

ERSCP 2012: Workshop Design Sheet

Title of Workshop *

Future of the European Textile Industry

Subtitle

Are organic products and bio-based natural Dyeing the future of the Austrian and European Textile Industries. What roles can Eco-labels play to support the sustainable development in the whole supply chain of textiles.

Objectives

Paper Presentations of new research results and about other activities in the whole supply chain of textiles

Short Description of Workshop Outline (max. 2000 characters) *

Due to the growing environmental, health and social awareness of European consumers, in many European countries the demand for sustainable materials, products and services is increasing. Several directives related to the environment directly affect the European textile and clothing industry, such as those relating to waste management or to industrial emissions, for example Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC), Emission Trading System (ETS) and Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH). Also voluntary approaches exist in the field of organic textile processing like the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). GOTS was developed in a common approach by leading standard setters with the aim to define world-wide recognised requirements that ensure organic status of textiles, from harvesting of the raw materials, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labelling in order to provide credible assurance to the consumer (GOTS, 2010). The traditional colour industry was an important activity in Europe until the end of 20th century. It suffers now displacement to the developing world due to increasing production related environmental costs as well as high labour costs in Europe. However, the dye formulas were established during the 1950s and 1960s, and little has changed since then. As more and more dye manufacturers relocate outside of Europe, the need for new eco-innovations is given. The European Textile Industry needs to place on quality and individuality to perform successfully against the competitors from other, primarily Asian, low-wage countries. It must be quality business with a good return. The international eco-labels will greatly assist the European Market for ecological textiles. The natural dyes of "Colors of Nature" can primarily secure a competitive advantage in the field of high quality textiles European textile finishing companies and customer service. Cost advantages compared to Asian mass production are hard to achieve. Although these dyes may be slightly more expensive, it is worth considering the potential, longer term savings arising from more efficient dye use and reduced effluent costs. To address this challenge, the aim of the "Colors of Nature" is to spread the use of natural dyes (extracted from secondary raw materials and plants) and its environmental as well as economic advantages over Europe.

Expected Outcomes and Results

Overview of current research activities in and for sustainable textile industries, Discussion of future trends in the textile industries, Exchange of Knowledge, Networking

Input 1

Title: Resources for the textile industry: trends and outlook
Presenter: Otto KAZIL, Gherzi Textile Organisation, Zurich, Switzerland

Input 2

Title: Colors of Nature: From Research to Production
Presenter: Andrea WALLNER, Gabi BERNHOFER Austrian Institute of Ecology, Vienna, Austria und Christian PLADERER Colors of Nature GmbH, Austria

Input 3

Title: Process development for the production of natural dye concentrates for the textile industry
Presenter: Bettina MIHALYI, University of Technology Vienna, Institute of Chemical Engineering

Input 4

Title: Natural colorants in textile dyeing – New interpretation of an old concept

Presenter: Thomas BECHTOLD, Research Institute for Textile Chemistry and Textile Physics Dornbirn, University Innsbruck

Input 5

Title: The role of sustainable textile labels in business-consumer dialogue

Presenter: EIVIND Stø, Director of Research, SIFO, National Institute for Consumer Research, Oslo, Norge

Input 6

Title: Ecodesign in European Textile Industry - SinnDESIGN

Presenter: Cristina ROCHA, LNEG, Portugal and Maria KALLEITNER-HUBER, Austrian Institute of Ecology, Vienna, Austria