

SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY IN THE TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN

AUGUST 2022 - ISSUE NUMBER 27

Dear All,

We hope you are all doing well and could enjoy a nice and relaxing break.

As things are getting busy again, we are excited to share with you a new round of updates and news from the world of sustainable and circular textiles. Many interesting events and activities are taking place until the end of the year, so we hope that this newsletter can help you keep track.

As always, thank you for keeping us updated and we look forward to continuing to share your resources here and on [our website](#).

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and look forward to continuing to keep in touch!

Initiatives & Projects



Circular Textiles Fund

Scottish textile businesses are now able to apply for support from the launch of the Circular Textiles Fund.

Zero Waste Scotland and the **Scottish Government** have launched a new sustainability fund to help reduce the environmental impact of textiles. Zero Waste Scotland is calling on all potential applicants to show potential circular business models that could reduce demand for new textiles, such as clothing and textile rental, reuse, and repair services, sustainable manufacturing processes, or maximising the amount of textile waste that is captured and recycled. Applications to the **Circular Textiles fund** can be from individual businesses or represent a collaboration between firms as long as they focus on the following five key areas: accelerating a circular transition in Scotland; delivering economic and inclusive growth, reducing waste; reducing carbon impact; and innovating. You can find more information on how to apply through this [link](#).



INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

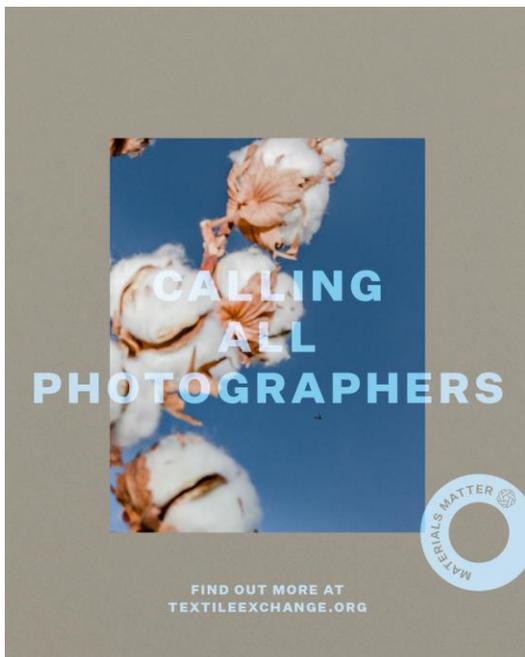
Sustainable Apparel Barometer 2021

Practical analysis of key issues and innovation in apparel supply chains

September 2021



Each year the **Sustainable Apparel Barometer**, developed by the **Innovation Forum**, focuses on specific aspects of apparel production. This year, it looks in-depth into the challenges and opportunities in viscose production, how transparency in the cotton sector is evolving and what needs to be done to drive greater social compliance within apparel supply chains. You can access the full findings [here](#). Also, you can find the complete recording of the panel discussion on the key findings of the report through this [link](#).



Textile Exchange in partnership with Magnum Photos is launching a competition for early career photographers to rebuild the visual narrative between textiles and people, place, culture, and nature. The theme of the competition is **Materials Matter** and winners will be selected by a jury including Claire Bergkamp (COO, Textile Exchange), Sonia Jeunet (Education Director, Magnum), Chiara Bardelli Nonino (Photography Director, Vogue Italia), Myriam Boulos, and Enri Canaj (Magnum photographers). See the full brief and submit entries [here](#).



Check out the **Circular Toolbox**, a step-by-step guide for apparel brands looking to explore resale and rental. It was created and launched by the **Switching Gear** project, led by Circle Economy, that aimed to accelerate re-commerce and rental business models and contribute to the apparel industry shift towards circular consumption models. The project guided four apparel brands on a circular innovation process to help them design and launch rental and recommerce business model pilots by 2021. You can learn more about the toolbox and the project [here](#).

Upcoming events



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is organizing a Fashion Show in partnership with Kent State University and the International Fashion Academy – IFA Paris, on the margins of New York Fashion Week. The show will take place on **Friday, 9 September 2022, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at NeueHouse Madison Square** on 110 East 25th Street, New York, NY 10010. The show will feature the international premiere of the first collection by [“No Nation Fashion”](#), a brand born in Bosnia and Herzegovina and created by skilled migrants hosted in temporary reception centres and Bosnian fashion designers. “No Nation Fashion” is an IOM project that offers migrants opportunities for recreation, upskilling and integration in host communities. Please confirm your attendance by 2 September 2022 to Margherita Vismara (mvismara@iom.int).



The Consumer Information Programme of the One Planet Network is organising [a global multi-stakeholder conference](#) to discuss best business and policy practices for providing product sustainability information to advance more sustainable consumption. The session for the fashion sector on the role of product sustainability information to engage consumers and businesses on product lifetime extension will take place on **September 16th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. CEST** and will address business and

consumers' experience of product lifetime extension in the fashion sector and aims to discuss the role of providing product information on environmental and social impact to enable more conscious choices. To register and find more information about the event, please [visit this webpage](#).



The Microfibre Consortium (TMC) is organising a free webinar called "**10 things you need to know about microfibre pollution in the fashion and textiles industry**" on **September 20th from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. CEST**. This one-hour webinar will give an introductory overview of fibre fragmentation. It will also outline the TMC approach as well as the successes and challenges in the field. You can register [here](#).



