

# KICKING OFF THE TCLF BLUEPRINT:

over 20 partners join to strengthen skill sets and employment of the European Fashion Industry

NEWS N. 1 – APRIL 2018

## THE PROJECT SKILLS4SMART TCLF IN SHORT

The Erasmus+ project “**Skills4Smart TCLF Industries2030**” gathers 21 public and private stakeholders of the Textile, Clothing, Leather, and Footwear (TCLF) sectors, coordinated by their European umbrella associations (Euratex, CEC, COTANCE).

During the next four years, the Blueprint partners aim at:

- **Updating the training and curricula offer** to better match industry needs;
- **Upgrading the image of careers in the TCLF sector** to attract new workers, in particular young talents;
- Establishing networks & creating a dynamic community of private and public actors across Europe committed to support skills development and employment opportunities within a **common EU-wide skills strategy**.



## TCLF BLUEPRINT KICK-OFF MEETING

The **Blueprint Skills4Smart TCLF Industries 2030** was officially launched on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 in Brussels. Euratex in its role as project coordinator hosted the Kick Off Meeting, where all partner institutions came together to exchange project details and discuss its implementation.

During this two-day meeting, more emphasis was given to the work packages and activities to be carried out in the short term, but Blueprint partners had also the opportunity to share ideas on the project’s quality assurance and quality planning guidelines, in short on the methodological framework, as well as on the parameters for an effective dissemination strategy.

**Lively debates animated these working sessions:** you could read in the faces of participants both excitement and apprehension, as this 4-year project is indeed ambitious and tremendously challenging. However, this encounter was also a great occasion to learn to know each other across sec-

tors and to bind the group, so that partners get a sense of team to be able to **work together for the next four years (and possibly more!)**.

The Consortium will meet every six months to review tasks and results and plan upcoming activities according to the needs of the project and the stage of implementation.

The Project also foresees **four Public events**, at the end of each year, which will allow the wider industry to take stock of the development, connect and engage in furthering this ambitious initiative.

### INSIDE THIS NEWS:

TCLF BLUEPRINT KICK-OFF MEETING	1
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT	2
AIMS OF THE PROJECT	3
WORK PACKAGES IN A NUTSHELL	3-4
HOW TO JOIN THE PROJECT COMMUNITY	4
CONSORTIUM PARTNERS & CONTACTS	4

THE BLUEPRINT PROJECT IN FIGURES:

**48-month project:** from January 2018 to December 2021, **4 million euros** grant from the Erasmus+ Programme, **4 sectors:** Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear

**21 partners:** 3 European Umbrella Associations, 8 VET providers, 4 universities, 2 companies; 1 tripartite body, 1 National Educational Certifying Body; 1 Life Learning support, 1 expert organisation.

**9 countries:** Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain

**12 work packages** and more than **50 deliverables**

**8 new VET training courses**, involvement of more than **100 companies** and **50 training institutes**

**1 common EU-wide strategy for the TCLF Industry**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear (TCLF) sector represents a part of the complex and interconnected value chains of fashion, high-end industries and related innovative technologies. These manufacturing sectors are **among the most promising and most creative in Europe**, since they represent a combined annual turnover of more than € 200 billion and employ directly 2 million people in the European Union.

However, in spite of innovation and creativity, the TCLF sector has been facing growing skill gaps and shortages, mostly due to its ageing workforce, a mismatch between education and industry’s needs, technological change and low levels of mobility. Additionally, the TCLF industry suffers from an image problem which brings about difficulties in attracting new recruits, especially younger generations, causing significant skills gaps along the entire value chain. The sector requires today a wide spectrum of qualified professionals who can combine more traditional and craftsmanship knowledge with emerging skills, such as digital ones.

Therefore, the need to overcome mismatches between industry demand for skills and education supply as well as to attract new recruits in the TCLF industry has brought together 21 public and private stakeholders of the TCLF under an ambitious **4-year Erasmus+ Project “Skills4Smart TCLF Industries 2030”**.

Coordinated by Euratex, COTANCE and CEC, the respective European umbrella associations of the Textile & Clothing, Leather and Footwear industries, VET providers, technical universities and technology & innovation centres, public bodies and companies from 9 different Member States will work together to establish a robust but dynamic community of private and public actors committed to support skills development, employment opportunities and TCLF attractiveness within a common EU-wide strategy.

This project is financially supported by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union within the action *“Sectoral Skills Alliance for implementing a new strategic approach “Blueprint” to sectoral cooperation on skills”*, under the Project N° 591986-EPP-1-2017-1-BE-EPPKA2-SSA-B.



## MAIN AIMS OF THE PROJECT

1. **Bridging the gap between industry demand for skills and education offer** through innovative and vocational training tools and learning methods addressing skills mismatches, especially by merging both traditional artisanal knowledge and emerging skills;
2. **Improving the image of careers in the TCLF industry**, in particular to attract recruits from the new generations;
3. Designing and implementing an **EU-wide industry-led "TCLF Skills Strategy 2030"** by engaging private and public actors at different levels across Europe committed to support workers upskilling and employment opportunities.
4. Creation of a **European Virtual Fashion Campus** as an education and knowledge hub for future generations.

