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T&A Euromed heritage for innovation

Partnership

Municipality of Prato



comune di
PRATO

Prato, with a total of 185.091 inhabitants, is the second town of the Tuscany and the third one of the central Italy (after Rome and Florence). It is located in the heart of the Region, on the central board of a metropolitan area of a million and 200 thousand inhabitants, in a strategic position with respect to the infrastructures of the area.

The industrial district of Prato, located in a territory covering the whole Province and some neighbouring areas, is one of the biggest Italian industrial districts and an important centre at global level for the production of textiles and wool, in particular: textiles for the clothing industry, textile products for the furnishing, knitting yarns, nonwoven fabrics and technical textiles for industrial purposes, knitted fabrics, clothing and machines for the textile industry. In addition to the traditional specialization in the textile, the clothing sector has progressively increased in the district, so much so that Prato by now is known also as "fashion district".

The industrial vocation of the town - although the recent reduction of the weight of the manufacturing (in 1981-2001 the number of textile companies is reduced by almost 60% and by 35% employment in the sector) - is still dominating: with almost 7.200 companies employing over 40,000 workers in the production of over 70.000 new items and approximately 350 million meters of fabric for clothing, furnishings and technical uses, Prato is currently one of the most important textile manufacturing areas in Europe.

The Municipality of Prato in the last years has developed an intense activity in Europe, participating in calls for EU funds, directly managing both projects funded by the ERDF and international cooperation projects and participating in European networks.

In particular it has been actively involved in the coordination and management of the Interreg III C South RFO DISTRICT, has implemented as Lead partner the Med-Pact PAMLED and as coordinator the TWINTEX MUSEUMS project. This initiative together with the participation in the ACTE network (European Association of Textile Communities), whose the Municipality is in charge of the Executive Secretariat for the 2007/2009, have fostered the collaboration among textile cities, museums and enterprises to enhance their heritage and facilitate the transition of territorial systems towards the knowledge economy.

Prato Textile Museum Foundation



Museo
del Tessuto

The Textile Museum is a cultural institution strongly rooted in the local social and economic fabric of the Prato district, managed by Prato Textile Museum Foundation [Fondazione Museo del Tessuto], which was founded in November 2003 by the Municipality and Province of Prato, the Prato Industrial Union and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts of Prato. In the same year the Museum found its definitive location in the restored Ex Cimatoria Campolmi, an old textile factory which is perhaps the most important example of industrial archaeology in the Province of Prato. The Museum, opened in 1975 as a cultural institution for the recovery of the local productive history and to support training in the sector of textile planning, can be considered one of the most important cultural centres dedicated to conservation, study and valorization of old and contemporary textiles. Its strong connections with textile companies of the area and contemporary industrial production is a quite unique characteristic in the contest of European museology. Today it's collections comprise a heritage of international importance: textile art is documented from pre-Christian times to our day, illustrating various manufacturing techniques, by a total of about 6000 items. The existing strong relationships with many companies from the textile district have enabled the creation of a contemporary section. Every season, since 1997, this section displays to the public a selection of fabrics produced in the district that are particularly significant in terms of technological innovation and aesthetic value. In addition the Museum conserves a rich archive of sample books from local enterprises.

The Museum also carries on education activities aimed at all age groups for the promotion of the textile culture and valorization of its collections.

Hellenic Clothing Industry Association (HCIA)



ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΚΤΗΡΙΑΤΩΝ
ΕΤΟΙΜΩΝ ΕΝΔΥΜΑΤΩΝ
HELLENIC CLOTHING
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The textile-clothing sector is one of the most important ones in Greece. During the past decade a number of major worldwide changes modified considerably the production and distribution of the products. These major changes affected considerably the sector in Greece, since production was transferred to neighbour countries, a large number of companies closed resulting to an increase of unemployment, and at the same time an important number of companies became brand product companies specialized in distribution.

The Hellenic Clothing Industry Association (HCIA) is a non profit industrial association established in Athens in 1962. It represents Greek companies from all sub-sectors of the clothing industry (men, women and children's clothing, underwear, swimwear, shirts and fashion accessories). HCIA provides a wide range of services and activities including representing the sector's companies vis-à-vis International, European and National authorities also participating in the negotiation of sectoral and regional collective agreements; providing information and consulting relating the commercial, industrial and social policy matters including training and education consulting and support; and disseminating information on technical issues (product specifications, information systems, and telecommunications), on technology transfer, quality management, market and economic research. Moreover the Association represents the industry in International and European sectoral organisations (IAF and Euratex), co-operates in the framework of horizontal infrastructures of the textile and clothing sector in Greece through its participation in the Clothing Textile & Fibre Technology Development Company (CLOTTEFI) and ELKEDE technology and designer SA, maintains a databank with companies and financial data and has established two research organisations: The Greek E-Commerce Center and The Bodymetrics Institute.

