

Targeted stakeholder consultation based on the Staff Working Document “**Scenarios towards co-creation of a transition pathway for a more resilient, sustainable and digital textiles ecosystem**”

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The [update of the EU Industrial Strategy](#) highlights the need to accelerate the green and digital transitions of the EU Industry. Among the various instruments, the Commission proposed to co-create, in partnership with industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders, transition pathways for ecosystems, where needed. The textiles ecosystem was identified among those ecosystems to develop such a transition pathway.

The Commission services have prepared a [Staff Working Document](#) to outline possible scenarios for a transition pathway for a more resilient, sustainable and digital textiles ecosystem. Through collaborative efforts, the aim is to co-create concrete actions and commitments with all stakeholders of this ecosystem to step up its green and digital transition and strengthen its resilience. These efforts will build upon the EU Industrial strategy update and the EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles.

Based on the results of the survey, the Commission will organise further meetings with stakeholders to deepen the discussions towards finalising the textiles ecosystem transition pathway by the end of 2022.

You are invited to provide feedback on the Staff Working Document through this online survey that will run until **15 June 2022**.

In case of questions about this consultation, please send an email to EU-TEXTILES-PATHWAY-2030@ec.europa.eu.

About you

*** I am giving my contribution as:**

- Academic / Research institution
- Business association
- Company / Business organisation
- Consumer organisation
- Environmental organisation
- EU institution
- EU citizen
- International organisation
- Network of organisations
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Local administration
- Regional administration
- National administration
- Trade Union
- Other

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Simone

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Schirru

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simone.schirru@rreuse.org

*** Which organisation or network do you represent?**

RREUSE

*** Country of origin of the organisation or the headquarters of a network**

Belgium (BE)

*** Your organisation or network is mainly active at:**

- EU level
- Member state level
- Regional level

- Local level
- Global level

How many people do you employ in your organisation or network?

- 1 to 9 employees
- 10 to 49 employees
- 50 to 249 employees
- 250 employees or more

*** The competences of your organisation or network are mostly related to:**

- The green transition
- The digital transition
- The move to greater resilience
- Other

Data protection provisions and Communication

Unit GROW.G.1 will publish a report on a Europa website with an overview of contributions and a summary of the input received. No personal information of the respondents will be published. The name of your organisation or network may be included in the overview.

I have read and agree with the personal data protection provisions

[Privacy Statement Stakeholder consultation textiles.docx.pdf](#)

* I agree to be contacted regarding my contribution to the present consultation, as well as for other follow-up contacts and activities in the Textiles Ecosystem Transition Pathway process

- yes
- no

* Would you be interested in being contacted for potential participation in the Stakeholder consultation workshops for the Textiles Ecosystem Transition Pathway planned for September 2022?

- yes
- no
- I do not know

if yes, which workshop(s) in particular:

- 1. Resilience
- 2. Sustainability

Consultation questions

You are invited to reflect on the different issues and possible output scenarios for 2030 presented in the Staff Working Document for the key dimensions of Resilience, Sustainability and Digitalisation. You may choose which questions you answer, and leave others empty. Please, in particular, propose specific actions and targets. Quantifiable evidence is very much welcome.

Resilience

Please read and reflect on the issues and scenarios proposed in the **Section 2.1** of the Staff Working Document.

- How does the ecosystem **benefit** from integration in the global economy from the perspectives of **supply diversification and sustained demand** from industrial output?

2000 character(s) maximum

- How can operators in the ecosystem **be supported in internationalisation**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- How can the **competitiveness gap** be reduced? Which are the export markets with potential for the ecosystem and for which products?

