



Cross-fertilization of industrial ecosystems in textile manufacturing and construction leveraging digital and advanced technologies to build up green and digital resilience in Europe.

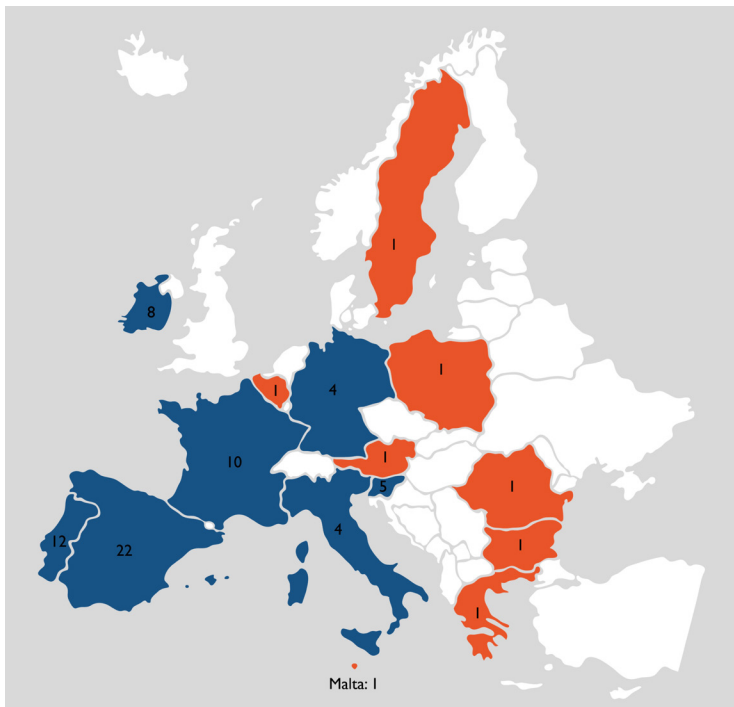
SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SMART LIVING: SAFE, CONNECTED AND GREEN READY FOR THE FUTURE

The goal of xBUILD-EU is to establish a strategic EU partnership that fosters cross-sectoral collaboration and synergies among the textile, construction, and advanced technology sectors. This partnership aims to act as a catalyst for implementing green solutions and driving a more digital Europe, ultimately enabling smarter living.

xBUILD-EU is focused on enhancing resilience through diverse lump sum grants, totaling €1.05M, to support SMEs in their green and digital transitions, innovation efforts, and internationalization activities. These initiatives are designed to create global growth opportunities and align with the five key objectives of the Joint Cluster Initiatives for Europe's recovery program.

As a cross-fertilization Eurocluster, xBUILD-EU builds bridges between different industrial ecosystems (textile, advanced manufacturing and construction) while leveraging the strengths of the high-tech sector to promote the uptake of digital skills by SMEs and foster the cross-sectoral collaboration needed to move towards a greener and digital transition. This partnership consists of five clusters: three in the textile sector, one in advanced technologies and advanced manufacturing, and one in the construction sector.



The three sectors involved in xBUILD-EU will contribute to cross-fertilization aimed at developing smart living solutions by enhancing safety, enabling connectivity through digital technologies and advancing sustainability through the use of new materials.

The 2nd xBUILD-EU call for proposals closed on October 2 at 17:00 CEST and received a large response, with 73 applications from a total of 93 SMEs across 17 countries.

In total, 11 SMEs from five EU13 countries—Slovenia, Poland, Romania, Malta, and Bulgaria—applied, along with 35 from outside the partnership countries. Applicants represented a wide range of countries, including Italy, France, Greece, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Malta, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Turkey, and Ethiopia (the last two being non-eligible).



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

GLOBAL GRANT

MED YARN

DÚCTEL S.A. (Spain)

Funding awarded: 25k€

Dúctel S.A., a leading European manufacturer of synthetic yarns, specializes in air-jet texturing of polyamide and polyester yarns for various applications such as technical sportswear, medical, military, and workwear. With the largest polyamide air-jet texturing capacity in Europe, Dúctel offers bespoke yarn solutions tailored to the specific needs of each customer. Their portfolio also includes sustainable yarns made from recycled polyamide and polyester, contributing to our commitment to environmental responsibility. This project aims to expand Dúctel's market presence in the Middle East, focusing on Israel's growing demand for technical textiles, particularly in protective apparel. The project's objectives include evaluating market opportunities, identifying potential customers, and forming new partnerships with Israeli textile manufacturers. Their goal is to establish collaboration with Israeli customers, always focusing on providing bespoke, high-performance yarns for protective apparel and technical fabrics. This project leverages Dúctel's expertise in creating innovative, sustainable yarns to meet the rising demand for protective and technical textiles in Israel.



