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SCIRT.

Intermediate Advisory Board recommendations report

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Summary

The Intermediate Advisory Board recommendations deliverable includes the main feedback received from AB members related to mechanisms of the project objectives and strategic approaches. Concern for the intensity of work dedicated to creating the True Cost Model and a request for increased communication towards the next period of the project were amongst the AB feedback. Each feedback received dedicated recommendations and actions that are already ongoing or plans to be implemented are being considered.

Approval

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Summary

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Keywords

Advisory Board feedback, True Cost Model, Best practices framework, Circular economy

Abbreviations and acronyms

Acronym	Description
AB	Advisory Board
CE	Circular Economy
EC	European Commission
LCA	Life-cycle Analysis
TCM	True Cost Model
WP	Work Package



Introduction

The SCIRT project demonstrates an entire textile-to-textile recycling system for post-consumer textiles, focusing on recycling of natural and synthetic fibres, and fibre blends. SCIRT incorporates all players along the value chain in order to test and showcase the possibility of more sustainable value chains as well as creating collaborations. In addition to developing the production of recycled garments, SCIRT will further involve a True Cost Model and an eco-modulated EPR system will be set up, to improve value chain transparency.

In order to ensure that the objectives and implementations described in the project are achieved, the SCIRT Advisory Board was established to be a resource to the project consortium and provide input where necessary.

1 Advisory Board

1.1 Purpose of SCIRT AB

The Advisory Board for the SCIRT project is made up of representatives from non-partners that can guide the partnership with reference to the needs and viewpoints of key stakeholders. The board is intended to be representative of various stakeholder communities interested in the circular economy.

Given the expertise of the AB, the main purpose of their involvement in the project is for key discussions throughout activities (scoping and visioning) and to review selected project outputs and provide feedback to increase their quality, appeal, and ultimately to ensure that the needs of key stakeholders are met and they support the solutions proposed by the consortium. The advisory board will be consulted at milestone moments during the course of the project. The AB also enables the expansion of the consortium's network to be able to target a larger audience.

1.2 Composition of SCIRT AB

The SCIRT AB is set up of key stakeholders from the clothing and textiles sector as well as relevant (local/regional/national/EU) authorities. This guarantees the optimal use of available knowledge while assisting in the validation of project outcomes and increasing the potential for replication and upscaling. A number of external stakeholders were contacted during the proposal phase of the project, for them to be involved in the Advisory Board. The members were finalized before the project began by agreeing to sign the Terms of Reference for participating in the group. The AB composition is as follows:

Member	Organization	Added Value for SCIRT
Maria Luisa Martinez Diez	Global Fashion Agenda	-Acquired knowledge regarding recycling from GFA's 2020 Circular Fashion System Commitment and from GFA's. -Designer Challenge Policy expertise, through the work on transparency and EPR in



		the framework of the Policy Hub-Circularity for Apparel and Footwear. -The network from GFA's Innovation Forum.
Evelyn Mora	Digital Village/Helsinki Fashion Week	- Activities and network in the fashion sector. -Innovative view to fashion and transition of the system.
Daniel Mensch	Sustainable Fashion Academy	Key player in the educational field on circular and sustainable fashion.
Alan Encinas	International Solid Waste Association	ISWA's Scientific and technical committee and members of its network of professionals to exchange information on how to drive the transformation that the textiles value chain requires to achieve the circularity objectives of the EU and worldwide.
Aditi Ramola		
Wouter Dujardin	Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM)	-Input on matters of policy and legislation. -Help in solving potential legislative barriers in waste legislation. -Access to a wide network of policy makers in other countries and at the EU level.
Evelyn Lafond		
Marina Crnoja-Cosic	Kelheim Fibres GmbH	-Knowledge on development and production of innovative viscose fibres through their flexible technology, as well as textile and non-woven value chain. -Customer-oriented and customer-specific innovation.
Clément d'Audiffret	Mulliez-Flory	-Textile expertise on manufacturing value chain. -Knowledge on circular economy projects for its customers and recycling tests. -Expertise on the creation of a company for recycling clothes.
Mauro Scalia	EURATEX	European association of the European apparel and textile industry
Lars Mortensen	European Environment Agency	Project manager at the EEA focusing on key product value chains like plastics and textiles. Close link to policy field.
Sara Ceustermans	We Social Movements	Expertise on labour rights issues in the global garment value chains.
Julia Blee	EuRIC AISBL	Joint expertise of the textiles reuse and recycling industry.
Maria Vera-Duran		



Dieter Eichinger	European Man-Made Fibres Association (CIRFS)	Representative body for the European man-made fibres industry, monitoring developments affecting the industry in Europe. Strong network and knowledge.
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Table 1: SCIRT Advisory Board members

1.3 SCIRT interactions with AB

So far in the project, SCIRT has had some, but still limited interactions with the AB. The AB participated in the kick-off meeting of the project, as well as the plenary meetings. The AB has also participated in the stakeholder workshops called the User Boards and given feedback on the project activities and strategic approaches.

Interaction with a subgroup of the AB members has also taken place during the attendance of external events, such as the Global Fashion Summit in Copenhagen (June 2022), the Global Fibre Congress in Dornbirn (September 2022) and the R&D Seminar of CIRFS.

While engagement with the board has been limited, it is planned to increase in the next half of the project. With productions and outcomes of the project being more developed, the project partners will need and request more feedback and exchange from the AB. A timeline for interactions will be further developed and specified, in line with the project planning.