The West Asia Future Lab for Innovation and Policy – a collaborative partnership between SEED, GO4SDGs and the West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy - is organising an event called **West Asia Future Lab for Innovation and Policy, Future Proof Solutions for Green Textile-Fashion SMEs**. This online event will take place on September 20th from 10:00 a.m.

until 2:00 p.m. KSA/GMT+3. The Lab aims at bringing together policymakers, intermediaries and SMEs to co-create and develop future-proof solutions for challenges in the textile and fashion sector. The Lab is focusing on Innovation, Non-Financial Support, Finance, Policy and the Market. The insights from the discussions will provide concrete action items on how to better support green SMEs that apply circular technologies. The practical insights of the regional labs will inform a New Green SME Action Agenda supporting the global advocacy efforts of the growing green SME community leading the way for future SME policies and frameworks. You can register [here](#).

Past Events



The **Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIC)** and the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, in partnership with the **Moroccan Association of Textile and Clothing Industries (AMITH)**, organized a meeting on June 28th in Casablanca to reflect on the future of the textile sector in Morocco. Held under the theme "Towards a sustainable and circular economy: Thinking the future of the textile sector in Morocco", this day aimed to initiate dialogue between the various actors of the sector and the authorities, and to

define the steps to take to make Morocco a leading player in the global textile industry of tomorrow. This event was also an opportunity to identify and concretize new trends in the sector with a view to developing growth and investment opportunities. You can find more information about the event [here](#).



Circularity concepts in forest-based industries



UNECE held a virtual launch event of the new UNECE/FAO publication "[Circularity concepts in forest-based industries](#)" on June 30th which highlights the key role of the forest sector in the transition of many industries toward circularity. The fashion and textile industry, which is dominated by oil-based, synthetic materials and accounts for large amounts of waste, could benefit from an uptake of such renewable and recyclable materials from sustainably managed forests. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about the sustainability opportunities and challenges of a circular value chain for cellulose fibres and other forest products.



The Ocean Decade activity called “**Ocean Flag**” was promoted by Runa Ray during the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Building on educational and training programs to encourage public participation in addressing climate change and its effects, the Ocean Flag creates awareness and facilitates the exchange of information across all sectors of society to develop meaningful responses for ocean health. The materialization of this initiative literally takes the form of an actual flag made of various pieces of clothing that would otherwise have ended up in landfill. These fabrics are then upcycled and converted into canvases upon which individuals create pledges towards ocean action. Read more about the Ocean Flag [here](#).

Publications



FASHION FOR GOOD
SORTING FOR CIRCULARITY: INDIA

WEALTH IN WASTE

**INDIA'S POTENTIAL TO BRING
TEXTILE WASTE BACK INTO
THE SUPPLY CHAIN**

JULY 2022

Fashion for Good has recently released the report “Wealth in Waste: India’s potential to bring textile waste back into the value chain”. The report was produced by a joint team composed of Fashion for Good, **Sattva Consulting**, **Reverse Resources** and **Saahas Zero Waste** and has been commissioned as part of Fashion for Good’s Sorting for Circularity; India Project. This study aims to fill data gaps that exist in the textile waste landscape in India and to help the ecosystem players to develop actions accordingly. It presents information on the extent of textile waste being generated in India and the complexity of the textile waste value chain processing it, by presenting evidence from both primary and secondary research. You can access this publication through this [link](#).

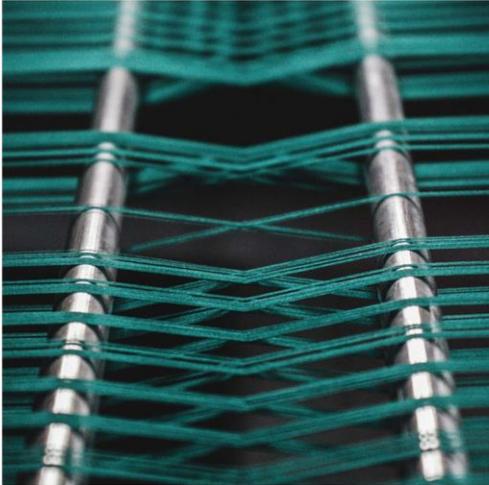


The **SwitchMed Initiative**, along with **UNIDO** and the **European Union** have recently launched a **Guide on how to recycle in the textile sector**. The guide is in **French** and it provides the reference information to ensure that all actors in the sector can clearly understand the procedures and regulations to follow for the routing of manufacturing and to encourage the development of a value chain for the recycling and recovery of textile waste. The guide deals exclusively with the management and recovery of textile waste from the pre-consumer industries. Post-consumer waste such as urban textile waste (used clothing and home textiles and home textiles, mattresses), work clothes or uniforms at the end of their life, hospital textile waste and others are not considered. You can find the complete publication [here](#).



MED TEST III

Switch to circular value chains to boost the competitiveness of Tunisia's textile and clothing industry



Implemented by:
 UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

SwitchMed is co-funded by:
 Département des Conjonctions
l'Économie
 Ministère de
l'Industrie et
du Commerce
 Département des Conjonctions
l'Économie

The **SwitchMed** initiative, launched by the **European Union**, has published “**MED Test III, Switch to a circular value chains to boost the competitiveness of Tunisia’s textile and clothing industry**”. Through the promotion of business models that can reduce the inefficient use of resources and the environmental footprint of existing economic activities, the SwitchMed programme supports long-term resilience and an economic transformation of the region to meet economic, social, and environmental challenges related to the climate change. You can find the publication through this [link](#).

In the News



Planet Tracker has recently published an article entitled “**How can virtual fashion solve the apparel industry dirty problem**”. Proponents of digital fashion, the design and production of garments which exist in a digital rather than physical format, suggest that it offers one potential answer to how to move the fashion industry to a more sustainable footing. The article

discusses what digital fashion means and why we do not expect it to reduce the need for the industry to make significant structural changes if it is to move to a sustainable footing. You can find the article [here](#).

In case you know of other people interested in receiving our news, feel free to [share this link](#) to sign up for our textiles newsletter. You can find our previous newsletter editions [here](#).