

VISIONARY TALKs _ b2b Torino Fashion Match 2026



Textile Innovation Cluster

presents:

Future Proof Textiles

Empowering Europe's Textile SMEs for the Twin Transition
toward digital transformation and green sustainability

Paola Fontana, Cluster Manager

What is Po.in.tex?

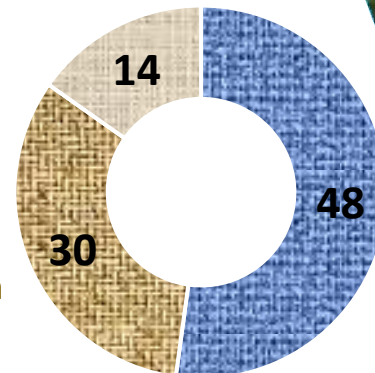
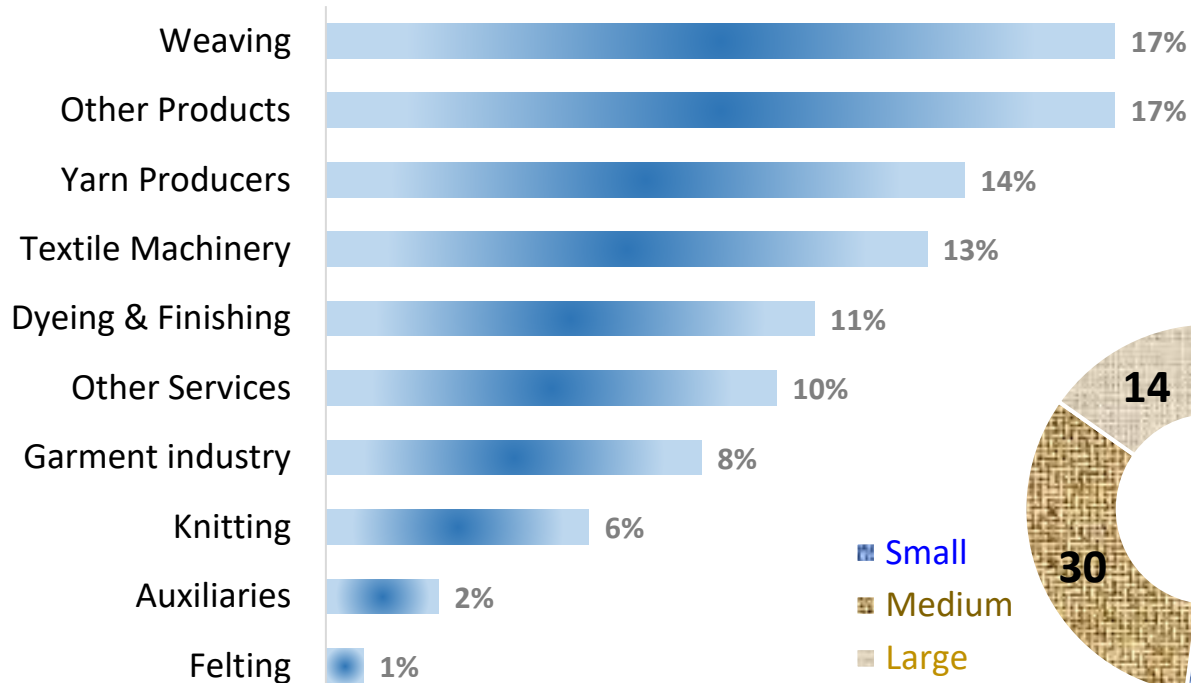
Po.in.tex is the Textile Innovation Cluster based in Biella - Piemonte, North-West of Italy

96 members:

- 92 companies
- 2 research bodies
- 2 associations/foundations

Working in:

- Textiles for **Clothing**
- Textiles for **Furniture**
- Textiles for **Diversified Applications**



The «Cluster System» of the Piemonte Region



Formally born in 2022, “Sistema Poli” is based on a **long-term collaboration** among the regional clusters.

Each cluster is **highly specialized** and has sectorial knowledge and experience.

Together we can deal in a better way with the complexity of the actual challenging transition, working closer and closer, sharing competencies and services for companies and supporting together the Regional Government.

