

A valuable sustainability

TABLE OF CONTENT

Preface	Activities of vice presidencies 15
What is ACTE 4	Financial report 19
Projects	Members
Presidency report	ACTE executive board 22

I would like to thank all the members of the ACTE communities for the collaboration, and the trust shown when supporting us to a new mandate of presidency. Giving us three more years to continue to adapt ACTE to the needs of our time. Adapting ACTE is a task that need the earnest commitment of all our partners. I invite you all to give some more attention to the network, so that we together may find solutions to our different local, yet common problems.



A sustainable industry

We are facing challenging times, where different disruptions require new approaches. These approaches will need to include new forms of strategic governance policy and practice, supported by new public-private partnerships. Sustainability is one of the topics that all communities need to adopt, with an innovative approach to be able to cope. Around Europe, many projects supported by the European Commission and other authorities encourage the search for methods to solve the sustainability questions of the TFCL industry – including waste, production, adequate methods, and choice of materials, to mention a few.

The industry itself, the research institutes and the universities are involved in this work as well. As a network with local competences, our cooperation can make a great difference in mapping the results, supporting the change, and measuring its impact. This is vital, both for the environment and for the inhabitants of our cities.

The network has evolved to a better and closer collaboration, with many projects that involve different

collaborating members in the network. Nevertheless, we are experiencing a lack of political engagement. Therefore, I underline the role of politics. We need clear and distinct policies to create a sustainable environment, to secure sound employment praxis, and to build a prosperous segment of industry. And we need it as consumers too.

Building ACTE strong

I hope that in the upcoming years of this mandate we can work more on the political commitment and the values of the network, along with the operations advancement we have achieved.

Our aim has been and still is to make ACTE stronger than ever. ACTE should be the self-evident choice and source for when seeking the best interaction, the easiest collaboration and the most natural communication platform for textile clusters from all over Europe.





Innovating together

ACTE's mission is to carry the European textile, clothing, leather, footwear, and fashion accessories industries into the future, while preserving the interests of its members – both territorial collectivities and adherent organisations.

ACTE is a network of around 30 municipalities around Europe, representing a population of about 2,000,000 inhabitants. The cities and territories associated have in common a model of business development related to the textile and fashion sectors. The network also counts on membership by institutions related to the textile industry, local development agencies, research in textile, design, education and further more. Our members all provide the network with different dimensions on the evolution of the sector, making our performance more complete.

ACTE work through cooperation, innovative thinking and the knowledge generated from thousands of people within our member organisations. By connecting people and ideas – and by sharing experiences and insights – we inspire individuals, industries and territories to collaborate and improve. Together we are well prepared to meet future challenges. ACTE is the member's voice of progress as well as an arena where the European textile, clothing, leather, footwear and fashion accessories industries meet to create the fabrics of the future.

Then and now

ACTE, European Textile Collectivities Association, was founded in Guimarães (Portugal) in 1991, by initiative of Mr. Mario Soares, ex president of Portugal, Mr. Pierre Mauroy former prime minister of France and six municipalities in Spain, France, Portugal, and Belgium.

Today ACTE is an expanding network, with more than 70 members, from seven countries within Europe. Local and regional authorities (as municipalities) are the direct members and institutions join the network as adherent members. The organisation is led by an executive committee and an elected presidential staff for three years at a time. All members meet annually, at our General Assembly (GA).

ACTE – your helping hand

As a member of ACTE you will benefit from a diversity of powerful support and collaborations. The main ones are listed below.

What ACTE is to you:

- Exchange of experiences with different region members around Europe.
- Participation in EU-funded projects for the development of Regions and Cities.
- Developing joint international activities/ventures across the network in Europe.
- Putting local institutions (related to the TFCL sector) in contact with like-minded across Europe, allowing them to develop joint ventures/projects within design, research, prototyping, etcetera.
- Connecting local enterprises in your area with other territories around Europe in order to facilitate profitable exchange.
- A platform to provide information about regions and cities marketing their names, actives and different players to an international level.
- A platform for lobbying in the European institutions, with the backup of a strong international organisation.

Financial support

Also, our network facilitates the attendance of members to the ACTE meetings, by taking care of the expenses and the working meals.

For the ACTE Fashion contest, all the expenses of the working group are covered by the network.

Within the ACTE budget we are able to finance the preparatory work of applications to European program projects with €10,000.