2000 character(s) maximum

- What kind of **issues** have you witnessed as regards the **resilience of value chains** that contribute to the functioning of the textiles ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Which **value chains' bottlenecks are the most critical** for the ecosystem? Can you **provide data/evidence**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are there **strategic dependencies** that could **reduce the resilience** of the ecosystem inside and outside the EU? Can you specify **actions that can alleviate** such strategic dependencies?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are the **main regulations** governing the ecosystem agile **enough to strengthen the resilience** of the ecosystem? If not, how can they be made **more flexible**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o Social economy actors, and in particular, social enterprises involved in waste management activities for the collection and handling of textiles, can play a crucial role in ensuring an inclusive green transition, providing innovative solutions for social and environmental challenges.
- o However, in order to cope with their evolving circular business models, they are in need of labour market integration policies that can grant them more flexibility, such as providing adequate subsidy schemes for wages or granting sustained flexibility to innovate for better environmental outcomes, which are currently elements missing by the general framework the Social Economy Action Plan (SEAP) aims to provide.
- o For instance, some WISEs face challenges with the duration of support for work placements while others face inflexible rules hindering innovation and job creation.
- o RREUSE calls for funding programmes in all MS on circular textile skills and flexible VET schemes to meet social enterprises' ambitions and facilitate partnerships between traditional and high-level educational bodies to integrate green skills in educational programmes, map and address skills shortages, and establish uniform criteria for awarding certifications for future employability in the circular economy.

- Are there **infrastructure barriers** that reduce the resilience of the ecosystem? Can you specify infrastructure initiatives that could **strengthen the resilience** of the ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Considering the **four resilience topics** mentioned in the Staff Working Document (**Section 2.1**), what **other actions** need to be taken by the Commission, national competent authorities and/or industry to **increase the resilience** of the textiles ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o Importance of promoting partnerships with mainstream business actors that allow social enterprises to reap the benefits and upscale impact and not be side-lined by companies that continue to accumulate profits from side circular activities while promoting overconsumption.
- o Mechanisms that disseminate best practices of concrete co-creation of new circular business models between social economy and mainstream business actors with a view of averting green and social washing in the textile industry and sharing the best practices with social economy actors.
- o Avoid considering that investments in R&D and treatment facilities are only needed in the recycling sector, as they are largely needed for textile waste prevention and preparation for reuse such as developing the best combination of collection schemes, logistics, and sorting technologies to ensure the maximum possible re-use and the optimal recycling output.
- o Ensure that tax regimes favour labour-intensive services contributing to a circular economy, e.g. reduced or zero percent VAT on labour costs associated with reuse, repair, and the sale of second-hand goods.

The **four resilience topics**, as specified in the Staff Working Document, refer to:

1. Addressing skills gaps.
2. Strengthening the supply and competitiveness of the ecosystem; dealing with raw materials shortages and energy prices.
3. Reinforcing trade negotiations with regard to environmental and labour standards.
4. Improving access to EU funding and the participation in EU research and innovation programmes.

-
- Based on data available to you, what **intermediary milestones** need to be set for the different **actions towards 2030**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are there any **commitments (actions and targets)** ongoing in your organisation that are **relevant for the resilience** of the textiles ecosystem? Can you provide details?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are there any **new concrete actions** that your organisation is willing to implement (alone or in collaboration with other stakeholders) to **contribute to the resilience** of the textiles ecosystem? Can you provide details?

2000 character(s) maximum

Sustainability

- What are the **main challenges** to ensure the **green transition** of the textiles ecosystem, as part of this pathway? Can you provide **relevant data or evidence**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o Currently, just 1% of textile is being recycled globally, within a context of overconsumption and large production of textile products that are not designed to be durable. In this regard, while technological progress for more and better recycling in textile is very much needed, it is also fundamental to first prioritise reuse or repair for an effective green transition in respect of the waste hierarchy.
- o It is thus crucial for the sector to make fabrics that are more durable, with less complex but of good quality fibre blends and standardised sizes which facilitate both reuse and recycling. RREUSE and its members call on developing separate collection systems that prioritise and facilitate reuse which should be made more accessible both financially and technically.
- o One of the main challenges to ensuring the green transition of the textile ecosystem is to ensure the green transition unfolds in a fair and inclusive way. Social enterprises involved in circular textile activities represent an alternative business model that fulfills these environmental objectives while at the same time fostering social inclusion by providing green jobs to marginalized communities, overall ensuring an inclusive green transition and providing innovative solutions with the potential to be upscale through partnerships with public and private bodies.
- o According to RREUSE estimates, textiles can create between 20 and 35 jobs per 1,000 tonnes collected with a view of being re-used, and similarly, 1 job can be created for each 7 to 10 collection point containers.
More on the RREUSE report below:
<https://www.rreuse.org/wp-content/uploads/04-2021-job-creation-briefing.pdf>

- What **actions** are needed to **boost demand for recycled fibres**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o Sustainability strategies should not allow brands to continue to keep up the same level of (over) production as long as they use certain amounts of recycled content.
- o Although the Textile Strategy announced that there will be a focus on fibre-to-fibre recyclability, companies are not yet making bold steps in ensuring necessary investments tap into these processes.
- o Before boosting the demand for recycled fibres, the transition pathway should have measures that prioritise the waste hierarchy and waste prevention, pushing companies to extend the life-span of their textile products.