2 AB feedback: advice and implementation

2.1 Methodology

Overall feedback presented by the SCIRT AB during project and User Board meetings (November 23 & 24, 2021 and May 11 & 12, 2022) was collected. Additional feedback was gathered in a questionnaire sent to the AB about other comments and potential recommendations for the project. Some feedback had already been addressed internally and recommendations had been developed. New recommendations were considered for feedback that had not previously been addressed and implementations were developed. In the following section 2.2 (Table 3), feedback and implementations have been listed.

2.2 AB interest in SCIRT - expectations

During the plenary meeting in Antwerp in November of 2021, AB members were invited to present themselves and share their expectations towards SCIRT. The board was asked specifically what they consider to be their main point of interest in the project to follow up on. The responses received, from AB members present in the meeting, are listed below.



AB member	Expectations towards SCIRT - What SCIRT can bring to the AB members
Sara Ceustermans <i>Clean Clothes Campaign</i>	Knowledge and inputs into the development of the vision of Clean Clothes Campaign on how circular fashion models interact with labour rights issues. We are aiming to build one holistic narrative on how the fashion industry on the future should look like: inputs from the project can contribute to that.
Alan Encinas <i>ISWA</i>	The insights that the project would bring are very valuable to ISWA as members are directly related in the value chains of materials. Textile waste is an important waste stream that ISWA is taking into consideration by creating a dedicated task force on it.
Marina Crnoja-Cosic <i>Kelheim Fibres Gmbh</i>	Exploring of sustainable use of raw materials. Next steps in circularity (technical expertise) regarding alternative raw materials. Bridge between industry and research for a more efficient scaling up
Maria Luisa Martinez Diez <i>Global Fashion Agenda</i>	Insights and evidence on the specific needs and challenges from different actors to feed into our reports and policy work. Networking and development of opportunities.
Clément D'Audiffret <i>Mulliez Flory</i>	SCIRT can help to identify new ways of recycling for the clothes we put on the market.
Julia Blees <i>EuRIC</i>	SCIRT will bring insights on expanding the use of recycled fibres and will identify further improvements of the sorting process.
Wouter Dujardin - Evelyn Lafond <i>OVAM</i>	We are investigating whether we want an EPR for textiles. SCIRT can deliver input on how to design the system.

Table 2: SCIRT AB expectations towards the SCIRT project outcomes

2.3 AB feedback and related actions

Feedback received	Implementation (ongoing/planned)
Unsure about the best practices for textile brands regarding developing policies and strategies for designing for recyclability as well as knowledge management and synthesis into practice.	Solicit input from representative leading brands, synthesize, develop framework and toolbox.
Communication should be more important for big European projects like SCIRT.	Results will be linked to the elements of the EU textiles strategy. Communication efforts have been undertaken in the first part of the project, mainly targeting the general public (events like 'Day of Science' or Nerdland in Belgium), as well as knowledge



	<p>community (conferences attended, publications, ...).</p> <p>Communication towards the general public will further increase through the awareness campaign that will launch in 2023.</p> <p>Further emphasis on communication within the stakeholder and knowledge community are foreseen towards the next phase of the project, as more specific and elaborate results of the project are being realised.</p>
<p>The activities are scattered making key targets not achievable.</p>	<p>Focus on the key deliverables shall be considered and ensuring that each partner accomplishes their task, in order to enable the next task to be fulfilled focusing on the targets of the project.</p>
<p>The True Cost Model will require an unforeseeable intensity of effort which may not be possible in the duration of SCIRT.</p>	<p>In the case that the TCM will require too many factors to be considered, the partners working on the TCM will need to target the main factors to consider to create the analysis tool. The partners (VITO and Flanders DC) should check in with the Advisory Board and other experts in the field for feedback on the essential elements to include.</p>
<p>Lack of engagement with the project and the Advisory Board.</p>	<p>The beginning of the project had very preliminary results and is beginning to pick up momentum. The coordinator and WP6 on communications will work together to communicate more proactively with the AB in writing as well as in meetings. The AB will be not only be invited to SCIRT events but activities will be incorporated, in order for the AB to be engaged in the project and be encouraged to attend such events.</p>
<p>Many new developments are ongoing regarding "Recycling/Circularity" and there is a need for LCA (Life cycle analysis incl. CO2 footprint) of "Recycled" vs. "Virgin" clothing.</p>	<p>The SCIRT project includes that development of a True Cost Model (TCM) as LCA. The TCM considers the footprint and impact of a piece of garment and will be applied to the prototypes developed in the duration of the project. The carbon footprint of the prototype garment made from recycled textiles will thus be able to be compared with other garments made from "virgin" material.</p>

Table 3: SCIRT AB feedback and implementation



Conclusion

The request for feedback from the SCIRT Advisory Board was a good way to touch bases with the members and identify items that need shifting and more attention. Overall, feedback received until now is mainly related to communication between the consortium and the SCIRT AB and proves to be essential for the productivity of the project. The project will take the necessary steps to be more proactive about reaching out and further incorporating the AB in future events.

Other feedback is already incorporated in ongoing or planned activities to be implemented throughout the remaining project. Further exchanges and interactions will take place in preparation for the Final Advisory Board Recommendations report, planned at the end of the project timeline.

