



D2.1 Stakeholder mapping report

A comprehensive report and database detailing the key players in the Latin American fashion ecosystem and best practices from the EU.

ERASMUS+ CAPACITY BUILDING LATAM

Name of the Project: FashionSKILLS4BETTER (Strengthening Knowledge, Innovation and Lifelong Learning Strategies for Better VET in Sustainable Fashion)

Acronym of the Project: FASHION SKILLS4BETTER

Proposal Number of the Project: Project 101242915

Project Duration and start date: 01/05/2026 and ending on 30/10/2028

- **P1 – Lead Coordinator:** CCIS (Cámara de Comercio e Industria Italiana para España).
- **P2 – Partner:** Materahub.
- **P3 – Partner:** Hecho por Nosotros (HXN).
- **P4 – Partner:** The Common Ones (TCO).
- **P5 – Partner:** Municipalidad de Salta (MS).
- **P6 – Partner:** Fundación Entre Soles y Lunas (ESL).
- **P7 – Partner:** SIC Modaes.
- **P8 – Partner:** Instituto Strasser.
- **P9 – Partner:** Conexiones Creativas (CC).

Contact person for D2.1 Paolo Montemurro

(email:) paolomontemurro@materahub.com

(website:) <https://www.materahub.com/>

Author: Angela Dibenedetto, Loic Bierlaire

Deliverable Number: D2.1

Title of Deliverable: Fashion Ecosystem Mapping Report

Date of Submission of Deliverable: 31/07/2026

Executive Summary

This report presents the foundational outcomes of Task 2.1 under Work Package 2 (WP2) of the FashionSKILLS4Better project, laying the knowledge and pedagogical framework for the upcoming online VET course (WP3) and the activation of Living Fashion Labs in Argentina, Colombia, and Uruguay (WP4).

The document provides a comprehensive mapping of the sustainable fashion ecosystems across Latin America and selected European countries, establishing a bidirectional learning exchange between both regions. It analyzes mapped stakeholders through a structured taxonomy covering institutional landscapes, core operational activities, and performance across green, digital, and entrepreneurial competencies. Additionally, the report showcases a curated selection of international case studies, defining best practices through the lenses of territorial sustainable materials, ancestral innovation, and the decolonization of fashion design thinking

1. Introduction	4
2. Methodology	5
2.1 First Classification: The Quadruple Helix Model	6
2.2 Second Classification: Core Activities	7
2.3 Third Classification: Skills & Competencies Assessment	8
3. Ecosystem Mapping	10
3.1 LATAM countries	14
3.1.1 Uruguay	14
3.1.2 Colombia	16
3.1.3 Argentina	18
3.2 European countries	20
3.2.1 Italy	20
3.2.2. Spain	20
3.2.3 Denmark	21
4. Good Practices & Case Studies	21
4.1 Cases Study in Latin America (LATAM)	22
4.2 Case Study in Europe	29
5. Conclusion	35

1. Introduction

This report is the formal document resulting from the activities of Task 2.1 of the **FashionSKILLS4Better project**. The FashionSKILLS4BETTER project stands for "Strengthening Knowledge, Innovation and Lifelong Learning Strategies for Better VET in Sustainable Fashion". The general objective of the project is to strengthen Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers and stakeholders in the fashion sector. This initiative places a special emphasis on enhancing digital capacities, green competencies, and entrepreneurial skills.

The specific goals of the project include:

- Improving the quality of the educational offerings provided by VET centers in the field of sustainable fashion.
- Developing the green and digital competencies of VET professionals.
- Creating networks and facilitating the exchange of best practices among various VET centers.
- Promoting entrepreneurship within the sustainable fashion sector.
- Strengthening cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Latin America (LATAM) in the areas of education, innovation, and capacity building.

This report is the direct result of the activities planned under Work Package 2 (WP2), titled "Design and Development of FashionSkills4Better Course," and specifically addresses the objectives of Task 2.1, which is dedicated to mapping the fashion ecosystem and its best practices. Through this specific activity, the project focuses on identifying key players and initiatives of excellence in the sustainable fashion sector across both Latin America and the European Union, creating a structured database and selecting relevant case studies.

The overall objective of WP2 is to lay the knowledge and pedagogical foundations for the entire project. In addition to the ecosystem mapping, this work package encompasses in-depth desk research and a training needs analysis, followed by the design and development of the FashionSkills4Better online course. This phase ensures the coherent integration of green, digital, and entrepreneurial competencies into an accessible e-learning platform. All the research and mapping work documented in this report serves a strictly preparatory role for the subsequent operational phases of the project. The information collected in Task 2.1 will directly support and feed into the training content (WP3), which involves delivering the online course for VET trainers. Furthermore, identifying these key players will foster the networking necessary for the establishment and practical implementation of the Living Fashion Labs (WP4) in Argentina, Uruguay, and Colombia.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

The project follows a logical and integrated flow: the research and content development from WP2 flow into the WP3 course, and are ultimately applied in practice through the WP4 labs. In the project's original proposal, the identification of best practices was initially limited to the European continent. However, during the implementation of Task 2.1, the consortium decided to expand the selection of best practices to include both Europe and Latin America. This decision highlights the importance of Latin America, which should not be viewed merely as a recipient of European training programs, but also as a source of models of excellence (particularly in the areas of the social impact circular economy and heritage preservation). This report will first examine the methodology used to collect and process information before discussing the mapping of the ecosystem in Latin America by country. We will then conclude with a presentation of the case studies selected as examples of best practices.

2. Methodology

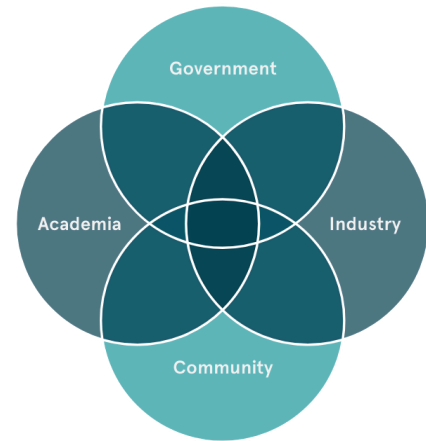
The initial goal of this research was for the project partners to identify at least 10 sector stakeholders for each Latin American country and 5 per European country. However, particularly in the South American target countries—which are the primary beneficiaries of the project—a deliberate effort was made to identify and map as many relevant stakeholders as possible. As a result, the final database far exceeded these initial expectations, compiling a total of over 130 stakeholders across Latin America. Specifically, 44 stakeholders were identified in Colombia, 51 in Argentina, and 36 in Uruguay.

Furthermore, the mapping exercise did not merely list these organizations; it actively researched the specific aspects for which they were selected. The data collection was systematically structured to evaluate their practices and performance across the project's three core criteria: **Green**, **Digital**, and **Entrepreneurship** competencies.

Using this comprehensive database, we carried out several steps to objectify the information collected on each stakeholder and make this data useful for descriptive analysis. This section summarizes our entire process, from the raw data to the final taxonomy.

2.1 First Classification: The Quadruple Helix Model

Each identified stakeholder was first organized based on its basic information (regional location, description of primary activity) and categorized according to the Quadruple Helix Model of Innovation. This model served as an initial “compass” for classifying stakeholders according to their institutional and legal nature:



- Private Sector (Brands, SMEs, Tech Startups, Workshops)
- Academia & Research (Universities, Research Centers, Training Institutes)
- Public Sector (Government Agencies, Ministries)
- Civil Society & Social Impact (NGOs, Indigenous Cooperatives, Foundations)

Of the 130 stakeholders identified, the private sector accounts for an overwhelming majority (76.9%). This general trend is also evident in each of the three countries, with slight variations from country to country. We will discuss this point in greater detail in the country-specific analyses. Another interesting point is that all seven identified public-sector actors (5,4%) are from Uruguay.