The seven Innovation Clusters are:



POLO AGRIFOOD

SECTOR:
Agricultural and Food



BIOPMED

SECTOR:
Life Sciences and
Health



CGREEN

SECTOR:
Green Chemistry and
Advanced Materials



CLEVER

SECTOR:
Energy and Clean
Technologies



MESAP

SECTOR:
Smart Products and
Manufacturing



PO.IN.TEX

SECTOR:
Textile



POLO ICT

SECTOR:
ICT





Our Services



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

NETWORKING

INTERNATIONALIZATION

EU-FUNDED PROJECTS and REGIONAL CALLS

**ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS - SEMINARS - WORKSHOPS -
TECHNICAL PANELS**

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS on EU calls, Technical events of interest to businesses, Activities related to European projects already ongoing.

CERTIFICATION on TEXTILES: Sustainability reports, ecotoxicological requests, **ETHIC ET** certification (assessment of the textile production process to confirm the absence of hazardous substances, to guarantee consumers the origin, traceability, and safety of the product purchased)

SPECIALIZED TRAINING



EU Projects and Networks



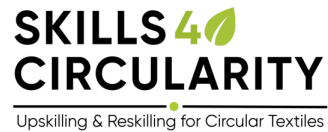
**FUTURE PROOF
TEXTILES**

SME Support for Digital and Green Resilience: 2 calls for funding: Cascade Funding for 40 SMEs on Green Initiatives and Digital Innovation. Technical Support and mentoring for SMEs.



Alpine Solutions for the Transition of the textile and plastic Equipment industry and the harmonization of interregional 5R strategies: characterizing waste prevention and management; Alpine pathways to better prevent and manage waste: prototype and test the circular principles (5R); Solutions transfer to the ecosystem

ASTER



Upskilling/Reskilling the Textile Industry sector to face the challenges in recycling, traceability and certification of recycled products: Education/training for VET and companies

SEISMEC

Supporting European Industry Success Maximization through Empowerment Centred development

Deliver impactful results to maximise industrial success and foster inclusiveness in the context of Industry 5.0, by placing empowerment and human-centrism in the spotlight. 17 industrial pilots in 14 industrial ecosystems will be developed.



Regions for Green Textiles: Circular Economy and Recycling of textiles



EUropean ALLiance for International business development on Advanced materials and coNnectivity for defenCe and sEcurity markets: Internationalisation customized services to enter new markets, 4 missions for companies in US, Canada, Japan, Indonesia. Fields: technical textile, connectivity deep tech and advanced materials, for dual-use products and markets.



European Economic Interest Grouping: the largest European advanced textile materials world-class cluster network worldwide (1.000 companies and 100 research centres), working in the internationalization of SMEs

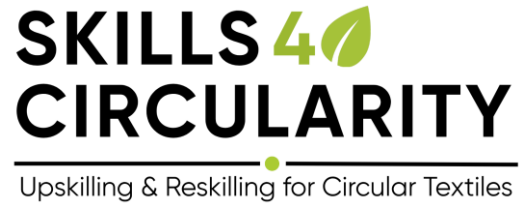


Let's focus on:



Tessile e Salute

Our "Textile and Health" Department: Focus on **safety and sustainability**



Upskilling/Reskilling the Textile Industry sector to face the challenges in recycling, traceability and certification of recycled products: Education/training for VET and companies



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Tessile e Salute

"Textile and Health" Department:
Focus on **safety** and **sustainability**

Areas of expertise

- **Certification of products and/or processes**
- Support for companies in managing **safety and sustainability** issues; drafting **Sustainability Reports**
- Monitoring the development of **regulations in the eco-toxicological field**
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the relevant authorities for the **control of textile products** on the market
- **Evaluation of the performance and thermal comfort of clothing**, in collaboration with the Polytechnic of Turin

Ethic·et: our European certification mark



Ethic·et certifies that the textile **products** and **processes** are:

