

Circular Textile Platform: Transparent & Smart Decision-Making to Scale Circular Textile Value Chain

February 2024

About:

We, CIRCULAR REPUBLIC, are pacesetters for the transformation towards a circular economy. With our innovation ecosystem, we provide system-changing impulses for a prosperous, resilient and sustainable economy.

Our mission is to **ENABLE**: We empower you to realize circular economy innovation and make it the core of your business model.

ACT: We match you with relevant partners to jointly create scalable and investable circular economy solutions for your value chain.

INSPIRE: We provide system-changing impulses and push the circular economy forward with you.

Project Goal and Description:

The goal of this project study is to develop a concept for a match-making platform for textile material streams. Currently, lack of transparency and information asymmetries, as well as structural lock-ins, complicate the scaling of a circular textile value chain. Various material streams exist – from pre-consumer and post-consumer waste to second-hand streams. Most of this ends up in landfills, incineration or as exports in other countries. Sorting and recycling capacities are a major bottleneck. The platform aims to efficiently connect supply and demand of textile material streams.

Tasks:

- Evaluate the current structure of the textile material stream value chain in Germany, map all key players and companies (e.g., sorters, recyclers, second-hand sellers, exporters)
- Identify the key needs & requirements for each actor, their current modus operandi and improvement potentials
- Analyze the competitor landscape for the platform: who else provides similar solutions in textiles? What can we learn from platforms in different application areas (e.g., plastics)?
- Create a visually engaging and informative presentation summarizing the key information, conceptual changes, and strategic recommendations; potentially even mock-ups of the platform
- Additional tasks to be defined

Project Scope:

Students have the option to complete the project either full-time over a period of 3 months or parttime over a period of 6 months. We would prefer to have a team join us for 3 months in full time. We would like to start the project before April 2024. The exact working hours can be determined in consultation with the project supervisor.

Requirements for Students:

- Interest in Circular Economy & Textiles
- Strong research and analytical skills
- Ability to create appealing presentation of results
- Ability to work independently and in a team
- Good communication skills in German and/or English

Application:

Please send an e-mail to carl.warkentin@unternehmertum.de and marie.wehinger@unternehmertum.de including (1) the CV & university transcript of each team member, (2) your ideal start date, and (3) give us two numbers for each team member, rating yourselves from 1-10 on (a) your capability and (b) your willingness to execute the required tasks. The deadline for applications is March 11th 2024 (but we welcome early applications).