



# VITO and Flanders DC launch fashion's first self-assessment tool for comprehensive lifecycle impact

As a result of the SCIRT project, the True Cost Calculator becomes readily available

## For Immediate Release

24 October 2024

**Antwerp, Belgium - The True Cost Calculator, a revolutionary tool towards more sustainable fashion, is launched by VITO and Flanders DC as part of the SCIRT Project, an EU Horizon 2020 funded project.**

VITO (Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek) and Flanders DC (Flanders District of Creativity) are proud to announce the launch of the **True Cost Calculator (TCC)**, a major step towards sustainable decision making in the fashion industry. The self-assessment tool, freely accessible on [truecostcalculator.eu](https://truecostcalculator.eu), is developed to empower fashion professionals in efficiently measuring, comparing, and minimizing the **environmental and social impact of garments** across their lifecycle. Results are presented in clear and understandable units to the intended target audience of fashion designers, buyers, sustainability managers, and other decision makers in fashion companies.

Developed through the SCIRT project, The True Cost Calculator builds upon and enhances existing frameworks for evaluating the environmental and social costs of textiles. One of the most important features of the True Cost Calculator is its **integration of financial, environmental, and social dimensions**, monetizing the external costs associated with the lifecycle of clothing.

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Unlike other tools currently available, the TCC takes into account the entire lifecycle of a garment and measures the impact of production, transport, use, and disposal. Backed with scientifically sound background data, the tool is user-friendly and accessible, allowing for a wide audience to participate in responsible and educated decision-making.

In addition to its broad analytical capabilities, the calculator incorporates lessons learned from the SCIRT project, offering **hands-on design guidelines** for brands and manufacturers. These guidelines provide valuable insights into material composition, blends, trims, and additives, helping brands make more sustainable choices from the design stage onward.

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The True Cost Calculator is designed to support a wide range of industry professionals, including **designers, buyers, CSR managers, consultants**, and even fashion industry students. Its user-friendly approach allows for seamless integration into daily workflows, making sustainability a more accessible goal for all.

While the True Cost Calculator is currently focused on the fashion sector, broader applications could be applied in the future. The tool could eventually be expanded to **true cost calculations in other industries**, revolutionizing sustainability across a variety of sectors.



This project has received funding from the Horizon 2020 Programme under grant agreement n°101003906.

For more information on the True Cost Calculator, visit [truecostcalculator.eu](http://truecostcalculator.eu).

### SCIRT Partners

- **Fashion companies:** [Bel&Bo](#), [HNST](#), [Decathlon](#), [Xandres](#), [Petit Bateau](#)
- **Research organisations:** [VITO](#), [CETI](#), [Prospex Institute](#)
- **Universities:** [BOKU](#), [TU Wien](#), [ESTIA](#)
- **Industry players:** [Altex](#), [AVS Spinning – A European Spinning Group \(ESG\) Company](#), [Valvan](#)
- **SMEs:** [Circular.fashion](#), [FFact](#)
- **Non-profit organisations:** [Flanders DC](#), [IID-SII](#)

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