

2018 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline April 15th for registration and April 30th for completion of compiled assessments.



If you are a business or enterprise large or small – even individuals may apply – in any way connected with design, production, and distribution in the Textile and Clothing (T&C) sector, the TCBL Project invites you to apply to become an Associate Enterprise through the third Call for Application opening March 15th, 2018.¹ If your Application qualifies, you and your company will become one of the prominent members of a growing global movement aiming to transform the T&C industry into a more inclusive, and sustainable production ecosystem in Europe.

The TCBL Project (www.tcbl.eu)

TCBL is a major EU funded project that aims to transform the T&C industry and bring production capacity back to Europe, by applying new business models that support local design and production, adopt best of breed technology advances and reduce the T&C sector's impact on the environment.

WHAT'S ON OFFER

As an Associate Enterprise your business will interact with TCBL Business Labs' explorations of inspiring and stimulating ideas for business model innovation, participating with other Associate Enterprises in the experimental settings of the Business Pilots, designed to lower the risk of innovation. You'll also have privileged access to the increasing set of Business Services linking up to the TCBL Open Platform.

Your business will be assigned to one of the TCBL Associate Advisors, who will help you navigate among the network of

Labs, Enterprises and Services to take advantage of the best resources and opportunities. In addition, the

Benefits of participation

As a TCBL Associate Enterprise, your company will:

- Join a business community of innovating enterprises, all under the TCBL label.
- Become part of a closed user group that will test innovative value chains and approaches to the revitalisation of the T&C sector.
- Work together with TCBL partners to co-design innovation services best fit for business like yours.

¹ This is the third of four annual Calls for Associate Enterprises planned for the TCBL project until 2019. You can download the questionnaire and get further information at <https://tcbl.eu/call-associate-enterprises>

majority of TCBL project partners also offer business support and training services as a part of their normal activities.

Participation as an Associate Enterprise in the TCBL ecosystem is free of charge and implies no formal obligation to the TCBL project consortium nor to the European Commission. This is the third of four annual Calls planned for the TCBL project until 2019. The results of business interactions of Associate Enterprises selected in the first to Calls TCBL ecosystem are already visible on the TCBL website and publications and in testimonies at the yearly #TCBL conferences.

The Associate Enterprises most actively participating in TCBL innovation activities will be those who, together with TCBL consortium partners, take over the governance of the TCBL business ecosystem, co-design its services, and evaluate future Calls as TCBL looks beyond the start-up phase of EU funding from mid-2019 onwards.

HOW TO APPLY

Differently from previous Calls, this year's application process will be managed on the Thela supply chain management platform. Here, you compile a self-assessment of your business and practice that TCBL Controllers will check for veracity. If you meet the required criteria, you automatically qualify as a TCBL Associate Enterprise.

To apply, you must first sign up to TCBL (use Login on <https://tcbl.eu/> and then Sign up!) if you haven't done so already. You then go to <https://tcbl.eu/call-associate-enterprises> and click "Apply". This takes you to a Signup page, which then sends you directly to your Assessment on Thela. To return at a later stage, simply go to the Thela homepage at <https://thela.cleviria.it/> make sure you "Login with TCBL", and then select "Compiling" on your home page.

Beyond general company information, the Assessment consists of three sections corresponding to the main criteria for qualification.

- **Relevance:** how your experience in the T&C sector makes you fit for the role of Associate Enterprise
- **Added value:** how you plan to participate in the innovation activities in the TCBL ecosystem (see box).
- **Coherence:** how you and your activities align with the seven TCBL Principles (see box)

Once you have completed your application, click Complete and you can immediately see whether your responses can qualify: you need either Fair (yellow) or Green (good). Three TCBL Controllers check your Assessment and either accept as compiled or invite you to provide further information, modify responses, etc. There is no set limit for the number of Associate Enterprises to take on board.

TCBL Principles

Curiosity: learning and innovation for relevant issues.

Viability: business value, alignment with market trends.

Durability: sustainable design, environmental commitment.

Multiplicity: inter-disciplinary approach to capturing diversity.

Openness: open innovation, resource sharing, transparency

Respect: authorship, IPR, privacy and business information policies, respect for social well-being

Responsibility: availability of resources, timeliness, quality

Innovation activities in the TCBL ecosystem

Business Cases: for alternative industrial models.

- Natural Cotton: rebuilding value chains
- Eco-Production: reducing environmental impact
- Short runs: services for sustainable fashion
- Independents: empowering and networking
- BioShades: bacteria based dyeing
- Digital heritage: digitising T&C archives

Lab Projects: exploring new potentials

- FabricAcademy: open learning for innovation
- TCBL Trends: abstracts relevant to TCBL
- Open Source Fashion: on-line designs
- Waste not: Circular Economy practices
- TCBL Café: upgrading local skills bases
- Workplace of the Future: team assembly
- TCBL Hack addressing business concerns

Business Services: innovative platforms.

- Thela: supply chain management service
- Sqetch: brand-producer matchmaking
- Wave: open innovation idea development
- Sourcebook: one-stop digital networking
- RemoKey: tracking recycled cotton
- Reverse Resources: leftovers marketplace
- Provenance: blockchain for transparency
- LITA.co: impact investing for sustainability

PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The control process for completed Assessments will continue until mid-May. Qualifying applicants will be invited to participate in the third annual #TCBL_2018 conference in Prato, Italy, on May 29-30.

Four exemplary Associate Enterprises from the 2018 Call will be selected by the Conference organizing committee as invited speakers (with reimbursement of travel expenses). On that occasion, the full results of the 2017 Call will be publicly announced. A full report on the third Call procedure and outcomes will be published end June, 2018.

Responsible for the TCBL Call procedures: Paolo Guarnieri, tcbl@comune.prato.it.