

Transparency tool for risk assessment in the apparel and textile chain

The Challenge

The fashion and textile industry exists of complex supply chains. Many tiers, production often thousands of kilometers away and garments existing of multiple materials and treatments, make the garment industry very complex. Risk assessment to prevent and mitigate CR issues is very difficult and time consuming. Human rights, worker health and safety, animal welfare and environmental protection may be at stake with adequate monitoring.

There are more and more international and national initiatives that call for (Dutch) companies to not only know the risks in their supply chain, but mitigate them and create positive impact instead. The international agreements such as United Nations' Guiding Principles and Human Rights, the OECD's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the ILO's fundamental labour standards are good examples.

The focus in the fashion industry has mainly been on tier 1, the cut-make-trim of ready-to-wear garments and especially on working conditions. The challenge lies in facilities, suppliers and processes further upstream. Which suppliers, deeper in the chain, carry the risks when it comes to water use and pollution, energy use and hazardous chemicals? Are the employees in the factory well protected? There is a need for a simple and scalable way to make the supply chain more transparent and to assess risks.

We partnered up

SIM and Modint partnered up to capture all the combined knowledge in a special configuration of SIM's tooling to gather, measure and report on CSR impact of textile supply chains and products.

Modint is the Dutch business network of producers, importers, agents, traders and retailers in the fashion and textile sector. They have over 500 members that together build a sustainable future and create added value for and by the sector.

At SIM our vision is to provide supply chain data you can trust, report and act on. We support our customers to create a positive change in people's livelihoods and improve our planet's environment with their buying power. We share the ambition to truly contribute to and make a positive impact, which also made us recently become a B Corporation. For more than 11 years we are a frontrunner in developing innovations that get the necessary data to their customers faster, cheaper and more reliably (including Blockchain). SIM has mapped over 200.000 supply chains and verified more than 600.000 reports, while speaking 17 languages to talk to the international market. We help you to ensure all your data across our Platform is accurate, timely, complete and up to date with our Services team. Also, we can assist you at our Knowledge Center to define your risks, assess the sustainability of your supply chain and take the next step in making impact. We can work with you to develop strategic goals, set KPIs and train your staff.



How can we support you?

Modint & SIM are working on the transparency tool to locate and map suppliers behind products and release the risk based questions to the right supplier and the right product or component. This is our Required Evidence technology, which is the core of all SIM's tooling. With this collaboration SIM and Modint have translated and digitized all the knowledge of Modint in a special configuration for the tool that automatically guides fashion companies: What to ask to which supplier, about which product, component or production process. It also helps to visualize and report on this insight and impact. The tool is based on a digitalized Bill of Materials, that is linked to the complex supply chains in the textile industry. With this tool, companies will be able to find out the black spots in their supply chains so they have the right insights where to act. The tool makes it possible for fashion companies with their rapid collection changes and related dynamic data flows to measure their impact on important sustainability criteria, for environment as well as social risks.

All the data is verified, validated, kept up to date and is stored and maintained in the platform which is accessible for the companies themselves. All information that is gathered, you can report on to estimate your risks in your own supply chain. Once you know, you can decide to lead the conversation with your own suppliers or you can let SIM's Knowledge Center help you to set up improvement processes in your supply chain.



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