

# SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY IN THE TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN

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Dear All,

We hope you are all well, safe and healthy! As the countdown to Stockholm+50 has begun, we are sure you must be as equally busy as we are.

We are excited to share a new round of updates and news from the world of sustainable and circular textiles with you. 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!

We want to hear from you!



The **Call for Proposals for the Evaluation of Sustainable Economic Pathways for a Sustainable and Circular value chain** is still open! **UNEP** is seeking an implementing partner to support its impact assessment work on sustainable economic pathways for sustainable and circular textiles, which is implemented in the context of the **EU-funded [InTex project](#)**. The partner will carry out an evaluation of different circular interventions in the textile value chain, exploring the likely environmental, social and economic outcomes at a global level, from these different approaches. Proposals can be submitted until **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 COB**. The detailed Call for Proposals, including the application form, is available [here](#). For any inquiries, please contact Claire Thiebault at [claire.thiebault@un.org](mailto:claire.thiebault@un.org).

## Upcoming Events



The virtual **OECD webinar on integrating value chain approaches to determining Best Available Techniques (BAT) for industrial installations** will take place on **May 5<sup>th</sup> from 14:00 to 15:30 (CEST)**. According to the OECD report on [Value chain approaches to determining Best Available Techniques for industrial](#)

[installations](#), a more systematic consideration of value chain aspects in the BAT determination process can help mitigate overall environmental impacts. This virtual event aims to discuss different policies and practices that are being implemented to prevent and control industrial emissions, as well as to discuss how to incorporate value chain approaches in BAT determinations and related environmental regulatory concepts as well as the challenges faced and possible solutions. You are all invited to join the event by registering through this [link](#).

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## Initiatives & Projects



UNEP's **Environment and Trade Hub** is working to explore [the role of trade policy in supporting sustainable and circular textile value chains](#) through country case studies in Thailand and Kenya. Under UNEP's overall framework on [Sustainable and Circular Fashion](#), this work maps out trade flows in textile products and identifies environmental hotspots across the textile value chain. It also analyses gaps and opportunities to support policy makers and SMEs in using trade policy instruments and trade agreements to transition towards sustainable and circular textile value chains. We welcome you to

share information on related projects, resources or events on textiles and trade with us (contact [martina.pluviano@un.org](mailto:martina.pluviano@un.org)).

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UNEP's [Sustainable Fashion Communication webpage](#) is now live! This work aims to explore the role of communication in supporting the shift towards a sustainable and circular textile value chain, under UNEP's overall framework on [Sustainable and Circular Fashion](#). On this page, you will find regular updates on UNEP's work on sustainable fashion communication as soon as they are released. Stay tuned!

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The **Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme (SMEP)** is funding research and related interventions aimed at reducing the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the manufacturing sector in focus countries, as well as addressing some of the most pressing challenges associated with plastic pollution. The program is implemented in partnership with the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#) and funded by the [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\)](#). For more information, check out their

website through this [link](#).

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EEB Briefing April 2022

## Unpacking the Circular Economy Package

What's in the package?

- Making sustainable products the norm (SPI)
- Ecodesign laws and Work Plan 2022-2024
- Empowering Consumers
- Textiles Strategy
- Construction Products Regulation



On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 the **European Commission** released a **set of initiatives meant to speed up the transition towards a circular economy**. This is a [package](#) of European Green Deal proposals that has the potential to be a game changer, however bolder and more effective action is needed to truly make sustainable products the norm and reduce emissions and resource use, while respecting planetary boundaries and human rights. From product sustainability and eco-design, to textiles, construction materials and consumer power, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) experts have [unpacked the Circular Economy Package](#) and the challenges left ahead, providing an assessment of the different policy and legislative files.

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This project has been co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union under grant agreement No 958135



by CircularInnoBooster

*Launching a unique business support platform to boost Fashion & Textile SME transition to regenerative, circular and sustainable businesses*

**ABOUT**

- € 1.128.000€ budget
- 75% EU Financial contribution
- 2 year duration (Start date: 15/01/21)

**Partnership COORDINATOR**



**PARTNERS**








The **CircularInnoBooster Fashion and Textile (F&T)** is a project funded by the **Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME)** of the European Union. The CircularInnoBooster, is launching a unique Business Support Scheme under **CirCoAX**, the **circular collaborative and cooperative co-design accelerator**. This is a project aiming to transform companies in the fashion and textile industry into sustainable, circular, and regenerative ones. The project is composed of an international consortium led by the European Institute of Design (IED), together with Texfor, Circulab, Finnova and The Circular Project with HumanNation. You can find more information by accessing this [link](#).

Publications



A new report commissioned by the **European Environmental Bureau (EEB)** uses the concept of “**wellbeing economy**” to identify guiding principles for building a post-growth direction for the fashion sector so that it works in the interest of the common good. In this report entitled **Wellbeing Wardrobe: A wellbeing economy for the fashion and textile**, a team of researchers led by the **Institute for Sustainable Futures** at the **University of Technology Sydney**, explore the range of growth-alternative economic models, including wellbeing economics and make the case for moving fashion beyond growth towards a system where human and ecological health come first. You can access the report [here](#).



As part of the **European Green Deal** new [proposals to make sustainable products the norm in the EU, boost circular business models and empower consumers for the green transition](#), the European Commission has now launched the **EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles**. This publication sets the vision and concrete actions to ensure that by 2030 textile products sold in the EU are durable and recyclable, made as much as possible from recycled fibres, free of hazardous substances and produced in alignment with social and environmental protections. This marks the EU's commitment to continue its

engagement with other partners at global, regional and bilateral levels, in order to promote cooperation and initiatives in support of sustainable textile value chains and sustainable fashion. In the publication, the European Commission mentioned UNEP's EU-funded [Innovative Business Practices and Economic Models in the Textile Value Chain \(InTex\)](#) project as a practical example of such an engagement to tie together textile value chains globally. You can access the document [here](#).



The **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** and the **International Trade Centre (ITC)** jointly acknowledge the new corporate accountability proposal by the European Union to **foster transparent and responsible behaviour in supply chains**. The news piece focuses on the recent [proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence](#) by the European Commission, as well as the new [EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles](#). It discusses what can be expected under the new EU law and strategy and how the UNECE's "[Sustainability Pledge](#)" and ITC initiatives are key to their implementation. This is through accompanying measures that help businesses mainstream risk-based due diligence in corporate strategies; and how supporting partner countries, especially MSMEs and vulnerable groups, will be critical in the protection of human rights and the environment. Find the article [here](#).

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## On the News



The EU-funded, Innovative Business Practices and Economic Models in the Textile Value Chain (InTex) project implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is in the news! **Texfash** recently published “Stakeholder approach: Shifting business models to make them more innovative and sustainable” by **Subir Ghosh**, the executive editor and co-founder of **Texfash**. The article provides a detailed overview of the project’s objectives and the different activities it comprises. You can find the article [here](#).

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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](#).