On your part

As a member of ACTE we are all expected to actively be a part of the network, to support its further growth and the prosperity of all members. There are four main areas of active cooperation expected of you.

What ACTE expects of you:

- Participation in meetings, the General Assembly. At this annual meeting many important issues are discussed, for example budget, collaborations and joint projects.
- Collaboration in projects. It is only as an active member the membership for you and others fully will be profitable. Sharing innovated ideas and new technology will help us all to prosper in the future.
- Sharing of news and information. Making sure information all the time reaches the right person is of great importance, both for individual members and for the network as whole. This means sharing information both going inwards and out of the ACTE network. All members are urged to keep a flow of information towards the ACTE media tools directly or through your vice presidency.

- Financial contribution. The contribution of our members is the main income of the ACTE network. There is a compulsory annual fee that each member is compelled to pay. For adherent members (research centres, education centres, cultural institutions etcetera) the annual fee is €300. For effective members – municipalities and regional institutions – the fee varies according to the population.

POPULATION	EUROS
Cities or Regions < 25,000 inhabitants	700
Cities or Regions ≥ 25,000 < 50,000 inhabitants	1,400
Cities or Regions ≥ 50,000 < 200,000 inhabitants	2,800
Cities or Regions ≥ 200,000 inhabitants	4,200







The ACTE projects' main objective is to promote the culture and competence of the textile sector. We see these projects as drivers of creativity and as a main source of inspiration for artistic contemporary creation. Our projects raise awareness as well as they strengthen the skills within our segment. We also want to share innovation and inspiring new ideas, while preserving the core values inwhat we do.

CREATEX – our history into the future

Textile Heritage Inspiring Creatives – the Createx project – aimed at promoting the cultural heritage of textile sector as a driver of creativity. It was a significant source of inspiration for new generations of designers, as they design new products and collections based on our heritage, using contemporary production processes.

The first part of the project was dedicated to providing young designers and artists a better understanding of the role textile heritage. And how it may support artistic creation as well as a communication strategy. The second and third parts was devoted to the acquisition of new professional skills, ideas and relationships. This may also open up new market opportunities for young designers and artists.

The main results were:

- Five workshops on textile archive preservation and enhancement.
- Digitalisation of textile and clothing archives, through the Heritage Manager software, developed by the Prato Textile Museum.
- Five workshops on the creative and contemporary reinterpretation of textile heritage.
- Five creative residencies developed involving 14 young designers and artists from the partner countries.
- 14 small collections, put together during the creative residencies.
- One exhibition showcasing the work done by young designers and artists.

End conference

In December of 2019, a two-day end conference capped the Createx project. It was held at the Strzemiński Academy of Art, in Łódź Poland. The two-day open event consisted of speeches, lectures and presentations illustrating the activities and the achieved results of the Project. The final Conference was an opportunity to discover the fascinating results of the project, focused on the 14 mini collections created by the young designers involved. The exhibition was open to the public from December 9th until January 2020 at the Strzemiński Academy.

These were the partners, supporting Createx: Prato Textile Museum Foundation, Italy, lead partner, Santo Tirso Municipality, Portugal, Nordiska Textilakademin, Sweden, Strzemiński Academy Of Fine Arts Łódź, Poland and the City Council Of Gironella, Spain.

All designers can access the database on the project's website: createxproject.eu/inspiring-heritage

REBELPIN 2019 – Fashion awards by ACTE

In the second annual Rebelpin fashion award grand gala 10 chosen designers showed their work. The gala was held on July 5, 2019 and the young creative entrepreneurs and students of Europe presented their unique skills to the international fashion and textile industry. The designer presented three outfits on the theme: Urban jungle.

REBELPIN – Fashion awards by ACTE – is created and organised by ACTE (European Textile Collectivities Association). The organisation wants to celebrate the creativity and the heritage of its city members, giving young designers the chance to connect to the market as well as the fashion and textile industry.

The ten designers chosen by the European jury participated in the award final, showcased their creations to the audience and the press. The jury chose the ZER collection from Spain as the winner, awarding the designer with €5000. The designer chosen by the public was Rita Sá from Portugal, thus receiving the €2000 award.

