

## Enable Digital Product Passports with Chemicals Traceability for a Circular Economy (ECHT)

The Green Deal transition towards a climate-neutral, resource-preserving and non-toxic Circular Economy (CE) creates new challenges for businesses. The EU Textiles Strategy aims to tackle the high waste generation and the low recycling rates and negative environmental and social impacts throughout the whole life-cycle. Textile apparel will become one of the first product group subjected to Sustainable Product Policies (Ecodesign incl. Digital Product Passport). These policies imply value chain actors having access to detailed product information incl. material compositions: Trustworthy traceability of chemicals along supply chains is one central enabler for a non-toxic, resource-efficient and climate neutral Circular Economy. Knowledge of material composition allows (eco-)design, informed procurement and purchasing decisions, improved recycling processes, thus minimise risks for health and environment from chemicals during the use phase and after the end of life. Volatility, complexity and established

supply chain structures, however, make it difficult for companies to work together and trace the chemicals in their products.

**ECHT aims to help the industry establish chemicals traceability for a circular economy by enabling the digital product passport.**

ECHT develops and implements the first traceability strategy with 3 action plans for actors of textile (1) apparel and (2) flooring value chains as well as for (3) policymakers at different levels. The action plans will draw from the learnings of innovative training schemes (capacity building). Results from the trainings and the insights gained in developing, testing and disseminating practical solutions are upscaled into a Knowledge Platform to support SME's of the textile and other sectors "beyond pure compliance" towards innovative business models.

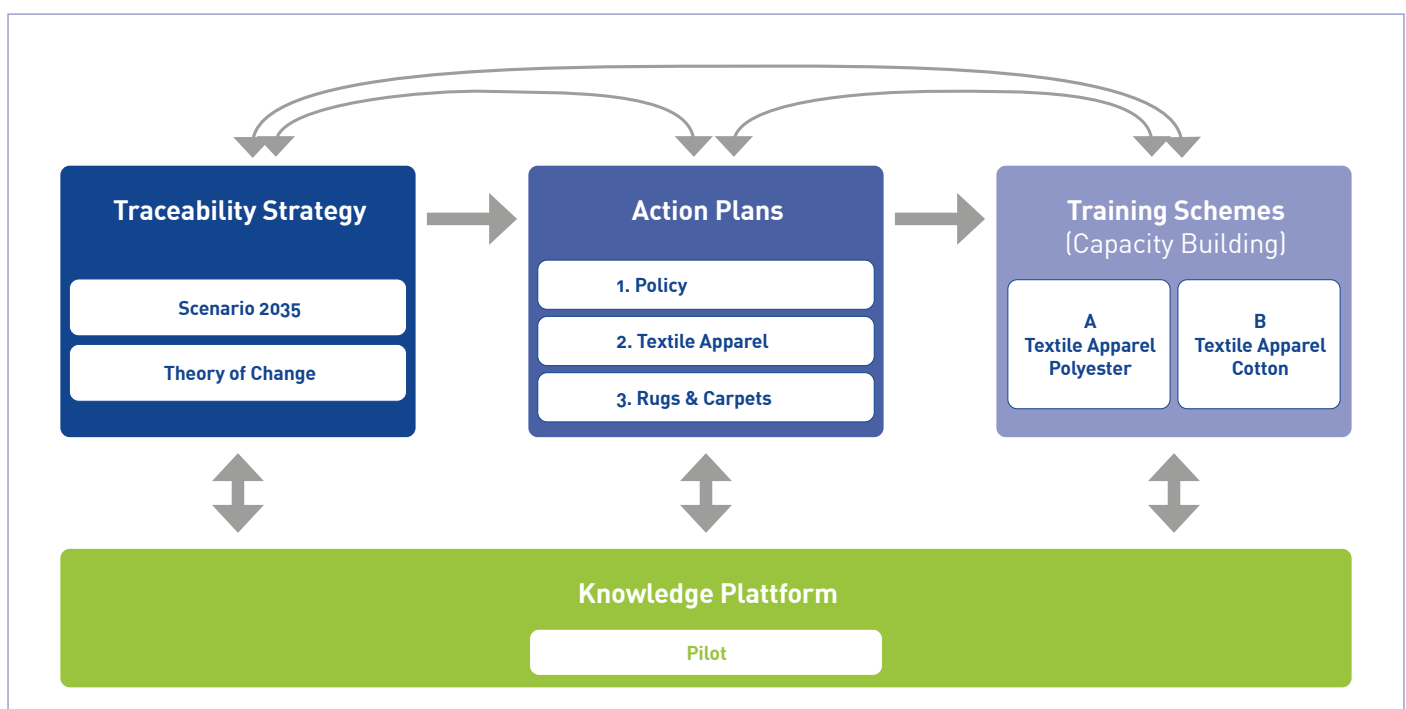


Fig. 1) Overall concept of the project ECHT

## Project Specifics

**Funding:** Interreg NWE Call 2  
**Duration:** 2023-2026  
**Budget:** 2,1 Mio €  
 9 funded partners from BE, GER, FR, LU

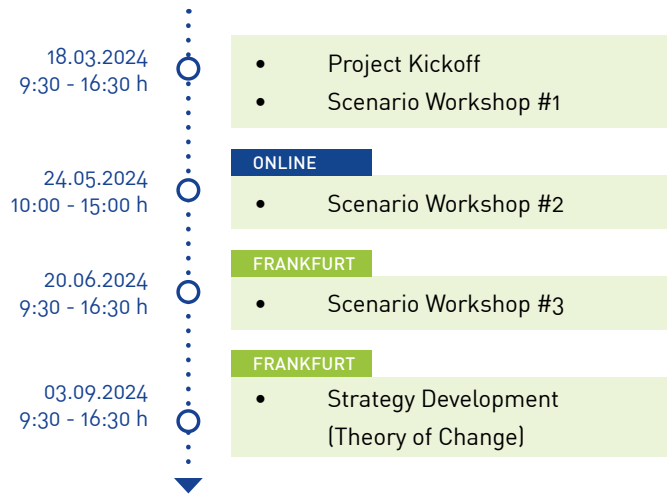
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**COMPANIES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PROJECT:**

### a) Scenario-process and strategy development

The project develops a shared vision using the scenario technique. Therefore, the participants identify influencing factors, which they think have an impact on the transition towards traceability (e.g. network formation, change in regulations, or market situation) and co-create a story describing a future state of the traceability system (e.g. "Traceability 2035"). This story will comprise aspects such as the role of capacity building, transfer of established knowledge, adaptations in the regulatory framework and technological implementations among other things. **Companies can take part in the workshop series or provide their feedback asynchronously to the project team.**



### b) Training schemes

The training schemes aim at providing a good learning experience and creating a shared understanding of the benefits of traceability and how to specifically implement it throughout the textile value chains.

**There will be two training schemes:** One for the cotton value chain and one for the polyester value chain. Each training scheme consists of two face-to-face workshops.

### How to participate

You can contact the project team, if you are interested to participate in one or both of the opportunities in the project.

▶ For more information visit: [echt.nweurope.eu](http://echt.nweurope.eu)

Finally, there will be a joint workshop with all participants to create synergies and expand the network. All of the workshops will take place in 2025.

**Companies are invited to take part in the training scheme with one or more participants. If needed, SMEs will be financially supported for travelling costs.**

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