



1st International Conference on Green Innovation & Circular Economy [GRICE \(griceconf.eu\)](https://griceconf.eu)
Organized by UNESCO Chair on Green Innovation & Circular Economy National Technical University of Athens

Topic Area: Circular Economy Ecosystem

Date: Monday 21st October 13:00-14:30

Location: Athen's Municipality Spiritual Center, "Antonis Tritsis" Amphitheater Akadimias 50, Athina 106 79

Title: Fostering Local, Beautiful, and Sustainably Designed Regenerative Textile and Clothing Ecosystems: Insights from Horizon Fabrix

Panel Overview:

The European Union's Industrial Strategy underscores a transition towards climate neutrality by 2050, positioning cities as engines of innovation. The President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen proposed a Circular Economy Act to help shift to more sustainable production and consumption for the next European Commission 2024–2029 (18 July 2024). The textile and clothing (T&C) sector, a significant contributor to the EU economy, faces the imperative to adopt sustainable, circular, and regenerative practices. With the consumption of clothing and footwear projected to increase by 63% by 2030, and textiles accounting for the highest cause of microplastic shedding into oceans (35%), the industry is at a pivotal crossroads.

This panel workshop, hosted within the context of the Horizon Fabrix project, brings together a diverse group of stakeholders—including academics, industry leaders, policymakers, and investors—to explore the development of localized, sustainably designed, regenerative T&C ecosystems in Athens, Rotterdam, and across Europe. The session aims to address the challenges and opportunities inherent in fostering urban manufacturing that is human-centered, ecologically resilient, circular, and digitally advanced.

Panel Chair:

- Dr. Fiori A. Zafeiropoulou, Partner, Horizon Fabrix; Head, Research Unit FRFashTech, Athens University of Economics and Business; Founder of SOFFA & Fashion Revolution Greece

Topic: Integrating Spatial and Relational Perspectives in Regenerative Textile Ecosystems: The Horizon Fabrix Approach

Guest Speakers (tbc):

- Professor George Priniotakis, Industrial Design & Production Engineering, University of West Attica (tbc)

Topic: Regenerative Design of Textiles: Innovating Threads from Peach Fruit Fiber Waste- IBDPTEC Project



**Funded by
the European Union**



- Orsalia Parthenis, Owner, Parthenis; President, Greek Association of Fashion Designers (tbc)
Topic: 'The Bloomer' Collection: Upcycling Unsold Luxury Garments through Parthenis
* SOFFA Collaboration
- Nicholas Yatromanolakis, Board Member, B. Papantoniou Foundation; Former Deputy Minister, Ministry of Culture (tbc)
Topic: The Role of Policymakers and Museums in Advancing Circular Ecosystems in the T&C Sector
- Gerasimos Kouvaras, CEO, World Human Forum; Former CEO, ActionAid Hellas (tbc)
Topic: Human Flourishing and the New European Bauhaus: Transitioning to Ecosystems of Sustainability, Inclusion, and Beauty
- Dimitris Georgakopoulos, Impact Green Investor in Circular Economy (tbc)
Topic: The Significance of Impact Green Investment in Ecosystem Development
- Garyfalia Pitsaki, Founder, 3Quarters (tbc)
Topic: Transforming Invisible Residual Waste into Innovative Fashion Accessories

Artifacts from these circular design and manufacturing initiatives are featured in the Anniversary Exhibition ΔΙΑΣΜΑ for the 50 years of the B. Papantoniou Foundation at the Benaki Museum, within the section “Η Μόδα μέσα στο Περιβάλλον” (“Fashion within the Environment”), from 26th September 2024 to 12th January 2025.

Abstract:

The textile and clothing industry stands at a critical juncture where sustainable transformation is both a necessity and an opportunity. The Horizon Fabrix project addresses the pressing need for integrated, regenerative urban manufacturing ecosystems by adopting a holistic approach that combines spatial design, industrial symbiosis, and value chain analysis. This panel aims to explore the entanglement of spatial and relational perspectives—dimensions often treated separately in policy and research—thereby hindering significant progress toward the twin transition of green and digital innovation.

Dr. Fiori A. Zafeiropoulou will introduce the Horizon Fabrix project's innovative approach to integrating spatial and relational perspectives in regenerative textile ecosystems. By examining how localized manufacturing can coexist with urban development, she will highlight strategies for fostering collaboration among businesses, facilitators, and policymakers to create sustainable and inclusive value chains.

Key discussion points will include:

- Developing Transdisciplinary Frameworks: Establishing methodologies for analyzing circular and regenerative localized manufacturing ecosystems, as advocated by FABRIX.



**Funded by
the European Union**



- Innovative Material Use: Showcasing regenerative design through the creation of textiles from agricultural waste, such as peach fiber (Prof. Priniotakis).
- Luxury Upcycling: Presenting 'The Bloomer' collection, a collaboration between Parthenis and SOFFA, exemplifying upcycling in luxury fashion (Orsalia Parthenis).
- Human-Centered Ecosystems: Aligning with the New European Bauhaus principles to foster ecosystems that promote sustainability, inclusion, and beauty (Gerasimos Kouvaras).
- Policy and Cultural Influence: Discussing the pivotal role of policymakers and cultural institutions in facilitating the transition to circular economies within the T&C sector (Nicholas Yatromanolakis).
- Impact Investment: Exploring how green investment signals and accelerates the development of sustainable ecosystems (Dimitris Georgakopoulos).
- Zero-Waste Innovation: Utilizing invisible residual waste as a resource for designing new fashion accessories, promoting zero-waste principles (Garyfalia Pitsaki).

By uniting voices from various segments of the T&C value chain, this panel seeks to foster dialogue and collaboration, addressing environmental challenges while envisioning the future of fashion as one that is sustainable, inclusive, and beautifully designed. The insights shared will contribute to redefining manufacturing processes and supply chains, moving towards decentralized, urban, and digital ecosystems that align with Europe's vision for a sustainable future.

Keywords: Sustainable Fashion, Circular Economy, Urban Manufacturing, Textile Innovation, Regenerative Design, Value Chain Integration, European Industrial Strategy, New European Bauhaus, Circular Economy Ecosystem



**Funded by
the European Union**