2.2 Second Classification: Core Activities

The classification based on **Core Activities** analyzes the specific operational role that each stakeholder actively performs within the mapped fashion ecosystem. Based on the general data analyzed in the report, the organizations were divided into the following functional categories:

- **Atelier/Manufacturing (Brand):** this represents the clear majority of the sample, standing at 73.1%. This strong prevalence is logical and consistent with the general structure of the private sector, where textile workshops and brands account for a large majority of the ecosystem.
- **Network/Hub/NGOs:** this category gathers collaborative networks and non-governmental organizations, representing 12.3% of the activities.
- **R&D/Laboratory/Biotech:** this constitutes 9.2% of the sample. This percentage reflects a specific methodological decision: university research laboratories were classified under this category rather than under education, highlighting their role in applied research.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

- **Education/Training:** this represents a minor share of only 3.1%. Despite the institutional "Academia & Research" sector accounting for 10% overall, the specific figure for education is low because the practical activities of academic laboratories were merged under the "R&D" category.
- **Consultancy/B2B:** consulting firms or those operating exclusively in "business-to-business" logic make up the smallest portion, accounting for only 2.3%.

In summary, this classification allows us to take a snapshot of the market not based on "who" the actors are institutionally, but based on "what" they do operationally, revealing a landscape dominated by manufacturing and brands, and supported by applied research.

2.3 Third Classification: Skills & Competencies Assessment

The consortium partners used the standardized worksheet to catalog and evaluate the mapped organizations based on indicators of relevance and level of development across the three key competencies: Green, Digital, and Entrepreneurial Skills. Each competency is composed of two dimensions in turn composed of three subcriteria each.

Pillar	Dimension	Indicators
GREEN	1. Sustainability / Social Responsibility	1a. Reducing environmental impact 1b. Waste management and recycling 1c. Transparency toward the consumer
	2. Quality and Supply Chain Control	2a. Material validation 2b. Quality control upon receipt and in-process 2c. Full traceability
DIGITAL	3. Digital Innovation & Product Passport	3a. Digital Product Passport (DPP) & Traceability 3b. 3D Design, Virtual Prototyping & AI 3c. Digital Storytelling & Transmedia
	4. Supply Chain	4a. E-Commerce & Digital Sales Gateways

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

	Digitalization & E-Commerce Operations	4b. Inventory Automation & Demand Forecasting 4c. Traceability Software & Tech Platforms
ENTREPRENEURSHIP	5. Sustainable Business Models & Fair Trade Governance	5a. Fair Trade & Direct Remuneration 5b. Community Co-Creation, IP & Royalties 5c. Commercial Alliances, B2B & Global Scale
	6. Legal Formalization, Certifications & Impact Metrics	6a. Formal Business Incorporation & Compliance 6b. Official Sustainability Certifications 6c. Quantitative Impact Metrics & Social/Circularity KPIs

The table below, represents a synthesis of the specific characteristics and concrete practices shared by the 130 organizations mapped across the different territories. Rather than being just a theoretical list, it gathers the real and recurring actions—such as the use of natural dyes, the adoption of digital passports, or collaborations with cooperatives—that these entities implement on a daily basis. In this way, the indicators precisely define the shared DNA and the transversal trends of the sustainable fashion ecosystem that the project has analyzed.

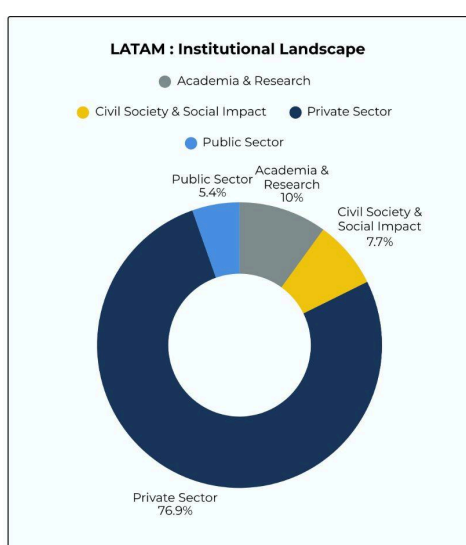
Indicator	Description
1a. Impact Reduction	<i>Use of recycled materials, certified organic/ecological fibers, 100% natural local wool, botanical/vegetable dyes, or low-impact/chemical-free processes.</i>
1b. Waste Management	<i>Upcycling, circular economy practices, zero waste patterns, or post-industrial/post-consumer textile remnant recovery.</i>
1c. Consumer Education & Transparency	<i>Consumer awareness, educational workshops, academic lectures, open technical sheets, or repair/reuse promotion.</i>
2a. Input & Fabric Validation	<i>Technical input selection, wool fiber testing, certified supplier requirements, or local material qualification.</i>
2b. Quality Control & Inspection	<i>Formal quality control in production, durability standards, AQL defect management, or garment finishing checks.</i>
2c. Official Traceability & Certifications	<i>Documented batch traceability, official environmental certifications (ISO 14001, GOTS, RWS, IWTO, OEKO-TEX, B Corp, REACH, WFTO Fair Trade),</i>

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

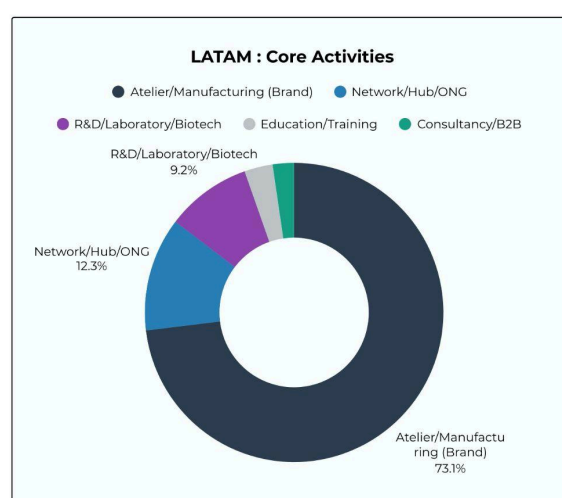
	or supply chain audits.
3a. DPP & Traceability	Use of Digital Product Passport (DPP) platforms, QR codes, NFC/RFID tags, digital certificates of authenticity, individual artisan signature tags, or public digital sheets tracking wool fiber/producer origin.
3b. 3D Design, Virtual Prototyping & AI	3D printing, virtual prototyping, digital pattern simulation (reducing physical sample waste), AI design tools, CAD/CAM software, or biomaterial modeling.
3c. Transmedia & Digital Storytelling	Transmedia digital campaigns, active Instagram/web storytelling, blogs, online course catalogs, or digital portals raising awareness about circular fashion and cultural heritage.
4a. E-Commerce & Global Gateways	Active transactional e-commerce websites (Shopify, WooCommerce, custom web stores) with digital payment gateways and multi-currency/cross-border sales capabilities.
4b. Demand Forecasting & Inventory Automation	Automated inventory management, ERP systems, B2B order synchronization, or batch production scheduling software.
4c. Traceability Software & Tech Platforms	Specialized supply chain management platforms (e.g., Gia Trace), digital flock/wool tracking portals (SUL, Uruguay Wools), B Corp assessment software, or public innovation/subsidy management portals (ANII, ANDE).
5a. Fair Trade & Direct Remuneration	Direct relationships with rural artisans/wool producers, fair price guarantees, elimination of middlemen, cooperative worker ownership, or living wage commitments.
5b. Community Co-Creation, IP & Royalties	Formal agreements with indigenous/rural craft communities, protection of traditional textile knowledge, direct profit/royalty sharing, or dedicated social empowerment foundations.
5c. Commercial Scale, B2B & Global Alliances	B2B commercialization, global wool exports, partnerships with industrial retail/manufacturing groups, international acceleration grants (ANII, ANDE, Socialab), or commercial B2B uniform supply (Casa Urbana).
6a. Formal Incorporation & Legal Compliance	Formal business registration (RUT, Chamber of Commerce, Ministerial incorporation), trade association membership (CIU, CDU), or labor law compliance.
6b. Official Seals & Sustainability Certifications	Official B Corp certification, WFTO (World Fair Trade Organization), Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), ISO 9001/14001, IWTO, OEKO-TEX, or official Licenciamiento Marca País.

3. Ecosystem Mapping

On the 130 stakeholders identified, the private sector accounts for an overwhelming majority (76.9%). This general trend shown on Graph 1 is also evident in each of the three countries, with slight variations from country to country. We will discuss this point in greater detail in the country-specific analyses. Another interesting point is that all seven identified public-sector actors (5,4%) are from Uruguay.



