

AN AESTHETIC, ETHICAL AND CRITICAL APPROACH TO WEARABLE TECHNOLOGIES, SMART AND E-TEXTILE DEVELOPMENT: A TWO-YEAR INNOVATION ACTION STUDY (2017 – 2018)

Brochure produced in the frame of WEAR Sustain

INTRODUCTION

WEAR Sustain, set out to create a Pan-European Network, to aid the development of emerging projects and provide resources for wearable technology, smart textile and e-textiles sectors, in order to create a more ethical and sustainable collaborative design, development, and distribution process, and ecosystem for a more responsible future.

Funded by the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-17, ICT 36 Innovation Action, under the umbrella of the DG-Connect STARTS initiative, to foster new innovation at the nexus of 'Science, Technology and the Arts', this ICT project, now called 'STARTS Prototyping' by the commission, set out to enable creative people and technologists to work together to produce unconventional and compelling new products, taking advantage of the existing structures involved in the education, research and economic support of the creative industries. Our strong emphasis on ethical and sustainable materials sourcing, design, development, workforce and manufacturing, aimed to tackle issues of data privacy, collection and use, as well as labour practices within the fashion, textiles and technology industries, addressing the huge environmental impact of these sectors. We have provided knowledge exchange opportunities and encouraged cross-sector and crossborder collaboration, funding a total of 46 exciting and diverse projects from across Europe.

In doing so, we have informed and inspired designers and developers to adopt ethical and sustainable workflows in their practices and throughout the lifecycle of their products. WEAR Sustain has provided these teams with mentorship, services and support from industry experts and hubs for collaborative working, providing opportunities for all to contribute to developing a strong sustainable strategy and online toolkit for future teams, packed with the resources necessary to exchange knowledge, support them and maintain the ethical and sustainable wearables ecosystem for the future.

Alongside our funded teams is a larger network ecosystem of creatives, technology experts, business leaders, academics and other stakeholders who offer novel, sustainable and ethical ways of working within the wearables, smart and e-textiles sectors. We could not have achieved such profound success without the help of a vast number of experts, mentors, hub leaders and other service providers, who gave unrivalled and dedicated support to the teams, helped raised awareness, and promoted this new and promising movement of more socially and environmentally beneficial practices in the fashion, textiles and technology sectors.

WEAR Sustain aims to become a recognised and paradigm shifting framework for future novel products and projects, with essential ethical and sustainable approaches to innovation within the fashion and textiles, materials science, smart, e-textile, and technology sectors, leaving a lasting mark and making the world a better place for society and consumers.

S + T + ARTS

SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY + ARTS