- Would **waste streams information** (i.e. availability of textile waste, location, etc.), potentially provided through the **new Recycling Hubs**, be an enabling conditions for **boosting recycling of textiles in the EU**?

2000 character(s) maximum

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- What **actions** are needed to **improve the sustainability of production process**, including the use of raw materials and hazardous chemicals?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o The EU should help highlight the importance of Buying Social, with a particular emphasis on producing and buying textiles in an environmentally as well as socially sustainable way (and the danger of supporting a fast-fashion culture at the detriment of human rights globally), giving proper recognition and visibility to the work of social enterprises in coordination with the actions envisioned under the Social Economy Action Plan.
 - o Additionally, before encouraging consumers to purchase sustainable new textiles, consumers should be informed about the possibilities of repairing or purchasing second-hand textiles in the first place.
 - o RREUSE suggests promoting the utilisation of quality raw materials that make textile products durable and easy to maintain, and in particular, avoid the use of mixed fibres and plastic-based fibres for the sake of making textile products easier to recycle, raise their value and making them easier to sell second-hand.
 - o Additionally, encouraging designers to use recycled materials is a good solution to reduce the environmental impact of the textile industry. However, to improve the sustainability of the production process, the textile materials should be easier to process and their purity shall not be compromised, for the sake of their durability, quality, safety, and recyclability of products.
 - o In order to assess whether businesses are contributing to environmental and social objectives and to avoid false disseminating best practices, it is their core business model that should be assessed and not just side business models.
 - o Additionally, procedures and designers of textiles that are non-compliant with EU's legislative requirements should be sanctioned, for instance, via planned obsolescence legislation following the French model applied to tech actors.

- Based on your experience and data available to you, how can the **digital product passport**, as proposed by the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, **contribute to sustainable consumption** and production patterns and **facilitate recycling**? How should this **information** be made available **to consumers**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o The DPP should contribute to sustainable consumption by enhancing the rights of consumers which are increasingly interested in directing their purchases towards products that fulfill environmental and social standards.
- o Furthermore, it should increase transparency on environmental and social impacts, helping prevent greenwashing as well as social washing and enhancing the visibility of the social economy sector, fostering the effective implementation of the Social Economy Transition Pathway.
- o The following information should be made available to consumers:
 - Material and chemicals content (bill of materials) and information on possible hazards related to the chemicals contained.
 - Product origin (including sourcing of raw materials).
 - Circularity performance (durability, reusability, reparability, recyclability, and product care guidance).
 - Comprehensive environmental footprint information starting with CO2 emissions.
 - Social impacts of production.
 - How workers' rights are respected throughout the supply chain and information about worker grievances.
 - How environmental and social impacts are dealt with
 - Companies' corporate social and environmental policies, targets, practices, risks, and impacts on human rights, including labour rights.
- o Equally, DPP must always be made available on products themselves, and not simply on their packaging, in order to properly inform consumers and make it accessible to repairers, re-use operators, and future users for the sake of sustainable consumption.
- o The DPP can be a key tool to support market surveillance authorities and ensure the enforcement of product legislation.

- How could the **green transition contribute to improving global competitiveness** of the ecosystem, especially the competitiveness of its **SMEs**, and what challenges could it create?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o The Transition Pathway offers the EU an opportunity to set itself as a leader of a sustainable textile ecosystem that goes beyond the mere assumptions that competitiveness entails efficiencies that only prioritise profit-seeking, moving away from a race to the bottom approach that has been driving down environmental and labour standards globally. On the contrary, competitiveness in the textile ecosystem should be conceived in a way that pushes for increased protection of people and the environment globally.
- o To ensure an inclusive green transition, it is fundamental to involve SMEs such as social enterprises. As social enterprises are deeply involved in the collection, sorting, and resale of post-consumer textiles, they are actors that can provide considerable opportunities to create local, green, and inclusive jobs in the EU.
- o RREUSE suggests for the Transition Pathway to be implemented in coordination with the Social Economy Transition Pathway and to promote measures that provide appropriate funding opportunities and establish mandatory social clauses and reserved contracts for social enterprises in tendering procedures.
- o Importance of promoting partnerships with mainstream business actors that allow social enterprises to reap the benefits and upscale impact and not be side-lined by companies that continue to accumulate profits from side circular activities while promoting overconsumption.

