

Open call

TEX-DAN MADE IN DANUBE

Activity 3.5

Deliverable 3.5.2

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TEX-DAN MADE IN DANUBE

Open Call for Circular Textile SMEs

The TEX-DAN project invites micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from the Danube Region to apply for the TEX-DAN Made in Danube certification.

The certification recognises textile and fashion value chain actors that have already implemented circular solutions and contribute to strengthening regional value chains and reducing transport intensity.

Who can apply

Eligible applicants are SMEs - including social enterprises, micro-enterprises, start-ups and private entrepreneurs - legally established in countries participating in the Interreg Danube Region Programme and active in textile or fashion value chains, including production, design, repair, reuse, remanufacturing or circular service activities. Applicants may operate in any segment of the textile and fashion value chain, including but not limited to:

- fibre and material production
- textile, leather and accessories manufacturing and processing
- garment design and production
- repair, reuse and remanufacturing services
- circular logistics or support services
- innovative textile-related service models

Public authorities, large enterprises and purely research-focused organisations are not eligible to apply as certificate holders.

What is assessed

Applications are evaluated based on demonstrated achievements in four areas:

1. strengthening regional value chains and reducing transport distances
2. implementing circular product or service solutions
3. ensuring responsible and fair production practices
4. contributing to transparency and cooperation in the textile ecosystem

Applicants are expected to show relevant progress and achievements in all four areas.

What certified companies receive

Successful applicants will:

- obtain the right to use the TEX-DAN Made in Danube label
- receive visibility through TEX-DAN communication channels
- be invited to share their good practices within the Danube textile ecosystem
- the TEX-DAN partnership and the TEX-DAN Cluster will offer possibilities for networking and targeted matchmaking
- be considered for the additional recognition of the TEX-DAN Grand Prize

Beyond the above, project partners may offer additional benefits to successful applicants operating in their country as follows (the list is exemplary):

- a promotional videoclip/podcast focusing on the circular achievement of the successful applicant. The videoclip/podcast will be featured on the communication channels of TEX-DAN and will be available for free use to the successful applicant.
- circular mentoring in agreed subject(s).

The TEX-DAN Grand Prize winner will:

- enjoy all the benefits that successful applicants receive
- receive a promotional videoclip/podcast focusing on the circular achievement of the successful applicant. The videoclip/podcast will be featured on the communication channels of TEX-DAN and will be available for free use to the Grand Prize winner.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the online application form available at:

<https://forms.gle/M9Murbkf4PjNrwwu8>

Applicants are invited to provide concise descriptions of their circular practices and sustainability achievements. Supporting materials may be included but are not mandatory.

Evaluation and scoring

Applications will be evaluated by an Evaluation Board based on demonstrated achievements in the four sustainability criteria. The Evaluation Board is composed of the representatives of the project partners. The scoring reflects qualitative assessment of the relevance and credibility of implemented measures rather than complex technical calculations.

Each criterion can receive a maximum number of points as shown below:

Criterion	Maximum points
Regionalisation and reduced transport intensity	5
Circular product and service performance	5
Responsible production and social sustainability	3
Transparency and ecosystem engagement	2

To qualify for certification, applicants must:

- achieve at least 1 point in each criterion, and
- obtain a minimum total score of points set by the Evaluation Board.

The Evaluation Board sets the minimum total score of points for certification during its evaluation meeting.

The Evaluation Board will propose one outstanding applicant for the TEX-DAN Grand Prize. The proposal is tried to be achieved by the consensus of the Evaluation Board. If consensus is not possible, then members of the Board will use the sequential

elimination method in which the last-place finisher of each voting round is eliminated until a single candidate remains.

The final decision will be taken by the TEX-DAN partnership.

Timeline

Call launch: 11 May 2026

Application deadline: 29 May 2026

Evaluation period: 12 June 2026

Announcement of results: 30 June 2026

Detailed rules of operation related to the call

Detailed rules of operation to the call are available in a separate document.

Questions

For further information, applicants may contact the TEX-DAN project partner in their country or consult the project website:

<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/tex-dan>