The jury consisted of: Anna Appelqvist, Brand Director at Gina Tricot AB, Sweden, Małgorzata Czuda, Professor at Academy of Fine Arts, Poland, Alexandra Araújo Pinho, CEO of L M A, Portugal, Antonio Franceschini, CNA Federmoda, Italy, Roberto Corbelly, Art director Concorso Nazionale Professione Moda Giovani Stilisti RMI, Designers Relation Manager Altaroma, Italy and Adriano Franchi, General Manager of Altaroma, Italy.













NATIUE – Integrating Innovation, markets and producers

Native is project aiming at making the most out of designers and manufacturers, by combining their different skills and making it possible to work in mutual processes. The main objective of the project is to facilitate the integration of design knowledge and competencies of SMEs of the fashion sector.

Creative designers of Europe often lack knowledge how to work with the manufacturing processes. The designers often also have difficulties in finding EU manufacturers to produce their collections. On the other hand, manufacturing SMEs have difficulties integrating innovative design knowledge, and lack knowledge how to work with the designers. We also need manufacturers to stop looking at small production runs as problematic, to instead be more collaborative and supportive towards young designers trying to be established in the market. If these mutually beneficial relationships can be strengthened, both designers and manufacturers will gain from it.

The project's expected results are:

- Deeper integration of creativity, design and new technologies in SMEs.
- Development of new and innovative products.
- Upgraded knowledge, skills and competences of young creators.
- Promotion of the intercultural and inter-generational dialogue between young designers and creative people on one hand and the entrepreneurs in the manufacturing SMFs on the other.

- Improved chances for young creators to enter new markets.
- Promote the cultural dialogue between northern European fashion style and southern European fashion cultural background, to enrich the culture of European brands.

The project will leverage on the experience developed by the H2020 TCBL. In particular the textile labs platform and business cases as "Independents", "Digital Heritage" and "Short Runs". But also, the services such as Sqetch and Sourcebook and the interregional MED CreativeWear projects, which have promoted business models.

The project partnership is composed by local authorities and their associations and by a business support organisation in the fashion sector from four different EU countries (Sweden, Italy, Spain and Poland. The following city authorities are supporters following: City of Boras, Sweden, Municipality of Prato, Italy and the Catalan Cluster of Fashion – MODACC, Spain.

REBELPIN 2020 – "Crafted by 3D"

REBELPIN – Fashion awards by ACTE – is a European Fashion contest for European designers. Organised by ACTE to celebrate the creativity and the heritage of its city members giving young designers the chance to connect to the market and the fashion and textile industry. The third annual ACTE award for young designers is part of the Native project.

The contest offers young creative entrepreneurs and students in Europe the opportunity to compete against each other and present their unique skills to the international fashion and textile industry. Each of the 15 finalists will present three outfits in the finale on the theme Crafted by 3D.

The award final of the contest will be held in Barcelona. June 30 to July 3, 2020 in collaboration with Barcelona 080. This edition of the contest is produced by the Native project and co-financed by the Creative Europe program of the European Union.

Theme: Crafted by 3D

The theme looks upon the innovation and the use of 3D printing as a tool, to celebrate the hand-crafted uniqueness and beauty. A celebration of the meeting between innovative materials and individual crafting and values.



Planned projects

INTOUR – Textile, clothing and sustainable tourism

The general objective of the project InTour is to boost sustainable tourism development and capacity of tourism SMEs through cross-border cooperation and knowledge sharing.

Working with InTour we strive to improve the capacity, skills and cooperation between tourism and Textile & Clothing SMEs. We do this by exploring and incorporating new solutions for responsible and sustainable tourism, through the creation of a European network of Open Factories initiatives. An initiative that will take place in several textile and fashion cities and regions around Europe.

We also want to foster our industries' SMEs' capacity to explore and take on solutions, that would improve the sustainable management and tourism sustainability in general. Another aspect is to develop incorporate cross-border and cross-segment support schemes, so that we build capacity for sustainable growth of SMEs in the tourism sector.



ACTE ANNUAL REPORT Precidency r

Presidency of Sweden

Meetings

- Production of the EC and AGM Sano Tirso Portugal, April 2019.
- Production EC Igualada, November 2019.
- Production of Rebelpin 2019 in collaboration with CNA. Federmoda Rome, Italy, June/July 2019.

Visits

- London Design Fair October 2019.

Marketing

- Participation and support to the BSTIM Fair, March 2019.
- Support to Biella in their application to be recognised as a UNESCO creative city.

Congratulation, it is official: Biella is now part of the "UNESCO Creative Cities" network.

