

Circular economy, production and reuse of textile waste in Czech Republic



The Czech Technology Platform (ČTPT) which together with INOTEX belongs to the Czech partners of the interregional project ENTeR, has organised on 5th April 2018 in Prague the workshop „Circular Economy, production and reuse of textile waste in Czech Republic“. This workshop was the first of such an events which will be organised also by other project partners in participating countries (Poland, Italy, Germany, Hungary) and which shall enable sharing of experience in textile waste management and reuse to stakeholders from textile industry, local authorities and also to the project partners.

After the brief introduction of the project ENTeR, the participants of the workshop in Prague were informed about the outputs from the questionnaire survey among the companies producing and processing the textile waste in Czech Republic which was carried out within the project ENTeR at the beginning of 2018. The respondents' answers showed that companies producing the textile waste are looking for solutions how to reuse their textile waste as much as possible internally or at external partners processing this waste mostly mechanically (tearing, cutting) and forwarding it for further use in manufacturing of various cleaning materials, fillings, insulations or parts for automotive industry. The same can be mentioned also in case of outworn clothing and other textile collected by public in containers which is not more suitable for wearing or use. It should be mentioned that the technological solution for reuse of textile waste in our country is available mostly for “single” textile, unlike the waste of technical textiles that's processing and use is often difficult or costly due to their technical nature (heavy coated or laminated, composites...). Due to the significant position of the production of technical textiles in Czech Republic, there seems to be opportunities for innovations. Respondents also pointed out the difficulties in using waste as a secondary raw material from the legislation point of view.

Another contribution to the workshop was devoted to the circular economy as one of the challenges for the European textile industry as discussed at the level of the European Technology Platform. The priorities include, among other things, the solutions of high-tech textile recycling, the search for sustainable substitutes of hazardous chemicals used in textile processing and biochem -based processing, improved processing and the complex use of EU-origin natural renewable fibres.

The contribution of the Laundry and Drycleaners Association (APAČ) emphasized that these companies are also seeking for reuse of their textile waste represented by discarded leasing linen and facing the challenges of the circular economy.

The company Agritec s.r.o. then presented the results of research on the complex use of stem fibres from flax and hemp. Besides being used in textile industry, these fibres are also a valuable raw material for the production of technical textiles (geotextiles, sound or thermal insulation), cement-fiber materials, packaging materials, parts for the automotive and aerospace industry, construction, paper industry and energy industry. In its research, Agritec has searched e.g. for suitable flax and hemp varieties with sufficient fibre yield or for appropriate harvesting and stalk processing technology. Efforts to maximize yield and complex use of fibres in different production areas are in line with the principles of circular economy.



ENTeR – Expert Network on Textile Recycling

The transnational project ENTeR funded by Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE programme focuses on waste reduction in textile industry and its use. Within the project will be established the virtual centre (the on-line platform) which will accelerate cooperation between the involved textile territories, promoting a joint offer of innovative services by the main local research centres and business associations focused to processing and recovery of textile waste. The aim is to demonstrate the benefit of an operational collaborative model among research and business partners, based on an online tool and shared skills focused on waste eco design and resource efficiency.

More about the project on the web www.interreg-central.eu/enter