

Twin transition needs and solutions report

Deliverable D3.1

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List of acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CAD	Computer-Aided Design
DPP	Digital Product Passport
E2E	End-to-End
EDIH	European Digital Innovation Hub
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
EU	European Union
GOTS	Global Organic Textile Standard
GRS	Global Recycled Standard
IoT	Internet of Things
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
LCC	Life Cycle Costing
PLM	Product Lifecycle Management
R&D	Research and Development
RTO	Research and Technology Organization
RWS	Responsible Wool Standard
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
WP	Work Package

1. Introduction

ELEVATEX main goals are to accelerate the twin-transition the textile industry, foster industrial resilience and recovery with a comprehensive vision of the value chain and its outlets, strengthen international competitiveness by increasing the innovation capacity of SMEs, facilitate access to markets and supply chains, and boost European cross-sectoral and cross-regional cooperation by establishing strategic partnerships.

To achieve these goals the partnership started with a gap analysis and prioritization of key needs and solutions for the twin transition and strategic autonomy across the textile value chain, under WP3 (Strategy building for the competitiveness & innovation capacity of textile value chains). To establish a strong link with markets, the task included a comprehensive assessment review, building on the results and mitigation pathways established in previous European projects, to identify value chain gaps, key resources, and critical technologies. Three dedicated internal workshops, focused on green transition, digital transformation, and strategic gaps, enabled the definition of critical needs, key solutions and the refinement of priorities, while a survey among SMEs provided direct industry insights, validating and prioritizing the critical needs and key solutions identified.

So, this deliverable (D3.1: Twin transition needs and solutions report) presents the analysis and the results of the textile sector critical needs and key solutions for the digital and green transitions, as well as for other strategic gaps.

2. Methodology

The methodology to prioritize the critical needs and key solutions for the twin transition of the textile sector, had three main steps, a comprehensive assessment review, three internal workshops and an industry insights survey.

2.1 Comprehensive assessment review

The comprehensive assessment review to identify textile value chain gaps and key needs was built on the results of previous European projects, in particular:

- Market study, gaps & needs analysis report, from December 19th, 2022 (EuroBoostEX project)
- Report on training needs for the textile industry of the future, from June 28th, 2023 (EuroBoostEX project)
- Mapping, gap analysis, and SME workshop to identify post-COVID situation and opportunities to build resilience, December 23rd, 2022 (xBuild-EU project)
- Report on preparatory activities including mapping, need analysis and tools developed, from May 31st, 2023 (In Transit project)
- Mapping textiles and materials and Industry 4.0 technology, from January 2024 (TRANSITIONS project)
- Mapping market & professionals needs – VET, HEI and Professionals, from May 2024 (TRANSITIONS project)
- Regional Innovation Boosting Action Plan – TEX-BREIN Contributions, from October 31st, 2025 (TEX-BREIN project)

Based on those results, the following key gaps and critical needs in the textile sector were identified, considering five main topics: digital transition, green transition, innovation needs, market challenges and financial barriers.

Digital transition

Insufficient digital adoption

Most textile companies remain in early planning stages for digitalization, with few having implemented advanced tools or digital business models

Adopt new technologies

Textile companies need to integrate digital tools (like IoT, AI, automation, big data, digital products, smart manufacturing) to boost efficiency, innovation and competitiveness

Upskill workforce

Many textile companies have as lack digital literacy and lack of skilled workers to use digital systems (AI, data management, cybersecurity, robotics, etc.). Training is needed in digital transformation and emerging tech

Digital skills shortage

There is a critical gap in qualified digital skills available to the Textile industry, which are being requested by several sectors

Green transition

Slow green uptake

Textile companies have initiated sustainability measures but most of them remain in preliminary or preparatory phases of the green transition

Sustainable materials & processes

Textile companies must move to eco-friendly inputs and cleaner production, such as material recycling, resource efficiency, waste reduction

Circular business models

New approaches, like durable design, repair services, resale/second-hand markets, recycling systems, are vital in textile sector but require mindset change, new processes, new skills and consumer engagement and emerging tech

Infrastructure and Technology

A critical gap in collection and automatic sorting infrastructure for post-consumer textile waste (for reuse and recycling)

Lifecycle tools and traceability

Textile companies lack widespread use of tools like Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and material and products traceability (like tags, digital product passports)

Green skill gaps

Expertise in eco-design, recycling technologies and resource-efficient production is lacking in textile companies, which need specialists who can integrate sustainable materials and processes into textile manufacturing

Regulatory pressures

Textile EU policy highlighting textiles as a circular economy priority, such as eco-design, DPP, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), labelling, impose stricter requirements and increase the companies' costs

Consumer awareness gap

Low public awareness on overconsumption impacts, on sustainable purchases and disposal solutions are major challenge for the green transition.