"The capital of wool enters the network for creativity in the "Craft & Folk Art" sector, after enchanting Paris in recent days, with the beauty of its know-how that has its spearhead in textiles and with attention to sustainability."

Projects

- Marketing and dissemination of Createx, supported by ACTE.
- Participation in the kick-off of the NATIVE project arranged by Creative Europe - Culture. The project is co-financed by the European commission.
- Worth project results and continuity in the ELIIT project.
- Letter of intent, supporting AITEX in the ELIIT application.
- Submitting the project INTOUR, with the ACTE Coordinator applying for funding by the Textile Innovation FITEX. Partners in this project are: City of Igualada, Spain, CEDECS, France, Città Studi di Biella, Italy, Fábrica Santo Tirso, Portugal, Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions, e-Zavod, Slovenia, and TEX! (part of Marketplace Borås), Sweden.

Lobby

- The starting of an inquiry of possibilities in creating a wool project. In Sweden, as well as on the European level, the presidency has participated in different forums to discuss and lift the subject. We are also creating a workgroup from our different communities, to further look into a woll project with the aim to soon create a road map and an action plan.

Expectation and involvement

To fulfil the expectation of the members, the presidency office has invested it's work in two different forms, as below.

Developed communication

A campaign to enhance the knowledge of the members, about each other and how to create extensive visibility with the aim of facilitating the collaboration. The Member's Wednesdays of 2019 presented the uniqueness of each member of the network. To be able to increase the visibility, the presidency office encourages all members to communicate their projects and events to the presidency.

Projects

The collaboration in projects is increasing, which we feel is appreciated by the members. We have succeeded in producing a constant flow of fund applications, resulting in increased funds for the members so that they may reach

their goals. The network will also benefit from the funding of the NATIVE project, as it facilitates the production of Rebelpin 2020.

Rebelpin 2019 in Rome was a repeated success, a most popular event by ACTE, that has boosted the communication in all channels. Rebelpin is by far the best communication event, involving designers, public and companies from all our communities, as well as in the rest of Europe.

We are thankful for the vice presidencies' collaboration, guaranteeing the development and success of the ACTE network.

/Nelly Hayek, coordinator Presidency office



Activities of vice presidencies



Meetings:

- Modelnk, Borås invitation to membership and partner request.
- Information about ACTE to the board of directors in the city of Borås .

Member activities:

- Next Textile.
- Wool innovation seminar.
- Visit to Varaždin, with presentation of ACTE (invitation to membership).
- Nordiska Textilakademin participated in Createx.
- Marketplace Borås:
 - FashionDays 17–18 of May an annual event. FashionDAYS is the gathering event for the sustainable Swedish "capital" of textile and fashion. An inspirational event for fashion, textile and design.

- Next Textile October 10. Next Textile, a conference for the textile and fashion industry, with both national and international keynote speakers. The target group is mainly companies and organizations in the region of Västra Götaland. The purpose of Next Textile is to inspire our entrepreneurs to be better prepared to meet the challenges to come.
- Textilbaren (The Textile bar) at four occasions.
 Networking for creators, designers and co-workers.
- Fashion Industry Day, September 5, a collaboration with fashion magazine Habit. Businesses within the textile segment meet to talk about fashion, marketing, new technology and leadership.
- Creative Cluster at Rydals museum. Collaboration with Creative Cluster, to support networking and company visits.

Projects:

- NATIVE
- Rebelpin

Belgium

Meetings:

 Meetings with the Cefret (textile formation center in Mouscron).

Member activities:

- Intervention to save the "Musée de la Rubanerie" in Comines.
- Political public visits at several textile companies.
- Networking between textile companies.
- December 4–5: Promotion booth at the business show in Kortrijk.

- Textiles Days, to promote the textile jobs via ${\bf Cefret}.$
- Promotion of the textile sector, via the new website for Intercommunale IEG.
 ieg.be/expansion-economique/secteurs-d-activites/textile

Projects:

- Rebelpin: Information to the textile schools of Belgium.
- Creation of a textile showcase in Mouscron.
- Organisation of a business show: French-Belgian for Business Networking, Mouscron, April 29–30, 2020.



Due to local administration elections in May 2019 in Italy, most of our contact persons of the Italian member cities have changed. After 5 years of excellent work, Mrs. Daniela Toccafondi handed over the Vice-presidency to Mr. Lorenzo Marchi.