- Is your organisation **on track to transition successfully** towards a more **sustainable business model**? What are the **challenges** you encounter/foresee?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Which elements are **missing** or are **insufficient in the current regulatory framework** to realise the green transition?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o No mention of social enterprises in EPR. EPR schemes can be counterproductive if implemented without clear targets on waste prevention and preparing for re-use. It also bears the risks of disrupting the collection activities currently conducted by social enterprises, by risking to incentivise producers/importers to prioritise recycling over waste prevention and preparation for reuse and to use their financial influence to marginalise reuse and social actors. As such, EPR schemes should not grant the right to interfere with regional collection schemes as their main obligation should be the financing of total costs of collection, sorting and recovery of the non-reusable fraction of textiles.
- o Requiring Member States to implement mandatory EPR for textiles (and footwear) should go together with an obligation for Producer Responsibility Organisations or producers to guarantee those collection model and sorting facilities will prioritise re-use over recycling and promote circular design. Some of the EPR fees collected can go to support the work on reuse led by social enterprises, as is the case in France. More below (in French)
<https://www.francetransactions.com/actus/news-finances/economie-sociale-et-solidaire-les-fonds-de-reemploi-integralement-fleches-vers.html>
- o No investment in infrastructure. there is still a lack of separate collection systems for post-consumer textiles and textile waste. Collection systems need to be more widespread and tailored to the needs of discarders which requires significant investment in new infrastructure. Different forms of collection points in places that are usually busy (e.g. offices, public spaces, supermarkets) can be a solution.
- o No clear separate target for reuse and preparation for reuse. The current practice of combining preparing for reuse and recycling targets undermines the waste hierarchy, as countries without separate reuse or preparing for reuse objectives usually favour recycling.

- Are there **unmet infrastructural needs** that constitute a **barrier to the green transition** of the textiles ecosystem? Can you specify **actions to meet the identified needs**, with a special focus on SME-specific needs?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o RREUSE believes it is critical to support greater levels of local reuse and repair through investments in infrastructures (particularly in partnership with social enterprises) and other measures. This will not only support the social benefits of reuse but will also improve the environmental benefits of post-consumer textiles management (through reduced transport), support the local economy, and build local resilience.
- o In particular, RREUSE highlights there is still a lack of separate collection systems for post-consumer textiles and textile waste. Bearing in mind the mandatory separate collection of textiles that will start in 2025, these collection systems need to be more widespread and tailored to the needs of discarders which requires significant investment in new infrastructure.
- o Different forms of collection points, such as door2door collection, and focusing on places that are usually busy (e.g. offices, public spaces, supermarkets) should be experimented to identify what are the best solutions to maximise collection. A coordinate programme at EU level to connect such activities and exchange best practices could help achieve better results.
- o Furthermore, digital tools such as smartphone applications (e.g. DonateNYC in New York, Altkleiderspenden in Germany or Sachspenden in Austria) should be developed to help discarders locate the places where they can donate or discard textiles, overall fostering waste prevention and recycling.

- How important is **public procurement** for the ecosystem and **how** could green public procurement **help create lead markets for sustainable and circular products**