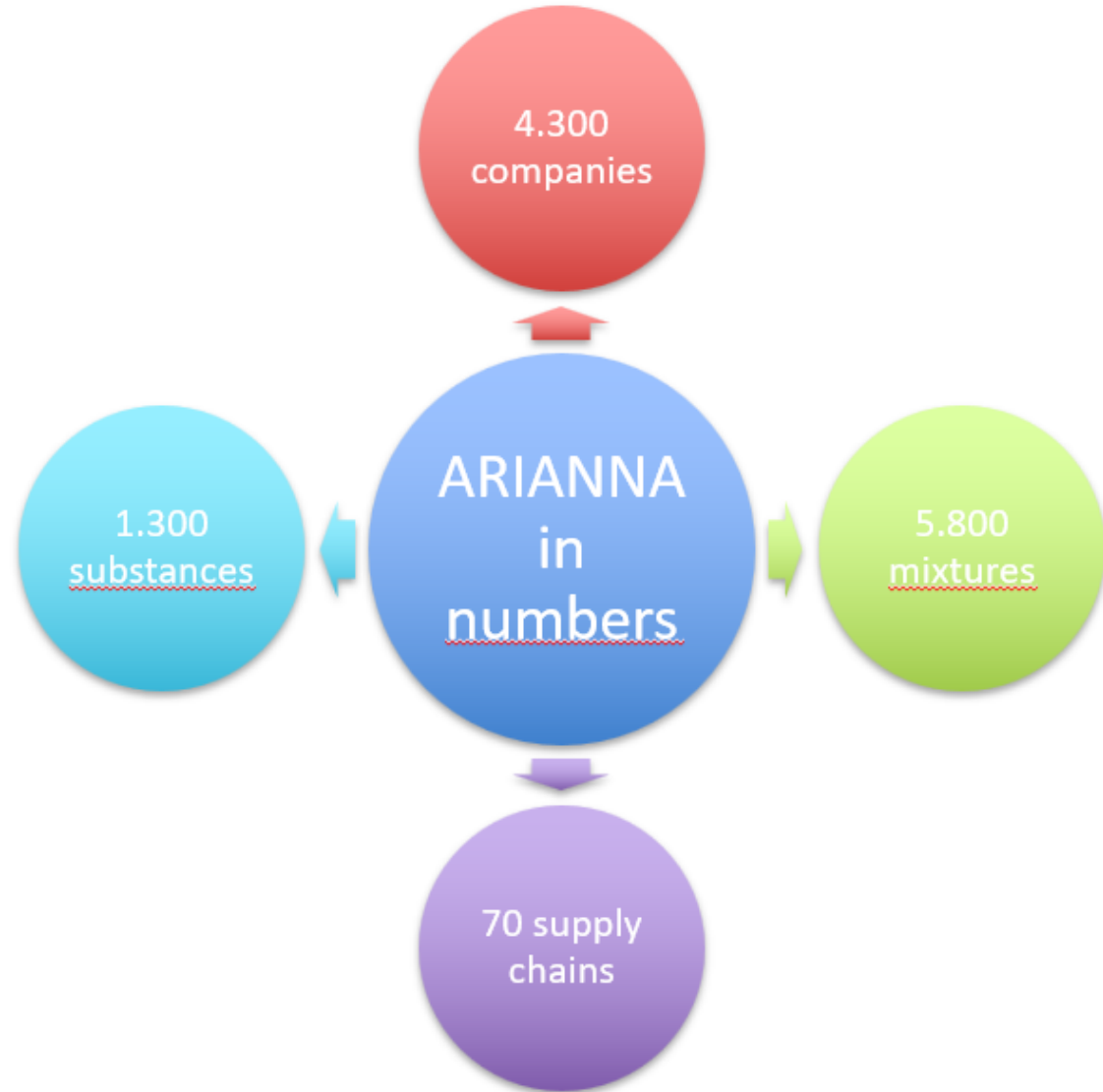
- chemically **safe** for consumers
- ecologically and environmentally **sustainable**

Objectives:

- Ensure traceability and transparency of the supply chain of certified companies
- Ensure the safety of the production processes and products

Ethic-et: starting from our database ARIANNA

All data of certified companies and their suppliers are uploaded to our database ARIANNA





Tessile e Salute

Ethic-et: certification steps

1. Certification object definition

2. Collection of preliminary data

3. Definition of a Control Plan

4. Audit - AENOR Inspection

5. Lab Testing

6. Evaluation of test results

Corrective Action Plan (if needed)

CERTIFICATION

Inspection by **AENOR**, an international third-party certification body accredited by the National Accreditation Body (ENAC), which verifies the certification process and carries out audits at the applicant companies.

