

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



**THE CATALAN TECHNICAL
TEXTILES' CLUSTER**

ANNUAL REPORT
2019

textils.cat

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THE PRESIDENT AND CLUSTER MANAGER' WORDS



Advanced textile materials are everywhere: to protect fire-fighters, at the operating theater, in airplanes, in cars, to protect crops, to isolate buildings, to manufacture hot-air balloons, to hold loads, to protect from the sun or to filter.... they are materials in which functionality is more important than aesthetics and they are manufactured here, in Catalonia.

From AEI TÈXTILS, we want to highlight the value of a key industry, both in prosperity and especially in difficult contexts, which has kept its production in the country, contributing to the employment of a sector, the textile, in which, in recent decades, has suffered numerous production relocations and several of its companies have closed.

The cluster has been at the service of the advanced textiles' sector for more than ten years, with the main aim of contributing to the increase in the competitiveness of companies that have chosen transformation as the strategic aim to drive the development towards the industry 4.0.

In the past two years, we have significantly increased our activities thanks to both the increase in members and their growing engagement with the cluster.

The milestones achieved in 2019 have been particularly relevant and have or will benefit directly all our members of which we would like to highlight:

- Active participation in the establishment of the European Economic Interest Grouping EU-TEXTILE2030, of which we hold the secretariat position.
- The promotion of the cluster and its members in major international events, in the media and the launch of the cluster promotional video.
- The uptake of sustainability as common and transversal axis in the different strategic lines of the cluster.
- The growth of the cluster team with new complementary profiles dedicated to communication and experts in textile technology.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the members of the cluster for their engagement and active participation in the organized activities that contributes to the cluster sustained growth.

And, for those of you who are not members yet, we invite you to read through this annual report that summarizes our cluster values, last year activities and achievements. We also would like to invite you to join us in this network of companies and organizations to share, learn, propose, grow, etc.

Sergi Artigas, President Ariadna Detrell, Cluster Manager

A blue ink signature of Sergi Artigas.













A blue ink signature of Ariadna Detrell.

December 2019

TECHNICAL TEXTILES

Technical textiles are materials that respond to high technical-qualitative demands (mechanical and thermal performance, durability, etc.), giving them the ability to adapt to specific functions and to their environment, whether in traditional sectors (clothing or home textiles), or in specific markets within the technical textiles' sector.



Civil engineering 	Agriculture and fishing 	Construction and textile architecture 	Medical, hygienic and sanitary applications 
Automobiles and passengers transport 	Packaging and goods transport 	Personal protection 	Sports and leisure 
Industrial uses 	Environmental protection 	Technical textiles used at home and in public buildings 	Technical textiles for clothing 



WHAT IS AEI TÈXTILS?

AEI Tèxtils is a non-profit association, which has the aim of joining all Catalan companies and organizations related directly or indirectly to the technical textiles sector and which form a specialized productive area with competitive advantages.

The group formed by companies and organizations which support their innovative potential, set up the technical textiles cluster of the region, to which the Textile Innovative Business Grouping gives legal status.

It is not an association with new objectives, but an adaptation to the current legislation and to the philosophy and praxis of the new structures which have come up in our European environment.



MISSION

To promote innovation with the aim of improving the competitiveness of its members, as well as cooperation, complementarity and communication among themselves.



VISION

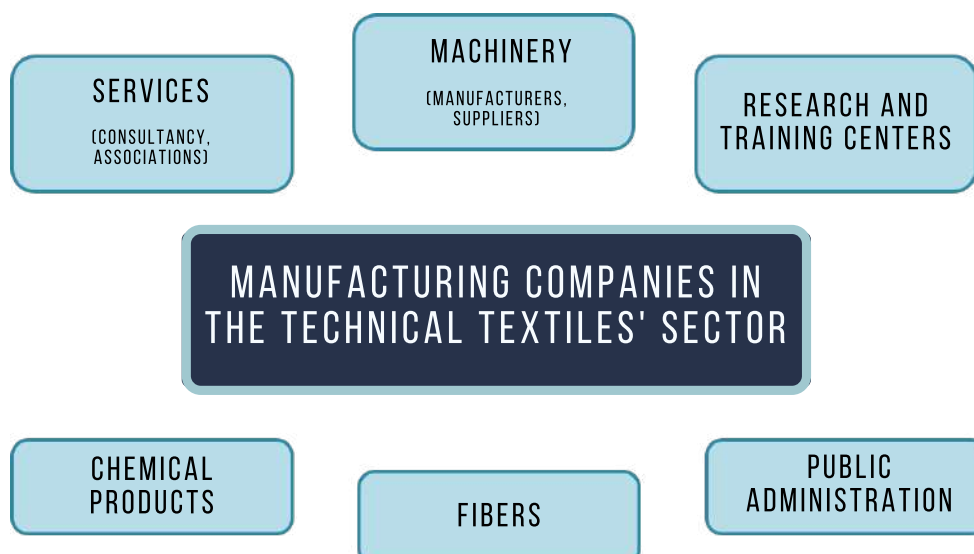
To achieve a critical mass of innovative companies and organizations of the region to facilitate the innovating practices which allow the improvement of their competitiveness and international renown.



