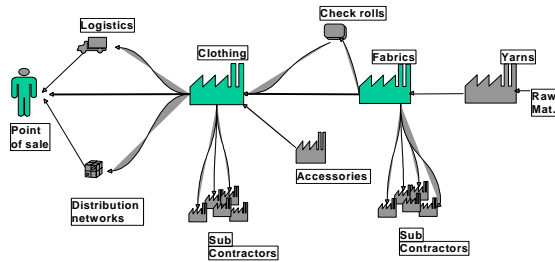


THE RATIONALE

The EU textile-clothing sector is a complex, elongated fibre-to-end-use supply chain, employing some 2.2 million persons in nearly 120 000 firms, which act on a strong cross-border basis from almost every country in the Union. It accounts for 7.6% of all industrial employment and 4.2% of the added value. Opposite to other industries, where integration is more and more pursued, **the Textile and Clothing sector has historically been fragmented**. Moreover, given its polymorph structure, the sector has witnessed the **blossoming of SMEs as significant players**.



The predominant pattern of integration has been shaped in the form of large retail chains with a global sourcing orientation. An increasingly important aspect of clothing companies' production strategies over recent years has been the widespread use of subcontracting. Subcontractors can be located in the same region, in other EU countries as well as in neighbouring or other countries (outward processing).

The competitive advantages arising from innovation, creativity, quality and know-how give the industry the potential to be a leader on international open markets. However, as a result of their small-to-medium size, most companies are struggling to launch major investments. Technology has consequently proved an important barrier for this industrial system

The Tex-Spin Workshop

eCommerce will only really be useful for business-to-business transactions where there is the right degree of consensus between the companies and industries on issues such as product description or the order/payment, etc. processes to be used. Without this, there is too much of a risk of one company's computers not understanding data sent by those of its trading partners. CEN/ISSS has been a pioneer in helping sectors of economic activity to reach consensus, through its ECOM-IS programme, in which pilot implementations are linked to open Workshops that discuss and validate the results.

The **Tex-Spin Workshop** is based on the contribution, in terms of technologies, experience and know-how, from **the parallel project Tex-Spin** (upgraded EDITEX messages conforming EANCOM and pilot XML/EDI experiences based on new XML messages, promoted by Euratex) and from two projects realized in:

- ❖ Italy (**MODA-ML**, upstream part of the supply chain, European IST funding)
- ❖ and in France (**ETEXML**, downstream part of the supply chain, nationally funded). The aim is to begin to define a common framework for the whole T/C sector.

The **results** of the **TEX-SPIN project** will be validated within the TEX.SPIN CEN/ISSS Workshop and they will be published as tentative **CEN Workshop Agreements (CWAs)**.

The tentative Workshop Agreements will form the basis for the further development for the new XML/EDITEX framework.

The Tex-Spin Project

TEX.SPIN ISSS is an integral part of an ambitious strategic project, which has been designed and planned by Euratex (The European Apparel and Textiles Association). TEX.SPIN stands for Textile Supply Chain Integrated Network and has the ultimate objective of providing the complete framework for the integration of the European Textile-Clothing-Distribution (TCD) chain. Indispensable pre-requisites for the efficient integration of such a complex chain are:

- ❖ The development of new and the upgrade of existing sector-specific standards for the uninterrupted flow of e-business data across the chain.
- ❖ The migration to emerging tools and standards offering data access flexibility, openness, ease of use, low cost (XML/EDI, ebXML).
- ❖ The raising of awareness, especially among SMEs, who dominate this supply chain, on the business benefits offered by eB and electronic documents exchange.

The specific technical objectives of the proposed project, are therefore:

- to upgrade the EDITEX framework (EDIFACT textile sector specific subset) to conform with the EANCOM framework. This will facilitate coherent supply chain management. To maintain and enhance the EDITEX framework with the addition of product codification and User profile
- to develop an XML/EDI pilot application. This pilot will form the core of the following services which will be offered by EDITEX Europe to interested TCD companies:



- i. Guidelines on how to set-up a web EDI
 - ii. An Open Demonstrator, which will simulate the running processes of Web EDI, *based on real cases of commercial document exchanges.*
 - iii. Downloading of e-forms in XML/EDI formats for experimentation
- to develop an inventory of standards (web linked database), specifically addressing the e-business needs of the TCD sectors, focusing on sector-specific developments, as well as developments of general interest, such as eb-XML.

Links to the XML/EDI (EDITEX) pilot and the inventory of standards will be established and will be accessible through all partners web-sites.

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TEX-SPIN Project and Workshop

Textile Supply Chain Integrated Network

(Information Systems Standards: Upgraded EDITEX Framework, Migration to XML)



Project Website:
www.atc.gr/texspin

Project Workshop:
www.uninfo.polito.it/WS_TEX-SPIN/

