

Implementing Education for Sustainable Development in Textile Education and Training

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Abstract

Purpose: A strong demand for sustainable products and processes in the textile and fashion industry and its global markets imposes a continuous implementation of the guiding principle Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in textile education and industry.

Methodology: To achieve this goal, the European project “Sustainable Fashion Curriculum at Textile Universities in Europe - Development, Implementation and Evaluation of a Teaching Module for Educators” (Fashion DIET) developed digital teaching and learning arrangements within a partnership of a university of education and universities with textile departments (project duration: 09/2020 - 08/2023).

Findings: In an initial step, the project elaborated a further education module on ESD in the context of fashion and textiles, based on a survey of over 120 university lecturers in the three partner countries Bulgaria, Germany and Romania. The three-part module comprises 42 lectures with didactic-methodical concepts, sustainable fashion design and corresponding production technologies as well as sustainable orientation of the fashion market. It aims to enrich established textile-related curricula at universities and vocational schools. The ESD module was tested and evaluated for participatory development by lecturers and educators from the partner countries in two Learning, Teaching and Training events. The project content is provided as

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Open Educational Resources via Glocal Campus, an open access e-learning platform, that enables virtual collaboration between universities. In addition, the Fashion and Textile Database, a comprehensive database to collect up-to-date information on fashion and textile related topics, is developed.

Practical implications: Fashion DIET thus strengthens the quality and relevance of sustainability-oriented textile engineering and management education.

Keywords: fashion design, ESD, textile and clothing technology, e-learning, curricula.

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