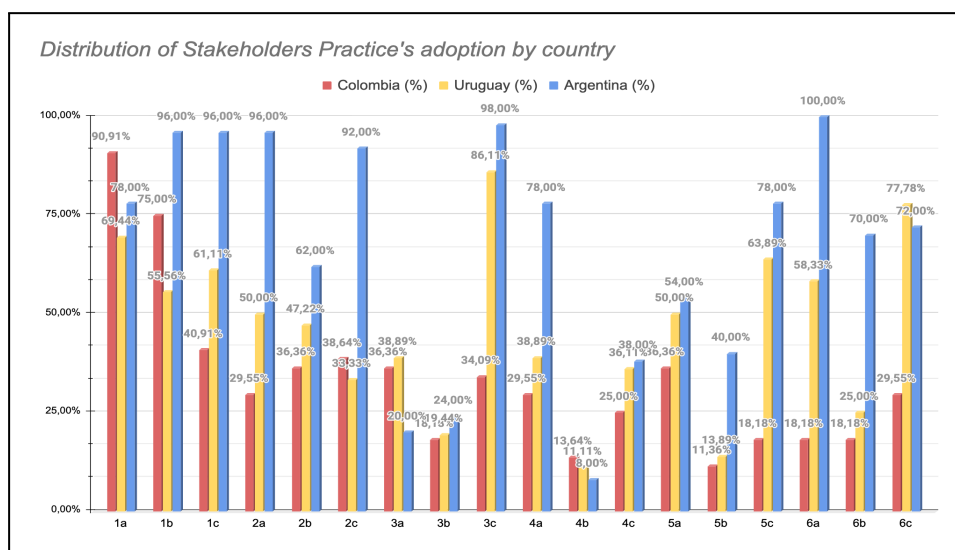
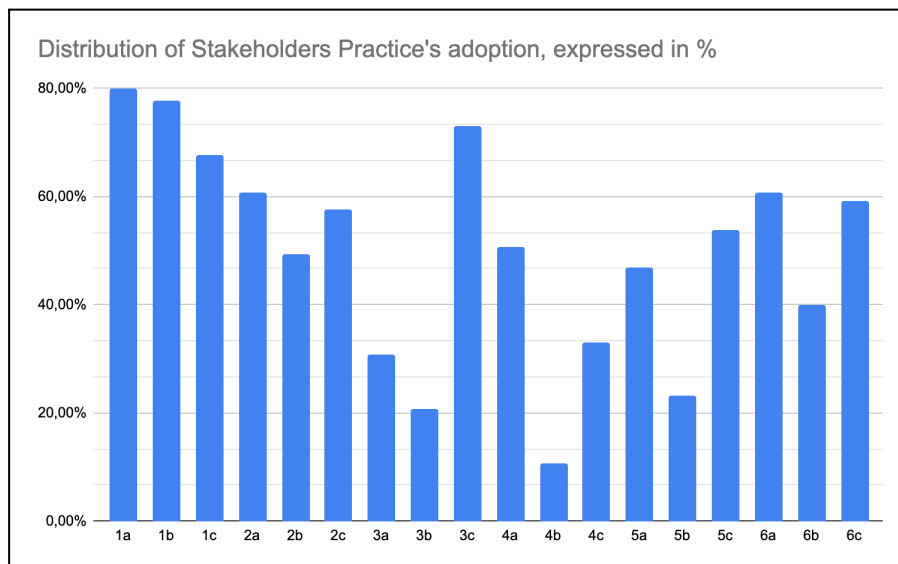
Graph 1. LATAM Stakeholders, by Helix



Graph 2. LATAM Stakeholders, by Core Activity

Looking out to the core activities of the stakeholders studied (Graph 2), logically we can see a strong prevalence of “Atelier/Manufacturing (Brand)” representing 73,1%. This is consistent with the information in our first chart: among private-sector players (76.9%), we see that textile workshops and brands account for a large majority. “Consulting/B2B” firms account for only 2.3%. As for the low representation of the “Education” category (3.1%)—despite its 10% share in the “Academia & Research” sector—this is due to our decision to classify university research laboratories under the “R&D/Laboratory/Biotech” category (9.2%). By examining the practices implemented by stakeholders, based on the indicators selected for Green, Digital, and Entrepreneurship skills, we can already observe certain trends across these three countries. While the *Graph 3* represents the general distribution of stakeholders practice’s adoption in percent for each practice. The *Graph 4* illustrates a similar distribution of stakeholders but for each country, allowing us to grasp the first tendencies.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.



Graph 4. Distribution of Stakeholder's Practices adoption by country, expressed in %

Regardless of the countries, it is found that more than 60% of the stakeholders are already concerned with *Sustainability and Social Responsibility* (1a, 1b, 1c). This percentage rises as high as 80% when it comes to the use of recycled materials, certified organic/ecological fibers, 100% natural local wool, botanical/vegetable dyes, or low-impact/chemical-free processes (1a). It is fair to say that on the Green Skills (1a,1b,1c,2a,2b,2c), fashion stakeholders seem already sensitized on certain topics, even though the numbers drop

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

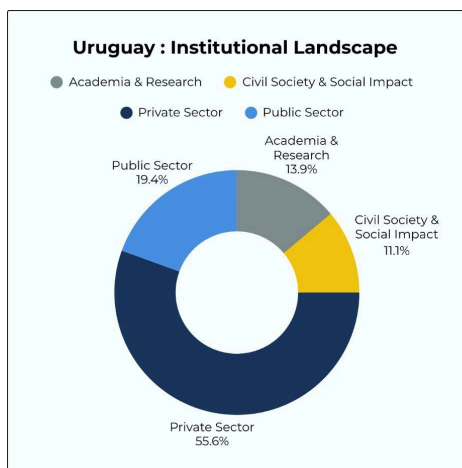
looking at the second dimension, Quality and Supply Chain Control. Regarding Digital practices, the mapping reveals that technology is primarily being utilized to amplify and support the ecosystem's core sustainable values, rather than for mass-market scaling. Within the first dimension, *Digital Innovation* (3a, 3b, 3c), we observe a strategic concentration around *Transmedia & Digital Storytelling* (3c) and *Digital Product Passports/Traceability* (3a). For many LATAM stakeholders, these are not just technical tools, but essential mediums to communicate their heritage, supply chain transparency, and social impact to a conscious audience. While advanced applications like *3D Design, Virtual Prototyping, and AI* (3b) are not ubiquitous across the general sample, the mapping successfully identified highly specialized innovation niches. These advanced digital practices tend to cluster around specific academic R&D laboratories or avant-garde design studios (particularly visible in hubs like Bogotá). Similarly, in the second dimension (*Supply Chain Digitalization & E-Commerce*: 4a, 4b, 4c), the data suggests a selective, bespoke integration of digital tools. Rather than adopting standardized fast-fashion e-commerce models, actors are testing targeted digital gateways that align with their slow-fashion and made-to-order production rhythms.

The Entrepreneurship dimension highlights a highly original and resilient landscape driven by alternative, purpose-led business models rather than traditional corporate structures. In the realm of *Sustainable Business Models & Formalization* (5a, 5b, 5c), the ecosystem demonstrates a unique regional DNA. There is a strong clustering around social entrepreneurship, community co-creation, and artisanal integration. Many mapped organizations operate as innovative hybrid models that successfully blend high-quality manufacturing with social rehabilitation, indigenous heritage preservation, or rural community support.

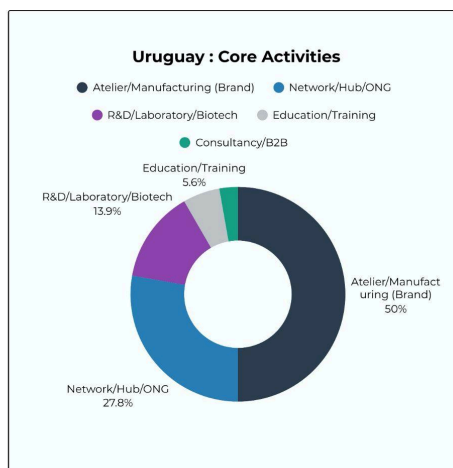
Looking at *Market Access, Networking, and Scalability* (6a, 6b, 6c), the mapping shows that collaboration frequently supersedes conventional B2B competition. The ecosystem's strength lies in its interconnectedness. Stakeholders heavily utilize localized hubs, creative ecosystems, and institutional networks to build resilience, share resources, and access markets collectively. This is clearly evidenced by the strong institutional, top-down networking present in Uruguay, as well as the dynamic creative clusters in Colombia. Ultimately, the region's entrepreneurial originality resides in these collaborative, socially rooted value propositions, offering a distinct blueprint for sustainable fashion business models.

