

Partners

TEI of Piraeus, School of technology applications, Department of Textile Engineering

e-mail: gprin@teipir.gr

url: www.teipir.gr

IDEC S.A.

e-mail: info@idec.gr

url: www.idec.gr

Ghent University/Universiteit Gent, Department of Textiles

e-mail: Lieva.vanlangenhove@ugent.be

url: www.ugent.be

University of Beira Interior, Sciences Faculty

e-mail: belino@ubi.pt

url: www.ubi.pt

Centro Tecnológico das Indústrias Têxtil e do Vestuário - CITEVE

e-mail: fguimaraes@citeve.pt

url: www.citeve.pt

Kauno technologijos universitetas, Faculty of design and technologies

e-mail: audrone.ragaisiene@ktu.lt

url: <http://ktu.lt/atf>

Universitat Politècnica de València

e-mail: pdiazga@txp.upv.es

url: www.upv.es

Asociación de Investigación de la Industria Textil - AITEX

e-mail: jdomenech@aitex.es

url: www.aitex.es

Vitebsk State Technological University, Department of Spinning Natural and Man-Made Fibres

e-mail: ryklin-db@rambler.ru

url: www.vstu.by

Mogilev State University of Food-Stuff, Department of Chemical Technology of High-Molecular Compounds

e-mail: htvms@tut.by

url: www.mgup.mogilev.by

Belarus State Economic University, School of Commerce Economics and Management

e-mail: Sadovskij_v@bseu.by

url: www.bseu.by

Belarusian State Concern for Production/Sale of Light Industry

e-mail: bellegprom@bellegprom.by

url: www.bellegprom.by

Unite

University and Industry for the Modernisation of the textile manufacturing sector in Belarus

UNITE project brings together the major players of the textile manufacturing sector in Belarus with partners from European Union countries and aims to build a cooperation framework between Industry and Academia in Belarus, transferring experience and knowhow from Greece, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Lithuania.

The project UNITE is based on three pillars:

- ☀ The development of UNITE council, bringing together all major stakeholders of the textile sector in Belarus, with the aim to facilitate cooperation between industry and academia.
- ☀ The development of liaison offices in the Belarusian Universities as connection points between academia and industry.
- ☀ The establishment of continuing professional development of on-line courses for the textile sector.



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www.unite-tempus.eu

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Unite

Textile production in Belarus is the largest one among Eastern Europe states and one of the largest in Europe. Textile industry in Belarus is in the process of large-scale modernisation, funded through the national programme "Support to the modernisation of the Belarusian textile companies". The on-going modernisation of the industry sets new challenge for higher education institutes. The main challenges imposed by the modernisation of the textile industry are: development of new improved manufacturing methods, creation of new products from flax and other domestic fibres, improvements in the quality and management systems and increase of productivity.

In parallel with the on-going modernisation process of the textile industry in Belarus, UNITE project aims at building capacity of higher education to build partnerships with the sector enterprises and engage in the modernisation process.

The project content and methodology has been designed in a way to allow on one hand transfer of know-how and good practices from EU countries to Belarus and on the other hand active engagement of Belarusian partners and ownership of the project and project results. Therefore in the whole project, the EU partners keep a consulting and supportive role, while the Belarusian partners are more actively involved in the project implementation with activities that are addressing their particular needs and are relevant to the current situation.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- ☀ To make the higher education in textile sector relevant to the needs of the textile industry.
- ☀ To enforce cooperation between higher education and industry in R&D.
- ☀ To make the higher education responsive to the needs of the labour market.

The main outcomes of the project are:

1. UNITE Council (University and Industry for textile sector in Belarus)

The UNITE Council brings together Academia and all major stakeholders of textile industry. It is responsible for strategic planning in issues regarding higher education and vocational education, research and development and employment in the Belarusian textile sector. UNITE Council has representatives from Academia, Bellegprom, textile trade unions, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Employment. UNITE Council has a high level decision making function, while at operational level it is supported by the organisations that are represented and by the liaison offices. The expected result of the UNITE Council is to create the conditions under which companies will be interested to formulate proposals for reforms in education curricula, topics of students research or join research activities.

2. Liaison offices

Liaison offices operate in the three Belarusian Universities that participate in the project. Liaison offices facilitate and reinforce cooperation between higher education institutes and industries in research and development activities, in employment and in continuous training of the employees in the textile sector. The liaison offices have been established as separate semi autonomous offices within the Universities.

3. On-line continuing professional development courses

New e-learning courses address the needs for continuing professional development of employees in the textile sector. Indicative topics of the on-line courses are:

- ☀ Advanced methods and instruments for evaluation of quality textiles and raw materials.
- ☀ Trends in technical textiles manufacturing (technology and assortment).
- ☀ Features of up-to-date textile machinery.
- ☀ Knowledge-based system for management at textile mills.
- ☀ CAD system for textile design.