



Support Report Mapping Sustainable Fashion Opportunities for SMES

Annex 4 Listing of key recent research and enterprise projects

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LISTING OF KEY RECENT RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE PROJECTS RELEVANT TO AND ENGAGING WITH SMES IN FASHION AND TEXTILES

1. SMEs Knowledge Exchange and brokering connections with manufacturing and Fashion incubators:

Project title: WORTH Pilot Project
Partners: London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London; Institut Francais de la Mode; Euratex
Funder/s: Funded by the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) of the European Commission’s Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry
Duration: Ran from 2013-2015
Project link: http://www.pilot.worth-project.eu/project-design-craft-manufacturer-europe/worth-projects-2.html
Summary of main focus/aims/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: Cross border innovation partnerships between manufacturing enterprises and designers, product innovation across Europe; Involved 79 SMEs and 34 European partnerships between designers and manufacturers, retailers, craftsmen, technology companies in fashion, textiles, jewellery, footwear, eyewear, furniture, fur, leather industries from different EU countries (and other CIP participating countries) for innovative product development, positioning in the market, presentation in trade fairs and exhibitions and IP rights support• Results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 34 showcased products○ Identified best practices in innovation and partnership building across borders and across disciplines○ Built a network of organisations across the European fashion and tech ecosystems○ The success of the project resulted in new edition of WORTH Partnership Project• Opportunities created:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For designers and retailers: creative collaborations and product development with new materials, processes and partners○ For manufacturers: collaboration with designers and design-led businesses, introduction of new products and development of current ranges, reaching out to new customer base○ Technology: enabling development and prototyping of techniques for design concept improvement, managing production, flexibility, reactivity, visibility

Project title: WORTH Partnership Project
Partners: Textile Technology Institute AITEX, KEPA, IED, DAG Communication
Funder/s: COSME
Duration: Ongoing
Project link: https://www.worthproject.eu/
Summary of main focus/aims/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale: SMEs and start-ups in creative industries are among key drivers of EU economic growth • Aim: initiation and support for collaborations on transnational level between designers and other creatives, SME manufacturers and technology firms in the areas of fashion and textiles, footwear, furniture/home decoration, leather/fur, jewellery, accessories; focus on SMEs and start-ups Applications between 2017-2020, target: 150 design-driven and innovative/disruptive partnerships • Opportunities created: incubator programme including initial funding of 10.000 EUR, mentoring, training, media collaboration support, networking and showcase opportunities, promotion through WORTH gallery • Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 25 partnerships in the 1st Call (e.g. Wear Pure – prototype of biotech jacket/t-shirt with purification properties of CO₂ and NO_x; Esther Love PVC – high-end fashion products from PVC-based waste materials)

Project title: Textile and Clothing Business Labs (TCBL)
Partners: City of Prato, German Institutes for Textile and Fiber Research – Center for Management Research (DIFT), Instituto Superiore Mario Boella, Skillaware, The Open University, IMEC, Tavistock Institute, Materials Industrial Research & Technology Center S.A. (MIRTEC), Waag Society, Huddersfield & District Textile Training Company Ltd, The eInstitute (eZavod), Consorzio Arca, Unioncamere del Veneto (UCV), Hellenic Clothing Industry Association, Sanjotec – Centro Emresarial e Tecnológico, Clear Communication Associates Ltd, Oxford Brookes University, Association Reginnova NE, Centre Scientifique & Technique de l’Industrie Textile Belge, Institut Français de la Mode (IFM), Institut d’Arquitectura Avancada de Catalunya – Fundacio Privada (FabTextiles), Cleviria, Sqetch BV
Duration: 2015-2019
Project link: https://tcbl.eu/
Summary of main aims/focus/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim: building an ecosystem of enterprises, innovation labs, service providers and business advisors to foster change in textiles and clothing industry and explore innovative business models • Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently a network of 136 enterprises, 28 business labs, 75 expert advisors, 12 service providers and 7 start-ups ○ A network of labs as places for exploration of alternatives for the current textile and clothing industry ○ 6 Business Pilot Projects – Natural Fibres, Short Runs, BioShades, Digital Heritage, Eco-Friendly Production, Independents ○ A series of zines on topics related to the current business pilot projects available through the ‘Zine’ section of TCBL website