2000 character(s) maximum

- o Public procurement is fundamental for the sustainment and development of social enterprises active in the reuse, repair, and recycling of textiles, and largely engaged in collecting and handling textiles, and waste management. For instance, RREUSE network of social enterprises collectively handle around 260,000 tonnes of used textiles annually. As such, RREUSE calls on the Commission for the effective implementation of already available initiatives for socially responsible public procurement at the EU level and for converging their green and social procurement agendas, departing from an approach – albeit changing – that keeps the two in silos. Social clauses should be inserted in all public procurement procedures, merging social and circular business models, for public purchases to endorse labour standards, employ disadvantaged workers, and create local jobs.
 - o Equally, the reservation of contracts for social economy actors is an important tool to make sure public procurement allows for a fair competition and sustainment of the sector. The Spanish Law on Waste and Contaminated Land for Circular Economy provides a great example of involving social enterprises within textile legislation via the reservation of contracts. The new Law passed on 31 March 2022 provides for the reservation of 50% of contracts for social economy actors authorised to manage textiles and bulky waste. <https://rreuse.org/new-spanish-law-mandates-50-of-tenders-to-social-and-circular-enterprises/>
 - o RREUSE and its members are keen to provide good recommendations and best practices and will continue to advocate for green and social procurement at EU level to be increasingly harmonised and streamlined in the future, in line with the measures on fostering public procurement under the SEAP. <https://rreuse.org/wp-content/uploads/Social-clauses-in-PP-FINAL.pdf>
- <https://rreuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/a-plan-for-a-fair-and-inclusive-circular-transition-led-by-social-enterprises-3.pdf>

- Considering the **four green topics** mentioned in the Staff Working Document (**Section 3.1**), what **other actions** need to be taken by the Commission, national competent authorities and/or industry **to unlock the potential of the green transition?**

2000 character(s) maximum

The **four green topics**, as specified in the Staff Working Document, are:

1. Boosting new circular business models and the EU production and consumption of sustainable and circular textiles.
2. Creating the shift to sustainability: refashioning our consumption patterns.
3. Facilitating textile waste prevention, waste management and secondary materials.
4. Investing in innovation for new and advanced materials.

-
- Based on data available to you, what **intermediary milestones** need to be set for the different **actions towards 2030**?

2000 character(s) maximum

RREUSE calls on the following actions towards 2030:

- o A coherent link between the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) soon to be revised and the Social Economy Action Plan (SEAP) in the form of specific actions supporting social enterprises in the textile circular economy.
- o Specific social/circular targets at EU level, for example within the EU's waste framework directive e.g. re-use targets with job creation targets.
- o National funding instruments introduced supporting operations of national/regional level social enterprise equivalent to NGO operating grants under EASI / ESF+.
- o In the next EU budget after 2027, a specific earmarked budget line of 10% for social economy actors to access all relevant EU funding lines including Life+ / ESF+ / Horizon / Interreg etc.
- o Annual increases in the use of mandatory social criteria in the procurement of environmental services by public and private bodies.
- o Set separate targets for the preparation of reuse. The current practice of combining preparing for reuse and recycling targets undermines the waste hierarchy, as countries without separate reuse or preparing for reuse objectives usually favour recycling. Therefore, separate reuse and preparation for reuse targets are necessary to prevent premature recycling while creating job opportunities for vulnerable individuals. Best practices among Member States can be found here.
<https://rreuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/re-use-targets-factsheet.pdf>
- o Developing eco-design requirements for textiles will be a milestone in the development of products that are fit for a circular economy. To ensure textile products still hold value when reaching the second-hand market, the first step is to make them as durable as possible and reduce overproduction.

- Are there **any commitments (actions and targets)** ongoing in your organisation that are **relevant for the green transition** of the textiles ecosystem? Can you provide details?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are there any new **concrete actions** that your organisation is willing to implement (alone or in collaboration with other stakeholders) **to contribute to the green transition** of the textiles ecosystem? Can you provide details?

2000 character(s) maximum

Digitalisation

- How could the **digital transition contribute to improving global competitiveness** of the ecosystem, especially the competitiveness of its **SMEs**, and what **challenges** could it create?

2000 character(s) maximum

- What are the **main barriers to uptake of digital technologies** in the ecosystem? Can you specify **actions that can overcome** the barriers?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Which **digital technologies** are **the most relevant** for the ecosystem? Which ones **are you already applying today** and which will require **more time, funding and coordination**?