3.1 LATAM countries

3.1.1 Uruguay



Graph 5. Distribution of Uruguayan stakeholders across the Quadruple Helix model



Graph 6. Distribution of Uruguayan stakeholders by Core Activities

Unlike the other Latin countries where the transition is solely driven by the private sector, Uruguay stands out due to the significant presence of the public and institutional sectors. Indeed, 45% of the ecosystem is composed of public actors (19%), Academia & Research (almost 14%) and Non-Profit Organisations (11%). The country demonstrates a 'top-down' institutional structure that is conducive to the implementation of sector-wide policies. The state and the research sector play a clear leading role here.

At the national level, Uruguay stands out as a highly centralized and institutionalized ecosystem. With 45% of its actors belonging to the public sector, academia, and NGOs, the country acts as a regional VET (Vocational Education) and ethical activism hub. Instead of fragmented micro-brands working alone, the ecosystem is bound together by macro-networks (like *Cámara de Diseño* or *Universo MOLA*). The national DNA is built on collective traceability and the heritage of wool.

Montevideo concentrates the vast majority of the "top-down" ecosystem drivers. It is the home of public agencies (like *INEFOP*), major academic institutions (*FADU - UDELAR*, *Instituto Strasser*), and non-profit incubators (*CEPRODIH*). This urban cluster is where traceability frameworks, policies, and digital tools (like *Gia Trace*) are designed. It functions as the intellectual and regulatory center of the ecosystem.

Beyond the capital, the rural interior areas concentrate agricultural production (sheep farming) and artisanal processing hubs. The ecosystem spreads into rural territories, driven by social enterprises and decentralized cooperatives (most notably *Manos del Uruguay* and

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

Don Báez). This geographic cluster is defined by the physical production of sustainable fashion: regenerative agriculture, native sheep farming (Merino and Corriedale) and the economic empowerment of rural women. The innovation is deeply social and material—preserving ancestral techniques like hand-spinning and small-batch dyeing.

Green

The Green dimension in Uruguay reveals a highly structured approach to sustainability, deeply rooted in the heritage of native wools. Adoption rates for *sustainable sourcing* (1a) and *social responsibility* (1c) are exceptionally high. This is driven by historic cooperatives and brands (e.g., *Manos del Uruguay*, *Don Báez*) that successfully combine low-impact processing such as artisanal dyeing with the economic empowerment of rural women.

Uruguay also excels in the second dimension: *Quality and Supply Chain Control* (2a, 2b, 2c). Backed by a strong institutional framework and networks like *Uruguay Wools*, local actors benefit from shared traceability tools, animal welfare standards, and environmental monitoring.

Digital

Digital Technology as a Tool for Legitimacy (Sourcing & Ethics): The use of digital technology in Uruguay is not geared toward cost reduction or mass production, but rather toward proving authenticity. The technology is used to ensure the traceability of wool (mulesing-free, eco-friendly dyes) to reassure international buyers.

The role of platforms and education: Advances in digital technology do not come from the workshops themselves, but from academic training programs (*FADU*, *Instituto Strasser*), which are gradually integrating these tools, and from regional networks such as *Universo MOLA*, which leverage transitional/transmedia approaches to create continental connections.

Uruguay presents a landscape where digital technology is a vehicle for exports and ethical communication, but remains largely unintegrated into day-to-day manufacturing and management operations.

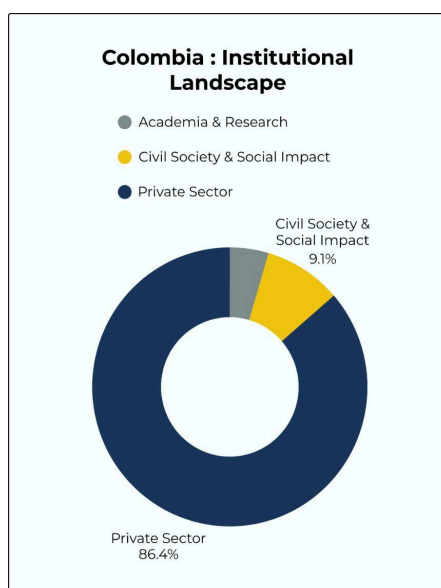
Entrepreneurship

It reflects a distinct operational structure tailored to the country's limited domestic market size and strong institutional presence. Within the first dimension *Sustainable Business Models and Formalization* (5a-5c) the data indicates a high prevalence of social impact business models paired with assisted corporate structuring. Rather than relying on private venture incubation, micro-entrepreneurs navigate business planning, administrative formalization, and financial management (5b, 5c) through state-backed frameworks and

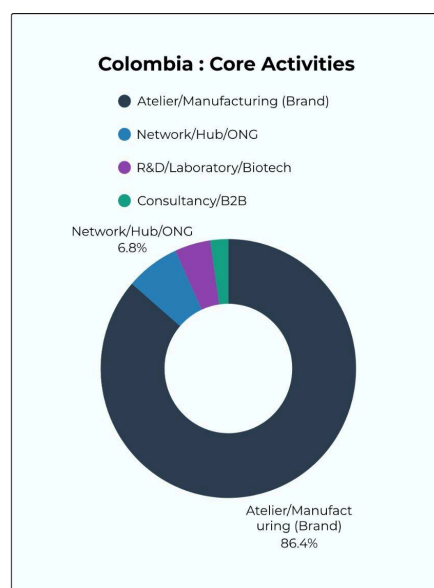
public support programs, such as the *Instituto Nacional de Empleo y Formación Profesional* (INEFOP) and the *Cámara de Diseño* de Uruguay.

At the regional and local levels, business models favor collective governance over traditional competitive scaling. In the rural interior, entrepreneurship primarily takes the form of social cooperatives and artisan networks (such as *Manos del Uruguay* and *Ruralanas*). These entities function as decentralized social enterprises designed to ensure equitable compensation and shared management for rural craftswomen. Regarding *Market Access and Networking* (Indicators 6a to 6c), individual *operational scaling* (6c) remains constrained by the physical capacity of artisanal textile production. Consequently, market expansion relies on collective aggregation: non-profit foundations and incubators based in the capital (such as *CEPRODIH*) serve as commercial intermediaries, providing micro-ateliers with structured training, financial oversight, and access to broader export channels (6a, 6b).

3.1.2 Colombia



Graph 7. Distribution of Colombian stakeholders by Core Activities



Graph 8. Distribution of Colombian stakeholders by Core Activities

The mapping identifies 44 unique organizations in a Colombian ecosystem mainly market-driven. The Private Sector constitutes 88.6% of mapped stakeholders (39 entities), comprising SMEs, designer brands, artisanal workshops, B2B textile manufacturers, and sustainability consulting firms. The remaining portion consists of Civil Society & Social Impact organizations (6.8%, 3 entities) focused on community empowerment and peacebuilding, and Academia & Research (4.5%, 2 entities) dedicated to material innovation. The Public Sector is absent (0 entities) in the current Colombia dataset.

As the primary administrative and experimental center, Bogotá D.C. concentrates the vast majority of the mapped actors (approximately 70%, or 31 entities). This capital hub is characterized by a high density of designer brands, sustainability consulting firms, university research laboratories, and ateliers dedicated to luxury upcycling. In contrast, the Antioquia and Medellín region (historically the country's industrial textile core) accounts for roughly 16% of the sample (7 entities). Innovation in this cluster is primarily directed toward conceptual fashion design, the integration of artisanal crafts into modern manufacturing, and the development of vegan footwear.

Beyond these major urban centers, the Eje Cafetero and peripheral departments (such as Caldas, Tolima, and Risaralda) form a crucial third node. Activity in these rural and semi-urban areas is heavily oriented toward social impact, concentrating rural artisan collectives, textile regeneration efforts, and community-driven rehabilitation initiatives directly linked to post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding.