## WORK PACKAGES IN A NUTSHELL

**WPI**  
started

### *Project Management* (Euratex)

WP1 ensures the project outcomes, deliverables and keeping deadlines. It monitors risks and analyses project milestones. It also makes sure the smooth daily running of the consortium and the management of communications among the partners and with the Executive Agency.

**WP II**  
started

### *Mapping of Educational and Maximisation of Best Practices* (IVOC)

WP2 collects the main TCLF education providers at the EU level and their training offer as well as their most relevant projects at EU/national/regional level. It analyses best practices and assesses the potential transferability in different countries and/or regions and potential transnational cooperation.

**WP III**  
started

### *Future Needed Skills and Trends for the TCLF Sectors* (Politecnico Calzaturiero)

WP3, thanks to the involvement of around 100 companies and 50 VET providers, analyses and identifies skills mismatches and knowledge gaps through focus groups and in-depth interviews. Anticipating future needs and identifying skills gaps is the first step to create competitive and innovative "company 4.0".

**WP IV**  
started

### *Monitoring Methodology* (CIAPE)

WP4 ensures the development of a common methodology for general assessment and monitoring, analysis and research, including an ontological online glossary for data, indicators and a Strategy for EU Member States as far as qualifications and jobs are concerned.

**WP V**

### *Sectoral Skills Strategy* (Euratex)

WP5 designs a Sectoral Skills Strategy for the TCLF industry based on the outcomes of the first months of project execution in relation with WPs II, III, IV, VI and VII. It sets the basis for the involvement with relevant political stakeholders at local, region and national level.

**WP VI**  
started

### *Attractiveness of TCLF* (CEC)

WP6 aims at upgrading the image of careers in the TCLF sector with the final objective of attracting and retaining new workforce. The attractiveness strategy and its innovative communication tools will be intrinsically included in each WP and activity carried out under the project and future related actions.

**WP VII**

### *Design VET Curricula for TCLF Profiles* ("Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași)

WP7, considering the training needs identified in WP3 for the upskilling of TCLF workers, develops 8 VET curricula in articulation with EQF, ECVET and EQAVET for 8 selected professional profiles. It also explores the possibility of recognition and transferability within the European TCLF industry.

**WP VIII**

### *Pilot Implementation - Delivering Educational Curricula* (CITEVE)

WP8 carries out the pilot test of the 8 new VET curricula, designed in WP7, in selected companies involved in the Project. The implementation test will be followed by an evaluation phase and analysis of improvement and finally, by the recognition under ECVET system.

**WPIX**

*Quality & Evaluation for Skills Recognition* (Polytechnic University of Catalonia)

WP9 develops regular contacts with the national recognition authorities to ensure that the tested curricula will be certified under EQAVET system. To help applicants to easily recognize the quality of the new curricula a TCLF VET Quality Label will be also defined.

**WPX**  
started

*Dissemination Actions* (Hellenic Management Association)

WP10 manages all dissemination actions and communication tools of the Blueprint during the 4-year and after the end of the project (website, social media, newsletter, press releases, public events...). Each partner will be involved.

*Future Needed Skills and Trends for the TCLF Sectors* (SPIN360)

**WPXI**

WP11 establishes a European Fashion Virtual Campus with the aim to aggregate the main Blueprint results and to facilitate access to knowledge on job and training offer in Europe to all new potential incomers and TCLF workers.

*Sustainability Action Plan* (COTANCE)

**WPXII**

WP12 will design an industry-led long-term action plan for the progressive roll-out of project deliverables and for the implementation of a EU-wide Sectoral Skill Strategy (WP5) after the project has finished. Each partner will be involved.

**HOW TO JOIN THE PROJECT COMMUNITY**

Skills shortage, digitalisation, ageing workforce, attracting new generations are some of the major challenges facing the TCLF industries.

The active involvement of companies and training providers during the whole project period will ensure a better understanding of the industry needs, anticipating challenges and exploring opportunities which may directly influence competitiveness and

growth of the TCLF sector.

Whether you are a VET provider, a company, a public authority or just interested in our activities, do not miss the opportunity to be constantly updated and to share with us your views by registering your organisation on our website.

[Click here!](#)

**CONSORTIUM PARTNERS & CONTACTS:**



[info@s4tclfblueprint.eu](mailto:info@s4tclfblueprint.eu)
[s4tclfblueprint.eu](http://s4tclfblueprint.eu)
[@skills4tclf](https://twitter.com/skills4tclf)
[Skills4SmartTCLF](https://www.facebook.com/Skills4SmartTCLF)

Erasmus +  
Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices  
Sectoral Skills Alliance for implementing a new strategic approach "Blueprint" to sectoral cooperation on skills (Key Action 2, Lot 3)  
Project number: 591986-EPP-1-2017-1-BE-EPPKA2-SSA-B.

*"The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."*

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