2000 character(s) maximum

o Social enterprises have harnessed the power of digital tools such as e-commerce, traceability, and reporting software, besides warehousing systems to extend product lifetimes through re-use and repair. The use of these technologies allows to achieve a more significant social and environmental impact and can be a powerful vehicle to help reskill and upskill workers, in line with the EU's digital ambitions and contributing to the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan targeting 80% of adults with at least basic digital skills in 2030.

o However, RREUSE highlights a big digital divide among social economy actors, where some social enterprises struggle to access funding specifically aimed to grow their services. Undoubtedly, social enterprises are pioneering actors who should receive appropriate support through specific funding mechanisms for the deployment of digital and innovative technologies that can boost the re-use and repair sector, while ensuring that technological progress in this regard does not hinder job creation.

More can be found in the following report:

<https://rreuse.org/how-social-enterprises-contribute-to-the-digital-transition/>

- Is your organisation **on track with the digital transition**? What are the **challenges** you encounter/foresee?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are there **infrastructural needs** that constitute a **barrier to the digital transition** of the ecosystem? Can you specify **actions to meet the identified needs**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Based on your experience and data available to you, **how can data collection**, use and **sharing** (within and across sectors) be increased to **improve resilience, sustainability and competitiveness** of the ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o Although circular social enterprises' raison d'être is to deliver social as well as environmental outcomes, because of more pressing front-line activities, some struggle to efficiently communicate their impacts as well as process, manage, and collect key data to measure their impact and upscale it. This means that the potential of circular social enterprises involved in the textile sector, among the other sectors, is not fully tapped.
- o For an increased resilient, sustainable, and competitive textile ecosystem, RREUSE calls on the Commission to ensure the envisioned measures of mapping and reviewing existing impact measurement practices envisioned under the Social Economy Action Plan are adopted in line with the ambitions set under the current Transition Pathway and the Sustainable Textiles Strategy.
- o For its effective implementation, and due to the diversity of the social economy actors, such data approaches should be taken in such a way that should not interfere with already successful practices employed by some of the social economy actors. This would ensure social enterprises to upscale their environmental and social impact, as well as to better compete with mainstream textile businesses and exchange best practices for a more resilient and sustainable textile sector.

- Are there **core regulatory barriers** to the realization of the **digital transition** in the ecosystem? Can you specify **revision proposals** that can overcome the barriers, with special focus **on SME specific barriers**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Based on your experience and data available to you, what aspects of **digitalisation of the administration** are required to **improve efficiency and transparency**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- **How** can the **exchange of data** among different stakeholders **be fostered**? What **interoperability framework** (common standards, open format, licenses) is needed to **secure** the exchange of data?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Considering the **four digital topics** mentioned in the Staff Working Document (**Section 4.1**), what **other actions** need to be taken by the Commission, national competent authorities and/or industry to **unlock the potential of the green transition**?

2000 character(s) maximum

The **four digital topics**, as specified in the Staff Working Document, are:

1. Digital transformation and industrial uptake of innovation in the textiles ecosystem.
2. Digital reskilling and upskilling of the ecosystem.
3. Supporting the data economy.
4. Investing in e-commerce and increasing market surveillance for online sales.

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- Based on data available to you, **what intermediary milestones** need to be set for the different **actions towards 2030**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are there any **commitments (actions and targets)** ongoing in your organisation that are **relevant for the digital transition** of the textiles ecosystem? Can you provide details?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are there any **new concrete actions** that your organisation is willing to implement (alone or in collaboration with other stakeholders) **to contribute to the digital transition** of the textiles ecosystem? Can you provide details?

2000 character(s) maximum

Horizontal and cross-cutting issues

Funding and Financing

- Are there any **systemic barriers** specifically for the textiles ecosystem **to access to funding** for the green and digital transition - particularly **for SMEs**? Can you specify **actions** that can **overcome the barriers**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Where do you see **gaps in the current funding landscape** which put at a disadvantage the textiles ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Which **specific investments** are needed **to strengthen the resilience** of the textiles ecosystem and **ensure the green and digital transition**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Is there any **incoherence** between the **funding schemes** which affects the transition in the ecosystem and **how can this be addressed**?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Which types of **actors can support private sector investments** for resilience, green and digital solutions in the textiles ecosystem (**particularly SME dedicated finance**)?

2000 character(s) maximum

- **How can private sector investments be best mobilised to support** the green and digital transition and also strengthen resilience of the textiles ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

Research and Innovation

- What are **the unmet needs** to enable **research and innovation** in realising the green and digital transition of the ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Are there **barriers to technology transfer** from research institutions to industry? What are they? And **how can they be addressed**?