Green

Colombian stakeholders prioritize material innovation as a core brand differentiator rather than relying on institutional compliance. The ecosystem clusters around specialized niches, including the high-end upcycling of post-consumer waste *Alejandro Crocker*, the use of regenerated plastics and metals *Baobab*, **Itana Jewelry**, and applied biotextile research (**IIT**). Because the sector relies heavily on direct, short-circuit supply chains, formalized quality control is generally lower, though brands like **Ánima Atelier** prove that comprehensive eco-sourcing can successfully pair with structured traceability. This selective integration also defines the digital landscape.

Digital

Advanced industrial automation and 3D design remain confined to a minority. Instead, technology serves as a strategic bridge for market communication. Independent designers utilize digital product passports and transmedia storytelling to bypass intermediaries and document cultural heritage (such as **A New Cross** geolocating artisanal weaving hours) while leveraging direct-to-consumer e-commerce to reach international buyers.

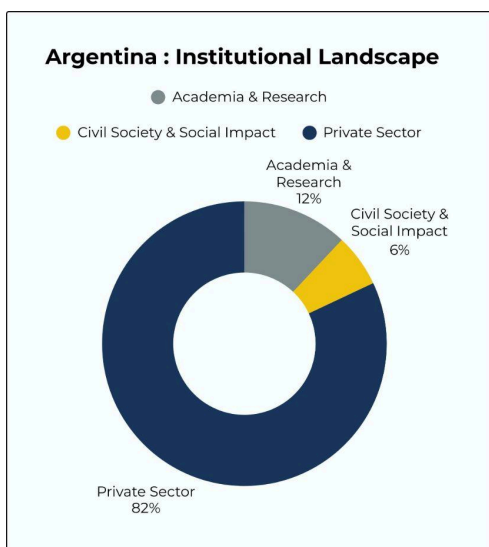
Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurially, the ecosystem thrives on hybrid, purpose-driven business models that seamlessly blend commercial viability with explicit social goals, exemplified by the **Manifiesta** cooperative's focus on post-conflict reintegration. Lacking formal state-driven incubation, market access and scalability depend entirely on strategic cross-sector

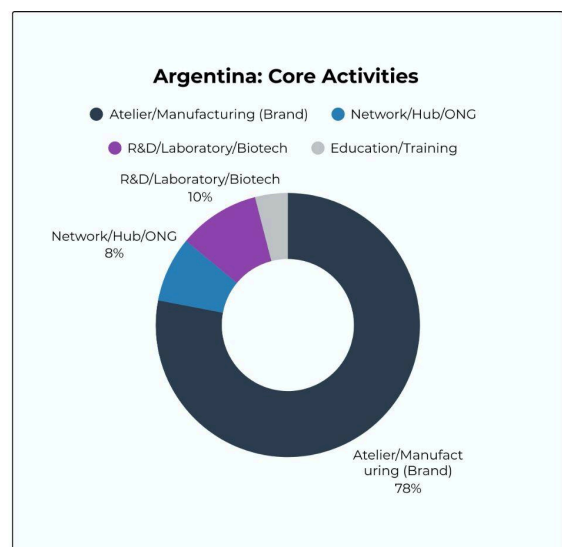
Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

collaborations. Sustainable micro-enterprises achieve commercial growth through mainstream retail alliances—such as *Alejandro Crocker's* partnership with Grupo Éxito—and rely on specialized B2B advisory platforms like *Conexiones Creativas* to formalize their structures and secure broader market integration.

3.1.3 Argentina



Graph 9. Distribution of Uruguayan stakeholders by Core Activities



Graph 10. Distribution of Uruguayan stakeholders by Core Activities

The Argentine ecosystem is characterized by a strong polarization in its Quadruple Helix structure, predominantly driven by the Private Sector. The dataset reveals an ecosystem largely sustained by established SMEs, industrial textile manufacturers, and independent designer brands. Academia and Civil Society occupy a more peripheral role, functioning as specialized support nodes rather than central drivers.

The core activities are geographically and functionally divided into two distinct regional dynamics. The Buenos Aires Region concentrates B2B textile manufacturing, large-scale upcycling brands (**Fracking Design, Xınca**) and R&D activities focused on circular economy principles and industrial waste recovery. For other actors identified on the territory we observed artisanal networks and micro-enterprises (such as those associated with **Animana**) dedicated to the processing of native natural fibers and indigenous weaving techniques.

SMEs leverage the high availability of industrial by-products to manufacture new fashion lines. For instance, **Fracking Design** repurposes plastic sandbags discarded by the oil industry, while **Xinca** manufactures footwear using recycled rubber from discarded tires. In the Northern regions, *sustainable sourcing* (1a) is tied to biodiversity preservation. Brands like **Animana** focus on the ethical shearing and processing of noble natural fibers (e.g., camelids), where green practices are inseparable from animal welfare and the preservation of traditional, low-impact artisanal techniques.

Green

The Green dimension in Argentina shows a dual approach depending on the scale of the enterprise. Practices related to *Sustainability and Social Responsibility* (Dimension 1) score highly, particularly in *Sustainable Sourcing* (1a) and *Waste Reduction* (1b). However, formalized *Quality and Supply Chain Control* (Dimension 2: 2a, 2b, 2c) reveals that larger urban industrial players possess the resources to implement standardized auditing and environmental certifications while rural micro-ateliers rely on localized, informal quality control mechanisms rather than institutionalized frameworks.

SMEs leverage the high availability of industrial by-products to manufacture new fashion lines. For instance, **Fracking Design** repurposes plastic sandbags discarded by the oil industry, while Xinca manufactures footwear using recycled rubber from discarded tires. In the Northern regions, *sustainable sourcing* (1a) is tied to biodiversity preservation. Brands like **Animana** focus on the ethical shearing and processing of noble natural fibers (e.g., camelids), where green practices are inseparable from animal welfare and the preservation of traditional, low-impact artisanal techniques.

Digital

Across the first digital dimension (Indicators 3a–3c), advanced technological tools like 3D Prototyping and AI (3b) are virtually non-existent. Instead, technology serves as a strategic bridge adapted to regional priorities. For rural and northern artisanal networks, digital tools are deployed primarily for *Transmedia Storytelling* (3c) and *Digital Product Passports* (3a). Entities collaborating with *Hecho por Nosotros* or *Animana* leverage digital platforms to overcome geographical isolation, providing international buyers with proof of origin and documenting the cultural heritage embedded within each garment.

In the second digital dimension (4a–4c), a similar divide emerges between front-end digital sales and back-end supply chain integration. *Data-driven supply chain management* (4b) remains largely analog across most mapped organizations. However, urban upcycling brands in Buenos Aires, such as **Xinca** and **Fracking Design**, demonstrate high maturity in

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

direct-to-consumer *e-Commerce* gateways (4a). By building robust digital retail ecosystems, these urban brands successfully bypass traditional physical retail barriers, educate consumers on material circularity, and scale their direct-to-consumer sales nationwide.

Entrepreneurship

The Entrepreneurship dimension (Indicators 5a to 6c) illustrates a high degree of operational resilience tailored to Argentina's complex macroeconomic landscape. Sustainable Business Models (5a–5c) are overwhelmingly purpose-driven, integrating strong social impact and circular principles (5a). Yet, independent financial planning and administrative formalization (5b, 5c) remain major hurdles for smaller creators. Rather than relying on formal venture capital, market access and business scalability (6a–6c) are achieved through strategic B2B networking, cross-sector alliances, and collective governance models.

3.2 European countries

3.2.1 Italy

Italy remains a global benchmark for technological innovation applied to sustainable fashion. The country's ecosystem is incredibly diverse, seamlessly bridging its historical manufacturing heritage with cutting-edge scientific research. It ranges from the advanced recycling of industrial yarns—often revitalizing traditional textile districts—to the creation of revolutionary biomaterials derived from local agricultural waste, such as citrus byproducts and grape pomace. By integrating these bio-innovations into the supply chain, the Italian landscape offers highly scalable circular business models and ethical e-commerce platforms. This ecosystem proves that premium "Made in Italy" quality can perfectly align with environmental preservation and zero-waste philosophies.