Shannon SPRINGS - Global

Shannon Coiled Springs (Ireland)

Funding awarded: 25k€

Shannon Coiled Springs, a family-owned business based in Ireland, is a leader in metal wire forming with over five decades of experience. The company collaborates with innovative firms in the construction, medical, aerospace, and industrial sectors, driven by passion, expertise, and ingenuity to deliver exceptional products that add significant value to its customers. In the construction sector, Shannon Coiled Springs specializes in manufacturing cavity 'wall ties' using sustainable austenitic stainless steel. These 'wall ties' are essential for the construction process, connecting internal and external leaf walls to ensure structural stability. The wall ties conform to BS EN 845-1:2013 (A1:2016) standards. The team leverages the latest wire forming technologies through Computer Numerical Control (CNC), complemented with technical competence in the wire forming process. Shannon Coiled Springs' extensive experience enables a quick response to enquiries, the swift development of ideas and designs, efficient prototyping, and the adaptation of production schedules to meet customers' needs.



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

GLOBAL GRANT

VFBS

VBOX Limited (Ireland)

Funding awarded: 25k€

VBOX is a family-run Irish SME and an award-winning, innovative technology which accelerates time to production by providing a Remote Portable Secure Network Solution. The technology enables remote system integration testing which cuts out the need for engineers to travel to site after new machinery and equipment has been delivered. The result is accelerated time to production, reduced cost, increased efficiency and productivity as well as reduced carbon emissions. The overall objective for this project is to explore the construction materials sector in Saudi Arabia demonstrating VBOX technology, gathering feedback and requirements and ultimately supporting the digitalisation projects of Saudi Arabian construction companies that are involved in automated production. The construction materials sector, being a key industrial sub-sector in Saudi Arabia's Vision2030, has seen substantial investment towards modernising and digitalising processes. This provides significant potential for the application of VBOX technology to accelerate digital automation, encourage sustainable practices and support industry growth.



TEKSTINA ME

TEKSTINA tekstilna industrija d.o.o. (Slovenia)

Funding awarded: 25k€

The aim of this project is to establish Tekstina as a key supplier of innovative, high-performance arc protection clothing in the Kuwaiti market, specifically targeting the oil and gas sector. Kuwait's growing demand for reliable personal protective equipment, driven by stringent safety regulations and increasing industrial activities, presents a significant market opportunity for Tekstina. The project leverages Tekstina's technical expertise in developing advanced, lightweight, flame-resistant textiles designed to provide superior protection in hazardous environments. A key component of the project is a business visit to Kuwait, where Tekstina's team will meet with potential clients and partners through pre-arranged B2B meetings, as well as conduct sales training for the local agent. This project is one of Tekstina's top strategic priorities and is expected to generate significant revenue growth. Successful establishment in Kuwait will also open doors for expansion into other GCC markets.



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

GLOBAL GRANT

HyaluronWear - Dubai

Rutex SLU (Spain)

Funding awarded: 25k€

RUTEX, a family-owned textile manufacturer with over 30 years of expertise in sustainable and locally sourced fabrics, is launching a groundbreaking project to introduce HYALUTEX "Second Skin" to the Dubai market. This innovative HA-infused textile is designed for use in pyjamas, leggings, gloves, and home textiles such as bedding. HYALUTEX combines advanced skincare with eco-friendly textile technology, offering multiple benefits including enhanced skin hydration, improved elasticity, and targeted reductions in body circumference. The fabric, woven with hyaluronic acid-infused threads, delivers continuous skincare benefits through direct skin contact, ensuring comfort and durability. HYALUTEX stands out for its sustainability as a washable, reusable alternative to traditional skincare creams, reducing pollution from production, packaging, and disposal. This aligns with RUTEX's commitment to environmental sustainability, as the company continues to lead the way in innovative textile solutions. With certifications including BCI, OEKO-TEX, SEAQUAL, and REACH compliance, RUTEX brings extensive experience in technical fabrics to this project.



