

OPEN-Fashion Newsletter

Issue **#1**

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Current challenges and opportunities in fashion

The fashion sector is currently facing significant challenges linked to environmental sustainability, digital transformation, and the need for more resilient and inclusive value chains. In the Southern Mediterranean region, these challenges are closely connected to issues such as resource efficiency, pollution, and the need to modernise education and training systems.

At the same time, the twin green and digital transition is creating new opportunities for innovation, skills development, and cross-border collaboration. In this context, strengthening VET and C-VET systems becomes essential to equip professionals with the competencies needed to support sustainable production, promote circular practices, and enhance the competitiveness of the fashion ecosystem.

OPEN-Fashion at a glance

In response to these challenges, OPEN-Fashion aims to address these challenges by empowering VET and C-VET providers with the tools, skills, and collaborative frameworks needed to drive this transformation and build a more sustainable and innovative fashion sector.

OPEN-Fashion is funded under the **Erasmus+ Capacity Building in VET (CB VET)** programme and aims to strengthen Vocational Education and Training (VET and C-VET) systems in the fashion sector, supporting the green and digital transition. The project promotes:

- skills development in sustainability and digital innovation;
- adoption of open design, co-creation, and open business models that foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and new sustainable value chains in the fashion sector;
- creation of a collaborative ecosystem between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.

Expected results include:

- development of innovative training programmes and learning materials,
- creation of a digital platform for collaboration and co-creation,
- identification and sharing of best practices in sustainable and digital fashion,
- stronger cooperation between VET providers, industry, and stakeholders.

The project will also offer training and capacity-building opportunities for participants from both European and South Mediterranean countries.

OPEN-Fashion addresses:

- VET and C-VET providers and trainers,
- students and learners in the fashion and textile sector,
- SMEs and professionals in the fashion industry,
- designers, entrepreneurs, and innovation actors,
- public bodies and stakeholders involved in education, sustainability, and economic development.

Partners

The project brings together an international consortium from Spain, Italy, Greece, Tunisia, and Morocco:



Italian Chamber of Commerce
in Barcelona (Coordinator)

Spain



IAAC – Fab Lab
Barcelona

Spain



Base3 Società Cooperativa

Italy



University of Patras

Greece



Agence Tunisienne de
Formation Professionnelle

Tunisia



Centre Hana de Formation

Tunisia



École Supérieure des
Industries du Textile et de
l'Habillement

Morocco



Association R&D
Maroc

Morocco

The project officially started in Barcelona with a successful Kick-off Meeting on 10–11 February 2026, hosted by the Coordinator—the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Barcelona—together with IAAC.

The meeting brought partners together to:

- define the project work plan and governance structure
- clarify roles and responsibilities across the consortium
- align on communication strategies, quality assurance, and financial management.



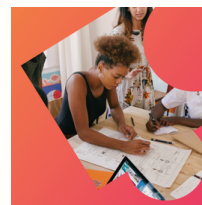
Good Practices / Case studies

OPEN-Fashion builds on successful European initiatives that demonstrate innovative approaches in sustainable and digital fashion:



TRANSITIONS

A strategic alliance supporting the transition of the textile and fashion sectors towards a circular economy, through innovative training methods, real-life labs, and collaboration across the value chain.



OPEN BUSINESS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-OBCD

A project promoting open and collaborative business models, providing tools such as training toolkits, MOOCs, and digital platforms to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.



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SIT PROJECT

Focused on developing local ecosystems for the green transition in the textile sector, enhancing skills and supporting sustainable practices among SMEs and VET providers.

Next steps

In the initial phase, the consortium will focus on:

Mapping the fashion ecosystem in partner countries

→ *identifying key actors, value chains, existing initiatives, and collaboration opportunities across the textile and fashion sector.*

Conducting research and needs analysis

→ *assessing current skills gaps, training needs, and challenges related to sustainability, digitalisation, and innovation in VET/C-VET systems.*

Engaging local stakeholders (VET providers, companies, institutions)

→ *organising interviews, workshops, and consultations to ensure a participatory approach and align project activities with real market needs.*

These activities will lay the foundation for the development of training models and project tools.

Stay connected!

Visit the project website and the OPEN-Fashion LinkedIn page to stay informed about the latest news and upcoming training opportunities.



Stay connected and follow OPEN-Fashion to discover upcoming activities, training opportunities, and project results across Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.



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