

PRESS RELEASE

**AEQUALIS-4-TCLF brings together 19 European partners to upskill and reskill the
TCLF sectors for equality and inclusion**

Brussels, 06 March 2024 – In the context of the EU Pact for Skills, EURATEX is proud to launch an EU co-funded project under ERASMUS+ Programme to support the up-skilling and reskilling in the textile, clothing, leather and footwear (TCLF) sectors. The new project, AEQUALIS-4-TCLF, brings together 19 partners mainly from Eastern and Northern Europe¹ who will work together in the coming 4 years to give a boost to upskilling and reskilling of workers in the TCLF industry.

Following the blueprint project SMART4TCLF and complementary to the METASKILLS4TCLF project, AEQUALIS4TCLF prioritizes creating strong links with regional and local entities to boost skills initiatives and establishing an EU-wide Network of TCLF vocational education and training (VET) and higher education (HE) providers. Based on the results from the skills gap analysis, AEQUALIS4TCLF will develop new national skills strategies in seven countries to address specific regional needs, setting a clear path for workforce development with special attention to addressing discrimination and promote diversity in the TCLF industries.

Dirt Vantghem, Director General of EURATEX, welcomed this new initiative: “Two years ago, we signed the TCLF Pact for Skills with the European Commission; today, I am happy to see that we can put this Pact into practise with concrete initiatives on the ground. Addressing the skills dimension is a critical step to build a competitive TCLF industry in Europe.”

END OF PRESS RELEASE

¹ List of Netherlands, Czechia, Lithuania, Finland, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia

About EURATEX

As the voice of the European textile and clothing industry, EURATEX works to achieve a favourable environment within the European Union for design, development, manufacture and marketing of textile and clothing products.

The EU textile and clothing industry, with around 154,000 companies employing 1.47 million workers, is an essential pillar of the local economy across many EU regions. With over €53 billion of exports, the industry is a global player successfully commercializing high added value products on growing markets around the world.

Working together with EU institutions and other European and international stakeholders, EURATEX focuses on clear priorities: an ambitious industrial policy, effective research, innovation and skills development, free and fair trade, and sustainable supply chains.

Contact

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