

WINTEX project : Weaving innovation among academia and industry in the Tunisian textile sector

WINTEX biannual Newsletter



FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

By Prof Monica Ardanuy



Dear Partners and Readers,

Welcome to the new edition of the WINTEX newsletter.

Last January we started with great enthusiasm WINTEX project in a meeting in Spain with all the partners. We could know each other face to face, organize and distribute the project tasks and plan next activities.

During the last months the world has considerably changed due to the covid-19 pandemic. This difficult situation has not stop us from moving forward: the methodology for preparing a National Report about the textile sector in Tunisia and to analyze EU best practices has already been established; we have defined the equipment for the advanced centers and now our first Newsletter is launched.

We will continue working hard in the project and specially to strength academia-companies relationship on the textile sector, a crucial sector in this global health crisis.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

Best regards,

Prof. Monica.Ardanuy

Coordinator of WINTEX Project

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

by *Dr Amine Hadj Taieb, USF*

WINTEX is a European collaboration initiative financed within the Erasmus+ program.

This capacity-building project supports the modernization, accessibility and internationalization of the Tunisian Higher Education Institutions.

It will mainly aim to:

- Fostering further cooperation between EU and Tunisian universities and textile industry.
- Establishing and equipping of three innovation textile centers with advanced infrastructure.

WINTEX addresses one of the national priorities in Tunisia to push textile industry further. Thus, it responds to the need for a professional and well-designed services and facilities able to offer answers and provide solutions in the interdisciplinary approach of textile industry. This will integrate knowledge and expertise in academia on one hand and in industry on the other hand.

Wintex project will explore the possible connections between academia and industry. Such exploration intends to create a bridge between the goals and methods of the future Tunisian textile sector primarily oriented to research and industrial exploitation by:

- Increasing support for innovative companies according to the consumer's needs and trends.
- Rethinking textile strategies by repurposing of manufacturing for technical, sustainable and fashionable textiles.

Kick-off meeting UPC, Barcelona January 2020



WINTEX OBJECTIVES



Establishing three innovation textile centers



Offering access to a dedicated set of services to foster innovation



Promoting innovation and technology transfer in the innovation textile centers



Fostering further cooperation between EU and Tunisian textile businesses



WINTEX IN NUMBERS

Tunisian partners: 6

European partners: 7

Total budget: 999 998,00 Euros

Equipment budget: 299 580,00 Euros



PARTNERS BEHIND THE PROJECT

By Dr Bessem Kordoghli, ATCTex

The 13 partners of WINTEX project constitute all the direct and/or indirect actors in the textile sector: higher education establishments, associations, representatives of industry, research centers, etc.

The desire to develop the textile sector in the participating countries through innovative textiles is the concern shared by all the partners. We are convinced of the economic and social importance of this sector for our countries, and that research and innovation are the main levers of a competitive and sustainable industry.

The project is based on the sharing of experiences between Europeans and Tunisians partners. Through WINTEX project, we propose a diagnosis of the needs of manufacturers and the potential of teacher-researchers. The result of this diagnosis (through questionnaires) will be discussed in round tables between project partners, national and international experts, and support structures. This will allow the implementation of a new strategy for more competitive and sustainable textile industry that meets the needs of Tunisia and European countries. Also, we have planned technology transfer workshops to upgrade teacher-researchers in the area of innovation.



WINTEX partners virtual meeting



CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

The WINTEX project includes 13 organizations from 6 countries: France, Greece, Italy, Romania and Tunisia.

Organizations

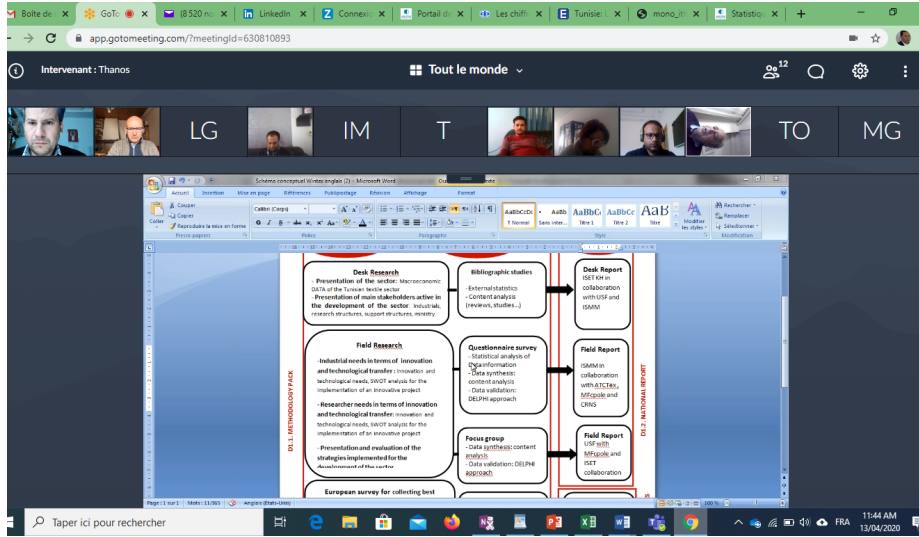


Countries



Project activities are open to other countries

A virtual meeting to follow up the progress of the tasks from WPI and to review the equipment selection for the different centers.



ONGOING ACTIONS EQUIPMENT FOR CENTERS



WINTEX project aims to fill the gap in the area of specialized services for the textile sector, with the establishment of three innovation textile centers located at the participating Higher Education Institutions in Tunisia. These centers will play the role of focal points for the textile sector and relevant stakeholders to bloom innovations and promoting entrepreneurship.