Innovation needs

Innovation challenges

R&D and technology scouting is needed to overcome the textile new demands, like sustainable and personalized products, and adopting advanced manufacturing methods

Underinvestment in innovation

Both radical and incremental innovation in new materials, processes and business models is insufficient in textile sector

Market challenges

Global competition

EU textile companies face stiff foreign competition. High energy and material costs and low-cost players put pressure on margins

Market access gaps

Textile SMEs lack networks and information to enter new markets. Support is needed to identify high-value international niches, partners and suppliers

Supply-chain disruptions

The textile supply-chain disruptions, due to the extra-EU dependency, illustrated during COVID and geopolitical crises raised material costs and volatility

Financial barriers

High costs

Rising energy and raw material prices in EU textile sector strain businesses

Complex rules

Bureaucracy and regulatory complexity slow down investment and innovation. Textile SMEs struggle with heavy compliance and find it hard to navigate public funding programs

Funding gaps

Many textile SME need easier access to finance, grants and market support. Targeted financial aid and guidance on public funds, subsidies, investor contacts are needed. As well as funding for small-scale projects

Funding-tech disconnect

Investment in green and digital tech is expensive and grant processes are complex. Textile SMEs often find public R&D funding hard to access or ill-suited to their scale

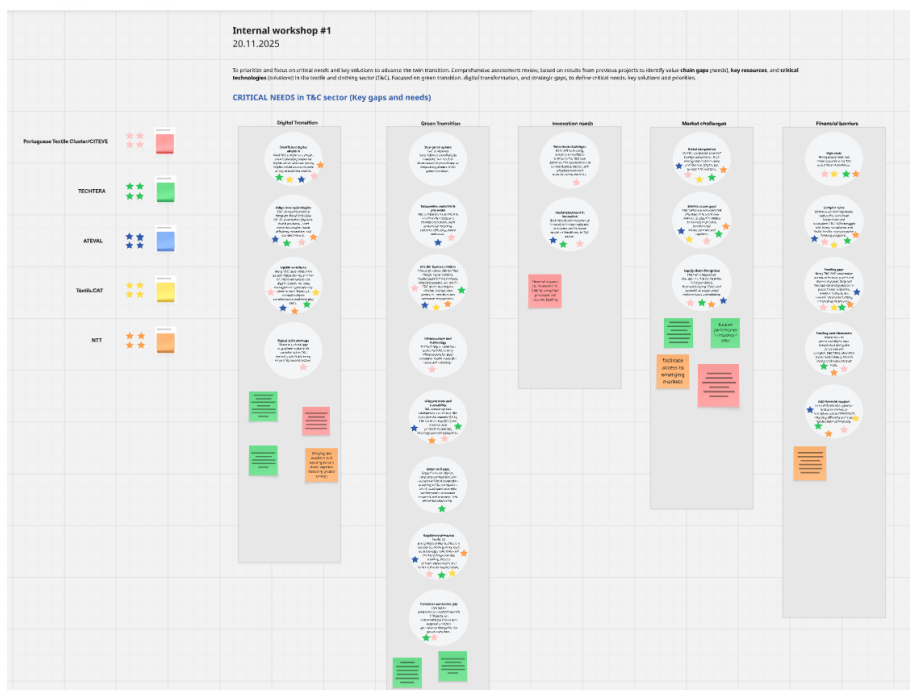
R&D financial support

Need of financial support to R&D and innovation to improve textile mechanical recycling efficiency and scale textile chemical recycling

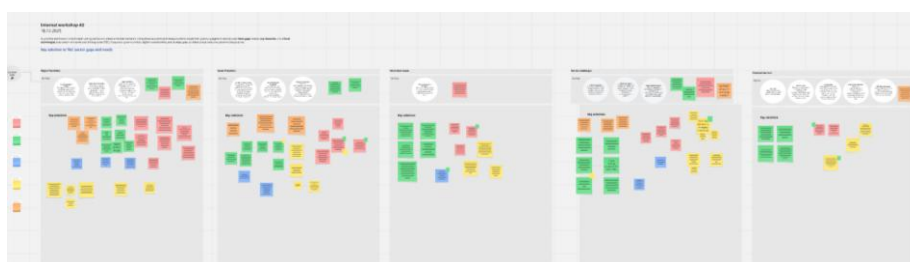
2.2 Three internal workshops

Three dedicated ELEVATEX workshops involving all partners, focused on green transition, digital transformation, and other strategic gaps, were performed to validate the textile key gaps and critical needs identified, establish the key solutions and define priorities. To support these three workshops the Miro tool was used, with specific boards for each of the workshops.

In the first workshop, performed on November 20th, 2025, the textile key gaps and critical needs previously identified on the five main topics (digital transition, green transition, innovation needs, market challenges and financial barriers) were validated, by selecting them with stars. Other relevant gaps or needs were also identified.



In the second workshop, held on December 18th, 2025, the key solutions were proposed for the selected textile key gaps and critical needs (with three or more stars) and for the news ones identified in the previous workshop.

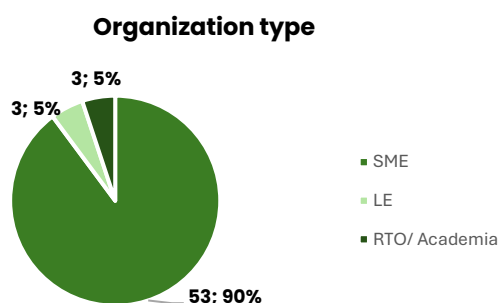


For the third workshop, organized on January 14th, 2026, the textile key gaps and critical needs, as well as the proposed key solutions were organized in three topics: digital transition, green transition and other strategic areas. The most relevant ones were prioritized by selecting them with thumbs up.



2.3 Industry insights survey

To collect direct industry insights, for validating and prioritizing the critical needs and key solutions identified, specially from SMEs, a survey was prepared and shared with ELEVATEX partnership members. The survey was answered by 59 organizations, most of them SMEs (90%):



The survey considered the outcomes of the workshops, in particular the textile key gaps and critical needs and key solutions selected, organized on the three topics, digital transition, green transition and other strategic areas.