GoINT

INNOSTART S.r.l. (Italy)

Funding awarded: 25k€

INNOSTART SRL is an innovative Italian start-up focused on sustainable materials derived from waste and by-products of the agri-food sector. Their product for going international is their flagship innovation, Uliwood, a new bio-based composite material protected by patent, with a woody component consisting of olive stone fragments. The uniqueness of Uliwood lies in its composition, with a bio-based particulate composite comprising at least 85% by weight of renewable materials. It offers a high thermal mass, efficient vapor regulation, and fire resistance, making it ideal for green construction. It is particularly suitable as a decorative, thermal, and sound-absorbing coating for interior walls. Its design aims to enhance comfort, health, and energy efficiency in buildings, while aligning with the principles of the circular economy and environmental sustainability. With this project INNOSTART aims to implement an internationalization strategy towards the promising target market of United Arab Emirates.



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

GREEN AND DIGITAL GRANT

Enviro-Laundryteam

Kilross Ltd (Ireland) Funding awarded: 32.820,10€

Toward Zero Carbon Limited (Ireland) Funding awarded: 17.179,90€

Laundryteam.com is working on an exciting new project 'Enviro' to make their laundry operations more efficient and eco-friendly. Their objective is to find ways to use less electricity, water, and gas when washing large volumes of textiles like towels, bedspreads, and linens, without affecting the quality of the wash. To do this, they have partnered with a company called Toward Zero Carbon (TZC) to install sensors, cabling, monitors and data collection/analysis software on three identical washing machines. These monitors will track how much energy and water each wash cycle uses for the three most repetitive wash cycles. With this data, they can determine the most efficient settings for water temperature, cycle time, and detergent choice. By carefully analysing all of this, they hope to decrease their resource usage, lower costs, and ultimately reduce their carbon footprint, making their business more lean and green.



SD5.0 - Smart Carbon Footprint Platform

TEARFIL - INDÚSTRIA TÊXTIL, S.A. (Portugal) Funding awarded: 25.894€

INFOS INFORMATICA SERVICOS SA (Portugal) Funding awarded: 24.106€

SD5.0 - Smart Carbon Footprint Platform is a strategic project whose main goal is the optimization of digital resources and the corresponding development of a platform to calculate the carbon footprint per manufacturing order or textile product, such as yarn. This platform works as an Intelligent Decision Support System (IDSS) to manage greener and more traceable products, contributing to the digital passport for textile products, according to the European Green Deal. This goal was achieved by developing a digital solution encompassing hardware and software, which allows Tearfil to address the main challenge identified in the project application: real-time production results (quantity produced, productivity, percentage of waste, among others), energy consumption monitoring throughout the production lifecycle, and integrating it with the bill of materials (BOM) and the production roadmaps.



Tearfil Textile Yarns



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

GREEN AND DIGITAL GRANT

Digital Fashion Avatar

Riscas Sucessivas, Unipessoal Lda (Portugal) Funding awarded: 15k€

WISE PIRATES SA (Portugal) Funding awarded: 35k€

Riscas Sucessivas, Lda, a Portuguese fashion SME, operates through its Pacifique Sud brand, selling sustainable Surf Ponchos online. The company aims to reduce high return rates caused by sizing issues by developing a cutting-edge digital avatar for virtual try-ons. This innovation will leverage AR/VR technologies, allowing customers to accurately visualize how garments will fit their body, thereby improving the online shopping experience and reducing discrepancies between customer expectations and reality. The proposed avatar technology integrates 3D modelling, body customization, and real-time virtual try-on capabilities. This technology minimizes returns, lowering operational costs and the environmental footprint related to shipping and packaging waste. The project is highly innovative within the surf apparel market, where virtual try-on technology is still underdeveloped. It capitalizes on the broader trend toward digital fashion and personalization in e-commerce, aligning with consumer demands for sustainability and customization.



TT-SWR

TEXTIL TAPIAS SL (Spain) Funding awarded: 35k€

INFOPRO CONFIANÇA DIGITAL, SL (Spain) Funding awarded: 15k€

Textil Tapias is set to transform textile manufacturing through the Smart Weaving Revolution (TT-SWR) project. Our goal is to enhance production efficiency, quality control, and operational workflows by integrating advanced digital tools. This transformation aims to significantly boost productivity, accuracy, and customer satisfaction, while maintaining a strong focus on resilience, sustainability, and environmental friendliness. By reducing reliance on paper and adopting eco-friendly practices, TT-SWR not only advances industry standards but also minimizes our environmental impact. This project represents a crucial step towards modernizing our operations and leading the way in sustainable manufacturing practices, setting a new benchmark in the textile sector and fostering a more efficient and transparent industry ecosystem.