ISET-KH center: The ISET center should offer great potential for innovation, meeting both industrial expectations and market needs in terms of hygiene, filtration and insulation as well as functionalized textiles in a circular and sustainable economy approach. It will be mainly equipped with lines of (1) Electrospinning, (2) Extrusion and (3) Nonwoven. (Dr Lassad Ghali, ISET-KH)

USF center: Based on fruitful meeting which provided thorough evaluation of the local context and needs, the main equipments that will be purchased by USF are the following: (1) Sample warp knitting machine, (2) Weaving ribbon machine, (3) Laser cutting machine, (4) Fancy yarn spinning, (5) Textile batch dyeing machine and (6) Digital T-shirt printer. (Dr Amine Hadj Taieb, USF)

S2M center: A committee composed of teachers of IS2M worked on the purchase of advanced equipments. This committee proposed the following equipments: (1) Scanning electron microscope, (2) Differential scanning calorimetry, (3) Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and (4) Air permeability tester. These equipments will serve both to identify the effects of several textile treatments on fibers and fabrics and so to multiply partnerships between the Higher Institute of Fashion of Monastir and industrial partners. (Dr Fadhel Jaafar, ISMM)

METHODOLOGY PACK

By Dr Lassad Ghali, ISET-KH

Methodology pack is a part of the first Work Package of the WINTEX project (preparation phase) and aims to draw the guidelines for the progress of the preparation work spanning the period January-December 2020. Thus, this document presents the methodological approach and the tools (i.e. survey, templates for collecting data, guidelines for the focus group, template for the collection of best practices) that partners will use to carry out the research activities. This will include three components: desk research, field research through survey and field research through focus groups.

" Let us turn ideas into action "

As lead organization for the first working package of the WINTEX project, ISET-KH piloted the drafting of the Methodology Pack report with active collaboration of USF, ISMM, ATCTex, CEDECS, TUIASI and CRE.THI.DEV. This report explains the methodological approach according to which the work will take place at the level of national report, desk research as well as field research which will be accomplished by means of questionnaires and approved by focus groups. The methodology for collection and analysis of the UE best practices and success experiences was also detailed. The formulating and reporting of the recommendations for the development phase of project was explained.



Dr Lassad.Ghali



LATEST NEWS



Kick-off meeting of the WINTEX project (INTEXTER, Terrassa - Spain). This first meeting between the different partners of the WINTEX project was held at the Institute of Textile Research and Industrial Cooperation of Terrassa (INTEXTER), from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (project coordinator), on January 16th and 17th, 2020. It was an excellent opportunity for the 13 partners (7 European and 6 Tunisian partners) to meet for the first time and exchange experiences and ideas for fruitful cooperation in the next 3 years.

First bilateral meetings between EU and Tunisian partners (Monastir/Sfax - Tunisia) On February 2020, a delegation from CEDECS (France) traveled to Tunisia to hold bilateral meetings in the framework of WINTEX project preparation and dissemination work packages. This delegation met the Tunisian partners of the WINTEX project to discuss different aspects for the project implementation, particularly on WP1 activities like Methodology pack (environment, framework, etc.), national research reports best practices, needs and ideas to identify relevant EU Best practices.

Online working meeting about the national report and equipment selection for the new centers. The Tunisian WINTEX partners held a virtual meeting with CEDECS and UPC on April 01, 2020 to follow up the progress of the different tasks from WP1 and to review the equipment selection for the different centers. During the meeting, the partnership discussed about the local needs and opportunities that are being identified in Tunisia as part of the production of the national report. These insights are crucial to select the right equipment for the new centers that will be set up at University of Sfax, University of Monastir and the Higher Institute of Technological Studies (ISET) of Ksar-Hellal and will provide support and services to each local textile ecosystem.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Online Meeting between WINTEX Partners (July 22, 2020, TUIASI, Romania). This meeting will be a good opportunity to follow up the technical progress of the project and to present the next steps for the next 6 months. Discussions will focus on the progress on tasks and deliverables of work packages WP1 (Preparation), WP3 (Quality Plan) and WP4 (Dissemination &Exploitation). The equipment selected for the new advanced centers will be also presented and discussed.

9th International Conference of Applied Research on Textile and Materials (November 13-14, 2020, Monastir, Tunisia).

The International Conference of Applied Research on Textile and Materials (CIRATM), previously designed by CIRAT is a scientific meeting c-organized by the Tunisian Association of Researchers in Textile (ATCTex) and the Textile Engineering Laboratory (LGTex) every two years. The conference provides an international open forum for researchers from academic and industrial fields to present their original work and exchange ideas and information. CIRATM will bring worldwide researchers and practitioners to share and discuss the latest scientific concepts and technological developments in textile.



<https://atctex.org/cirat/>

3rd edition of "Tunisian Textile Events (November 12, 2020, Monastir, Tunisia).

The ATCTex and the LGTex co-organize in partnership with the MFCPôle the 3rd edition of The Tunisian Textile Events (Tun-tex Events 2020). Tunisian Textile Events

is a festive day of events which aims to bring together the actors of the textile sector and to promote innovation. During the new edition, Tuntex Events 2020, several R2R and R2B meetings and competitions will take place especially Rin-TEX, Fashion and Start-TEX Awards.



<https://atctex.org/Tun-TEX/>

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