

Centexbel and partners launch new innovation project on circular & sustainable textiles

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Launched on September 27, the new Horizon Europe project CISUTAC will support the transition to a circular and sustainable textile sector. Next to being coordinator of the consortium of 27 partners working on the project, Centexbel will also focus on polyester fibre-to-fibre recycling.

The production and consumption of textile products continue to grow, together with their impact on the environment, due to a lack of reuse, repair and recycling of materials. Quality, durability, and recyclability are often not being set as priorities in the design and manufacturing of clothing (EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, March 2022).

CISUTAC aims to remove current bottlenecks in order to increase textile circularity in Europe. The objective is to **minimise the sector's total environmental impact** by developing sustainable, novel, and inclusive large-scale European value chains.

The project will **cover most parts of the textile sector** by working on 2 material groups representing almost 90% of all textile fibre materials (polyester, and cotton/cellulosic fibres), and focusing on products from 3 sub-sectors experiencing varying circularity bottlenecks (fashion garments, sports and outdoor goods, and workwear).

CISUTAC will follow a holistic approach covering the technical, sectoral and socio-economic aspects, and will perform 3 pilots to demonstrate the feasibility and value of:

- Repair and disassembly
- Sorting (for reuse and recycling)
- Circular garments through fibre-to-fibre recycling and design for circularity

To realise these pilots, the consortium partners will:

- Develop semi-automated workstations
- Analyse the infrastructure and material flows
- Digitally enhance sorting operations (for reuse and recycling)
- Raise awareness among the consumers and the textile industry

As coordinator of the CISUTAC consortium, Centexbel will take the overall lead of this project, with a focus on orchestrating the pilot activities. Further, Centexbel is responsible for the purification of recycled polyester chips and the processing of recycled polyesters to yarns and textiles.

More information on the CISUTAC project on its website: www.cisutac.eu

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Notes to Editors

CISUTAC is a Horizon Europe project, co-funded by the European Union. It started on 1 September 2022 and will last for 48 months. Led by Centexbel, the Belgian research centre for textiles and plastics, the CISUTAC consortium is EU-wide including global leading brands and companies, CSOs, RTOs and EU associations. The diversity within the consortium allows CISUTAC to cover all required expertise and infrastructure over the full novel circular value chain. The full list of partners is available [here](#). This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No 101060375. More information [here](#).