Activities performed during the audit:

- Document review
- Work site inspection
- Sampling of products to be sent to laboratories according to an Inspection Plan drawn up by Tessile e Salute

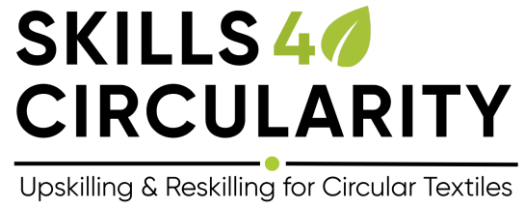
**More info?
Contact us!**

tessileesalute@cittastudi.org



Tessile e Salute

Let's focus on:



Upskilling/Reskilling the Textile Industry sector to face the challenges in recycling, traceability and certification of recycled products: Education/training for VET and companies

SKILLS 4 CIRCULARITY

Upskilling & Reskilling for Circular Textiles

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60% of textile workers feel unprepared for the ecological transition
18% possess advanced digital skills for Industry 4.0

The textile sector is facing many challenges,
including a critical skills shortage among its workforce

To address this issue, the **Skills4Circularity project** assists
companies in this transition, with the aim of meeting **immediate
needs** and building **long-term resilience**



Project Overview

The project addresses critical skills shortages by integrating circular economy principles, digital transformation, and sustainability into Vocational (VET) and Higher Education (HE).



Dual Approach

Combines a **reactive** response to immediate needs with a **proactive** foresight strategy for long-term resilience.



Consortium

A powerful alliance of **21 partners** from 12 countries, uniting Industry, Academia, Clusters, and Research Organizations.



Main Goal

To create a comprehensive **training ecosystem** and a permanent **Skills Observatory** for the textile sector.





Specific Objectives

O1: Addressing Urgent Needs (Reactive Response):

Deliver three highly focused, practical **online masterclasses** to immediately bridge existing skills gaps.

Target: Reach at least 150 unique industry professionals and new entrants by Month 12.

O2: Looking Ahead (Proactive Approach):

Anticipate medium to long-term **skills needs** and emerging **occupational profiles** over the next 5–10 years.

Target: Produce a comprehensive Textile Green Skills Foresight Report by Month 12, identifying at least three new or evolving occupational profiles.

O3: Comprehensive Training Programs:

Design and implement a suite of **training programs** spanning EQF levels 3–8 to ensure accessibility for **operators, technicians, engineers, and managers**.

Target: Launch regional training programs, virtual MOOCs, and interregional bootcamps by Month 24.





Specific Objectives

O4: Ensuring Long-Term Relevance:

Establish a dynamic, continuously updated online platform to monitor skills trends and gather data.

Target: Launch the Textile Skills Observatory by Month 20, targeting at least 500 unique users annually.

O5: Certification and Microcredentials:

Develop a formal recognition scheme fully aligned with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) by Month 42.

Target: Issue flexible, stackable microcredentials and secure formal recognition agreements with at least five VET/HEIs.

O6: Building a Lasting Partnership:

Establish a formal collaboration framework (such as a memorandum of understanding) by Month 40 to ensure cooperation beyond the project's lifetime.

Target: Develop a comprehensive long-term action plan for textile skills development at regional, national, and EU levels.





Key Project Results – Training Delivery

- **Masterclasses (EQF 4–6):** Three synchronous virtual training modules addressing urgent skills, eventually converted into MOOCs.
- **Regional VET Training (EQF 3–5):** In-company, hands-on training tailored for operators and technicians across Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Czechia, and Italy.
- **Virtual MOOCs (EQF 6–7):** Self-paced virtual learning covering EU regulations, recycling processes, certification, and traceability.
- **Interregional Bootcamps (EQF 6/7):** Eight intensive, 1-week thematic bootcamps focusing on collaborative learning and solving real recyclability challenges.
- **Hackathons:** Two full-day hackathons bringing together multidisciplinary, intergenerational teams to develop prototypes and solutions for industry challenges.





