

Fiber4Fiber – A New partnership towards an old, but improved, solution

In recent years the European industry is facing a challenge: increasing its production towards self-sustainability. And if it's true that COVID-19 pandemic was one of the triggers to this challenge, increasing local production is also key for achieving sustainable production goals. Globalising production value-chains has been promoted due to economy of scale and higher production cost efficiencies, but transporting raw materials and commodities throughout the globe can be ineffective in terms of a full Life Cycle Assessment. This is even more important if one is dealing with high throughput industries, as is the case of the textile sector.

The **Fiber4Fiber** project, a consortium of three Portuguese entities, is a response to the self-sustainability challenge that brings together two key industries in Portugal. Portugal is a European reference for the textile industry as well as a reference for the Pulping sector, namely dissolving wood pulp from *Eucalyptus globulus* wood. Currently, the dissolving wood pulp is mainly exported outside Europe where it's transformed into man-made cellulosic fibres (MMCF), and the textile industry is importing these fibres and yarns back to Portugal. Altri, a leading Portuguese eucalyptus pulp producer and one of the most efficient European producers, together with CeNTI, a multi-sectoral R&D institution in the fields of smart and functional materials, and CITEVE, a Technological Institute providing technical support and services to companies acting in the textile & clothing business, are working to strengthen the knowledge on the production of dissolving wood pulp optimised for high quality man-made cellulosic fibres. Under **Fiber4Fiber** improved pulp fibres and new MMCF will be developed, boosting the Portuguese industrial and scientific community knowledge on MMCF production, and paving the way to future developments towards the industrial production of improved MMCF.

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