Digital transition

Gaps/Needs

Insufficient digital adoption

Most textile companies remain in early planning stages for digitalization, with few having implemented advanced tools or digital business models

Adopt new technologies

Textile companies need to integrate digital tools (like IoT, AI, automation, big data, digital products, smart manufacturing) to boost efficiency, innovation and competitiveness

Upskill workforce

Many textile companies have as lack digital literacy and lack of skilled workers to use digital systems (AI, data management, cybersecurity, robotics, etc.). Training is needed in digital transformation and emerging tech

Solutions

Digital maturity

Start with the digital maturity assessment to support the digitalization strategy and build a digital roadmap

Funding

Make available funding initiatives to implement digital tools to boost efficiency, innovation and competitiveness

Test before invest

Living lab to test before invest, with pilots and demonstrations in real-life environments, strengthening collaboration with EDIHs

Join solution

Development of join solutions to reduce the risks and costs of digitalization, establishing synergies/projects between the industrial companies, technological solution providers and R&D organizations

Training

Training in digitalization topics for managers, technical staff and decision-makers

Success cases

Dissemination of success cases, good practices, flagship initiatives of digital solutions applied in textile sector, creating a library of textile success cases

Green transition

Gaps/Needs

Circular business models

New business models approach in textile sector, like durable design, repair services, resale/second-hand markets, recycling systems

Lifecycle tools and traceability

Textile companies lack widespread use of tools like Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and material and products traceability (like tags, digital product passports)

Regulatory pressure

Textile EU policy highlighting textiles as a circular economy priority, with directives and regulations such as eco-design, DPP, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), labelling, to impose stricter requirements and increase the companies' costs

Solutions

Design for circularity

Introduce in the daily business design for durability, repair and recyclability

LCA/LCC

Training on simplified LCA/LCC for workforce upskilling and facilitate access to LCA/LCC tools

Bio-based textiles

Financial support for bio-based textile materials and product research & tests

Synergies

Prioritise synergies and strategic networks rather than operating in isolation, like the development of recycled material marketplaces, platforms connecting recyclers and manufacturers using secondary fibres and Industrial symbiosis

Process/products improvements

Simplified decision-making tools to identify and implement process/products improvements, like simulation and prototyping software to identify and eliminate inefficiencies

R&D financial support

Need of financial support to R&D and innovation to improve textile mechanical recycling efficiency and scale textile chemical recycling

DPP (Digital Product Passport)

Development of digital product passport solutions adapted to the specificities of the textile value chain

Success cases

Dissemination of success cases, best practices, flagship initiatives of green solutions applied in textile, creating a library of textile success cases

Other strategic areas

Gaps/Needs

Innovation

Both radical and incremental innovation in new materials, processes and business models is insufficient in textile sector

Complex rules

Bureaucracy and regulatory complexity slow down investment and innovation. Textile companies struggle with heavy compliance and find it hard to navigate public funding programs

Funding gaps

Many textile companies need easier access to finance, grants and market support. Targeted financial aid and guidance on public funds, subsidies, investor contacts are needed. As well as funding for small-scale projects

Funding-tech disconnect

Investment in green and digital tech is expensive, and grant processes are complex. Textile companies often find both public and private R&D funding hard to access or ill-suited to their scale

Market access gaps

Textile companies lack networks and information to enter new markets. Support is needed to identify high-value international niches, partners and suppliers

Supply-chain disruptions

The textile supply-chain disruptions, due to the extra-EU dependency, illustrated during COVID and geopolitical crises raised material costs and volatility

Solutions

Simplified financial processes

Offer simplified processes of financial support for innovation, in particular for SMEs (like cascade funding)

Lump-sum grants

Offer small, lump-sum grants (€5k-€10k) with minimal paperwork to de-risk early-stage prototyping and feasibility studies for SMEs

Private and public funding

Offer solutions combining both private and public funding in calls

Grant Support Desk

Provide expert consultancy to help textile companies navigate complex funding landscapes and prepares them to successfully apply for larger cascade funding opportunities

Grant Decoder

Launch a Grant Decoder service where experts translate complex EU/national call requirements into simple, one-page checklists and templates for SMEs, reducing the administrative burden

Pilots before large-scale

Promote investment in pilots before going large-scale implementation

Linking industry and RTO

Promote sessions, like workshops, hackathons, to increase the link between industrial companies and RTO in development of innovative solutions (materials, products, processes, etc.)

Emerging markets

Facilitate access to emerging markets, by join international partnerships, joint ventures and initiatives that can expand their networks

Local production

Promote local production and neighbourhood industrial symbiosis

New applicative markets

Find new applicative markets for textile solutions preferentially of high value (advanced/technical applications)

Textiles matchmaking

Promote sessions, like workshops, between textile sector and applicative markets to develop innovative textile solutions

Explore markets

Exploratory mission to countries, trade shows and events to explore new markets to textile solution