Meetings:

- Meeting with the EU Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Mrs Elzbieta Bienkowska, on March 7 2019 in the Town Hall in Prato and visit to textile enterprises of the district.
- Contacts with all Biella, Montemurlo, Carpi and all Italian adherent members of ACTE.
- Contacts with CSC Centro Servizi Impresa and Comune di Castel Goffredo, Capitale Distretto della Calza (most important district of hosiery) for new membership.
- Contacts with Comune Busto Arsizio for new membership.
- Participation in the ACTE Annual Meeting and Executive Committee in Santo Thyrso, 4–5 April 2019.
- Participation in the ACTE Fashion Awards REBELPIN on July 5 2019 in Rome.
- Participation in the Executive Committee of ACTE in Igualada, 6–7 November 2019.

Member activities:

- RECO' Festival, 21-24 March 2019 in Prato.

Projects:

- ENI CBC programme: **INNOMED-UP** promoting upcycling in circular economy, through INNovation and education for creative industries in MEDiterranean cities. The project aims to tackle the problem of recycling urban and industrial waste, by introducing the principles of the circular economy in production processes thus enhancing the creative capital of the territory.
- Interreg Europe programme: SMARTY SMEs for Industry 4.0.
 The project responds to the need for innovation of companies in the textile and clothing (T&A) district of Prato, favouring the adoption of the new Industry 4.0 production paradigm. The goal is to increase the levels of research and innovation in the relative territories.
- **Urban Innovative Actions programme**: PUJ Prato Urban Jungle. The project focuses on the sustainable use of the territory, the increase in green areas, and the experimentation of new solutions evaluated among the most innovative at European level.
- URBACT programme URGE, circular building cities. A
 project that develops integrated urban policies on circularity
 in the building sector. Prato will develop a tool to measure
 the environmental and economic impact of demolishing
 buildings by mapping and tracing the flow of materials.
- Participation in new creative trails project NATIVE.



Meetings:

- ACTE General Assembly & Executive Committee.

Member activities:

- Business Economic Events.

Activities:

- Study visit of the Nordic Textile Academy, from Boras, Sweden.

Projects:

- Santo Tirso EMPREENDE Project, Entrepreneurship Support Program.
- Strategic Business Council Project.
- CREATEX project, Textile Heritage Inspiring Creatives.
- AYCH project, Atlantic Youth Creative Hubs.



Meetings:

- ACTE General Assembly in Santo Tirso. April 4, 2019.
- Barcelona, November 29, 2019. Business meeting in cooperation with Diputació de Barcelona. 18 members of the network participated.
- ACTE Executive Committee. Nov 18.

Member activities:

- Terrassa, January 19. 10 years innovating in the textile sector. Conference about transfer of results. The conference aim was to highlight the most important actions to support the textile and fashion sectors, implemented by the city Councils of Igualada, Manresa, Sabadell, Mataró, Badalona and Terrassa, between 2008 and 2018.
- Fair BSTIM. February 20, 2020. The Best Solution in Textile
 Manufacturing fair. BSTIM is a professional salon that
 aims to respond to the supply needs in the vicinity of the
 finished piece, brands and distributors of the fashion sector.
 Our goal is to facilitate the establishment of commercial
 relations between textile industrial companies and
 managers of production of fashion products, with European
 brands and distributors.
- Presentation results Sudoe Inter-Tex project, within the framework of the IIMA fair. June 21, 2019. Establishing a international network of public-private cooperation. To define specific tools to support the internationalisation of SMEs in the textile and clothing industry SUDOE space.
- Meeting on Industry 4.0. A workshop organised for AEI Tèxtils.cat members on July 19, 2019. The workshop was held at the headquarters of the 3D Factory Incubator, in Barcelona. It is a project led by Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona and LEITAT Foundation. The project aims to promote the adoption of 3D Printing technologies, through the creation of a space for the incubation of SMEs and micro-SMEs related to these technologies.

Projects:

- TechACTE: Innovació verus tradició; FUTURMOD, Challenge Day, by Council Igualada, Terrassa, Sabadell, Manresa and Agencia de Desenvolupament del Bergueda. Supported by SUDOE INTER-TEX. FUTURMOD aims to establish stable collaboration between entrepreneurs who are starting their business and other companies of the fashion industry, with the objective of improving their competitiveness. The project is built on the idea that both the entrepreneur and the company can help and improve each other.

