



EXTRATEX Newsletter

EUROPEAN TEXTILE-TRANSPORT-SUSTAINABILITY PARADIGM FOR INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS EXCELLENCE IN CROSS-SECTOR INNOVATION

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EXTRATEX aim is to promote a cross-sector and cross-regional cooperation, increasing the excellence level for each cluster through the exploitation of potential business or technological synergies within a sustainable value chain.

EXTRATEX is a partnership composed of 5 clusters across 5 different countries (Italy, Spain, Slovakia and the Czech Republic) with the purpose of implementing strategic collaborations and knowledge or technology transfer processes. These clusters are different from each other, but they are complementary and have a high collaborative potential. The partners of the project come from the textile, automotive and plastic.



The original aim of the CXC pilot program was the organisation of international activities in various European countries, involving different stakeholders and companies, such as matchmaking events, study visits, workshops, and joint learning events. But the pandemic and travel restrictions, led us to organise the activities in virtual mode.



The EXTRATEX partnership identified alternatives to implement the actions, such as the virtual event organised by SPK between February and March 2021. The first in-person event was realized in September 2021 in Czech Republic, once the travel and pandemic restrictions were gradually released. After this event, further 4 missions were planned and implemented, plus the final event in Italy that was held in October 2022.

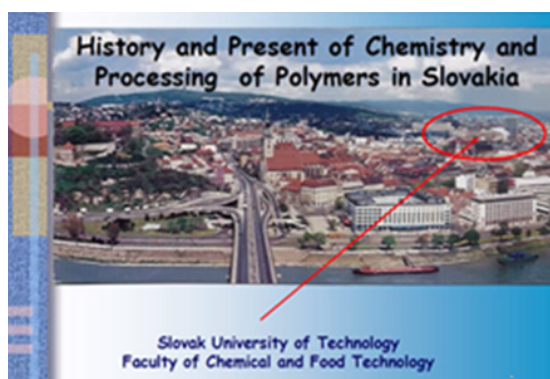
The approach of EXTRATEX was to merge the different components of the exchange including exchange plan (composed of visits and capacity building activities), matchmaking and interactive sessions (like workshops or brainstorming).

VIRTUAL SLOVAK MISSION

The First joint learning event was prepared by Slovak partner SPK as 3-days virtual event between 2nd February – 10th March 2021, due to the COVID-19 situation. The B2Match platform was left open after March 10 till the month end to allow to complete the scheduled meetings or to add new ones. Even in a virtual modality, this event represented a unique opportunity to start a dialogue and cooperation actions with leading companies from Slovakia and other European regions in the field of plastics, sustainable materials and polymers.

As main topics were set:

- New materials
- Advanced plastic processing
- Cross-sector exploitation



CXC CZ MISSION

The first on-site CXC CZ EXTRATEX MISSION was realized in the 4th period of the project, from the 20th to the 24th of September 2021. Fortunately, the pandemic situation and restrictions allowed all participants to come to the Czech Republic for a whole week programme, as foreseen in the predefined agenda.

The mission to CZ ecosystem was planned as to include learning experiences for textile, plastic and automotive sectors, by involving in the agenda Universities, R&D centres, and SMEs from technical textiles and mobility sectors. It was an intense programme spread in a wide part of the hosting country, as the Czech cluster, by its nature, has not a limited geographical concentration, but embraces members and stakeholders in different areas of the country.



CXC MISSION Valencia

The second on-site CXC VALENCIA MISSION was realized in the 4th period of the project, from the 11th to the 13th of April. Fortunately, the pandemic situation and restrictions allowed all participants to come to Spain (Valencia Region) and realized 3 days programme under the roof of cluster FOMENTEX according to proposed agenda.



Participants visited some of the most innovative Valencian textile companies (FERREYARNS, RECOVER, CAMPOS MONTAVERNER, MLS 1992, PIELSA and PERTEX) as well as academic (EPSA University) and research institute (AITEX) and potentially find new partners, projects and/or innovative ideas during B2B meetings. The concept behind the programme of this CXC is the same of those explained for SK and CZ. This CXC was added by participants, as an occasion for exchanges to be offered to EXTRATEX cluster members.

GOLD CLUSTER MISSION to Lyon

A further mission was related to the visit and exchange the experience in cluster skills and competencies with the gold clusters of Techtera and Polymeris. The partnership decided here to open the study visit to Techtera, the Gold labelled cluster, (originally reserved to EXTRATEX partners only) to external organisations, in order to provide more opportunities for exchanges under the CXC programme.

A total of 28 institutions from Italy, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Poland, Ireland and France visited Lyon in France.



The initial reactions of the participants were generally positive. The mission was a little bit different from the others because part of the programme was focused on clusters. So, the ratio between companies and clusters was 50:50. But on the end all participants found their own interest and, as it turned out, a lot of B2B meetings were realized and

CXC MISSION TECHTEXTIL



Techtextil Frankfurt is a leading international exhibition for technical textiles and nonwovens. Thousands of visitors coming from all over the world come to Techtextil to find out the new developments in technical textiles, functional apparel fabrics and nonwovens. This is very important branch event, and it was evaluated as highly interesting for project clusters and their members companies. In addition, due to the COVID time, the fair was organized after 2 years break and it was announced high number of exhibitors. It was decided to have an EXTRA-TEX booth to present the activities, the products and offer the possible collaboration among regions and sectors.

MISSION TO Prato

This mission took place in October 2022, in conjunction with the final Extratex event where several activities took place. Some of these activities were a matchmaking event and a B2B meeting with the participation of two companies from the Czech Republic. The mission focused on machinery production with visits to companies producing machines for textile, leather and paper, plus one of the most advanced Italian RD centres in engineering and bio-robotics, Istituto superiore Sant'Anna di Pisa.



MEET THE PARTNERS



We've involved more than 162 participants
in EXTRATEX activities and they have held
more than 486 B2B meetings

CONTACTS

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