Collaboration

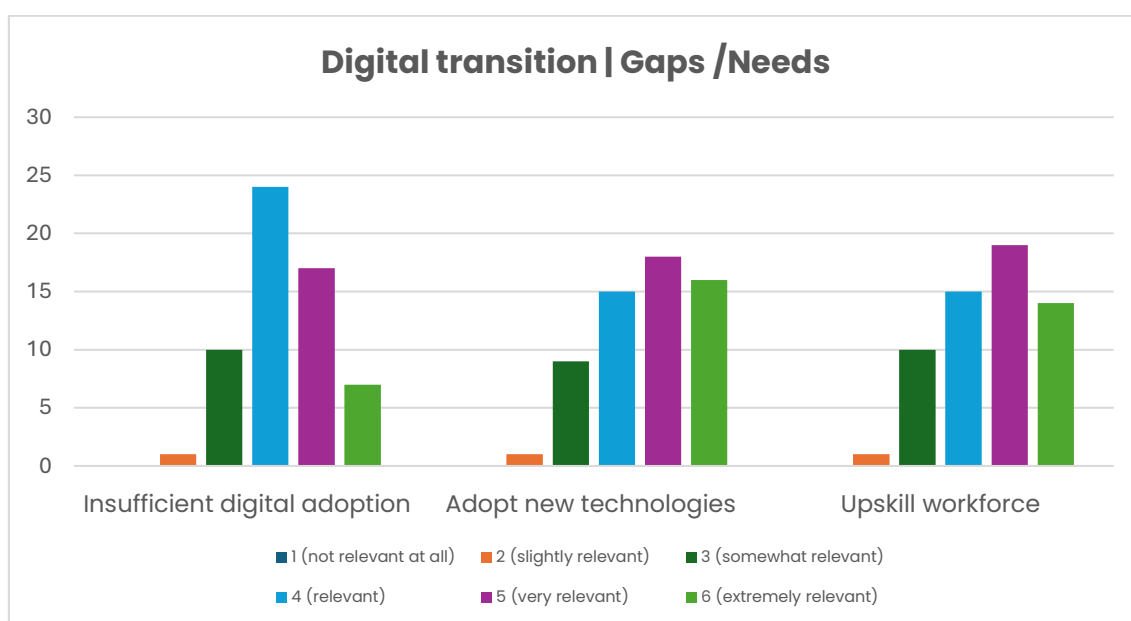
Promote intra and inter regional collaboration for innovative project, for instance through learning expeditions, missions, etc.

3. Needs and solutions

The main results, considering the industry insights gathered among the 59 respondents to the survey, in terms of textile critical needs and key solutions for the three topics, digital transition, green transition and other strategic areas are presented in the following sections.

3.1 Digital transition

The **textile critical needs** identified for the **digital transition** were overall considered relevant in terms of insufficient digital adoption (4,3), and very relevant in adopting new technologies (4,7), as well as in upskilling the workforce (4,6).



Almost 70% of the survey respondents considered the insufficient digital adoption, that means, most textile companies remain in early planning stages for digitalization, with few having implemented advanced tools or digital business models, as relevant or very relevant.

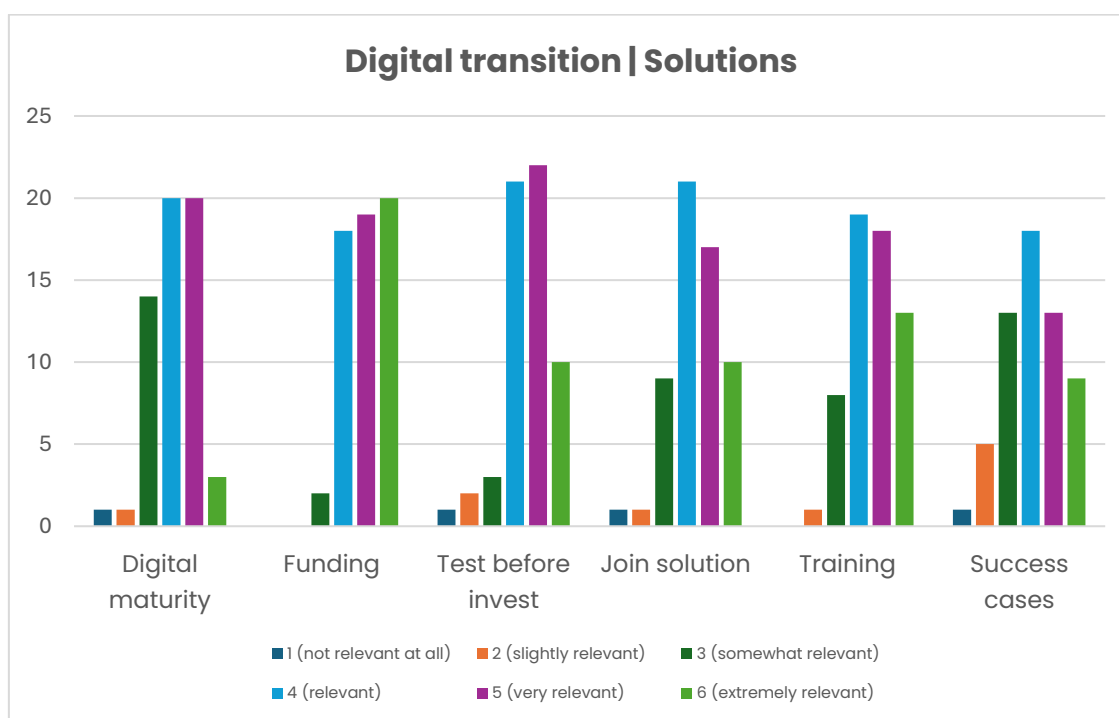
The adoption of new technologies, meaning the textile companies need to integrate digital tools (like IoT, AI, automation, big data, digital products, smart manufacturing) to boost efficiency, innovation and competitiveness) was considered by 58% of the respondents as very relevant or extremely relevant.

The upskilling of the workforce, since many textile companies have as lack digital literacy and lack of skilled workers to use digital systems (AI, data management, cybersecurity, robotics, etc.), needing training in digital transformation and emerging tech, was rated as very relevant or extremely relevant by 56% of the survey participants.

