

PETCORE EUROPE: Leading the Way in Polyester Textile Circularity

PETCORE EUROPE, the foremost Brussels-based organization in the **PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) value chain**, is exceptionally well-positioned to lead the transition toward **circularity in polyester textiles**. With decades of expertise and a robust infrastructure, **PETCORE EUROPE** is extending its efforts beyond PET packaging to tackle the challenges of polyester fiber recycling in textiles.

1. Established Infrastructure and Advanced & Mechanical Recycling Technologies

- **A Legacy of Expertise:** Since its founding in 1993, **PETCORE EUROPE** has become widely recognized for its extensive experience in the **collection, sorting, and recycling** of PET, particularly for packaging applications. This well-established infrastructure is now being adapted to address similar challenges in the textile industry, where PET is used in the form of **polyester fibers**.
- **Leading-Edge Recycling Solutions:** **PETCORE EUROPE** is at the forefront of **advanced & mechanical recycling technologies**, supported by over 20 technology providers. These innovations are being tailored to manage polyester textiles, enabling the **efficient recycling of used garments** into high-quality recycled fibers that can be reintroduced into the production cycle.

2. Comprehensive Value Chain Engagement and Commitment to Sustainability

- **Broad Collaboration Across the Value Chain:** **PETCORE EUROPE** has built strong partnerships with packaging stakeholders across the entire PET value chain, including producers, recyclers, **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes**, major packaging brands, and end-users. This collaborative network is now expanding to include **textile stakeholders, fashion brands, and industry associations**, paving the way for a unified approach to textile circularity.
- **Integrated Circularity Approach:** **PETCORE EUROPE**'s active involvement in every stage of the PET product lifecycle—from production to recycling—makes it well-equipped to promote **circular practices in textiles**. By ensuring alignment between design, collection, and recycling processes, **PETCORE EUROPE** maximizes the potential for circularity in polyester-based products.
- **Commitment to Environmental Sustainability:** As a key advocate for reducing the environmental impact of PET products, **PETCORE EUROPE** is extending from packaging this commitment to the textile industry, aiming to significantly reduce textile waste and **increase the use of recycled polyester**.

- **Innovation and Research:** With a strong focus on **innovation in recycling technologies**, **PETCORE EUROPE** is achieving groundbreaking advancements in textile recycling, such as:
 - **Depolymerization processes** that can handle complex textile compositions, including mixed fiber content.
 - **Last generation Mechanical recycling** processes

3. Influence in Policy and Industry Standards

- **Policy Leadership:** **PETCORE EUROPE** plays a pivotal role in shaping European policies and regulations related to PET recycling. This expertise is now being leveraged to advocate for **circularity in polyester textiles**, including the promotion of **EPR schemes** and mandatory **recycled content** in textile products. **PETCORE EUROPE**'s contributions to setting up **Deposit Return Schemes (DRS)** demonstrate its ability to enhance recycling rates, reduce litter, and achieve economies of scale.
- **Standardization and Best Practices:** By developing industry-wide **recycling guidelines, standards, and best practices** for PET packaging, **PETCORE EUROPE** ensures efficient, high-quality recycling processes. These standards are now being elaborated for the textile industry, helping to create **consistent quality benchmarks** and support the adoption of circular practices.

4. Cross-Sector Synergies and Circular Economy Integration

- **Material Synergies Between Packaging and Textiles:** PET is a common material used in both packaging and textiles, and **PETCORE EUROPE's expertise in PET recycling** creates valuable synergies between these two sectors. Technologies initially developed for **recycling PET bottles** are now being adapted to recycle polyester textiles, resulting in **economies of scale** and improved recycling efficiency.
- **Circular Economy Leadership:** As a key driver of the circular economy for PET packaging, **PETCORE EUROPE** aims to serve as a model for the textile industry, aligning with the EU Textile Strategy. The organization is well-positioned to **integrate circular principles into textile manufacturing**, encouraging a more sustainable and holistic approach to **resource efficiency across multiple sectors**.

- **Textile SIG members:**



Conclusion

With its extensive experience in PET recycling, strong industry collaborations, and dedication to sustainability, **PETCORE EUROPE** is poised to lead the effort toward **circularity in the polyester textile industry**. By expanding its focus from packaging to textiles, **PETCORE EUROPE** is playing a crucial role in creating a **more sustainable and circular future** for polyester-based products, helping to reduce waste and promote the use of recycled materials in the fashion and textile sectors.