- Cooperatextil at Tecnocampus Mataró. Supported by COSME: In Tour. Cooperatextil is a platform formed by textile companies of the entire textile sector spectrum (fabrics, dyes, printing, cutting, design etc). The Quality and know-how of the platform is based on the ancient textile tradition of the Matoró area.
- Reimagine Textile, by Tecnocampus Mataró, part of the NATIVE project. Reimagine Textile is a programme to support entrepreneurs with an innovative business idea in the textile sector. The programme looks for entrepreneurs that work with smart fabrics, and innovation in the process of designing their products.
- Tèxtil Residu Zero, by Council Sabadell i Gremi de Fabricants de Sabadell. Supported by Interreg Euro CircE. With the participation in the project the council wanted to identify the type of wastes and to study its possible reuse, to turn waste into resources. The objective is to improve the use of the waste generated by companies in this sector, with the aim of helping them to promote competitiveness and how to be sustainable industries. December 10, the results of the project were presented with the participation of EURECAT and the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.
- CONTEXT. European Network to connect research and innovation efforts on advanced Smart Textiles. The European Network to connect research and innovation efforts on Advanced Smart Textiles was officially established October 11 in Brussels. The main objective of CONTEXT is to join efforts at European level to facilitate the market uptake of new advanced textile materials, reducing the gap between research and industry. The kick off meeting, held at COST facilities, gathered more than 40 experts representing the 27 countries that constitute the Management Committee of CONTEXT: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
- Tex.CONfiv Project, by Eurecat. Functional Textiles to improve comfort in the vehicle interior.
- WORTH, by Aitex. WORTH is dedicated to supporting innovative ideas within the fashion and lifestyle industries. 25 innovative projects were awarded during the first call and up to 150 projects will be supported until 2021.





ACTE (European Textile Collectives Association) obtained in the year 2019, from a treasury perspective, a positive balance of \le 3,078.

Summary of budget vis-à-vis expenditure outcome: the budget was for € 100,052, and the result of the total expenditure only € 62,341, thus enabling to keep the finances for 2019 at a positive number.

The total amount of quotas paid by its members for the year 2019 was € 55,200.00, plus fees for earlier years of € 12,500. Therefore, the total amount received from members dur-ing 2019 was €6 7,700.

Until end of Dec 2019, 81 % of the member's fees were received. Outstanding fees for 2019 were at the end of year € 13,100.

The bank balance on December 31, 2019 was € 101,373.03.

Income	67,700,00 €	Payments	64,622.00 €
Bank balance previous year			96,013.60 €
Income			67,700.00 €
Payments			67,700.00 €
Surplus 2020			101,373.03 €

embers

Presidency

City of Boras, Kungsgatan 55, 50180 Boras, Sweden President: Mr. Ulf Olsson ACTE Presidency Coordinator: Mrs. Nelly Hayek acte.presidency@boras.se

Executive Secretariat

AMAVE, Rua Capitão Alfredo Guimarães 1, 4800-019 Guimarães, Portugal Executive Secretary: Mr. Alberto Costa acte.executivesecretariat@amave.pt

Treasury

AMAVE, Rua Capitão Alfredo Guimarães 1, 4800-019 Guimarães, Portugal Treasurer: Mr. António Quintão antonioquintao@amave.pt

Vice-presidencies

Belgium

IEG Mouscron, Rue de la Solidarité 88, 7700 Mouscron Vice-president: Mr. Michel Franceus

Italy

Comune di Prato Piazza del Comune, 2, 59100 Prato Vice-president: Mrs. Daniela Toccafondi National Coordinator: Mrs. Monika Leitner m.leitner@prato.it

Poland

Urzad Miasta Łodzi, Ul. Piotrkowska 104 90-926 Łódź Vice-president: Mr. Krysztof Piatkowski Contact person: Mrs. Monika Paluch

Portugal

m.paluch@uml.lodz.pl

AMAVE Rua Capitão Alfredo Guimarães 1, 4800-019 Guimarães Vice-president: Mr. Alberto Costa National Coordinator: Mr. António Quintão antonioquintao@amave.pt

Ajuntament d'Iqualada, Plaça de l'Ajuntament, 1, 08700 Igualada Vice-president: Mrs. Patricia Illa Borge National Coordinator: Mrs. Anna Ribera riberaa@aj-igualada.net