Some specific digital transition needs were identified by the survey respondent:

- Need of system integration, since many companies operate with fragmented systems (ERP, CAD, PLM, production) that do not communicate effectively with each other
- Strengthen cybersecurity to minimize the exposure to risks due to digitalisation
- Need of investment for implementing high costs technology (advanced ERP, automation, AI)
- Needs of data quality and governance, the dispersed, incomplete, or non-standardised data constrain evidence-based decision making

The **Key solutions** identified for the **digital transition** on the textile sector were overall considered relevant in terms of digital maturity (4,1), success cases (4,1) and join solutions (4,4) and very relevant for solutions related with test before investment (4,5), training (4,6) and funding (5,0).



Around 68% of the survey participants considered relevant (34%) or very relevant (34%) starting with a digital maturity assessment to support the digitalization strategy.

Make available funding initiatives to implement digital tools to boost efficiency, innovation and competitiveness was considered very relevant or extremely relevant by 66% of the respondents, being that 34% considered extremely relevant.

The adoption of living lab to test before invest, with pilots and demonstrations in real-life environments, strengthening collaboration with EDIHs was evaluated by 73% by the respondents as relevant or very relevant, with 37% considering it very relevant.

Around 64% of the survey participants classified as relevant or very relevant the development of join solutions to reduce the risks and costs of digitalization, establishing synergies or projects between the industrial companies, technological solution providers and R&D organizations.

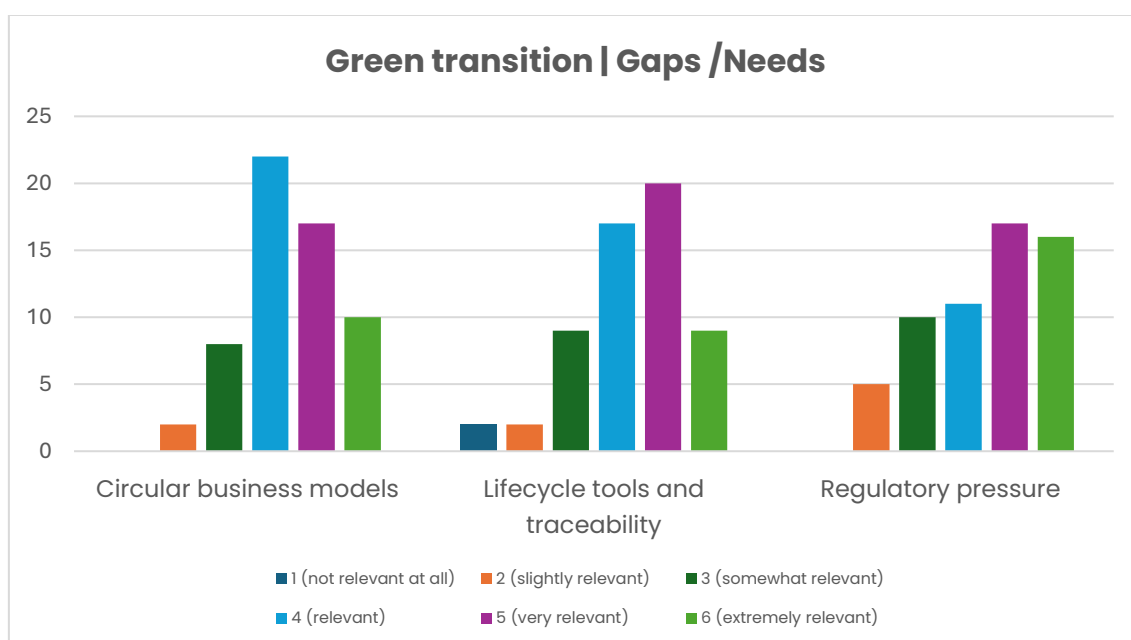
Training in digitalization topics for managers, technical staff and decision-makers had an evaluation of relevant or very relevant by around 63% of the survey respondents.

Almost 53% of the respondents considered relevant or very relevant the dissemination of success cases, good practices, flagship initiatives of digital solutions applied in textile, creating a library of textile success cases.

The survey participants suggested two other relevant digital transition solutions for the textile sector, the specific training on Microsoft Copilot and the Microsoft ecosystem, including its integration with Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams and SharePoint, as well as Microsoft Power Platform for workflow automation and integrations with ERP systems, and include predictive maintenance in the E2E solutions.

3.2 Green transition

The **critical needs** identified for the **green transition** on the textile sector were overall considered relevant, namely the circular business models (4,4), the lifecycle tools and traceability (4,3), and the regulatory pressure (4,5).



The need of new business models approaches in textile sector, like durable design, repair services, resale or second-hand markets and recycling systems were considered relevant or very relevant by 61% of the survey participants.