3.2.2. Spain

The Spanish fashion ecosystem is strongly driven by a proactive adaptation to new European regulations regarding textile waste management, particularly Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and the core principles of ecodesign. Beyond its regulatory and environmental foresight, Spain stands out for its profound social commitment. The ecosystem presents an excellent integration of Vocational Education and Training (VET) centers specifically aimed at female workforce inclusion and the economic development of rural areas at risk of depopulation. This creates a unique and highly localized model where sustainable fashion acts as a tool for both environmental compliance and vital social regeneration, turning textile craftsmanship into a lifeline for vulnerable communities.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

3.2.3 Denmark

The Danish ecosystem represents a true benchmark in the adoption of binding sustainability criteria for the entire textile industry. Renowned for its avant-garde and minimalist design ethos, Denmark employs a highly systemic approach that effectively unites independent brands, regulatory institutions, and globally relevant fashion events. By enforcing strict environmental, ethical, and circular requirements for industry participation (such as the mandatory sustainability criteria for fashion weeks), this collaborative, nationwide framework successfully guides the market's transition toward total circularity. In Denmark, sustainability is no longer an optional marketing tool, but an absolute prerequisite for doing business.

4. Good Practices & Case Studies

As stated in the introduction, the initial project proposal (Application Form Part B) focused exclusively on European best practices. However, the consortium expanded the search to include Latin American cases, which provide innovative models in social impact circularity and community empowerment, enriching the project with a bidirectional learning exchange between the EU and LATAM.

For our consortium, a "best practice" transcends the mere adoption of eco-friendly fabrics or the implementation of digital supply chain software. We define it through a much deeper, more holistic lens that challenges the conventional fashion industry paradigm. For us, a best practice must embody the following core principles:

- **Sustainable Materials Rooted in Territory:** a true best practice utilizes sustainable materials not just as a market trend, but as a profound reflection of the local ecosystem. It involves regenerating native fibers, utilizing local agricultural waste, and prioritizing processes that respect the natural rhythms and limits of the environment.
- **Ancestral Innovation:** we recognize that true innovation is not exclusively technological or futuristic; very often, it is ancestral. The practices we highlight successfully bridge traditional, indigenous craftsmanship with contemporary sustainability challenges. They prove that age-old traditions and heritage techniques inherently possess the circular and regenerative solutions the modern industry desperately seeks to invent.
- **Decolonization of Thought:** Integrating Latin American case studies is a deliberate step toward decolonizing the narrative of sustainable fashion. It

requires moving away from a purely Eurocentric vision of design and innovation. By doing so, we acknowledge that the Global South is not merely a manufacturing hub or a passive recipient of European educational guidelines, but a primary, active source of profound intellectual, ecological, and social frameworks.

By embracing this philosophy, the case studies presented in the following sections do not just represent "good businesses." They represent a true global dialogue where technological advancement meets cultural heritage, and where environmental sustainability is intrinsically linked to social justice and the preservation of human dignity.

4.1 Cases Study in Latin America (LATAM)

1. DIOFILL, Colombia Website : <https://diofill.com/>

Description: Diofill is a circular fashion enterprise based in Medellín dedicated to the purchase, sale, and consignment of second-hand clothing and accessories in excellent condition. At the core of its mission is the extension of garment lifespans, driving a transition toward conscious and sustainable consumption within the fashion industry. From a green perspective, the brand actively reduces the textile industry's environmental footprint by reusing materials, preventing waste, and diverting wearable clothing from landfills. Entrepreneurially, Diofill supports individuals who wish to monetize unworn garments, seamlessly reintegrating these items into the economic cycle. To ensure a high-standard purchasing experience, the company conducts rigorous selection, curation, and inspection processes to verify the condition, quality, and usability of every piece before commercialization



Carry out selection and inspection processes before garments are commercialized, verifying their condition, quality, and usability. Ensures that the products offered meet appropriate standards and provide customers with a trustworthy purchasing experience.

Digital channels and social media for the promotion, commercialization, and inventory management of garments. Digitalization expands the reach of sustainable fashion, optimizes business processes, and facilitates connections with communities interested in responsible consumption.

2. TANBASICX, Colombia Website : <https://tanbasicx.com/>

Tan Basicx is a Colombian conscious fashion brand that explores the relationship between materiality, craftsmanship, and timeless design through natural fibers and responsible production processes. The brand creates versatile and durable garments that integrate contemporary design, ethical production, and small-scale manufacturing, understanding clothing as a way of inhabiting the world with greater calm, intention, and connection to what endures.



Tan Basicx was created with a cross-cutting sustainability vision. Therefore, it develops responsible small-scale production, prioritizing durability, waste reduction, and the use of natural fibers such as hemp. Manufacturing is carried out locally, creating opportunities for older women and female heads of household within a fair and collaborative work environment. Development of an e-commerce platform equipped with a shopping gateway, a corporate educational blog focused on ethical fashion awareness, and lead-generation strategies through welcome discounts. Supplier selection is based on criteria of quality, transparency, and affinity with the brand values. Collaborative relationships with small producers and specialized suppliers are prioritized, favoring more conscious and responsible supply chains.

The company works continuously to strengthen traceability and good practices within its value chain. Currently, it does not have specific international certifications, but it has been constantly undergoing training for B Corp Certification.

The brand tracks indicators related to :

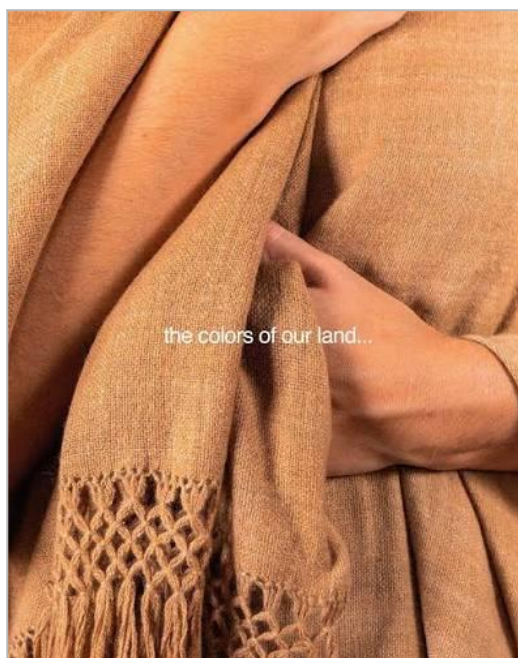
- Small-scale production and reduction of surplus.
- Utilization and reuse of textile waste.
- Quality and durability of garments.
- Development of new materials and processes.
- Supplier participation and local production.
- Commercial growth and customer satisfaction.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

3. Andina, Argentina Website : somosandina.com

Created by women for women, this initiative serves as a productive and social foundation that provides direct economic support to a network of more than 100 families of artisan weavers in the Laguna Blanca community, located in the Puna region of Catamarca. The project centers on the use of vicuña wool, recognized as one of the finest and most valuable natural fibers in the world, which is sheared under the strictly regulated management of a protected species. Through a formal institutional partnership with the Catamarca Ministry of the Environment, every garment is issued an official digital certificate that rigorously validates the fiber's origin and legality.

Operating with a stated mission to merge traceability and technology, the brand ensures both consistent production and the global amplification of an ancestral artisanal legacy. It is firmly positioned in the conscious luxury market, offering unique pieces woven with the "soul" of each artisan to honor the intangible heritage of a millennia-old art form. This global positioning is supported by a bilingual (English/Spanish) website tailored for the international market, which includes a dedicated "Knitting Community" section designed to document and bring public attention to the profound social fabric behind each collection.