- 2018 network conference in Prato, Italy; forthcoming 2019 network conference (May 28-29) in Iasi, Romania
- [A library of resources](#) for partners and general public
- A concept of TCBL Foundation to scale up the TCBL delivery model across the EU through quality assurance, support packages and providing access to start-up grants

Project title: Centre for Fashion Enterprise

Partners: London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London

Funder/s: Partly funded by European Regional Development Fund

Duration: Ongoing (Established 2003)

Project link: <http://www.fashion-enterprise.com/>

Summary of main focus/aims/outputs:

- Aim: CFE delivers business support to over 300 SMEs in the fashion, jewellery and Fashion-Tech sector, pioneering work in coaching emerging fashion business across the value chain
- Opportunities/challenges: understanding own USP, vision, access to information, development strategy – CFE facilitates these
- Results:
 - Supported designers/brands include e.g. [Erdem](#), [Mary Katrantzou](#), [Marques Almeida](#)

Project title: The Designer Manufacturer Innovation and Support Centre (DISC)
Partners: Centre for Fashion Enterprise, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London
Funder/s: ERDF
Duration: 2015-2016
Project link: unavailable
Summary of main focus/aims/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Supported 280 designer, manufacturer and jewellery SMEs to innovate their businesses, products and services.○ gave businesses free access to team of highly skilled industry experts whose expertise covered all aspects of fashion manufacturing, factory production, global sourcing and sustainable manufacturing.○ provided an extensive network of innovative fashion product designers and manufacturers who are developing new product categories.

Project title: Fashion District
Partners: University of the Arts London, UK Fashion and Textiles, British Fashion Council, LLDC, Poplar HARCA, The Trampery, Fashion Enter, Newham College, Westfield; backed by Greater London Authority and developed in consultation with East London Boroughs
Duration: Emerging/Ongoing
Project link: https://www.fashion-district.co.uk/
Summary of main focus/aims/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emerging/Ongoing• Aim: revival of fashion manufacturing in London by creating an industry-led cluster with focus on fashion-tech businesses; incubating start-ups, support for new business models, products and services

2. Support and creating opportunities for SMEs:

Project title: FIREup and FIRE.Digital (Fashion, Innovation, Research and Enterprise)
Partners: Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion; Central Saint Martins and Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London
Funder/s: AHRC UK
Duration: 2013-2015
Project link: http://sustainable-fashion.com/projects/fire/ ; http://www.fire-fashion.uk/
Summary of main focus/aims/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: Fashion and Innovation - creation of a prototype digital platform and research into new models of knowledge exchange to foster open innovation. Accessible knowledge base for academic B2B interactions.• Opportunities created: By connecting UK based fashion and textile designers with academic researchers at UAL, FIREup (Fashion, Innovation, Research, Evolution) opened a new space for innovation through collaboration, testing ways to help designer-fashion businesses access the knowledge based in research at UAL and Centre for Sustainable Fashion that could be applied more broadly to stimulate sustainability and prosperity.• Results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ FIREup: initial knowledge exchange project that catalysed four collaborative projects between London-based fashion and textile designers and UAL researchers, these produced great case studies to demonstrate a variety of approaches to collaboration between designer fashion sector and academia.○ FIRE.Digital developed a research-focused online space where UK based fashion and textile designers and academic researchers could upload their work and ongoing projects, and potentially find new partnerships.
Project title: Rethinking Fashion Design Entrepreneurship: Fostering Sustainable Practices (FSP)
Partners: Centre for Sustainable Fashion (CSF), London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London; Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research (CEEDR), Middlesex University; Department of Design, Open University (OU)
Funder/s: AHRC UK
Duration: 2018-2021
Project link: http://sustainable-fashion.com/projects/fostering-sustainable-practices/
Summary of main focus/aims/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: to investigate creative practice in design-led fashion micro and small enterprises (MSEs) as a driver for sustainable prosperity - contributing to environmental, social, cultural and economic prosperity. Mapping local and international ecosystem for fashion entrepreneurs and development of alternative business support mechanisms and tools for use by incubators and other organisations; also informing future UK policy for the creative industries.

- FSP builds on the findings of previous CSF projects, including the 2013/2014 AHRC-funded FIREup (Fashion, Innovation, Research and Enterprise) project led by FSP's PI Prof. Sandy Black, the Creative Hub project (a collaboration with Fashion and Textiles Museum) and London Style project (provided training, support and showcasing to 100 London based fashion businesses over two years).
- The fashion designer-entrepreneur as the focus of the analysis; examining four key areas: design and operations, business networks and ecosystems, working practices and entrepreneurship and business models. repositioning designer fashion MSEs as major contributors to the UK's creative and sustainable economy.