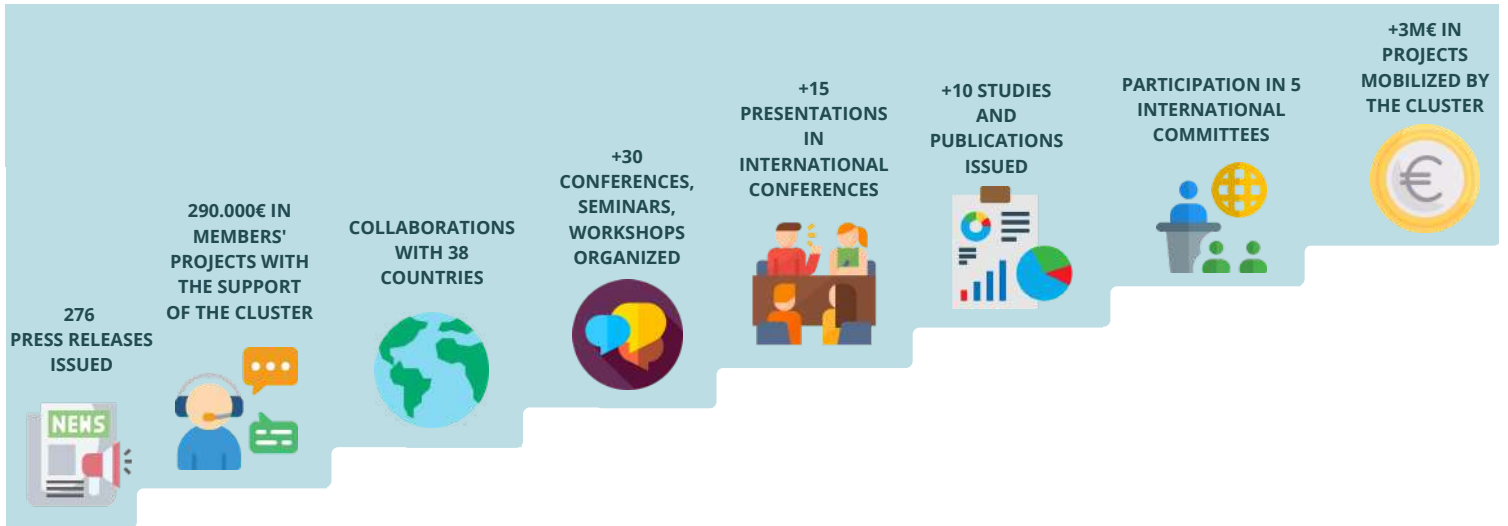
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Promote innovation in a wide sense, improving the abilities of its member companies and combining them by means of horizontal or multidisciplinary collaborations.
- Commercial worldwide presence by means of promotion and internationalization.
- Management and productivity improvement of companies to generate added value and to face up the current environment.

TECHNICAL TEXTILES' CLUSTER



AEI TÈXTILS IN NUMBERS (2015– 2019)

