

THE FUTURE OF TEXTILES: FROM WASTE TO CIRCULARITY

New rules, global action and skills for a sustainable textile sector

3DP-STeF



Co-funded by
the European Union

1 THE PROBLEM



4–9%

of textile products
placed on the
EU market are
destroyed before use.

**≈ 264,000 –
594,000**
tonnes per year

Source: European Commission

2 THE EU IS CHANGING THE RULES



From
19 July 2026

large companies
can no longer destroy
unsold clothes, footwear
and accessories.



From
2030
the same rules apply
to medium-sized
companies.

CIRCULAR ACTIONS

Destruction is the last resort.
Prioritise circular solutions:



Exemptions apply only in specific cases (e.g. unsafe, damaged, counterfeit) with evidence and records.

3 A GLOBAL SHIFT TOWARDS CIRCULAR TEXTILES



EUROPE

Ecodesign requirements,
Digital Product Passports,
Extended Producer
Responsibility, support
for reuse, repair and
recycling.



CALIFORNIA

The Responsible Textile
Recovery Act (SB 707)
establishes the first
state-wide Textile
Extended Producer
Responsibility programme.



JAPAN

Ambitious goals to reduce
discarded clothes by
households by 25% until 2030
(compared to FY2020)
and a roadmap for a circular
textile production.



Around the world, policies and innovation are driving the same goal:
keeping textiles and materials in use for longer.

4 WHAT THE TEXTILE SECTOR NEEDS



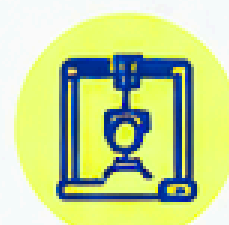
**CIRCULAR
DESIGN**

Design for durability,
repairability, reuse
and recyclability.



**SUSTAINABLE
MATERIALS**

Use of recycled and
low-impact fibres
and materials.



**DIGITAL
MANUFACTURING**

Technologies like 3D
printing enable efficiency,
customisation and
less waste.



**GREEN & DIGITAL
SKILLS**

Skilled professionals
are key to driving
innovation and change.

5 WHERE 3DP-STeF COMES IN

3DP-STeF

Equipping learners and professionals
with green and digital skills to
transform textiles and manufacturing.



**MASTER'S
PROGRAMME**

3D Printing and
Sustainable Textile
& Fashion Design

Advanced education for
future leaders in sustainable
textile innovation.



**MICRO-CREDENTIAL
MODULES**

for Industry and
VET Professionals

Practical, targeted modules
to build skills for the
green transition.



Circular textiles start long before recycling—
they start with how we **design**, **produce** and learn.