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

GREEN AND DIGITAL GRANT

re0nfc

Rezero (Ireland) Funding awarded: 35k€

1955Lab S.r.l.(Italy) Funding awarded: 15k€

They recycle cigarette filters to create raw cellulose acetate fibre, which can be used to make further manufacturing inputs such as yarn, pellets, sheets, and film. From these inputs, thousands of valuable products can be made, such as fabric, buttons, eyewear frames, and shoelace film. The advantages of this include:

- Digital passport compliance: The EU regulation requires that all fashion goods sold in the EU, contain an accessible digital passport by 2027. This is the most advanced and discreet way for brands to satisfy that regulatory requirement.
- Authenticity layer: This new dimension can negate the need for a QR code by hosting information in a component that would be on the garment anyway. The producer will have a new and more robust way to protect against counterfeiting.
- Sustainability incentive: This is a great place to tell the story of a sustainable technology the brand has adopted, with an obvious example being the buttons or other recycled components we will make.
- User experience: The user will get to understand more about their product or garment and its production. Furthermore, they will be able to prove authenticity easily if they ever want to sell it.
- The 2nd hand economy benefits: This presents the possibility, for the first time, of having an automated scanner that enables the sorting/evaluation of second-hand clothes in the separation stage. This will be a breakthrough, as all the sorting, authenticity, and evaluation are done manually.



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

INNOVATE GRANT

Alternative to Plastic Pellets in the Textile Industry (APPTI)

TPS Ltd. (Ireland)

Funding awarded: 20k€

This project aims to enhance environmental performance in the textile industry by using recycled cigarette filter fibre instead of plastic pellets for manufacturing hard plastic fashion accessories throughout the injection moulding process. The adoption of this world-first material and its integration into the manufacturing supply chain will help the Irish family-owned factory become more competitive and resilient, and create a global ripple effect in the textile industry for a more environmentally conscious production supply chain. To ensure connectivity of the value chain they have developed an enterprise resource planning software solution and an intelligent digital signal reader hardware device for energy monitoring, cost saving, waste reduction, and for driving both; a green transition to more sustainable materials, and a digital transition to test and adapt the layout of our production floor and its manufacturing processes for optimal performance, monitoring, reporting and quality control; allowing for competitiveness, resilience and global growth.

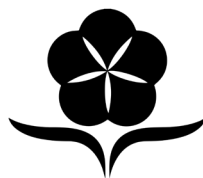


GC INNOVATE-JB

GOLDENCOTTON TÊXTEIS, LDA (Portugal)

Funding awarded: 20k€

GoldenCotton, a family-owned enterprise with expertise in the textile industry, specializes in high-quality jersey bedding. Their commitment to sustainability is evident in the use of organic cotton and innovative materials, supported by GOTS and Oeko-Tex certifications. This project aims to introduce sustainable, advanced jersey bedding that combines eco-friendly materials with customization through digital printing and intricate embroidery. The main objective is to innovate in the home textiles market, meeting the rising demand for sustainability, customization, and comfort. Jersey bedding, often overlooked in favor of materials like satin and percale, offers superior softness, breathability, and wrinkle resistance. By integrating mushroom and mint viscose, they improve sustainability while enhancing comfort. Through innovation, sustainability, and customization, they aim to drive significant impact in the home textiles industry, positioning GoldenCotton as a strong player in sustainable, practical bedding solutions.



GOLDENCOTTON



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

INNOVATE GRANT

PCW2WorkClothes

Hilaturas Ferre S.A. (Spain)

Funding awarded: 20k€

PCW2WorkClothes project goal is to develop innovative PCW Yarns by using as raw material PCW fiber coming from used Working Clothes and Labor Uniforms, once they cannot be any longer used. These yarns will be then used to produce reusable textile shopping bags and new working clothes. With EU regulations around the corner in 2025, it is crucial to undertake trials and innovations now to establish ourselves as the frontrunners in PCW recycling. This Product would strongly help to minimize textile waste on the landfills or incinerated, reducing water and chemicals consumption. It will as well help Retailers to comply with the new EU textile regulations. In addition, the environmental benefits of using recycled fiber led to the less use of virgin cotton fiber with their subsequent savings in the use of water, chemicals consumption, wastewater generation as well as the availability of land for other uses. The innovation side of PCW2WorkClothes, as compared to other PCW initiatives, lies on its feasibility, scalability and quick potential return, as we have already identified very relevant potential retailers interested on it. These Yarns would potentially be the first ones in the market that could serve both to Weaving and Circular Knitting applications.