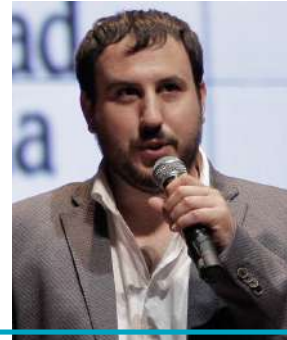


THE TEAM



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



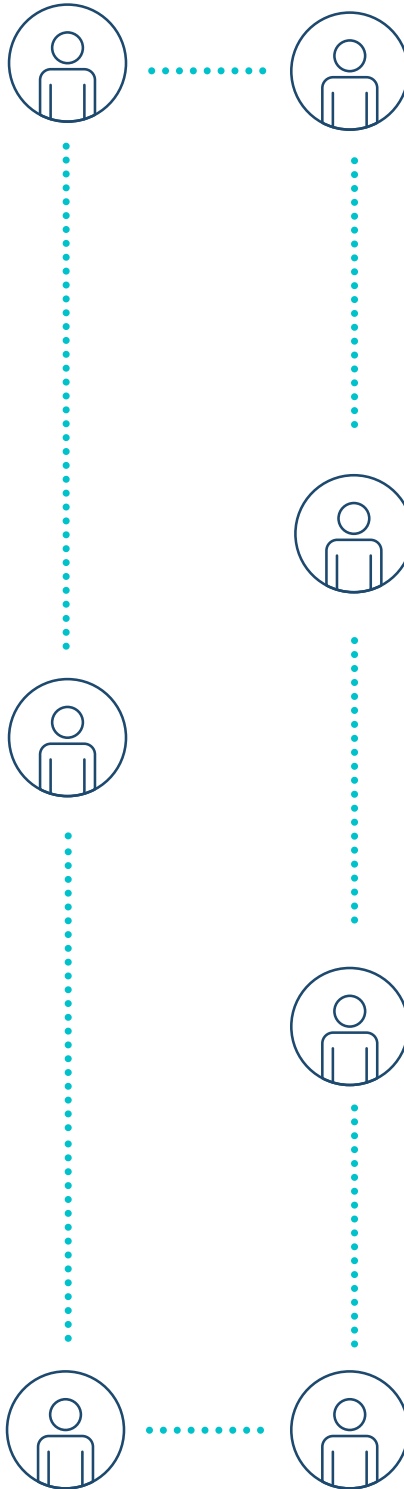
RICARD CIMA
Gremi Tèxtil de Terrassa
SECRETARY



