



CIRCULAR ECONOMY STORY

SPAIN, CATALONIA

AEI TÈXTILS, the Catalan cluster of technical textiles

Sustainability, in its wide definition, is nowadays one of the major challenges for the textile industry.

> **AEI TÈXTILS, Dr. Ariadna Detrell** - May 7th, 2018

Therefore, **AEI TÈXTILS**, the Catalan cluster of technical textiles, has been focusing for the last three years in the development of several projects which have **sustainability as mutual link**.

AEI TÈXTILS is committed to closely work with the technical textiles industry to move forward to



environmentally friendlier sector and to increase the competitiveness of its companies.

Four projects related to circular economy are currently on going: **MIDWOR-LIFE**, **LIFE-FLAREX**, **PACTEX** and **ECODISTEX**.



MIDWOR-LIFE and **LIFE-FLAREX**, both co-funded by the **LIFE+ Programme**, have European-wide scope and the aim to promote **substitution of hazardous chemical substances used in the finishing of textiles** (Durable Water Oil Repellents and Flame Retardants, respectively).

As demonstration projects, several current used chemicals and their more sustainable alternatives are being tested and analysed both from a technical performance and human/environmental risks' point of view. Four SMEs of the cluster (2 in each project) will participate in performing the tests at industrial scale.

The results of these projects will facilitate textile producers and finishers the selection of more sustainable chemicals. Both projects are being carried out by a consortium of European partners led by AEI TÈXTILS. ■

PACTEX is a national project developed in cooperation by **AEITÈXTILS** and the **Catalan Packaging Cluster**. It aims to establish synergies between the companies of both clusters and to foster, among them, the **effective use of material resources by reducing industrial waste at source, reuse of products, improving recyclability and recovery of waste**.

This project is co-funded by the **Catalan Waste agency**. It will end in September this year and will have as final deliverable a guide which will gather all suggestions for improvement and innovative measures proposed. ■

ECODISTEX, also co-funded by the Catalan Waste agency, started on March this year. Its goal is to provide **eco-design knowledge support to the Catalan technical textiles industry** in order to enable the incorporation of environmental criteria in product development. In the framework of the project, three companies will benefit from the collaboration of experts in **LEITAT** for the eco-design of one of their products. ■



FIND OUT MORE

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European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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