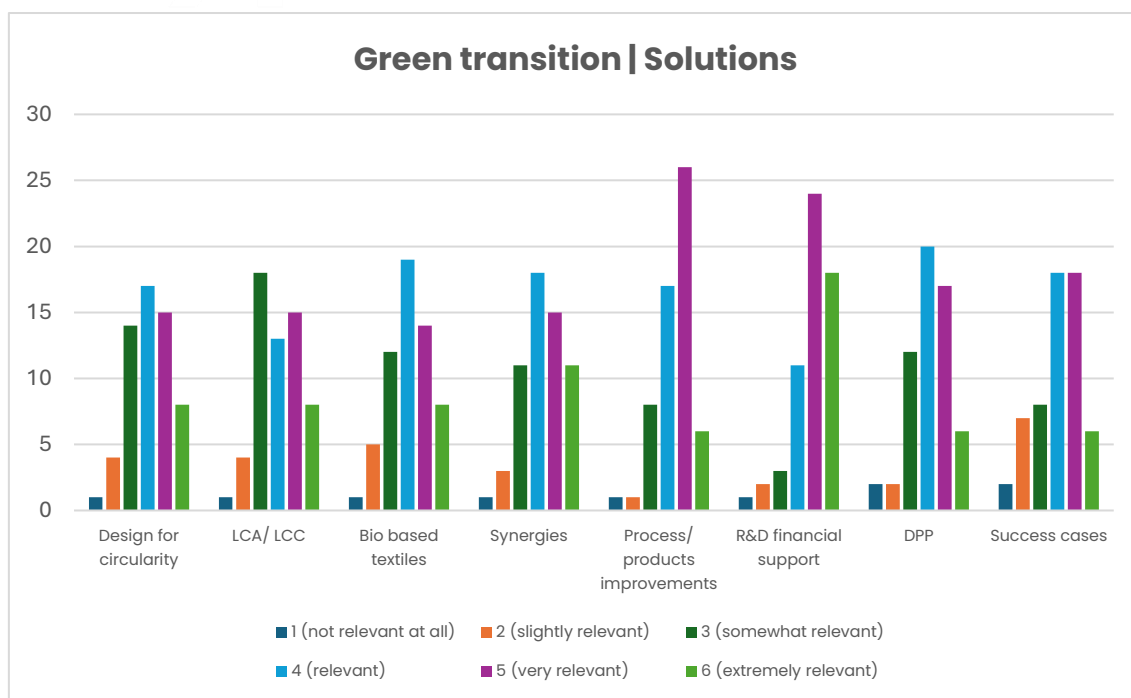
Around 62% of the respondents classified as relevant or very relevant the textile companies lack widespread use of tools like Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and material and products traceability (like tags, digital product passports), with 39% considering it very relevant.

The regulatory pressure, caused by the textile EU policy highlighting textiles as a circular economy priority, such as eco-design, DPP, Extended Producer Responsibility, labelling, which impose stricter requirements and increase the companies' costs, was considered very relevant or extremely relevant by 56% of the respondents, being that 23% considering it extremely relevant.

The survey participants have identified other needs for the green transition in the textile sector:

- There is an absolute lack of clarity by regulators of what will be the expectations for industry regarding DPP. This is relevant in the sense that technology will need to be deployed by SMEs to obtain DPP data and calculations. It's difficult to make efforts/investments to prepare for this without a clear picture of what the demands will be, standards, protocols. Moreover, this is useless if the same requirements are not applied to non-EU products. This gap can is also related with the digital transition
- Need to have a greater scrutiny to small parcel imports from platforms such as Temu and Shein
- Need to reduce the carbon footprint and energy consumption

The **Key solutions** identified for the **green transition** on the textile sector were overall considered relevant, namely the design for circularity (4,1), LCA/LCC (4,0), bio-based textiles (4,1), synergies (4,3), process/products improvements (4,4), DPP (4,1) and success cases (4,0). Only the R&D financial support was classified as very relevant (4,8).



The design for circularity-based solutions, introducing in the daily business design for durability, repair and recyclability was classified as relevant or very relevant by 54% of the respondents.

Around 48% of the survey participants considered relevant or very relevant the training on simplified LCA/LCC for workforce upskilling and facilitate access to LCA/LCC tools, although around 31% considered it somewhat relevant.

The financial support for bio-based textile materials and product research & tests was considered relevant or very relevant by 56% of the respondents, with 32% considering it relevant.

Also 56% of the respondents considered relevant or very relevant prioritise synergies and strategic networks rather than operating in isolation, like the development of recycled material marketplaces, platforms connecting recyclers and manufacturers using secondary fibres and Industrial symbiosis, with 31% considering it relevant.

Around 73% of the survey participants have graded as relevant or very relevant the use of simplified decision-making tools to identify and implement process/products improvements, like simulation and prototyping software to identify and eliminate inefficiencies. And from those, 44% graded it as very relevant.

The availability of financial support to R&D and innovation to improve textile mechanical recycling efficiency and scale textile chemical recycling was evaluated very relevant or extremely relevant by 71% of the participants in the survey, although 41% evaluated it as very relevant.

The development of digital product passport solutions was considered relevant or very relevant by around 63% of the survey contributors, being that 34% considered it relevant.