Project title: Re-FREAM (Re-Thinking of Fashion in Research and Artist collaborating development for Urban Manufacturing)

Partners: Wear It Berlin; Creative Region Linz & Upper Austria; Aitex Textile Research Institute + Technology & Expert Partners: Care Applications S.L.; Consorzio ARCA; EMPA (CH); Fraunhofer IZM; HARATECH; IED (Istituto Europeo di Design)/REC Research and Education Center; PROFACTOR; Stratasys (Int.); University of Art and Design Linz - Department Fashion & Technology; STARTS

Funder/s: H2020

Duration: 2018-2021

Project link: <https://www.re-fream.eu/>

Summary of main aims/focus/outputs:

- Aims: new ways of collaboration and co-creation between scientists, researchers and artists and designers through providing access to production technology that can reshape the future of the fashion industry; social, economic and environmental revitalization of urban spaces through local digital production and professional opportunities
- Results: new project – launched December 2018

Project title: United Fashion
Partners: Led by MAD Brussels Fashion and Design Platform with associate partners: ACME – Asociación Creadores de Moda de España (ES), Austrian Fashion Association (AT), Centre for Fashion Enterprise – University of Arts London (UK), Council of Irish Fashion Designers (IR), Cyprus Fashion Designers Association (CY), Design Terminal (HU), Dutch Fashion Foundation (NL), Europeana Fashion International Association , Fédération française du Prêt à Porter féminin (FR), Festival International de Mode et de Photographie d’Hyères (FR), Future in Fashion Foundation (PL), NFLH – Fashion Hungary (HU), Norwegian Fashion Institute (NO), Sourcebook (DE), Squat (SI), and Wallonie-Bruxelles Design Mode (BE).
Funder/s: co-funded by Creative Europe programme of the European Union
Duration: 2017-2021
Project link: https://www.united-fashion.eu/
Summary of main aims/focus/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create a stronger fashion sector in Europe by giving independent labels and creators the tools and skills to develop their business in a globalized world.• To enhance the culture of fashion designers across Europe to be more business minded and at enhancing their competitiveness internationally, without limiting their creativity.• Through a number of international network events and transdisciplinary training workshop, more than 150 fashion designers will have the opportunity to participate by showcasing their collection, getting to know and understand several European markets, developing new skills in fashion tech, sustainable fashion, production, craftsmanship, business models.

3. Fashion Tech:

<p>Project title: Fashion Innovation Agency (FIA)</p> <p>Partners: Centre for Fashion Enterprise, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London; Digital Anthropology Lab; Olswang</p> <p>Funder/s: ERDF</p> <p>Duration: Ongoing</p> <p>Project link: http://www.fialondon.com/</p>
<p>Summary of main focus/aims/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: integrating fashion and technology. Building the bridge between the fashion and technology industries, connecting London based fashion designers with established hardware and software brands alongside mobile communication brands as well as innovative start-ups developing apps and beacon technology• FIA has an extensive network of over 350 fashion and technology SMEs and big brands, digital and technology industry leaders and innovative thinkers;• Opportunities: innovation and technology as keys to future fashion business models• Results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cutting-edge projects in wearable tech, AR/VR and Blockchain○ Work in progress: developing cutting-edge fashion projects using Nanotechnology, IoT and Robotics○ Although not sustainability focus, supported projects include e.g. collaboration between Martine Jarlgaard, Provenance and A Transparent Company demonstrating how blockchain technology can help improve transparency in the fashion industry; collaboration between start-up INDUO® and Finnish designer Teija Eilola in making a collection with a patented stain repellent fabric

Project title: Wear Sustain (Wearable Technologists Engage with Artists for Responsible Innovation)

Partners: IMEC; University for the Creative Arts; Data Scouts; Universität der Künste Berlin; Queen Mary University of London; Digital Spaces Living Lab; Blumine Srl

Funder/s: H2020 ICT 36 Innovation Action

Duration: 2017-2018

Project link: <https://wearsustain.eu/dashboards/home>

Summary of main focus/aims/outputs:

