

**The European Interreg NWE HEMP4CIRCULARITY project – *Hemp as a driver of circularity in the textile industry: from field to recycled fibre* – has been approved. It involves developing long hemp fibres on an industrial scale, from field to fashion and recycling, to launch a local, circular textile hemp industry.**

The NWE Programme approved the three-year project **HEMP4CIRCULARITY** on March 23, 2023. The aim of this project is to incorporate long fibre hemp textile into the European textile value chain on an industrial scale. With a budget of 3.8 million euros, it relies on all components in the textile hemp and fibre flax processing chain, from growing to fabric production and recycling, as part of a circular economy.

HEMP4CIRCULARITY is an unprecedented initiative which:

- is laying the foundation for a growing industry full of potential
- aims to boost the circular economy in textiles
- and to amplify growth and the independence of industry in North-Western Europe

The value chain for long fibre hemp complements the flax fibre value chain, in which Western Europe is the top global producer. This is taking place against a backdrop of textile reindustrialization, once again possible for local plant fibres.

**HEMP4CIRCULARITY :**

- Experimental pilots will be launched at each stage of production: field experiments, harvest mechanization, agricultural data generation, fibre/yarn/fabric/knits processing, finished products, and recycling solutions.
- A module for targeted dissemination, including awareness-raising and dedicated training at workshops and conferences, will be employed throughout the 3-year period. The goal of communications targeting stakeholders and external audiences is to share practical, fact-based information about European textile hemp with brands and end users.
- The project aims to provide answers and solutions:
  - to farmers, who can include a profitable crop with a positive impact and based on measured data in crop rotations
  - to players in the hemp industry, thanks to an additional market
  - to players in the flax-linen industry, thanks to an additional fibre
  - to the textile industry, since brands need natural, traceable, local, and sustainable raw materials
  - to consumers seeking information about natural fibres

**HEMP4CIRCULARITY** benefits from knowledge sharing and a diversity of expertise thanks to the transnational cooperation of industry and representative organizations from 4 North-western European countries.

**HEMP4CIRCULARITY**, an initiative and cooperative program spearheaded by VALBIOM (Gembloux -Belgium).

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**11 multidisciplinary and complementary partners committed to a common goal: creating 1 local circular hemp industry.**

**Belgium:**

- HOGENT University for applied science and the arts, the FTILab+ textile and clothing research centre, and the AgroFoodNature agronomy research centre
- HYLER, harvester manufacturer.
- INAGRO, a centre for agronomy research
- LIBECO, linen weaver
- VALBIOM, an association of sustainable solutions in a biobased economy

**France:**

- ALLIANCE FOR EUROPEAN FLAX-LINEN & HEMP, the European agro-industrial organization
- LIN ET CHANVRE BIO, French association
- SAFILIN, dry and wet flax-linen spinner

**Nederland:**

- DELPHY, agricultural research and consulting, agricultural data digitization
- VAN DE BILT, seed selector and producer, flax scutching and hackling

**Germany:**

- NATUVALIS, decortication facility

**5 associated partners round out the initiative**

- BAFA, a German hemp decorticator
- BIOECONOMY FOR CHANGE, French competitiveness cluster
- EIHA, a European Industrial Hemp Association, Belgium
- ETP, European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing, Belgium
- HEMPAGE, German fashion brand

**ABOUT HEMP4CIRCULARITY:**

- Interreg North-West Europe Programme
- 2023-26 - March 23, 2023 - March 22, 2026
- Approved on March 23, 2023
- Budget: 3.8 million euros
- Financing:
  - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) : 60%
  - Up to 30% co-financing from Regions
    - Normandy, France (for LIN ET CHANVRE BIO)
    - Wallonia, Belgium (for VALBIOM)
    - TBC: West Flanders and East Flanders for INAGRO, HYLER and HOGENT



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About VALBIOM. As a specialist in the biobased economy over the last 20 years, Wallonia-based Valbiom supports territories, municipalities, the services of Wallonia, project developers, and industry. Valbiom draws on cutting-edge scientific, technical, and economic skills to provide a tailored response and professional service. Thanks to its expertise in biobased materials and bioenergy, it is propelling the economy of Wallonia towards local and sustainable renewable solutions. As part of its public missions, Valbiom acts as a regional driver of the transition to a biobased economy. [www.valbiom.be](http://www.valbiom.be)