Foment of Terrassa



FOMENT
DE TERRASSA, S.A.

Terrassa with its 211.793 inhabitants (the fourth city of Catalonia) is part of the RMB (Metropolitan Region of Barcelona), and inside this, a central place of its second industrial crown. Terrassa has had a leading role in the different industrial periods of Catalonia, becoming one of the engines of its industrial development, specially regarding the textile industry. But, in fact, Terrassa became a place for living more than a simple factory, far away from a simple production centre. That's why Terrassa's demography increased a lot in last decade. Terrassa is a clear receiver of new citizenship, and for this reason, a place for economic and social activity. Nowadays this industrial projection means basically innovation, creativity and competitiveness of this local community, that makes it special.

Foment de Terrassa, SA is a trading society constituted by Terrassa City Council on year 1989, with municipal capital. Its mission is the direct management of services and the activities addressed to the economical and local development, the promotion, management and execution of the programmes linked to the training and the industrial, commercial and economical promotion of Terrassa.

The concrete activities developed are: advice and orientation for better knowing people potentialities and the labour market offers; training for improving citizens professional aptitudes; development of programmes, projects and initiatives for the users labour insertion, giving special emphasis to the groups considered to be of difficult insertion; support and assessment for business creation (Business Incubator); Current information about Terrassa socioeconomic prospect to give support to the making of a decision in the definition of public policies of economical and social promotion (Social, Economic and Sustainability Observatory); information and advice about the possibilities of municipal economical promotion through programmes and European projects.

Textile Museum and Documentation Centre of Terrassa



The Textile Museum and Documentation Centre, located in Terrassa, is a Consortium formed by the City Council of Terrassa and the Provincial Council of Barcelona and is a reference point in Catalonia and the Mediterranean area, centring mainly on local industrial textile heritage, for all those interested in the preservation, study and promotion of the textile culture.

The Museum, founded in 1946, collects more than 20.000 items representing 2.000 years of textile history worldwide. Its unique collection of modernist masterpieces by Catalan artists, designers and firms dating from the early years of the twentieth century deserves special mention. The Museum organizes a range of research programs and contributes to disseminate textile heritage through a range of teaching activities for visitors of all ages, staging workshops and providing teaching resources.

The Documentation Centre is at the service of professionals who need information and documentation to carry out their work: designers, stylists, interior decorators, restorers, costume designers, antiquarians, students and researchers. The Museum offers a huge variety of back-up resources: a constantly updated well-stocked library specializing in textiles and fashion, a photographic archive of fashion shows and an impressive range of textiles, garments, complements, original designs and sample books.

The Centre is keen to train new professionals in the area in order to ensure the preservation of textile heritage and to promote Knowledge of the world of textiles among all professionals linked directly or indirectly with the sector, offering courses in fabric recognition, documentation, preservation and conservation. The Centre has signed agreements with a number of universities and institutions for practical work placements in its premises and also provides for made-to-measure courses for private individuals, firms and institutions, catering for their specific needs using its own resources.

Clothing Textile and Fibre Technological Development SA (CLOTEFI)



Clothing Textile and Fibre Technological Development SA is the Greek Technological Centre for Textile and Clothing Industry, which the main shareholder is the Ministry of Development (94%). Since 1986, the year of its establishment, the company has enjoyed dynamic growth: starting with a textile testing laboratory CLOTEFI has gained experience in fields of materials and chemical analyses and developed into a Technological Centre of considerable standing both in Greece and Europe.

Today, CLOTEFI is the house of a highly equipped laboratory for the quality control of textile and apparel materials and products, which simultaneously, is the most up to date specialised Greek laboratory. With approximately 350 clients – enterprises of the sector, distributors, large firms' representatives, detergent and chemical manufacturers - CLOTEFI provides technical support in quality and production issues such as product certification. CLOTEFI cooperates with European and national research and technological development centres and is actively involved in the European Networks of Organisations whose scope is to create knowledge and transfer technology to the textile industry.

Thanks to its participation in over 70 national and transnational projects, CLOTEFI owns a very significant capital of knowledge available to the people of the Greek clothing textile industry. In practice CLOTEFI's R&D team supports innovations, transfer of know-how and application of research results to manufacturing processes. In addition CLOTEFI actively supports technology transfer, non technological innovation and joint sustainable SMEs' internationalisation strategies and transnational cooperation actions and promotes sustainable production and consumption in textiles and developed crisis prevention models in the clothing sector.