Vice-president: Mr. Ulf Olsson National Coordinator: Mrs. Nelly Hayek nelly.hayek@boras.se

Effective members

Belgium

IEG Mouscron Rue de la Solidarité 88, 7700 Mouscron President: Mr. Michel Franceus Contact person: Stéphanie Collard stephanie.collard@ieg.be

France

Ville de Caudry Place du Général de Gaulle, 59540 Caudry Mayor: Mr. Frédéric Bricout Contact person: Mme. Denimal agenda.maire@mairie.caudry.fr

Italy

Comune di Prato Piazza del Comune, 2, 59100 Prato Councillor: Mr. Lorenzo Marchi Contact person: Monika Leitner m.leitner@comune.prato.it

Comune di Carpi Corso Alberto Pio 91, 41012 Carpi (Italy) Councillor: Mr. Alberto Bellelli Contact person: Mrs. Norma Patelli sindaco@comune.carpi.mo.it

Comune di Biella Palazzo Pella, via Tripoli 48, Biella Councillor: Mrs. Fulvia Zago Contact person: Mrs. Carla Fiorio Carla.fiorio@comune.biella.it

Comune di Montemurlo Via Montalese 472-474, 59013 Montemurlo Mayor: Mr. Mauro Lorenzini sindaco@comune.montemurlo.po.it

Urzad Miasta Łodzi, Ul. Piotrkowska 104, 90-926 Łódź Deputy Mayor: Mr. Krysztof Piatkowski Contact person: Mrs. Monika Paluch m.paluch@uml.lodz.pl

Municipality of Rzgów Plac 500-lecia 22, 5-030 Rzgów Mayor: Mr. Mateusz Kamiński Contact person: Mr. Marek Derski mderski@rzgow.pl

Portugal

AMAVE

Rua Capitão Alfredo Guimarães 1, 4800-019 Guimarães President: Mr. Alberto Costa Contact person: Mr. António Quintão antonioquintao@amave.pt

Cámara Municipal de Covilhã Praça do Município - Apartado 457 6200 - 151 - Covilhã Mayor and contact person: Mr. Vitor Manuel Pinheiro Pereira Vitor.pereira@cm-covilha.pt

Spain

. Ayuntamiento de Alcov Pl. España 1, 03801 Alcoy Mayor: Mr. Antoni Francés Pérez Contact person: Mr. Vicente Sanchís vjsanchis@alcoi.org

Ajuntament de Badalona c/ Marcus Porcius 1, 08915 Badalona Vice-Mayor: Mr. Álex Mañas Ballesté Contact person: Mr. Francesc Torné ftorne@bcin.cat

Diputació de Barcelona Recinte Maternitat. Pavelló Mestral. Travessera de les Corts 131-159, 08028 Barcelona Deputy: Mr. Marc Castells Berzosa Contact person: Mr. Leandre Mayola mayolatl@diba.cat

Agència de Desenvolupament del Berguedà Plaça Sant Joan 16, 08600 Berga President: Mr. David Font i Simon Contact Person: Mrs. Rosa Pujols pujolscr@adbergueda.cat

Ajuntament de Canet de Mar Villaflora Centre Cívic i Cultural. Riera Gavarra s/n, 08360 Canet de Mar Vice-mayor: Mrs. Coia Tenas Contact person: Mrs. Maribel Cortés Vallespí cortesvmr@canetdemar.cat

Ajuntament d'Igualada Plaça de l'Ajuntament, 1, 08700 Igualada Vice-Mayor: Mrs. Patricia Illa Borge Contact person: Mrs. Anna Ribera riberaa@aj-igualada.net

Ajuntament de Manresa CEDEM-Palau Firal, Polígon Industrial Els Dolors C/ Castelladral, 5–7. 08243 Manresa Councillor: Mrs. Mireia Estefanell Medina Contact person: Mrs. Anna Gasulla agasulla@ajmanresa.cat

Ajuntament de Mataró TECNOCAMPUS MATARÓ-MARESME Torre TCM2, Av. Ernest Lluch, 32, 08302 Mataró Mayor: Mr. David Bote Contact person: Mrs. Emma Feriche eferiche@tecnocampus.cat

Concello de Ourense Praza Maior 1, 32005 Ourense Vice-Mayor: Mr. Jorge Pumar Contact person: Mrs. Inés Castro protocolo@ourense.gal