- Aim: prototyping experiments to engage art, design and creative industries in closer collaboration with technology and engineering industries, working with cutting edge start-ups to shift the development of wearables, e-textile and smart textile landscape towards a more sustainable and ethical approach
- Results:
 - Knowledge exchange and cross-sector, cross-border collaboration and funding for total of 46 innovative projects across Europe
 - Mentorship and support from industry experts, collaborative working hubs, developed an on-line toolkit for sustainable strategy and collaboration; among the key mentors Professor Sandy Black from Centre for Sustainable Fashion, LCF, UAL
 - Enabled a pan-European network of e-pioneers in ethical and sustainable wearable tech: 600+ creative and technologists, 400+ academic, creative and innovation hubs, over 1000+ experts, organizations and policy makers across the EU
 - Identified the most critical challenges for wearable and e-textile industry in terms of ethics and sustainability (translated into themes for open calls):
 - Use, Reuse or Waste
 - Batteries and Energy Sources and Generation
 - Sourcing and Life-cycle
 - Data collection and privacy
 - Social and Work place
 - Body, Physiology and Somatics
 - Supported projects e.g. GenCloth – software for customisation and rapid local production; Koba – an e-textile tailor shop; MOGU – leather grown from fungi; Smart Fashion Production – digital, local, made-to-measure garment manufacturing technology
 - [Project reports](#)

Project title: Future Emerging Fashion Technologies
Partners: Centre for Fashion Enterprise, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London
Funder/s: Part funded by England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investments Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020
Duration: Ongoing CFE initiative
Project link: http://www.fashion-enterprise.com/about/
Summary of main focus/aims/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: support the new fashion ecosystem in London, integrating fashion and technology; offering 4 level programme providing support in adopting innovative business models, products and services

Project title: DeFINE (Developing a Fashion-tech Innovation Network for Europe)
Partners: Boras Ink; CEEI Burgos; Cyprus Research & Innovation Centre; Euratex; European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN); Fondazione Politecnico di Milano; L'Institut Français de la Mode (IFM); London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London; Media Deals; Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI)
Funder/s: COSME
Duration: 2018-2020
Project link: https://define-network.eu/
Summary of main aims/focus/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: sharing cutting-edge technology knowledge for fashion and design industries; building and nurturing a Europe-wide network of incubators, accelerators, start-ups, SMEs and financiers• Results (project still in progress):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Info Days, Bootcamps, Mentoring programmes, Annual networking events across major EU cities○ Further on-line resources available to registered members

Project title: BFTT (Business of Fashion, Textiles and Technology)
Partners: University of the Arts London, University College London, Loughborough University, University of Cambridge, University of Leeds, Queen Mary University London + over 40 industry and other partners including Kering, John Smedley, Clarks, ASOS, Selfridges, V&A Museum, Holition (VR/AI Company)
Funder/s: AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK) – The Creative Industries Clusters Programme
Duration: 2018-2023
Project link: https://creativeindustriesclusters.com/partnerships/business-of-fashion-textiles-and-technology/
Summary of main aims/focus/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: R&D partnership for innovation in the whole fashion and textile supply chain; support to companies ranging from SMEs to multinational companies to explore new customer experiences and more sustainable operations for the future; building a creative and production cluster in East London – Stratford, Thames Gateway and Leah Valley• Results: new project – launched 2018

4. Circular fashion systems and Textiles:

Project title: MISTRA Future Fashion
Partners: Chalmers, Copenhagen Business School, MoRe Research, University of the Arts London, Stockholm Business School, IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, RISE (Research Institutes of Sweden), Stockholm School of Economics, re:newcell, The Swedish School of Textiles, Plan Miljø, iiee (The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics) + more than 50 industry partners (Swedish and International)
Funder/s: Primarily funded by MISTRA – The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research
Duration: 2011-2019
Project link: http://mistrafuturefashion.com/
Summary of main aims/focus/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: research for transformation towards circular industry (through closed loops and changed mindsets); Organized into four themes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Design for circular economy○ Stimulating a more circular supply chain○ Users' contribution to a more sustainable fashion system○ Increase of textile recycling• Results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Evaluation of potential impact of policy measures (e.g. EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility and RVP – Refunded Virgin Payments system) and policy recommendations○ Consumer research and potential impacts of consumer segmentation for successful sustainability communication○ Critical analysis of challenges in fibre-to-fibre recycling○ Guides to eco-efficient textile materials and evaluations of environmental impact of diverse textile fibres○ TED's TEN – Sustainability tool for designers○ Textile Toolbox – on-line platform to showcase innovative processes following up from TED's TEN○ Future Fashion Manifesto○ LCA (Life-cycle assessment) of 5 garments to illustrate patterns in Swedish consumption of fashion○ Social marketing toolbox targeting 16-18 year olds○ Publications on all aspects of MISTRA Future Fashion research