From a digital and innovative perspective, the project pioneers the integration of Argentine indigenous craftsmanship with advanced digital authentication. By utilizing a digital product passport powered by NFC and blockchain technology, it achieves end-to-end technological traceability—tracking the journey from the certified fiber to the specifically identified artisan, and finally to the end buyer. This technology functions as a powerful

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

layer of authenticity and storytelling, seamlessly connecting the consumer to the personal life story of the person who wove the piece. Finally, cementing its strong entrepreneurial identity and strategic positioning, the organization is an active member of the Argentina Creativa board of directors and the DAE-Creative Bootcam

4. **Matriarca, Argentina**

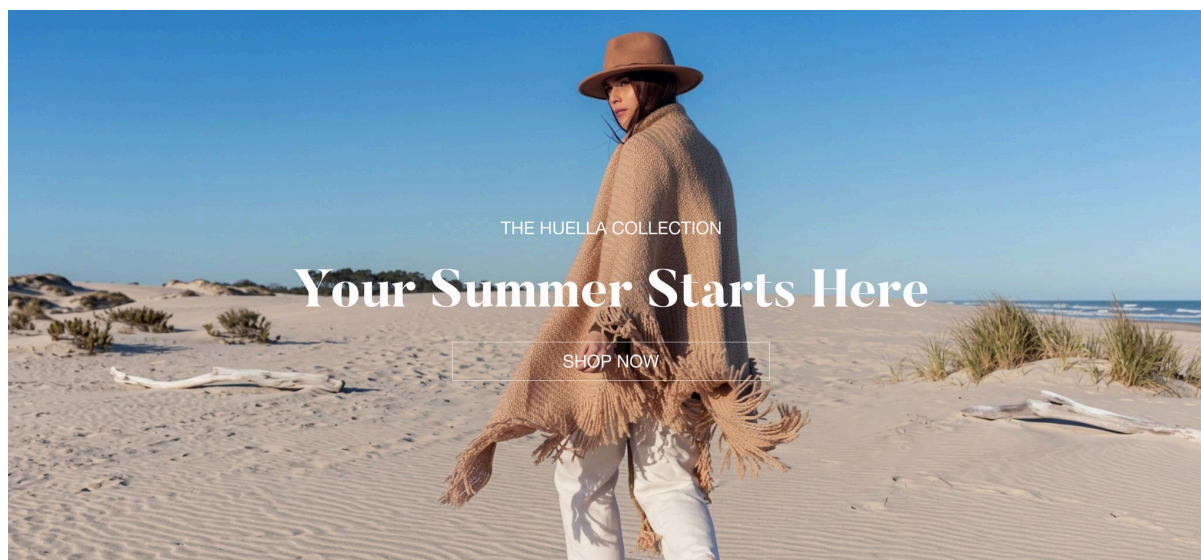
Website: matriarca.com.ar

Matriarca is the commercial brand of COMAR, a democratic cooperative network uniting more than 2,600 Indigenous women from 24 to 30 grassroots associations (including Wichí, Qomle'ec, Pilagá, Qom, and Kolla ethnic groups) across four Argentine provinces. From an entrepreneurial standpoint, the cooperative—supported by the Gran Chaco Foundation and led by Norma Rodríguez and Fabiana Menna—operates with 36 elected delegates and successfully maintains stores in San Isidro, Palermo, Salta, and Córdoba, as well as an international presence in Italy, Japan, and the US. Green practices are central to their model, which earned them the 2025 UN/UNDP Equator Prize for nature-based biodiversity conservation. Located in Latin America's second-most important wetland, they achieve 100% sustainable production using natural dyes from roots, bark, and leaves that return to the earth without generating waste. Digitally, the project ensures explicit ethnic, geographic, and technical traceability for each piece, empowering artisans to independently manage multi-province orders using Excel and mobile apps, supported by an in-house e-commerce platform with international shipping capabilities.



5. **Manos del Uruguay, Uruguay** Website: <https://manos.com.uy/>

Founded in 1968 by a group of visionary women, Manos del Uruguay is a pioneering non-profit organization of 12 production cooperatives and a central service hub. From an entrepreneurial and social standpoint, the organization's core mission is to provide vital work and development opportunities for women across the Uruguayan interior and Montevideo. What began as a small initiative selling wool blankets crafted by rural women rapidly evolved into a highly successful cooperative network. Supported by social workers who provided comprehensive training in business administration and personal development, the project has historically empowered generations of women to achieve economic independence while remaining in their local communities. Today, Manos del Uruguay is globally positioned as a premium brand of design and quality, celebrated for revaluing ancestral artisanal knowledge and delivering high social value.



From a green and operational perspective, the organization is deeply committed to rigorous quality and supply chain control to ensure sustainable excellence. This process begins with strict material validation, carefully inspecting fabrics, yarns, leathers, and components prior to production to ensure they meet approved technical specifications. Throughout the manufacturing process, the cooperatives implement robust quality control measures, utilizing Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) criteria, precise defect classification, and active non-conformity management.

To bridge their artisanal heritage with modern operational standards, Manos del Uruguay ensures full traceability across its entire value chain. By meticulously documenting the origin and specific production stages of every single batch—including packaging and accessories—the organization guarantees transparency for social responsibility audits,

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

ensuring that every handcrafted piece authentically reflects its ethical and sustainable roots.

6. **Casa Urbana, Uruguay** Website: <https://casaurbanauniformes.com>

Located in Montevideo and led by Sandra Moreira, Casa Urbana is an innovative organization specializing in the design and production of corporate uniforms exclusively for women. From an entrepreneurial perspective, the company has carved out a unique B2B niche by transforming traditional corporate wear into a responsible and highly controlled business model. Operating with a closed and rigorously monitored value chain, Casa Urbana ensures high ethical and operational standards from the initial design phase to the final delivery. On the green front, the company distinguishes itself by actively incorporating upcycling practices directly into the corporate apparel sector—an industry typically characterized by high volumes of standardized waste. By integrating circular economy principles, Casa Urbana extends the lifecycle of textiles and helps corporate clients reduce their environmental footprint.



Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

To guarantee the integrity of this sustainable process, the organization heavily emphasizes traceability. By meticulously tracking the journey of its materials and garments, Casa Urbana provides its corporate partners with a transparent, reliable, and eco-conscious purchasing experience.

4.2 Case Study in Europe

7. **Sikalindi, Italy Website:** <https://sikalindicom/>

Based in the Salento region of Puglia, Sikalindi demonstrates green excellence by transforming plant fibers derived from prickly pear leaves into an eco-friendly, biodegradable, and vegan biomaterial for fashion. This circular economy practice actively adds value to a local agricultural byproduct, significantly reducing environmental impact by completely avoiding synthetic chemicals while preserving the natural qualities of the raw material. Entrepreneurially, the company operates a highly efficient short supply chain that directly integrates Salento farmers into the sourcing process. Its management heavily prioritizes research and development to ensure strict regulatory compliance, validate material quality, and promote artisanal excellence in design. Digitally, Sikalindi effectively utilizes its own online platform as a global commercial showcase, acting as a digital catalog to communicate the unique properties of its materials and its agricultural supply chain to international markets.

8. **Orange Fiber, Italy Website:** <https://orangefiber.it/it/>

Founded by Enrica Arena and Adriana Santanocito and based in Catania, Sicily, Orange Fiber is an innovative company that operates at the forefront of sustainable fashion by transforming agricultural byproducts into premium textiles. From an entrepreneurial perspective, the company has built a highly scalable business model that bridges the gap between the local food industry and luxury fashion, supplying high-quality sustainable fabrics to the global market. At the heart of its green operations is a pioneering circular economy process that converts tons of wet citrus waste—residues that would otherwise be destined for costly disposal—into noble cellulose suitable for spinning yarns. This advanced biochemical process drastically reduces the environmental footprint of garment production compared to traditional fibers, completely avoiding the extraction of new virgin raw materials and promoting a regenerative, zero-waste philosophy. On the innovation and digital front, Orange Fiber leverages its online platform and digital communications to

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

showcase its patented biomaterial to a global audience, seamlessly connecting local Sicilian agricultural heritage with international conscious luxury brands.