Skills4Circularity

Reactive Training Program





Reactive Training Program

This program is a core part of the Skills4Circularity project, designed specifically around a deep-dive study of real industry demands. By analyzing current job markets and gathering direct input from European textile companies, we have crafted a curriculum that targets the exact skills you need to stay competitive.



For **industry professionals** seeking to upskill



Online sessions, completely free



3-hour sessions on Fridays



English language



Places are strictly limited – **registration required**





Module 1 Recycling Technology

Covers legal compliance, waste workflows (sorting/prep), selecting recycling technologies, and optimizing supply chain coordination.

L1: EU legal requirements for textile recycling **(May 22nd)**

L2: Workflow for recycling the textile waste **(May 29th)**

L3: Selecting the right textile recycling technology **(June 5th)**

L4: Coordination on textile recycling chain **(June 12th)**

MAY / JUNE

Module 2 Eco-design for the Circular Economy

Focuses on design regulations, LCA analysis, material traceability, and end-of-life product planning.

L1: From eco-design regulations to textile design specifications **(June 19th)**

L2: Use LCA to select textile materials and processes **(June 26th)**

L3: Traceability across textile value chain **(July 3rd)**

L4: Design for textile circularity **(July 10th)**

JUNE / JULY

Module 3 Sustainable Manufacturing

Focuses on legal compliance, efficiency KPIs, waste reduction plans, and Digital Product Passport (DPP) requirements.

L1: EU requirements for sustainable textile production **(Sept. 4th)**

L2: KPIs definition and tracking **(Sept. 11th)**

L3: Waste reduction in textile manufacturing **(Sept. 18th)**

L4: DPP requirements in the Textile Industry **(Sept. 25th)**

SEPTEMBER



Sign up now!





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Let's focus on:

**FUTURE PROOF
TEXTILES**

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FUTURE PROOF TEXTILES



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WHO WE ARE

FutureProofTextiles is an **EU-funded initiative (Eurocluster)** under the Single Market Programme (SMP COSME) designed to be a catalyst for the modernization of the European textile industry. The project's core mission is to support textile SMEs in navigating the "twin transitions": the shift toward digital transformation and green sustainability

We bring together **SMEs, industry experts, innovation clusters and cross-sector partners**, creating a collaborative space where ideas become solutions and challenges become opportunities.



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WHAT WE OFFER

- **Specialised training on circular textile practices** — practical learning that turns sustainability into daily practice
- **One-to-one mentoring for SMEs** — personalised guidance from experts who understand the industry
- **Business model support for circular transformation** — helping companies redesign how they create value
- **Tools, guides and technical resources** — ready-to-use materials that accelerate implementation
- **Connections with European partners and experts** — opening doors to collaboration and new opportunities
- **Visibility, networking and dissemination activities** — giving SMEs the platform they need to grow and be seen





OUR OBJECTIVES

**ACCELERATE THE SHIFT TO A
CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

**STRENGTHEN SME
COMPETITIVINES AND RESILIENCE**

**REDUCE WASTE AND
OPTIMISE RESOURCE USE**

**FOSTER CROSS-INDUSTRY
SYNERGIES AND INNOVATION**

**SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE
VALUE CHAINS**

**PROMOTE DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION**

**ENHACE EUROPEAN
COLLABORATION**



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NEW OPEN FUNDING CALLS

TEXTILE OPEN FUNDING CALL
for 20 textile SMEs

1 st Open Call:
Green Transition
Digital Innovations

**22nd June
2026**



**FUTURE PROOF
TEXTILES** 

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TEXTILE OPEN FUNDING CALL
for 20 textile SMEs

2nd Open Call:
Green Transition
Digital Innovations

**22nd
February
2027**



**FUTURE PROOF
TEXTILES** 

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OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN CALL

CORE OBJECTIVE:

- Empowering **40 SMEs** in the textile sector to successfully navigate the "twin transitions"

THE CHALLENGE:

- Bridging the gap for SMEs suffering from limited financial resources and technical expertise, ultimately boosting their resilience, competitiveness, and alignment with EU priorities.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

- Distributing **€50,000 cascade funding grants** per SME across two structured funding rounds, with a target of 20 digital and 20 green projects.

