (n.d.): https://circoax.eu/

Small but perfect

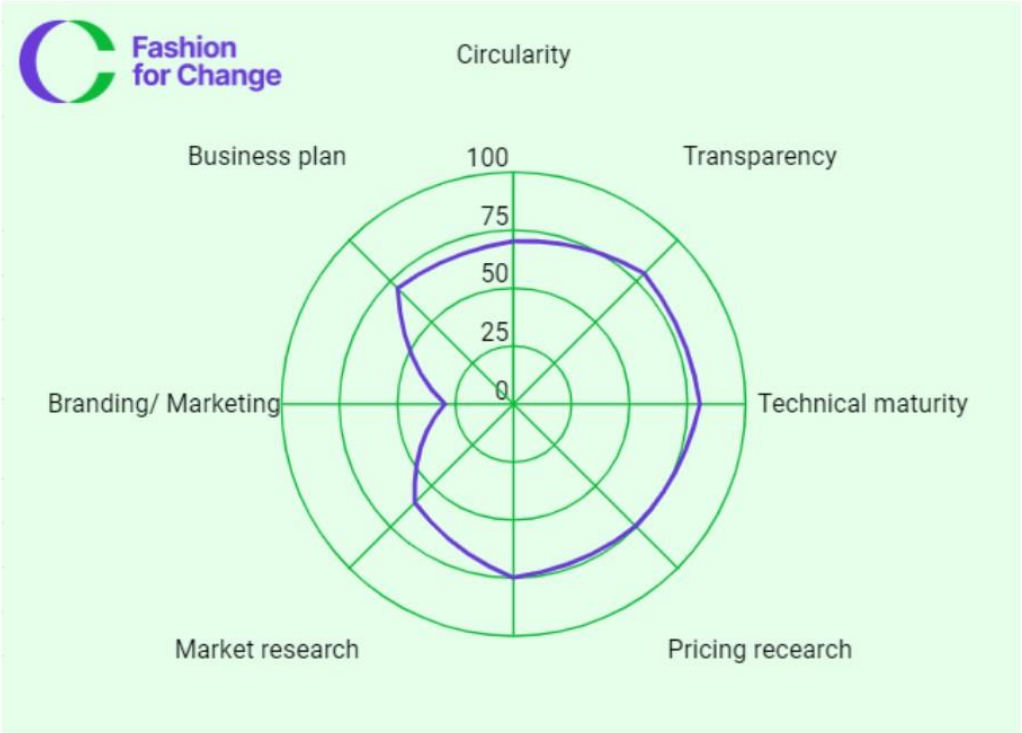
The project "Small but Perfect" operates on the premise that sustainable changes must stem from systemic shifts. It aims to accelerate change within fashion support organizations, fashion councils, industry bodies, and policymaking bodies by integrating circularity, social, and environmental sustainability into their initiatives. Over 30 months, it will build a network among SMEs transitioning towards sustainability and their supporting organizations, fostering knowledge exchange for systemic change. Led by the Athens University of Economics and Business, partnered with organizations like the World Fair Trade Organisation, Bocconi University, and Fashion Revolution, they've opened their call for proposals until October 3, 2021



Source: Small But Perfect (n.d.): https://www.small-but-perfect.com/resources

Fashion for Change

Fashion For Change, a 3-year initiative funded by COSME, the EU's programme for SME competitiveness, aims to boost the competitiveness and sustainability of European fashion SMEs, designers, and startups. It focuses on two key elements: a Knowledge Hub fostering knowledge exchange among sustainable fashion entities, and an Acceleration Programme offering technical and financial support to transition towards circular business models. The project aims to create valuable resources including a map of EU fashion actors, analyses of industry challenges and solutions, methodologies for design hackathons and growth programs, a dissemination plan, policy recommendations, and a management plan. These resources are available on their website, offering insights and tools for stakeholders in the fashion industry.



Source: Fashion for Change (n.d.): https://www.fashionforchange.eu/