9. HUMANA ECOPRINT, Spain Website: <https://www.humanaecoprint.es/>

Led by Mar Rodríguez, HUMANA ECOPRINT is a Spanish eco-fashion and textile project that sits at the intersection of natural dyeing techniques, sustainable craftsmanship, and local production. From a green perspective, the initiative specializes in ecoprinting—a zero-waste, chemical-free technique that uses botanical elements such as leaves, plants, flowers, and natural extracts to create unique prints and colors directly on organic and natural textiles. This eco-friendly process eliminates the water pollution and toxic effluents associated with synthetic dyes while preserving the natural qualities of the fibers. Entrepreneurially, HUMANA ECOPRINT operates a slow-fashion business model that values craftsmanship, promoting responsible consumption and proving that high-aesthetic textile design can be achieved without compromising environmental ethics.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

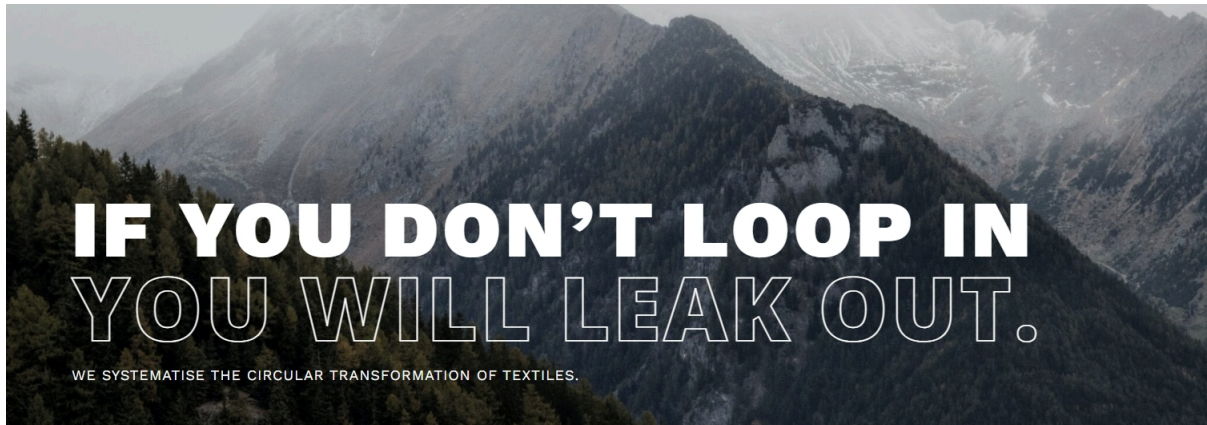


On the digital front, the project utilizes its online presence and social media channels to document its botanical extraction processes, connect with conscious consumers, and share educational content on sustainable textile practices and environmental awareness.

10. T-Neutral, Spain Website: <https://t-neutral.com/>

Founded by Carlota Gramunt and headquartered in the Community of Madrid, T-Neutral is an innovative biotech and tech-driven company specializing in circular economy solutions for the textile sector. From a green perspective, the firm accelerates the transition toward a zero-waste textile ecosystem by focusing on advanced material characterization and high-efficiency textile recycling techniques, helping brands significantly reduce their environmental footprint. Entrepreneurially, T-Neutral bridges the gap between scientific research and industrial application, creating strategic value by empowering textile manufacturers and fashion brands to achieve authentic circularity and comply with strict European sustainability directives.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.



On the digital and technological front, the company develops cutting-edge traceability software and scientific tools that map and verify textile waste streams, providing complete data-driven transparency across the value chain to transform post-consumer and post-industrial waste into valuable secondary resources.

11. Our Shift, Denmark

Website: <https://ourshiftbrand.com/>

Founded by Milan Flíček and Barbora Surá and based in Copenhagen, Zealand, Our Shift is an activist circular fashion brand and design hub focused on upcycling high-resistance post-consumer waste. From a green perspective, the brand specializes in collecting abandoned tents from large-scale events, such as the Roskilde Festival, and transforming them into contemporary urban streetwear. This process gives a second life to materials with high mechanical resistance that would otherwise end up in landfills. On the digital and technological front, the company heavily focuses on the development and scalability of material data passport software, which is directly complemented by its patented "Firepiping" method—a semi-industrial, automated 3D pattern-making technique that integrates deadstock into new silhouettes without destroying the underlying textile base. Entrepreneurially, Our Shift operates a hybrid business model that combines direct apparel sales with corporate circular transition consulting.

STREET STYLE FROM UPCYCLED TENTS

We transform discarded tents and textiles into high-quality contemporary designs for a sustainable future



They actively promote process transparency and empower SMEs and end-consumers through extended producer responsibility frameworks and interactive textile repair workshops.

12. Global Fashion Agenda (GFA), Denmark

Website: <https://globalfashionagenda.org/>

Founded by Eva Kruse and headquartered in Copenhagen, Zealand, Global Fashion Agenda (GFA) is a premier international non-profit organization that acts as a strategic forum for sustainability leaders across the global fashion industry. From a green perspective, GFA leads the charge toward a net-positive industry by designing global industrial roadmaps and guidelines—such as the Upstream Circularity Playbook—to incentivize deep decarbonization, the elimination of textile waste, and the large-scale transition to full circularity. Entrepreneurially, the organization fosters high-level international cooperation by publishing global performance frameworks like the GFA Monitor and organizing prestigious industry events like the Copenhagen Fashion Summit, driving systemic change and setting the strategic agenda for fashion brands, policymakers, and manufacturers worldwide.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.



A *net positive* FASHION INDUSTRY

Guided by the vision of a net-positive fashion industry by 2050, Global Fashion Agenda's mission is to accelerate transformation by mobilising, convening and influencing the fashion ecosystem. Our work focuses on advancing circularity, climate action, and decent work throughout the global value chain.

Our Impact

On the digital front, GFA spearheads initiatives focused on supply chain digitalization, enabling end-to-end material traceability and data integration to accelerate transparency and circular business models across global supply chains.

Funded by the European Union. The views expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the EACEA are responsible for them.

5. Conclusion

The mapping and analysis conducted within Task 2.1 mark a foundational milestone for the **FashionSKILLS4Better** project, establishing an empirical and contextual baseline for the sustainable fashion ecosystems across Latin America (Colombia, Argentina, and Uruguay) and Europe (Italy, Spain, and Denmark). By expanding the scope beyond initial European paradigms to encompass over 130 Latin American stakeholders, this report underscores the vital importance of a bidirectional learning exchange between the **Global South and the European Union**.

The findings demonstrate that sustainable fashion cannot be addressed through a single, standardized approach. Instead, the mapped ecosystems reveal distinct, highly complementary strengths across the project's three core pillars: **Green, Digital, and Entrepreneurial competencies**:

- **Green Competencies and Material Innovation:** while European actors often excel in industrial biotech solutions, circular waste regulations (such as EPR), and systemic circularity roadmaps (e.g., Denmark and Italy), Latin American actors bring transformative models rooted in ancestral knowledge, local fiber regeneration, and social-impact circularity.
- **Digital Integration:** across both regions, digital tools—ranging from Digital Product Passports (DPP) and blockchain traceability to transmedia storytelling—are increasingly deployed not for mass-market acceleration, but as essential vehicles for radical supply chain transparency, brand legitimacy, and cultural preservation.
- **Entrepreneurship & Purpose-Led Models:** the research reveals a resilient, highly collaborative ecosystem where traditional competitive logic is frequently replaced by social cooperatives, creative clusters, and cross-sector partnerships that prioritize community empowerment, fair trade, and rural inclusion alongside commercial viability.

As designed in the overarching project architecture, the data, taxonomies, and case studies compiled in this report serve a direct, preparatory role for the upcoming operational phases of FashionSKILLS4Better:

1. **Informing Educational Content (WP2 & WP3):** the practical indicators and best practices identified across all mapped organizations will directly feed into the development of the *FashionSKILLS4Better Online Course*. This ensures that the VET training modules for educators are grounded in real-world industry practices,

addressing authentic market needs across green, digital, and entrepreneurial domains.

2. **Activating the Living Fashion Labs (WP4):** the extensive database of mapped stakeholders—spanning brands, research labs, cooperatives, and VET centers—provides the exact ecosystem network needed to establish and activate the *Living Fashion Labs* in Argentina, Colombia, and Uruguay. These labs will serve as practical, collaborative hubs where the mapped practices can be tested, scaled, and locally adapted.

Ultimately, this mapping report confirms that the transition toward a truly sustainable, net-positive fashion industry requires combining cutting-edge technological innovation with **ancestral wisdom, robust governance, and social justice**. Through the continued implementation of its training courses and living labs, FashionSKILLS4Better is uniquely positioned to foster this global dialogue, empowering a new generation of fashion educators, creators, and entrepreneurs.