SERGI ARTIGAS
Leitat Technological Center
PRESIDENT



PAULÍ ALUART
C.P. Aluart, S.L.
BOARD MEMBER



MARC PONSA
Polisik ,S.A.
BOARD MEMBER



RAIMON SELLARÈS
Marina Tèxtil, S.L.
BOARD MEMBER



JOAN PERA
Manufacturas Arpe, S.L.
BOARD MEMBER



JAIME CABRÉ
La Industrial Algodonera, S.A. - LIASA
BOARD MEMBER

MEMBERS

Founding, supporting and associated organizations

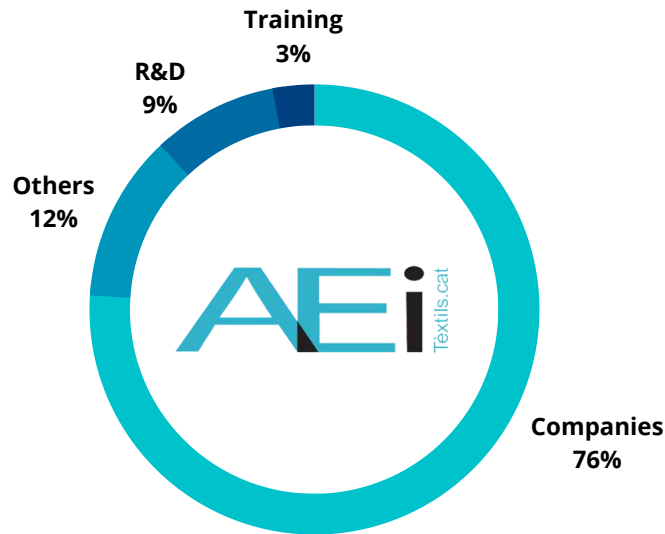


Companies

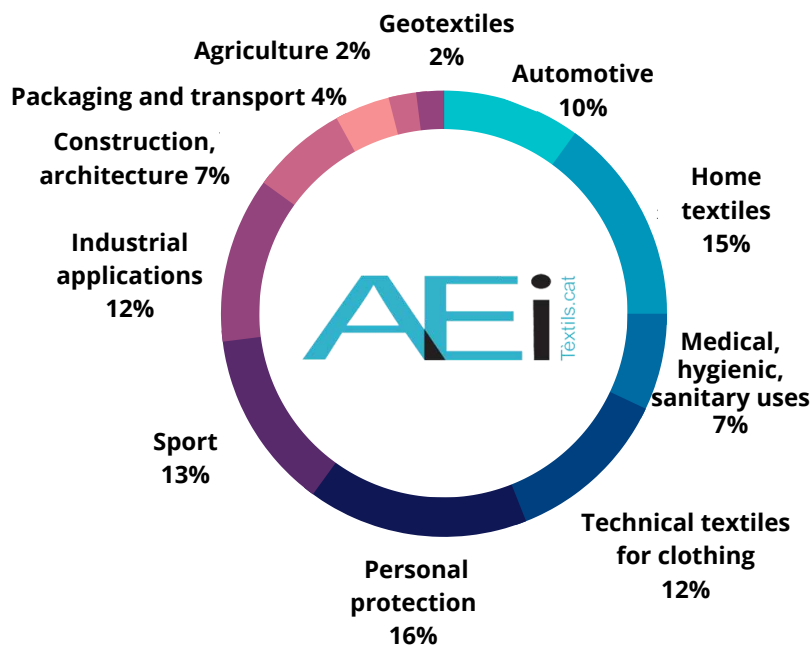


MEMBERS

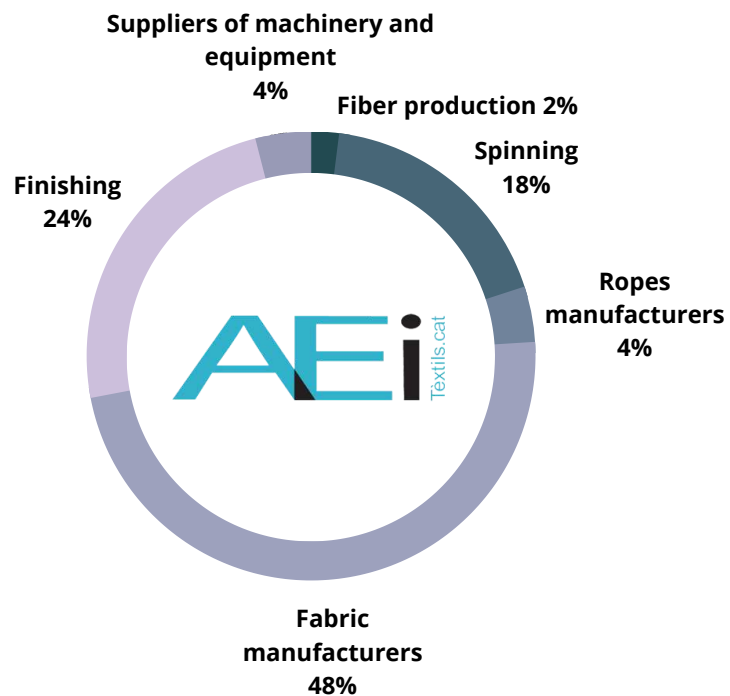
Category of the members



Application sectors



Activity of the companies



SERVICES

WHAT DO WE OFFER TO OUR MEMBERS?



Free “Open questions” service to make inquiries regarding any subject related to technical textiles.



Free technological watch service, which includes access to technical reports, studies, patent maps, calendar of events, etc. developed by AEI Tèxtils.



Free participation at technical conferences organized by AEI Tèxtils.



Free participation at regular networking meetings between members.



Support in the preparation of proposals and participation in project consortiums, especially at European level



Technical and commercial consultancy, specialized in the field of technical textiles.



Access to a monthly newsletter with sectoral news.



Direct access to European technical textiles' clusters, to search suppliers, partners, etc.



Specific training service on technical issues.

STRATEGIC LINES

R+D+I

Promoting cooperation among its members, increasing the taking on level of innovation support initiatives; promoting the participation of the Catalan technical textiles' sector in technological cooperation European projects and increasing their productivity in the territory promoting the implementation of new technologies and the development of new products and processes.



Internationalization

Improving access to international markets; improving access to knowledge through international R&D, technological and commercial partners and improving access to research and key production infrastructures in third countries.



Skills

Capacity building of current employees in the sector and improving the level of qualifications; promoting development and knowledge of career opportunities in the sector and providing unique and specific training on technology and market in the technical textiles sector.



Marketing

Promoting the exchange of best practices among local enterprises; improving the image of the sector in Catalonia; promoting its strengths and capabilities to other manufacturing sectors of the territory to increase globally business opportunities and creating dialogue between industry, scientific community and public administration.