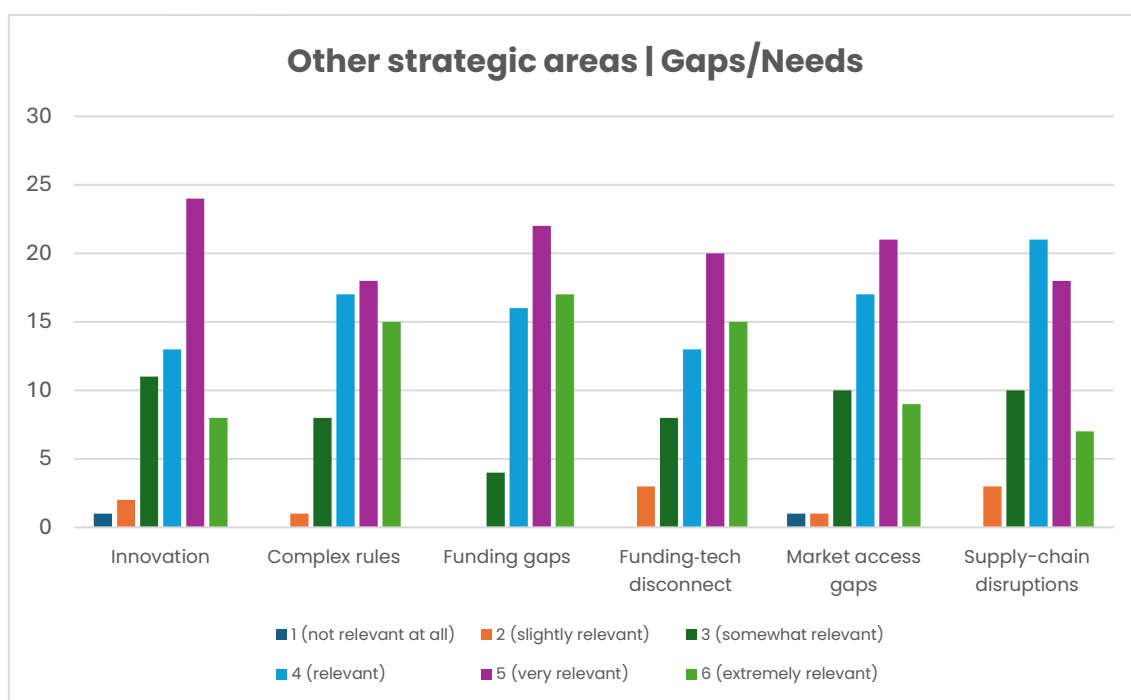
61% survey participants considered the dissemination of success cases, good practices, flagship initiatives of green solutions applied in textile, creating a library of textile success cases, as relevant (half of them) or very relevant (the other half).

The survey participants suggested other relevant green transition solutions for the textile sector:

- Training in the use of recycled materials
- Balance the regulation compliance of products from other continents entering the EU market with effective control to those products
- The European Union should adjust its strategy, adopting a more balanced and pragmatic approach, to align the regulation and actual market behaviour, while continuing to uphold the long-term commitment to building a more sustainable sector and a healthier world
- Develop a centralised and simple website or platform to manage the textile certifications (like, GOTS, OEKO-TEX, GRS, RWS...)

3.3 Other strategic areas

The textile **critical needs** identified on **other strategic areas** were overall considered very relevant, in the case of complex rules (4,6), funding gaps (4,9) and funding-tech disconnect (4,6) or relevant, in the case of Innovation (4,4), market access gaps (4,4) and supply-chain disruptions (4,3).



The need for both radical and incremental innovation in new materials, processes and business models was considered relevant or very relevant by 63% of the survey participants, with 41% evaluating it as very relevant.

The complex rules, with bureaucracy and regulatory complexity slowing down investment and innovation and with textile companies struggling with heavy compliance and finding hard to navigate public funding programs was classified as relevant or very relevant by more than 59% of the survey respondents, being that 31% classified it as very relevant.

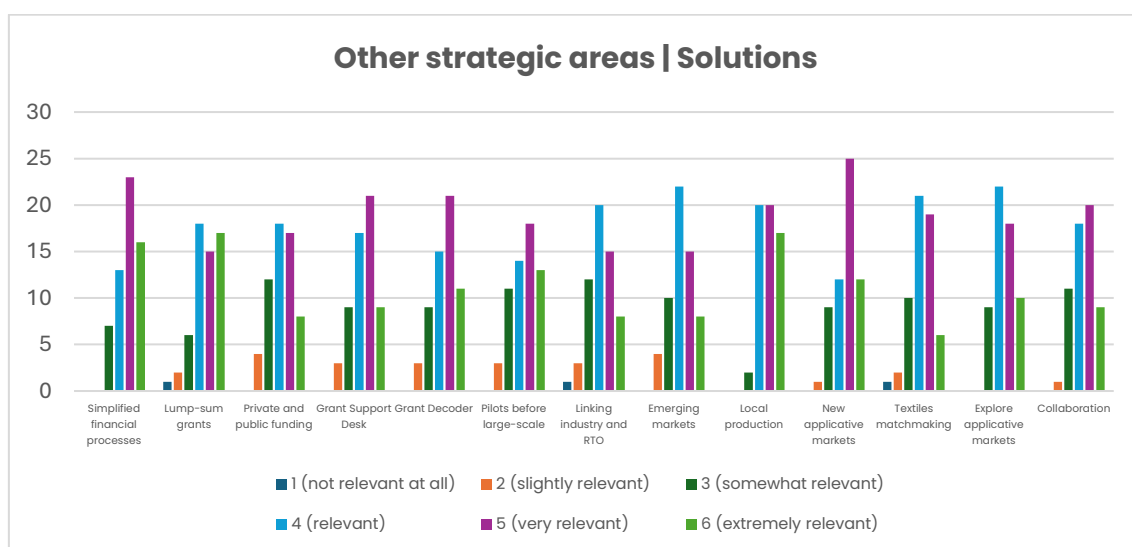
Around 66% of the participants in the survey considered the funding gaps as very relevant (37%) or extremely relevant (29%), considering that many textile companies need easier access to finance, grants and market support. Targeted financial aid and guidance on public funds, subsidies, investor contacts are needed, as well as funding for small-scale projects.

The textile companies often find public R&D funding hard to access or ill-suited to their scale gap, since investment in green and digital tech is expensive, and grant processes are complex. So, 59% of the respondents classified the funding-tech disconnect gap as very relevant (34%) or extremely relevant (25%).