<p>Project title: Trash2Cash (T2C)</p> <p>Partners: Centre for Circular Design, Chelsea School of Arts, University of the Arts London; RISE – Research Institutes of Sweden</p> <p>Funder/s: H2020 NMP</p> <p>Duration: Ran 2015-2018 (3,5 years)</p> <p>Project link: https://www.trash2cashproject.eu/</p>
<p>Summary of main focus/aims/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim in materials development: to create new regenerated fibres from pre-consumer and post-consumer waste• Opportunities created: Proposed new model of chemically (vs manually) recycling paper and textile waste – the result are fabrics that are the same in quality as new materials, can be used for products that are industrially replicable and infinitely recyclable• Included cross-EU collaboration of researchers, designers, scientists, raw material suppliers and product manufacturers across the whole supply chain (18 partners from 10 countries)• 3 main phases: 1. ideation, 2. Sample materials and product prototypes, 3. Academic reflection on the Design Driven Material Innovation (DDMI) methodology used throughout the project• Results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ high quality materials and product prototypes from waste, offering new eco-fibre options to companies○ new methodology (DDMI) of science-design-industry collaboration for the future○ 6 master cases presented at the Dutch Design Week (Reborn-Reworn jacket, R3 Coat, ReAct Mid-layer, Fashion Fascia, 0° Shirt, Denim Nature Jeans○ Project publications: https://www.trash2cashproject.eu/#/trash-2-cash-publications-page/

Project title: FishSkin a Sustainable Raw Material
Partners: Shenkar, Israel; University of the Arts London – Elisa Palomino; Atlantic leather; Iceland University of the Arts; Kornit digital print ltd.; Oceanographic Research; Ars Tinctoria SRL; Politecnico di Milano; Kyoto Seika University
Funder/s: Funded by H2020-Maria Sklodowska Curie Agreement-RISE
Duration: Kick off February 2019 - Ongoing
Project link: http://fishskinlab.com/
Summary of main focus/aims/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rationale: research and innovation initiative including fashion design academics and practitioners, scientists, museum curators and craftsmen from ethnic minorities• Aim: materials development, improving knowledge of sustainable methods for fish skin production; exploring the possibilities of innovating fish skin leather as a more sustainable alternative to exotic leather

Project title: Resyntex
Partners: About Goods; Arkema Innovative Chemistry; Biochemtex; Boku; Cefic; Chimar Binding Innovation; Dettin S.p.A.; Euratex; Imec; IOS Institute for Environmental Protection and Sensors; Manchester Metropolitan University; National Technical University of Athens; Prospex Institute; Quantics; Soex; Sustainability Consult; Tekstina; University of Maribor – Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
Funder/s: H2020
Duration: 2015-2019
Project link: http://www.resyntex.eu/
Summary of main aims/focus/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: development of new circular economy concept for textiles and clothing industry, including innovative business models; production of secondary raw materials from post-consumer textile waste• Results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pilot plant to demonstrate the RESYNTEx concept opens in Maribor, Slovenia later in 2019 – the plant fully integrates the sorting, pre-treatment, chemical and enzymatic processes, liquid and solid waste treatment and water recycling○ Findings of the project to be presented at the final conference in Brussels in April, 2019

Project title: Textiles4Textiles (T4T)
Partners: Wieland Textiles B.V., LZH Laserzentrum Hannover E.V., Textiel Fabrieken H. van Puijenbroek, Stitching Enviu, Frankenhuis Fleece BV, Groenendijk Bedrijfsschoenen en kleding BV, Stitiching Kleding Inzameling Charitarieve Instellingen KICI
Funder/s: EACI/Eco-Innovation
Duration: 2009-2012
Project link: no longer available, for project information please refer to EC Eco-innovation website
Summary of main aims/focus/outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim: development of methods for higher value recycling for post-consumer textiles• Results:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Industrial sized sorting line (T4T automatic sorting machine) 2,5m/s, sorting on both fabric composition and colour○ New recycling techniques for textiles○ Workwear from recycled workwear○ Recycled denim

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