SUMMARY 2019

PROJECTS

We have participated in the implementation of 10 projects (2 national and 8 European) together with other partners: companies, clusters, research centers, etc. We have prepared more than 15 project proposals from members and the cluster itself.



TEAM

The cluster staff has grown, to provide the team with more efficiency, ambition and management capacity in achieving the cluster's goals.

MEMBERS

We have increased the number of members, expanding the representation of the technical textiles' sector in Catalonia.

ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS

We have attended more than 20 international events of interest for our members related to advanced textile materials: exhibitions, conferences, seminars, etc. contributors of ideas, opportunities and network.

ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS

We have organized and/or co-organized 10 events with multiple formats: international conferences, seminars, workshops, networking meetings, visits, etc.



NETWORK

We have increased our network of international contacts: clusters from other sectors, companies, research centers, etc. We have actively participated in the constitution of the European Economic Interest Grouping EU-TEXTILE2030.



VISIBILITY

We have appeared in several national and international media, totalling 350 press impacts.



TRAINING

The staff of the cluster is continuously trained to keep abreast of industry trends and to meet the needs of its members.

CLUSTER MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER NETWORKS

Coordination of the European network of experts in advanced textile materials **CONTEXT**



Founding member of the European Economic Interest Grouping **EU-TEXTILE 2030**



Collaborating organization of **ITMA 2019**



Member of the scientific committee of the Intelligent Textiles and Mass Customization- **ITMC 2019** congress (Marrakech, 13 to 15 November)



Member of the Committee of the *Dornbirn Global Fibers Congress*



Adherent member **ACTE**



Adherent member of the Circular Economy Observatory of Catalonia



Chemical innovation workshop from the European Union

(Brussels, 16th January)



FOSTEX project meeting

(Terrassa, from 18th to 20th of February)



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

EU-TEXTILE2030 project follow-up meeting

(Biella, from 25th to 26th of February)



ITMA presentation

(Barcelona, 27th February)



Press conference TECHTEXTIL

(Barcelona, 1st March)



techtex^{til}

Participation at the EU-Taiwan Cluster Collaboration event

(Lyon, from 6th to 7th of March)



Participation at the EU-TEXTILE2030 mission to Israel

(Tel Aviv, from 25th to 28th of March)



Participation at the iTechStyle Summit

(Porto, from 2nd to 4th of April)



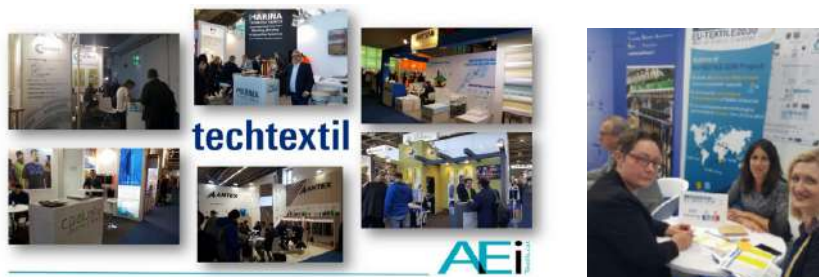
Participation at the ETP Annual Conference (Brussels, from 24th to 25th of April)



Monitoring meeting of TEXSTRA project (Milan, 8th May)



Participation at Techtexsil (Frankfurt, from 14th to 17th of May)



LIFE-FLAREX project follow-up meeting (Barcelona, from 5th to 6th of June)



Conference "Textile industry and Sustainability" (Terrassa, 7th June)



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH
Institut d'Investigació Tèxtil
i Cooperació Industrial de Terrassa

Attendance at the ITMA (Barcelona, from 20th to 26th of June)



Follow-up meeting FOSTEX project (Bucharest, from 10th to 11th of July)



FOSTEX



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Dornbirn Global Fibers Congress (Dornbirn, from 11th to 13th of September)



Training School CONTEXT

(Rethimno, from 17th to 20th of September)



context



DESTEX project kick-off meeting

(Borås, from 3rd to 4th of October)



destex



Mission to Taiwan

(Taipei, from 6th to 9th of October)



Advanced Textile Materials
EU-TEXTILE2030
World Class Cluster



International cluster accelerator program

(Frankfurt, from 14th to 17th of October)



Conference and meeting on Textile Innovation for Building and Living

(Frankfurt, from 15th to 16th of October)



context

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Workshop on technical textiles

(Bucharest, from 24th to 25th of October)



