

## Final event CircTex at the Circular Textile Days

We look back to the beginning of the summer to a impressive closing of the CircTex project at the [Circular Textile Days 2023](#).

With this closing event, not only the project was concluded, but also the continuation of the Circular Textile Days initiated by CircTex in 2021. A 2-day fair that has developed very quickly into the formula to bring the circular textile community together; with this 3rd edition grown to 70 exhibitors, 1200 visitors from 25 countries! And above all, ambitions to roll out the formula to other countries. And the certainty to organize the 4th edition again in 2024 in the preferred month of September. A great spin-off for the long-term effect of the European Interreg North-West Europe programme: not only running a successful project, but above all initiating and perpetuating a development.

How successful the CircTex project has been was presented in 3 plenary presentations. It all starts with the design, in this project the protective, visibility clothing for road & industrial workers. Jeanet van der Stoel (Groenendijk corporate clothing) and Edwin Maes (Centexbel) explained the development of a recyclable jacket and trousers. Seemingly simple things such as stitching, zippers and buttons deserve due attention but above all the more complex aspects such as the use of the right fabric compositions, membranes, transfers and visibility stripings, fulfilling the required product quality and recyclability requirements. PES recycling compatible solutions have been developed for the used membranes and transfers. And the electromagnetically degradable Wear2Go yarn has been developed and applied for separating the different garment elements before recycling.

John Beelen (Wear2Go) then explained the eco-stitching and disassembly system. This is not only open to workwear, but to all clothing and textiles that must be separated into the different materials, before recycling, with the main objective of obtaining the purest possible flow of recyclable polyester or other fiber materials (cotton, viscose, nylon, wool, etc.) as feedstock for recycling.

The crucial polyester recycling step was explained in detail by Martha Molist of Antex in the panel discussion with all project partners: Adrian Appletree (J&A, for the print transfers), Francesc Rabasseda (IBQ, the cloth weaving mill), Pieter van Kessel (on behalf of Hydrowear, the clothing manufacturer) and Jeanne Meillier (Euramaterials, for advice and tests)

The circular chain the project partners formed in the CircTex project has been transformed into the CircTex Protocol, a B2B organized, secured and controlled closed loop for design, production, maintenance and recycling of clothing and textiles. With this Protocol, companies can join forces to offer circular products in the market, with optimal transparency and assurance, in line with technical developments in the field of materials and recycling. They take mutual responsibility to organize, assure and control a truly circular system. Peter Koppert (Modint) presented the CircTex Protocol under the motto: as a circular product chain, we not only take responsibility for the intended product quality but also for circularity, as it becomes commonplace in a circular economy. Companies that feel challenged to do so are cordially invited to organize their circular product chain according the CircTex Protocol (see CircTex Protocol presentation).

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