

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN FUNCTIONAL TEXTILES

NEWSLETTER Issue 3, August 2013

GENERAL

The 4-years project 2BFUNTEX funded by the EC 7th Framework Programme NMP, started on the **1st of January 2012**.

The 2BFUNTEX consortium includes 26 partners from 16 European countries covering all important sectors – *fundamental research and education on textiles and related materials* (universities and research institutes), *economic, policy, foresight and complexity management* (research institutes and SMEs), *associations of SMEs, national innovation agencies and governmental chambers of industry and commerce*.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

From the 27th until 29th of May 2013, the 18 month review meeting, the 2nd Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) meeting and the 4th workshop on Foresight & Complexity took place at the Istanbul Technical University in Turkey.



Based on 2BFUNTEX research and industry partners' expertise, several technology-market combinations have been identified for **multidisciplinary teams** (MDTs): nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, smart textiles, sustainable textiles, plasma, flame retardancy, electrospinning and antimicrobial textiles as introduced by the corresponding MDT coordinator Bojana Vončina from the University of Maribor (Slovenia). Each MDT will identify some tangible gaps between available technologies and medium to long-term industrial needs. In Istanbul, the first three multidisciplinary teams (i) *smart textiles*; (ii) *antimicrobial textiles* and (iii) *electrospinning* were set-up.

<http://www.2bfuntex.eu/>



Bojana Vončina presented the concept of multi-disciplinary teams which will develop ideas for collaborations towards innovations, identify potential knowledge gaps and create research-based innovation ideas.

Each team will be led by one research and one industrial team leader. Introductory presentations were conducted by the corresponding MDT team leaders.



MDT *Smart textiles*
Research team leader
Lieva Van Langenhove from Ghent
University, Belgium



MDT *Antimicrobial textiles*
Research team leader
Amaya Igartua from
IK4-Tekniker, Spain

The starting MDTs made an appraisal of the existing innovation needs and the knowledge bases in science and industry. Their goals were discussed and clarified:

- Which technologies and applications do we want to develop? What is known about the research field? What is missing in the transfer value chain?
- Where is the market going? What is known about industrial needs? What is missing in the transfer value chain?
- What is the position of our initiative in the value chain? What cross-disciplinary know-how do we need?



MDT *Antimicrobial textiles*
Industrial team leader
Brian McCarthy from
Technitex Faraday
Limited, UK



MDT *Electrospinning*
Industrial and research team leaders
Erich Kny from Kymek GmbH, Austria, and
Hale Karakash from Istanbul Technical
University, Turkey



FLTR: E. Van der Burght (Ghent University), A. Stalios, Programme Officer
European Commission, P. Kiekens (Ghent University) and P. Wagner-
Luptacik (Austrian Institute of Technology)

INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD

IAB membership benefits are (i) to be first in line to engage in strategic partnerships and trainings; (ii) exclusive access to state-of-the-art knowledge and technologies emerging and (iii) insight in research frontiers in Europe and around the world. On the 2nd IAB meeting in Istanbul, some IAB members, i.e. Korteks, Setas, Martur and Orta Anadolu gave short presentations about their companies. Following success criteria were formulated by the IAB members:

- Find solutions for real needs
- Find technology that works
- Bring ideas and show prototypes
- Be bold and original
- Look at technical and economic feasibility along the value chain
- Integrate education in industry.

At the 4th 2BFUNTEX workshop on Foresight & Complexity, *scenario thinking* and *systems thinking* tools and techniques were discussed in order to systematically assess the opportunities and risks associated in the medium and long-term developments. Scenario techniques were used to look at trends and drivers which may or may not impact on the ideas. Systems thinking was applied to check whether the MDTs ideas are adaptive to future disruptions.

The **Best Practice Marketplace** rounded up the 4th workshop on Foresight & Complexity providing an opportunity to share and exchange instruments for attracting industry to RTD.



Expertise in cellulosic non-woven materials as shown by Pirjo Heikkilä, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON FUNCTIONAL TEXTILES

- First International Conference on Digital Technologies for the Textile Industries, 5-6 September 2013, Manchester, United Kingdom
- Innovation day 'New technical equipment and methods at STFI', 13 September, 2013, Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut, Chemnitz, Germany
- Conference on 'Development of nanomaterials based on raw bast fibers', 17-19 September 2013, Kherson National Technical University, Ukraine
- 2BFunTex@Eurofinish 2013: Innovation Seminar annex Matchmaking Event on Functional Textiles, 23 October 2013, Flanders Expo, Gent, Belgium
- Conference on Automotive Textiles - CAT13, 14-15 November 2013, Tech Global Learning Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- 7th Aachen-Dresden International Textile Conference 'Adding Function and Value', 28-29 November 2013, Aachen Congress Center Eurogress, Germany

SOME STATISTICS

Technologies offered by 2BFUNTEX partners: 49 entries
Projects with 2BFUNTEX partners involvement: 75 entries
Registered users: 283

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For further information on 2BFUNTEX please contact
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