Tex Teh IX

ITMC Conference

(Marrakech, from 13th to 15th of November)



ITMC
2019
Conference & Smart Textiles Salon

Launch of the European Economic Interest Grouping

(Lyon, from 20th to 21st of November)



Advanced Textile Materials
EU-TEXTILE2030
World Class Cluster



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

Annual meeting of ACTE Spain

(Barcelona, 26th November)



2nd Conference "Textiles for healthcare and medicine"

(Terrassa, 13th December)



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH

Institut d'Investigació Tèxtil
i Cooperació Industrial de Terrassa

Follow-up meeting LIFE-FLAREX project

(Prague, from 17th to 18th of December)



Conference and workshops of the CONTEXT network

(Barcelona, from January 30th to February 1st)

context



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EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

FLAREX Workshop

(Barcelona, 20th February)



FLAREX 

ACCIÓ

 **Generalitat
de Catalunya**

Workshop on "Communication in the family business"

(Barcelona, 16th April)



Webinar on the Taiwanese market

(9th May)

Conference about Techtexsil

(Barcelona, 4th June)



General Assembly

(Terrassa, 12th June)



Follow-up meeting of EU-TEXTILE2030 project

(Barcelona, from 24th to 26th of June)



CO-FUNDED BY THE COSME PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Workshop on Industry 4.0

(Barcelona, 16th July)



Conference "Post-ITMA Trends 2019"

(Terrassa, 27th September)



Members' meeting - Visit to IES Guillem Catà

(Manresa, 23rd October)



Intercluster meeting textile-packaging: challenges and solutions

(Terrassa, 27th November)



Innovation projects

implemented by the cluster in 2019

Coordinator of the European project LIFE-FLAREX - Mitigation of environmental impact caused by Flame Retardant textile finishing chemicals, co-funded by LIFE programme (July 2017 - June 2020).

LIFE-FLAREX aims to carry out an analysis of the environmental impact of the best technologies currently available that are alternative to toxic Flame Retardants (FRs) used in textile finishing processes. The project will focus on those that are halogenated, contain antimony or are formaldehyde-releasing, and demonstrate which are the best alternatives: the less toxic and with lower environmental impact but at the same time those that will keep the required properties of the fabric.

The consortium of the project: LEITAT Tehcnological Center, the Insitute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia (both members of AEI TÈXTILS), the technological center from Belgium Centexbel and the clusters from Valencian Community, Czech Republic and Italy.



www.life-flarex.eu

Coordinator of Cost Action CONTEXT - European Network to connect research and innovation efforts on advanced Smart Textiles, co-funded by COST programme (November 2018 - October 2022).

The aim of the project is to join effort at European level to facilitate the launch of new advanced textile materials, reducing the gap between the world of research and business. This goal can only be achieved by involving all the participants in the chain in the process: universities, technology centers, industry and end users, all coordinated by one of the main tools to contribute to improving competitiveness and productivity of the different economic sectors of our European environment: clusters.

It is structured in 6 working groups; 5 of them dedicated to different areas of application of advanced textile materials: health / medicine, automotive and aeronautics, personal protection, construction and sports / wearables. The sixth group is dedicated to dissemination and communication tasks.



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union

www.context-cost.eu

Innovation projects

implemented by the cluster in 2019

Partner of the European project EU-TEXTILE2030, co-funded by COSME programme (December 2017 - November 2019). Coordinated by ATEVAL.

The aim of the project is to consolidate the World-Class Cluster of Advanced Textile Materials to develop and implement a long-term joint internationalization strategy that contributes to consolidate and strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized European companies in the sector at global level.

The project consortium consists of 7 European clusters in the advanced textile materials sector: ATEVAL and AEI TÈXTILS (Spain), TECHTERA and EURAMATERIALS (France), CLUTEX (Czech Republic), POINTEX (Italy) and SACHSEN! TEXTIL (Germany).



www.eu-textile2030.eu

Partner of the European project TEXSTRA - Textile Strategy for Innovative Higher Education, co-funded by Erasmus+ programme (September 2017 - February 2020). Coordinated by National Research Center of textiles in Romania INCOTP.

TEXSTRA aim is bringing together the main stakeholders within the textile sector to promote and contribute to the transferring research and innovation knowledge to students & trainees of the textile/clothing sector via project based learning, contributing to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of EU textile small and medium enterprises.