French Institute Textile Clothing (IFTH)



Rhône-Alpes Region represents the highest concentration of T&A firms in France with 23.600 employees (20.000 in textile) in 1.150 firms. The Region represents 35 % of the total turnover, 30 % of the firms and 24 % of the staff of French textile industry. Rhône-Alpes is the only French region in which the whole textile chain is present, with a real industrial activity (71 % of the staff is involved in production : 52% in weaving, from which 48 % dedicated to apparel, 30% to home textile and upholstery, and 22% to technical uses). Mainly composed of SMEs with a high innovation capacity (65% of French production of technical textiles), this industry exports 1,4 billions Euros of textiles.

IFTH, as a technological skill Centre assisting in textile innovation, has developed a network of technological platforms in order to propose high added value services to industrial companies in the Textile and Apparel sectors. These platforms, which are true shared tools, assist product development approaches in the design engineering, production, finishing and marketing of materials and products thanks to workshops and digital tools. As an activator of projects for industrial companies, IFTH provides answers to the need for acquiring innovative know-how, developing and pre-industrialising textile products, and transferring technology to industrial application, as well as obtaining strategic advice.

IFTH is involved in a regional organisation involving main actors in the textile and apparel sectors named STRAT (Synergie Textile Rhône-Alpes Territoire) offering a common panel of products & services, partnership and networking activities as well in the "Espace Textile" Promotion Centre, a non-profit institution based in Nafplion. It is run by a governing body of seven and aims at the research, preservation, study and presentation of the material culture of the Peloponnese as well as of the whole of Greece. It is housed in the residence of Papantoniou, which was converted into a museum in 1981 and renovated in 1999.

Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation (PFF)



Argolid with over 10.000 inhabitants supports its economy mainly through the primary and tertiary sectors while the secondary sector is of minor importance. In the industrial textile production there used to be a number of textile factories until the early decades of the 1980's and in the Ermionie region the "Macedonian Spinning factory" until the mid 1990's. Today there is only one home industry in the Nea Kios region which produces medical garments, overalls and some home industries which deal with the production of special clothing as underwear, bridal wear etc.

The Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation (PFF), founded in 1974 by Ioanna Papantoniou in memory of her father Vasilios Papantoniou, is a nonprofit institution based in Nafplion. It is run by a governing body of seven and aims at the research, preservation, study and presentation of the material culture of the Peloponnese as well as of the whole of Greece. It is housed in the residence of Papantoniou, which was converted into a museum in 1981 and renovated in 1999.

In 1970-1980 a research project, aiming to the documentation and study of folk culture, music and dance, preindustrial technology and children game, was run over the whole of Greece. The results of this research became the main body of the publishing activities of the Foundation, that include the special scientific journal "Ethnographica", which numbers today 13 volumes, and the journal "Endymatologica", published in 3 volumes.

In October 1989, the PFF founded "Stathmos", the first Greek childhood museum, housed in the engine-shed of the Nafplion railway station. In the same year the Greek National Traditional Costume Archives were assigned to the Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation, in addition Ioanna Papantoniou has recently founded the Greek Costume Society as an extension of this Archive, aiming to create a Costume Culture Museum in Greece. The foundation's collections now number over 27.000 artifacts, covering all the branches of study relating to modern Greek culture.

Carpiformazione



Carpiformazione is located in Carpi (Modena) a 70.000 inhabitants town in Emilia Romagna Region, where the sectors of knitwear, textile and clothing have established themselves on the Italian and world market since the sixties, thanks to their production capacity and the exclusivity of articles produced in the district.

Carpi district is characterized by a wide presence of small and medium sized companies (almost the 70% of businesses work in making up clothing and knitwear, while the remaining 30% is represented by the auxiliary segments of the textile industry), by a relevance of a network of intercompany relationships due to the flexible specialization and a connection between the economic and socio-cultural systems.

Carpiformazione is a public corporation, formed by the Municipality of Carpi and other seven municipalities of the textile district, operating from 1980 and specialized in the design and implementation of training courses, research activities, learning materials design and production and other services mainly addressed to Textile and Clothing Industry.

The organization has researched and adopted advanced methodologies and tools for the training needs analysis and evaluation and the project design and implementation, in order to be able to manage training and research activities in different fields and processes, representing nowadays a referring point either for people who want to acquire skills and competences to be spent in the labour market, or for the T&A employees and, last but not least, for the SMEs of the district. Its main strength points are the excellence level in the training offer, the thirty years experience in the courses design, the employment of experts/trainers coming from the companies (about 500 firms), the innovative learning/teaching methodologies, the strong integration with other training organizations, schools, fashion institutes, companies, professional associations and the high employment level after the courses attendance.