2000 character(s) maximum

Skills

- What are **your projections of the employment and reskilling needs** for your enterprise, segment and product group? To what extent will up/reskilling be achieved in your sector?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o Social enterprises and social enterprises of the RREUSE's network present decades-long experience in promoting green and transferable skills and lifelong learning opportunities, including in the textile sector. For instance, some employment activities that are associated with a variety of re-use-oriented activities include reception of goods (identification, first quality checks, sorting), storage and logistics (adequate transport and handling, dismantling, storage of surplus merchandise), restoration (dismantling, cleaning, repair, functionality checks), or community-based circular training and awareness (upholstery, collaborative repairs, community outreach).
- o Additionally, besides acting as agents for an inclusive green transition, the social enterprises of the RREUSE network are also active players in the promotion of digital skills, providing targeted opportunities for individuals to acquire basic digital skills as well as more advanced skills on the website development and e-commerce, among others. Supporting the work on skills of social economy actors, among which social enterprises running circular activities, is thus fundamental to achieving the green and digital transitions in a way that is fair and inclusive.
More on the following RREUSE report:
<https://rreuse.org/how-social-enterprises-contribute-to-the-digital-transition/>

- What **actions** have you taken **to attract new workforce**? What are the **main difficulties** you encounter? What is the **impact** on your enterprise? What **remedy** measures have you put in place?

2000 character(s) maximum

- **What different skills and/or workers profiles** are needed to enable the **digital transition** in the ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- What **other actions** than those mentioned in the Staff Working Document (Section 2.1 and Section 4.1) need to be taken by the Commission, national competent authorities and/or industry **to support the workforce to be better equipped** to improve the resilience of the ecosystem and facilitate the green and digital transition?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Do **cultural and mind-set barriers** to the green and digital transition exist in the ecosystem? Can you specify **actions that can overcome** the barriers?

2000 character(s) maximum

Social dimension

- What are the **social implications** (including for workers) **inside and outside of the EU** of the green and digital transition in the textiles ecosystem? Are there **specific SME-related social implications**? Can you specify **actions** that can **accommodate the identified implications** if problematic?

2000 character(s) maximum

- Can you specify **actions** that can **ensure a long-term positive effect on the social factors** and thereby **increase the resilience** of the ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- o Social enterprises' raison d'être is to provide social outcomes. The majority of RREUSE's wider network are social enterprises whose main aim is the integration of vulnerable individuals into the open-labour market. Their activities in the circular economy provide a means to achieve this goal. Recent data of social enterprises focussed on work integration across 10 European countries indicate that around 65% of disadvantaged workers managed to find employment or further training opportunities following their placements. According to La Fédération des Entreprises d'Insertion, every €1 invested from the state for the integration of people in employment, can provide an expected return of €4.5.5
 - o RREUSE members collect around 255,000 tonnes of used textiles, of which 95,000 tonnes are sold second-hand locally, and 43,000 tonnes sold for second-hand for export. According to RREUSE estimates, social enterprises create from 20 to 35 jobs per 1,000 tonnes of textiles collected for reuse purposes.
 - o However, the ever-decreasing quality of textiles stemming from the fast fashion industry has been proven to hamper re-use rates while to green and social washing the green transition keeps business as usual while there is a lack of hard legislation on reuse and repair.
 - o RREUSE calls for concrete actions out of the current Transition Pathway, for stronger links between the EU's future revised Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) and the Social Economy Action Plan (SEAP) in the form of specific actions supporting social enterprises active in the textile ecosystem and in the circular economy.
- More here: <https://rreuse.org/wp-content/uploads/04-2021-job-creation-briefing.pdf>

Key performance indicators

- Considering all elements presented in the Staff Working Document, what **specific key indicators** should be used to track the successful transition in the ecosystem?

2000 character(s) maximum

- What **indicators / data are currently collected** and used by actors in the ecosystem to measure their performance with regards to the **green and digital transitions and their resilience**?

2000 character(s) maximum

Other comments

What other comments would you like to give?

2000 character(s) maximum

You may upload any relevant documents here

Background Documents

[Staff Working Document \(2022\)105](#)

Contact

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