Around 64% of the survey participants considered the market access gap (lack networks and information to enter new markets) and need (support to identify high-value international niches, partners and suppliers) as relevant or very relevant, being that 36% classified it as very relevant.

The textile supply-chain disruptions, due to the extra-EU dependency, illustrated during COVID and geopolitical crises raised material costs and volatility was assessed as relevant or very relevant by 66% of the survey participants.

The **Key solutions** identified for **other strategic areas** on the textile sector were overall classified as very relevant, namely the local production (4,9), simplified financial processes (4,8), lump-sum grants (4,6) and new applicative markets (4,6). The other solutions were assessed as relevant, namely grant decoder (4,5), pilots before large-scale (4,5), explore applicative markets (4,5), grant support desk (4,4), collaboration (4,4), private and public funding (4,2), linking industry and RTO (4,2), emerging markets (4,2), and textiles matchmaking (4,2).



Offering simplified processes of financial support for innovation, in particular for SMEs (like cascade funding), was considered very relevant or extremely relevant by 66% of the respondents, with 39% assessing it as very relevant.

Around 56% of the participants considered as relevant (31%) or very relevant (25%) offering small, lump-sum grants (€5k-€10k) with minimal paperwork to de-risk early-stage prototyping and feasibility studies for SMEs, and almost 29% considered it extremely relevant.

Offering solutions combining both private and public funding in calls was classified as relevant or very relevant by 59% of the survey respondents, being that 31% classified it as relevant.

The grant support desk solution, to provide expert consultancy to support textile companies navigate complex funding landscapes and prepares them to successfully apply for larger cascade funding opportunities, was considered relevant by 29% of the respondents or very relevant by 36% of the respondents.

A total of 61% of the survey participants evaluated the launch of a Grant Decoder service where experts translate complex EU/national call requirements into simple, one-page checklists and templates for SMEs, reducing the administrative burden, as relevant (25%) or very relevant (36%).

Promote investment in pilots before going large-scale implementation was considered relevant or very relevant by 54% of the survey participants, being that around 31% considered it very relevant.

From the total respondents 59% classified as relevant (34%) or very relevant (25%) the solution of linking industry and RTO, including promote sessions, like workshops, hackathons, to increase the link between industrial companies and RTO in development of innovative solutions (materials, products, processes, etc.).

Facilitate access to emerging markets, by join international partnerships, joint ventures and initiatives that can expand their networks was evaluated by 63% of the participants as relevant or very relevant, being that 37% considered it relevant.

Promote local production and neighbourhood industrial symbiosis was the high score solution, with 34% of the participants considering it relevant, also 34% considered it very relevant and 29% evaluated it as extremely relevant.

Find new applicative markets for textile solutions preferentially of high value (advanced/technical applications) was assessed by 42% of the respondents as very relevant, but 20% considered it relevant and another 20% assessed it as extremely relevant.

Around 68% of the respondents considered relevant (36%) or very relevant (32%) to promote sessions, like workshops, between textile sector and applicative markets to develop innovative textile solutions.

The proposed solution of exploratory mission to countries, trade shows and events to explore new applicative markets for textiles was considered relevant or very relevant by 68% of the participants, with 37% conserving it relevant.

From the total respondents, 64% considered relevant (30%) or very relevant (34%) to promote intra and inter regional collaboration for innovative project, for instance through learning expeditions, missions, etc.

The survey participants proposed the investment tax credits as another solution in the scope of other strategic areas on the textile sector.

4. Conclusion

The consultation confirms that the textile value chain faces a set of tightly linked barriers that are limiting both competitiveness and the pace of twin transition. The evidence gathered through the report's review, workshops and survey of 59 organisations, most of them SMEs (90%), displays a consistent pattern, showing that companies still struggle with low digital maturity, weak circular capabilities, high regulatory and administrative burden, and persistent funding constraints.

In the **digital transition**, the main gap is not the absence of ambition, but the difficulty of moving from intention to implementation. Insufficient digital adoption, the need to integrate IoT/AI/automation and the lack of digitally skilled workers were all rated as relevant or very relevant, alongside specific problems such as fragmented systems, cybersecurity, data governance and the high cost of investment. The strongest solutions are practical enablers: digital maturity assessments and roadmaps, dedicated funding, living labs and pilots before investment, joint solutions between industry, technology providers and R&D actors, and targeted training for managers and technical staff.

In the **green transition**, three core needs were highlighted, circular business models, life-cycle tools and traceability, and clearer ways of handling with regulatory pressure, especially around eco-design, DPP, EPR and labelling. The most relevant solutions are to embed design for circularity in day-to-day business, expand access to simplified LCA/LCC tools, support bio-based materials and recycled-material innovation, develop DPP solutions, and strengthen industrial synergies across recyclers, manufacturers and other partners. The survey also signals that R&D support for mechanical and chemical recycling is one of the most urgent priorities.

Across the **other strategic areas**, the dominant concern is the lack of accessible, proportionate support for innovation and internationalisation. Companies need solutions to have simpler financial processes, small lump-sum grants, grant support desks, grant decoders, and more pilot-oriented funding models. At the same time, the sector needs stronger links with RTOs, easier access to new markets, and support for local production and neighbourhood industrial symbiosis to reduce supply-chain vulnerability.

Taken all together we can conclude that the textile sector does not need isolated measures, but an integrated package that combines finance, skills, testing environments, collaboration and regulatory clarity.