FERRE

SLCordS

LA INDUSTRIAL ALGODONERA, S.A. (Spain)

Funding awarded: 20k€

The SLCordS project aims to develop a sustainable cord solution for paper bags, addressing the urgent need to replace plastic and metal components in packaging. By innovating a molded fiber solution made entirely from eco-friendly materials, LIASA focuses on enhancing the sustainability of the textile ecosystem. This initiative not only aligns with the increasing regulatory pressures for environmentally responsible products but also meets the growing consumer demand for greener alternatives. The project will encompass a comprehensive approach, including business planning, research and development, and user trials to validate the new product's effectiveness and market fit. Engaging with stakeholders will be vital to ensure the solution meets industry standards and consumer expectations. By offering a viable alternative to traditional cord materials, LIASA will contribute significantly to reducing the environmental impact of packaging and support a transition toward sustainable practices in the textile industry. The anticipated outcomes include improved functionality, cost efficiency, and a reduction in the carbon footprint associated with packaging solutions, paving the way for a more sustainable future.



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

INNOVATE GRANT

ONDYTEC-PC

ONDYTEC 2018 SL (Spain)

Funding awarded: 20k€

ONDYTEC 2018 S.L. is an Advanced Manufacturing SME, closely linked to the textile sector. The sustainable company is currently made up of 9 qualified technologists and is dedicated to: the marketing of laboratory machines and ultrasonic washing machines; sale of textile products and technological advice. In this project, we will work to develop the proof of concept of a novel and sustainable yarn dyeing process for the Denim sector, with which to promote the Green Transition within the textile sector. This process will reduce the environmental impact associated with Denim dyeing, since it will base its R&D on the use of recycled raw materials (resins) and natural ones (dyes/pigments), and the application by impregnation. Seeking to move away from conventional Denim dyeing processes in which indigo dye is traditionally applied. It is estimated that the effective development of this new yarn dyeing process will reduce water consumption by 90%.



ACOUSTIC AND RECYCLED PANEL

CABANES & ORTUÑO S.L. (Spain)

Funding awarded: 20k€

Cabanes Ortuño S.L. was founded in 1988 as a family business in Yecla (Murcia, Spain), specializing in the distribution of fabrics for the upholstery industry. Since then, moving forward has been their major motivation. As a result, C&O is an established company specialized in the upholstery, rest, hospitality, and footwear sectors, where their goal is to contribute solutions for manufacturers. After extensive experience in the textile sector, C&O introduced new accessories for upholstery and a full line of customized digital printing, thus adapting to the needs of their clients and adding value to the rest of their collections. In recent years, as part of the company's development and expansion strategy, they have embraced innovation and added new eco-friendly finishes to their textiles. These finishes are formulated and produced at C&O, helping to reduce the carbon footprint and promote a circular economy. Currently, in line with their green strategy, the company is undertaking a new project focused on reducing the environmental impact of production processes by reusing all textile waste from the upholstery industry to produce a new wall covering: 'ACOUSTIC, RECYCLED, INSULATING, FIREPROOF, AND PERSONALIZED PANEL'.



SELECTED BENEFICIARIES 2nd CALL

INNOVATE GRANT

Medicare Smart System

Medi Care System, s.l.u (Spain)

Funding awarded: 20k€

The Medicare Smart System project aims to revolutionize patient containment in healthcare settings through the integration of textile products with radio-frequency identification (RFID) systems and specialized software. This innovative approach addresses the inefficiencies of manual restraint documentation by transitioning to a digital system that improves traceability, operational efficiency, and patient safety. The project will introduce three product lines, each designed for different patient needs, offering both reusable and disposable options. The solution prioritizes sustainability through the use of eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient technologies, contributing to a circular economy. Validation of the system will take place in collaboration with healthcare professionals, ensuring the solution meets real-world requirements and economic feasibility. In addition to enhancing patient care and reducing administrative burdens, the Medicare Smart System reduces waste and paper usage. The combination of innovative textile technology, ethical patient care practices, and sustainable development positions the Medicare Smart System as a transformative solution in the healthcare industry.



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