REGIONAL INCLUSIVENESS:

- Targeting and supporting at least 4 SMEs located outside of the core consortium partners' regions

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- Providing an average of **40 hours per SME** of educational capacity building covering:
 - digital transformation,
 - circular economy principles
 - sustainable production practices.

DEDICATED MENTORING:

- Up to 6 SMEs will receive **personalized technical mentoring** to address key challenges and strengthen their business model and market strategy.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

- Combining financial aid with networking and advisory resources to build a connected innovation ecosystem, ensuring SMEs gain the foundational knowledge required for lasting business growth.



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FutureProofTextiles IN A NUTSHELL

	Green Initiatives	Digital Innovations
Specific Objective	Promote sustainable practices and circular economy practices. Implement energy-efficient production methods, responsible disposal of textile waste, reducing waste, and enhancing resource efficiency	Adopt advanced digital technologies: digital tools, automation technologies, and data-driven decision-making capabilities, in order to improve efficiency and productivity in the textile sector
Starting TRL (Technology Readiness Level)	TRL 5 and above	TRL 5 and above
Grant (per SME)	€50,000 (Lump sum)	€50,000 (Lump sum)
Required Self-funding	€10,000	€10,000
Funding rounds	1 st & 2 nd Round	1 st & 2 nd Round
Total Number of funded Projects	20 (10+10)	20 (10+10)
Implementation Duration	9 months	9 months
Proposal Application	Standardized proposal template, budget plan and signed declaration forms	
Total Allocated Budget (FSTP)	€2,000,000.00	



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Needs-Oriented Support: FutureProofTextiles conducted a Needs Assessment based on surveys from 150 stakeholders. The resulting report—featuring a SWOT analysis of the sector's digital and green transition challenges—is available in "**Needs of the SMEs in the Textile Sector**" document.



WHO CAN APPLY?

- COMPANY SIZE:** single SMEs (not a consortia of multiple SMEs)
- INDUSTRY:**
- SMEs operating in the textile value chain or
 - SMEs from complementary sectors (e.g., tech, machinery) provided their proposed innovation directly contributes to the textile value chain.
- Activities must align with a relevant NACE code (or national equivalent)
- LOCATION:** SMEs legally established in countries participating in the Single Market Programme (SMP)
- LANGUAGE:** English



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HOW TO APPLY?

PLATFORM: Proposal submitted online on the EU Survey Platform

LANGUAGE: English

SUBMISSION LIMIT: two proposals per Open Call round (one under Green Transition and one under Digital Innovation, with a separate application for each)
In any case, each SME is eligible to receive a maximum of **one grant award** across the entire program

