

Terrassa, October 16th 2018

AEI TÈXTILS leads the first European network of experts in the field of advanced textile materials

CONTEX – *European Network to connect research and innovation efforts on Advanced Smart Textiles* – was officially established on October 11th in Brussels.

Dr. Ariadna Detrell, Cluster Manager at AEI TÈXTILS (the technical textiles' cluster of Catalonia), led the creation of this network in 2016 along with more than 60 experts from other clusters/business associations, research centers, universities and companies from 10 European countries and Japan. Finally, the network has been established as a COST *Action* which will start working on November.

CONTEXT has been set in the framework of [COST](#) (European Cooperation in Science and Technology), the longest running European framework. COST is a unique platform where European researchers can jointly develop their ideas and initiatives across all scientific disciplines through the trans-European networking of nationally funded research.

The main objective of CONTEXT is to join efforts at European level to facilitate the market uptake of new advanced textile materials, reducing the gap between research and industry. This goal can only be achieved involving all the major stakeholders of the process: universities, technological centers, industry and end-users under the coordination from one of the main tools which contributes to the improvement of competitiveness and productivity of the different economic sectors in the European environment: the clusters.

CONTEXT is structured in 6 working groups, 5 of them focused on different applications of advanced textile materials: healthcare/medical, automotive and aeronautics, personal protection, building and living, sports and wearables. The sixth group focus is dissemination and communication.

The kick off meeting, held at COST facilities, gathered more than 40 experts representing the 27 countries that constitute the Management Committee of CONTEXT: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.



CONTEXT Management Committee members

Different group dynamics were used during the meeting to promote the active participation from all attendees in contributing with their viewpoints and experience in the topic to propose novel ideas and methodologies.



Attendees participating in one of the working sessions

After the working sessions, the meeting continued with the election of the network core group: Ariadna Detrell was elected as Chair of the Action and Bruno Mougin, from the French cluster TECHTERA, as Vice Chair.

The team is completed with the leaders of the six working groups, the responsible for two of the main activities the network will perform: training courses and short term scientific missions (STSM), the Cost Policy Supervisor and the Institutional Relations' Coordinator.

Role	Responsible	Country
Chair	Ariadna Detrell (AEI TÈXTILS)	Spain
Vice-Chair	Bruno Mougín (TECHTERA)	France
STSM Coordinator	Mònica Ardanuy (UPC)	Spain
Training Schools Coordinator	Georgios Priniotakis (University of West Attica)	Greece
Institutional Relations Coordinator	Felipe Carrasco (ATEVAL)	Spain
Cost Policy Supervisor	Daniela Zavec (TITERA)	Slovenia
WG1 – Healthcare/Medical	Yesim Oguz (IFTH)	France
WG2 - Automotive/Aeronautics	Raul Figueiro (University of Minho)	Portugal
WG3 – Personal Protection	Myriam Vanneste (CENTEXBEL)	Belgium
WG4 – Building and living	Enrico Venturini (TECNOTESSILE)	Italy
WG5 - Sport/Wearables	Vincent Nierstrasz (University of Borås)	Sweden
WG6/Science Communication Manager	Paulo Cadeia (CITEVE)	Portugal

Core group of CONTEXT



Ariadna Detrell (CONTEXT Chair) and Felipe Carrasco (CONTEXT Responsible for Institutional Relations) were the two Spanish representatives participating at the meeting

During 4 years, the different working groups will organize several activities in different countries with the aim to become a hub that combines existing knowledge and identifies common problems for the development of new textile materials, production technologies and business models.



Ariadna Detrell presented the work plan for the next 6 months

The meeting concluded after the presentation of the CONTEXT work plan for the next 6 months by Ariadna Detrell. A major activity foreseen is an international conference in Barcelona during the first quarter of 2019.

CONTEXT is a new link to contribute to the competitiveness improvement of the European textile industry, led by cluster organizations.



Ariadna Detrell (Chair) and Bruno Mougin (Vice-Chair) are both representatives of advanced textile materials' cluster organizations

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http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA17107