The project consortium consists of 10 partners from Spain, Italy, Portugal, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Greece and Romania.



www.texstra.eu

Innovation projects

implemented by the cluster in 2019

Partner of the European project FOSTEX - *Fostering Innovation in the Jordanian and Moroccan Textile Industry*, co-funded by Erasmus+ programme (January 2019- January 2022).

Coordinated by the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

The project aims to fill the gap in the area of services specialised services for the textile sector by establishing four advanced textile support centers at participating universities in Morocco and Jordan.

The aim of the project is to establish collaborations between the different European organizations and those present in Jordan and Morocco, creating a network of collaboration which benefits the textile industry of the countries represented in the consortium.

The consortium consists of 13 partners from Jordan, Morocco, Italy, Greece, Romania, and Spain.

The logo for FOSTEX, featuring the word "FOSTEX" in a stylized, outlined font with a light blue and green color scheme.

www.fostexproject.eu

Partner of the European project DESTEX - *Industrial and Creative Design in Advanced Textile Manufacturing*, co-funded by Erasmus+ programme (September 2019 - April 2022).

Coordinated by University of Borås.

It aims to introduce design into the textile manufacturing process through the participation of young students in a program focused on textile needs in design which includes the same program, an online platform to continue with academic learning, and finally, a handbook of good practices will be developed which will include: innovative techniques, the multidisciplinary skills acquired by young people and the opportunities and challenges presented by the group work between the textile sector and design.

The consortium consists of 7 partners from Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Spain and Greece.

The logo for destex, featuring a blue circle with a white 'x' inside, followed by the word "destex" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

www.destexproject.eu

Innovation projects

implemented by the cluster in 2019

Coordinator of ECODISTEX project, co-funded by the Waste Agency of Catalonia (March 2018 - June 2019). In collaboration with LEITAT Technological Center

It aims to promote the use of environmental criteria in the different stages of design, production, distribution, use and recycling of final products within the technical textile sector with the goal to reduce and mitigate the environmental impact during the whole life cycle.

Three members of AEI Tèxtils participated in the project: E. CIMA, HIDROCOLOR and HILADOS EGARFIL.



www.textils.cat/ecodistex

Collaboration with the project: FEASIBILITY STUDY OF NEW APPLICATIONS OF TEXTILE MATERIALS IN THE BUILDING SECTOR led by MODACC (March - December 2019).



Innovation projects

implemented by the cluster members with the support of the cluster in 2019



ETISILK diversification project: development of a business plan to launch a new product (August 2019 - January 2020). SME Instrument of the European Commission.



Manufacturas ARPE diversification project: development of a new disruptive business model, which integrates the management of the life cycle of towels used in gyms and other communities, produced by the company, with an approach based the circular economy to give multiple uses to the product and with an economic valorisation in all the stages of the process (February - July 2019). SME Instrument of the European Commission.



Polisilk's project to open new markets (October 2019 - March 2020). INNOWWIDE program of the European Commission.



Innovation projects

Implemented by the cluster members with the support of the cluster in 2019



E.CIMA R&D project: Project in collaboration with the German company ITP GmbH (January 2019 - December 2020). Nuclis de recerca bilateral d'ACCIÓ.

ACCIÓ



LIASA circular economy project: in collaboration with the member of the Packaging Cluster, NG Plastics: New plastic product made up from textile industry waste. It aims to introduce to the market plastic products made from recovered polypropylene pellets from the textile industry (January 2019 - March 2020). Circular Economy Promotion Projects of the Waste Agency of Catalonia.



Social networks

In order to communicate our activities and our members' activities, we have profiles in major social and professional networks.



LinkedIn



Twitter



Telegram



Youtube



Flickr

Press releases and newsletter



Press releases



Newsletters

We prepare and disseminate press releases at the main national and international media.

79 press releases issued in 2019 with more than 350 impacts.

We prepare a monthly newsletter to inform our members of the cluster activities and the main events in the sector.

12 newsletters issued in 2019.

Internal communication

We maintain permanent communication with our members, through various channels as well as face-to-face meetings.

Other activities

Participation of companies in the European projects of the cluster

Publication of the PACTEX guide

Launch of a promotional video

Tenders information service at Catalan level

Presence at the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Contribution to the revision of the BREF of the Textile Industry

Participation in 10 consortia of new European project proposals

Preparation of 4 proposals for European projects

Collaboration in the preparation of 11 project proposals from members

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