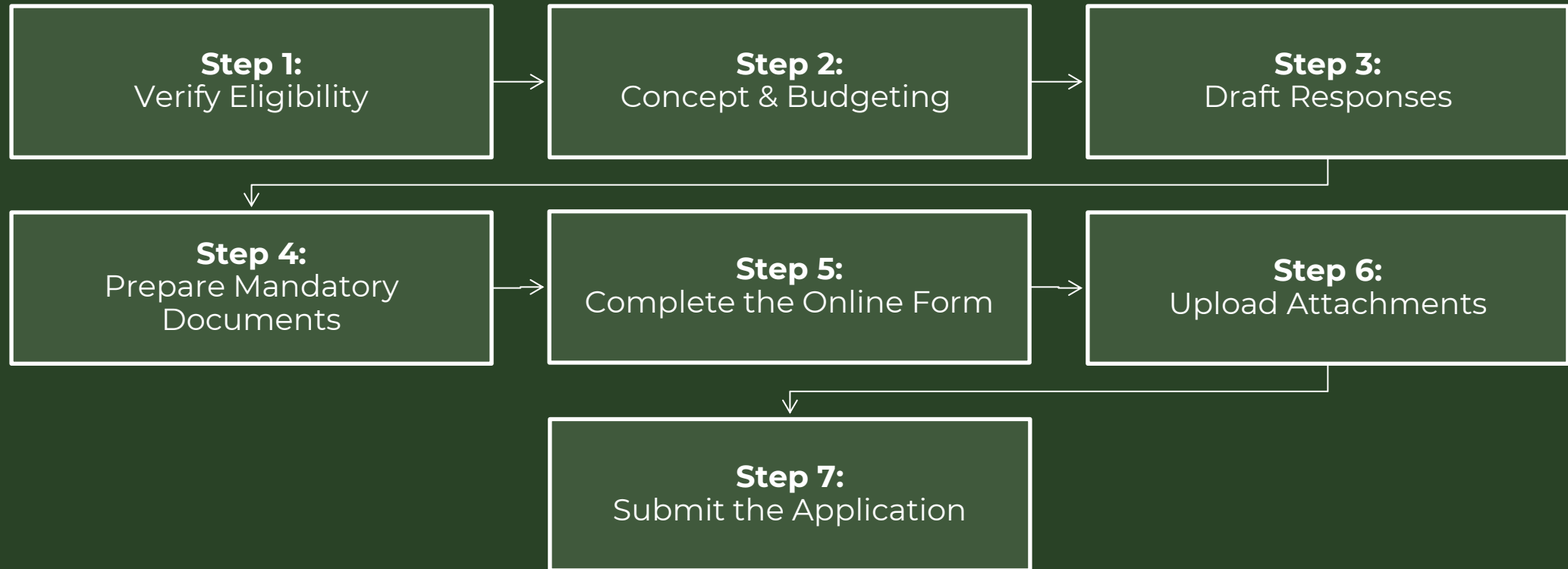
DEADLINE: The portal for the first round opened on **22/06/2026, 11:00 (CET)** and will close on **18/09/2026, 23:59 (CET)**



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STEP BY STEP GUIDE for applicants



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EVALUATION & SELECTION

Evaluation criteria		
Technical Innovation	40%	novelty, feasibility, and scalability of the proposed solution
Impact & Sustainability	30%	contribution to supply chain resilience, digitalization, green transition
Business Viability	20%	market potential, financial sustainability, and commercialization strategy
Implementation Feasibility	10%	SME capacity, resource allocation, execution timeline outline

Score: from 0 (Unassessable) to 5 (Excellent)



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PROVISIONAL TIMELINE

First Call opening:	22 nd June 2026
First Call closure:	18 th September 2026
Selection of SMEs:	20 th November 2026
First Cohort Agreement:	19 th February 2027
Second Call opening:	22 nd February 2027
Second Call closure:	21 st May 2027
Selection of SMEs:	23 th July 2027
Second Cohort Agreement:	22 nd October 2027



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Selected SMEs will have to...

- Provide accurate and timely information and data, follow the implementation guidelines, provide reporting documents
- Comply with EU communication and visibility rules, ensure confidentiality and information security, respect ethical principles and sector regulations, avoid conflicts of interest
- Attend **online workshops**
- Participate in **training programmes**
- Attend **mentoring and technical consulting**
- Participate in **online dissemination events**
- Complete satisfaction questionnaires



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FINANCING & PAYMENTS

Grant (per SME): €50,000 (Lump sum)

Co-financing (per SME): €10,000 (self-funding)

Grant Disbursement Schedule:

- **40%** at the beginning of the project, upon achieving first milestones
- **40%** upon achieving mid-term milestones
- **20%** after the end of the project, upon project completion and impact assessment



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Webinar on the first call

8th July 2026

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Stay tuned!

Contact

Where to find us

Email address

fpt.eu.helpdesk@gmail.com

ECCP Profile

<https://profile.clustercollaboration.eu/profile/cluster-partnership-initiative/c9fcd533-bf23-4b23-bd18-adb2e57b37a4>

LinkedIn Account

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/future-proof-textiles>

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Bulgarian
Digital Cluster



BUTEKOM
Bursa Technology Coordination and R&D Center



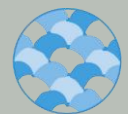
CLUSTER
OF CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



GREENWIN



INSTITUT
INDUSTRIAL DE
TERRASSA
GREMI TÈXIL



Città Studi
BIELLA

Think of how many things
we can do together!

Textile Innovation Cluster



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www.pointex.eu