Ajuntament de Sabadell Plaça de Sant Roc 1, 08201 Sabadell Vice-Mayor: Mr. Eduard Navarro Garcia Contact person: Mrs. Iolanda Repullo IRepullo@ajsabadell.cat

Ajuntament de Santa Margarida de Montbui Ctra de Valls 57. 08710 Santa Margarida de Montbui Mayor: Mr. Teo Romero Contact person: Mrs. Isabel Guerrero guerreromi@montbui.cat

Ajuntament de Terrassa Raval de Montserrat 14, 08221 Terrassa Vice-Mayor: Mr. Amadeu Aguado Contact person: Mrs. Montse Borràs Rodríguez montse.borras@terrassa.cat

Gremi de Fabricants de Sabadell Plaça de Sant Roc, 1, 08201 Sabadell Contact: Eduard Navarro Garcia enavarro@ajsabadell.cat

Sweden

Borås Stad Kungsgatan 55, 50180 Borås Mayor: Mr. Ulf Olsson Contact person: Mrs. Nelly Hayek acte.presidency@boras.se

Region Västra Götaland Box 1091 SE 405 23 Gothenburg Contact: Lisa Belfrage lisa.belfrage@vgregion.se

Adherent members

Denmark

Lifestyle & Design Cluster Birk Centerpark 38, 7400 Herning Contact: Svea Lund svea@ldcluster.com

Estonia

Tallin Creative Incubator Veerenni 24 Baltika kvartal C korpus, Tallinn Contact: Mart Brauer mart@inkubaator.ee

Italy

CNÁ Federmoda Piazza M. Armellini 9A, 00162 Roma Director and contact person: Mr. Antonio Franceschini franceschini@cna.it

Confartigianato Moda Rome Via San Giovanni in Laterano, 152, Roma Director and contact person: Mr. Guido Radoani moda@confartigianato.it

Città Studi

Corso Giuseppe Pella 2, 13900 Biella President: Mr. Pier Ettore Pellerey Contact person: Mrs. Paola Negro paola.negro@cittastudi.org

Associazione Tessile e Salute Corso G. Pella 2, 3900 Biella President: Mr. Franco Piunti Contact person:

Poland

Social Academy of Sciences ul.Sienkiewicza 9, 90–113 Łódź Director: Mr. Bodgan Piasecki Contact person: Mr.Kazimierz Kubiak kkubiak@spoleczna.pl

Romania

INCDTP (National Research and Development Institute for Textiles and Leather) Lucretiu Patrascanu 9, Sector3, 030508 Bucharest Contact person: Dr. Carmen Ghituleasa certex@ns.certex.ro

Spain

ACCIÓ
Passeig de Gràcia, 129,
08008 Barcelona
Contact person: Mrs. Isabel Carranza
icarranza@catalonia.com

AEI-Tèxtils.cat Carrer Sant Pau 6, 08221 Terrassa Contact person: Mrs. Ariadna Detrell adetrell@textils.cat

AITEX
Plaza Emilio Sala, 1,
03801 Alcoy
Contact person: Mrs. Rosa López Ferre
rlopez@aitex.es

ASEGEMA Germans Thos i Codina 9, 08302 Mataró Contact: asegema@asegema.org

Eurecat Contact person: Mrs. Carmen Margelí Vila carme.margeli@eurecat.org

Fitex
Passeig Verdaguer 118,
08700 Igualada
Contact person: Mr. David Garcia
david@fagepi.net
INTEXTER
C. Colom, 15, 08222 Terrassa
Contact person: Dr. Marti Crespi
director.intexter@upc.edu

Modacc – Catalan Fashion Cluster Milà i Fontanals 14–26, 10 6a, 08012 Barcelona Contact person: Mr. David Garcia info@modacc.cat

Sweden

Marketplace Borås BOX 8080, 501 18 Borås Contact person: Pierre Rosengren pierre@marketplaceboras.se

Nordiska Textilakademin Textile Fashion Center, Skaraborgsv. 3A, 506 30 Borås info@nordiskatextilakademin.se

Gotland Grönt Centrum AB Roma Lövsta 10, 622 54 Romakloster Contact person: Jenny Andersson info@ullkontoret.se



ACTE executive board

Mr. Ulf Olsson

Mayor of Borås President of ACTE Vice-president of Sweden

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Vice-president of Portugal

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CONTACT

acte.net/contact

