



“The thread of innovation” The Terrassa Charter of the textile and fashion sector

The development of the textile and fashion sector goes together with innovation. Textile is a constant innovation. Both textile/fashion and innovation are two common characteristics of our territories and the way of being of our communities.

The objectives of the meeting in Terrassa have been to debate the links we can establish between both, and to study what future strategy allows the identification of the sector with new values and activities in our territories and societies.

In a moment of change, we need to reflect on future alternatives with more possibilities, according to our abilities and those we acquire every day, through experience, research and trial, and the application of new concepts and new methodologies that provide added value and social value. This industry and this industrial society provide answers, through creativity and innovation, to the market needs. Such answers are at all levels and with the guarantee of the best and most advanced work. We apply technology to the quality of life of our everyday existence: we offer the basics people and societies need in their daily progress.

We need reflections, and we make them.

Given the current economic and social challenges, our textile communities have to face the construction of new work models based on networking and knowledge exchange and transfer. As a result, these communities turn into regions that learn, get assessed, improve constantly and decide about their own future, without giving up anything.

Thus, considering all the factors that have been presented and analysed during today's meeting, it is stated that:

1. In the first place, we will work on the necessary tools to **increase the competitiveness** of the businesses within our territories, because we want our companies to be well positioned in **the global market**.

In this sense, it is necessary:

- On the one hand, **to increase the resources going to R&D&I**, to commit ourselves to applied research and innovation. In order to guarantee ourselves a future, it is necessary to promote and boost the scientific and innovative talent. Plans that allow the exchange of scientists and agents also have to be established, guaranteeing mutual benefits for all the parties involved. In this sense, ACTE is an excellent driving force for innovation, since the network itself is a dynamic and consolidated ecosystem of innovation, both in knowledge transfer and in relationships.
- On the other hand, **to boost quality and design in order to promote the specialisation in products, with a productive structure based on technological innovation, flexibility and demand-orientation**. For the promotion and the application of this technological innovation within the businesses in ACTE member territories, it is basic to establish tools for the communication, for the dissemination of processes and results and for the knowledge transfer between technology and research centres (public, private or mixed public-private), businesses and also administrations linked to the sector. In this sense, the results from the workshop called "Knowledge and research" reveal that effective bonds need to prevail between the different agents that innovate, contribute to the implementation of projects and make these viable: **TO INNOVATE WITH A COMMERCIAL SENSE**.

2. In the second place, we will **emphasize the permanent training for the development of the human resources of the sector**. The improvement of the competitiveness is linked to an **increase in the productivity**, which is obtained by training the sector's employees, providing them with the highest possible professional skills and boosting the knowledge exchange, the flow of ideas and the creativity. The objective is to obtain a quality product, one that differs from the one we consider today as competing product. We are talking about an innovative product that responds to and satisfies the new needs of the clients, responding at the same time to the respect for the environment and the sustainable development of the community.

The role of the public administrations is, in this case, to raise public awareness of the permanent adaptation of the community's members. The creativity, innovation and competitiveness of the sector and the territory depend on the educational background of the people in order to guarantee their future.

3. In the third place, we will **boost cooperation processes among businesses to promote a bigger dimension**. Through networking, **ACTE** will try to contribute to the **strengthening of the inter-business links**, which allow, for instance, to reduce costs, share risks, generate economies of scale, combine competences and take advantage of the knowledge and expertise of businesses and share the technological, development and acquired knowledge investments. With the inter-business links strengthened, it will be also easier to divide the risks and the costs from exploiting new opportunities (having joint experiences), offer higher quality and more diversified product lines, exert more pressure in the market by increasing the competitiveness (for the benefit of the client), share resources (specially those ones that nowadays are being underused), strengthen the purchasing power and, finally, obtain more power to act in the international markets.

4. In the fourth place, we will strengthen the **constant dialogue with the outstanding socioeconomic agents of the sector**. We will specifically deepen the existing links with the two main organisations of the sector within the European Union, for example EURATEX and ETUF: TCL.
5. In the fifth place, we will coordinate the work within our network to **create processes of urban renovation**. The aims in mind are, on the one hand, to guarantee the preservation of the heritage and the legacy of the textile sector existing within our territories and, on the other hand, to reflect more on new uses of the traditional textile areas. In this sense, the results from the workshop called “Reinventing the territory” reveal the need for new models that guarantee the integration of urbanism, economy and society, based on identity, diversity and sustainability criteria. These would provide areas of economic activity that would respond to the real and future needs.
6. In sixth place, we want to guarantee the future of the many businesses that are linked, either directly or indirectly, to the textile and fashion sector of the ACTE member territories. In order to achieve it, we will promote the implementation of those studies and research that are necessary to exactly define the already existing or potential market niches, linked to the current and future needs of the industrial communities. In this sense, as it has been analysed in the workshop “Ecoinnovation in the textile sector”, one of the current and future line for new textile products is clearly linked to sustainability and reduction of the environmental impact of the industrial activity in any of the phases of production. In a similar line, we have to analyse at length and take maximum advantage of the opportunities offered by different professional sectors for the development of textile products according to their needs. Such is the case of the health, security, sports and industrial sectors. Concerning this last one, it is important mentioning the production of fibres, threads and complex textile structures that go to “high-tech industries”.

The competent authorities also have to be asked to develop the appropriate controls in order to avoid the entrance into our markets of products that do not fulfil the European

sustainability requirements. In this sense, Eco-innovation is very important, but so is Eco-equality.

Finally, it is everyone's duty to appreciate the efforts of the sector and to raise public awareness of the value of the products that are respectful with the environment and people's health.

7. Lastly, within Twintex, network of textile museums from all over Europe, we are convinced that the integration of culture and production is fundamental for a **quality** European textile industry, and we know that these museums are depositories of the **tradition** and **knowledge** of more a century of creative and productive activity. Therefore, we have agreed on **innovating by sharing the data** of their respective funds, offering public access to them through a joint portal, **encouraging and providing technical support to the businesses** so that they have their own archives documented and saved and they make them accessible in the way they can. And finally, we have agreed on **working together in new ways in an effort to spread** the European textile heritage, and **promoting creativity**.

For all of this, ACTE and each of its members commit to implementing the policies that their resources and competences allow them to in order to achieve the objectives mentioned above. They also commit to reporting these conclusions and orientations to the corresponding authorities so that they act on them within their respective territories.

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