



Past - Present - Future



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## 'Textiles thought differently' - Preparation of school initiatives promoting Industrial Culture

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T3.3.1



RP 3



PP1, District of Zwickau



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## 1. Project Context

InduCult2.0 defines the idea of *living industrial culture* in central Europe. It aims to reveal, strengthen and utilize the unique cultural character of industrial regions. This project does not only deal with the preservation and utilization of cultural heritage, but it brings together past, present, future and creative assets in an innovative work package. Thus, museums, schools, companies and creative communities work together to create a successful cooperation. This is the key for *living industrial culture* as a vivid concept that reflects current transformations of industrial economy and shapes cultural perceptions of the regions.

In order to achieve these objectives, the project has a budget of 3 million euros. The ten participating partners, located in different countries in Central Europe, establish a concept with their stakeholders to realize the full potential of Industrial Culture in their regions.

These participating partners are in eight regions of Europe: Germany, Poland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Austria, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy.

Work Package T3 tests the concept of Industrial Culture in its contextual capability to secure labour force and bind companies: On the one hand, focus is placed on raising interest of youth in industry by embedding cultural issues and work options in a regional story of industrial evolution. On the other hand, work force and companies are directly addressed.

In T3.3.1 an innovative school initiative for the Museum of Textiles and Motorsports Hohenstein-Ernstthal is prepared to promote the attractive cultural/historic dimension of industrial work, joining an industrial museum, regional companies and schools.

## 2. Introduction

From 28<sup>th</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017 the Museum of Textiles and Motorsports Hohenstein-Ernstthal displayed a special exhibition on 'Technology in Textiles'. This exhibition was developed by InduCult2.0 in connection with WP T2.5.3 and T2.5.4. In a tangible way the exhibition implemented the aims of InduCult2.0: its objects and overall concept reflected the past, the present and the future of the textile industry of Hohenstein-Ernstthal.



At the opening of the special exhibition, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (author: Gina Zimmermann).

Technical textiles today are part of high-performance materials. Especially in motorsports technical textiles were used, and they still are; for example in racing cars in form of fiberglass-/carbon fibre reinforced plastic. Saxony, specifically the region of Chemnitz-Zwickau, is a centre of this innovative branch of industry. The special exhibition displays a cross section of science, development and production.

The museum educational programme 'Textiles thought differently' is based on the results of this exhibition. The programme promotes the past, the present and the future of the textile industry of Hohenstein-Ernstthal targeting pupils and teachers. This school initiative is supported by InduCult2.0 under T3.3.1 and T3.3.2 to raise interest of youth in industrial culture and work options.

### 3. Objective

The Museum of Textiles and Motorsports understands itself as an extracurricular place for learning and wants to expand the cooperation with schools and companies in the future. The museum educational programme 'Textiles thought differently' allows informal learning and enhances learning competences. It also increases the interest on the subject museum and museums' contents.

The museum educational programme aims at the collaboration with secondary schools and vocational training schools. The special exhibition 'Technology in Textiles' provides a good opportunity for that because it focuses on the development of textiles and their deployment in machine and automotive engineering, motorsports, medicine and environment engineering in history and present. The museum educational programme is developed in that way that it connects these topics to the life and interests of teenagers and young adults.

The title 'Textiles thought differently' is meant to raise interest both in the teachers and the pupils and to encourage perceiving the topic 'textiles' from a different, innovative perspective.

By visiting the special exhibition and by working in the exhibition space the pupils learn about the past textile industry at Hohenstein-Ernstthal and connect this gained knowledge to what has become of this industry in the present. They also learn practical job-related information on which firms are in the area, where they can apply for an apprenticeship or job after they finish school.

### 4. Structure

The museum educational programme 'Textiles thought differently' is structured in three phases: a short tour through the special exhibition, working in groups, presentation of the results; estimated duration is two hours. The subject 'textiles' is the all connecting element. Supported by a staff member of the museum educational department the pupils work on the subjects in groups on their own and afterwards they present their results.

A 10 to 15 min tour through the exhibition provides the pupils with an overview of the main parts of the exhibition, the concept of the exhibition, and a few of the most important exhibition objects e.g. by using the example of glasfibre.

After the short tour the pupils can choose one of the following groups: 'Team History', 'Team Science', 'Team Safety' and 'Team Art'. The names of the groups are derived from motorsports where different teams are competing with each other to win the race. The group's name also reflects the thematic content of each group. For example, 'Team History' works on the historical development of technical textiles and their deployment in motorsports, whereas 'Team Safety' is concerned with the deployment of such textiles in the field of safety answering questions like 'What is the difference between the protective clothing of a car driver and a motorcyclist?' or 'What is the safety cell of a racing car made of and how does it work?'

As a guideline the pupils are handed out separately prepared work sheets with a specific catalogue of questions (see annex). The questions operate as an orientation through the topic, they do not

need to be answered as a whole. The teams pick out what they are interested in and they decide what they want to teach their peers and how.

Each group also gets an exhibition object fitting to its subject. With this object the pupils can do their research and experiments: What is the object exactly? What is it made of? What is its purpose? Etc. In doing that, one object or one specific topic of the exhibition can be analyzed from different angles: For example, the object 'MT77', a racing car from the times of the GDR with a 'Malimo'-logo of the former VEB Malitex Hohenstein-Ernstthal, can be questioned on the background of its development/its use/its success/etc by 'Team History'; on its construction regarding the aspect of driver safety by 'Team Safety'; on the aspect of innovative materials by 'Team Science'; and on its design by 'Team Art'.

The group work takes about 45 to 60 min and it is followed by a 15 min break where the pupils can take a rest or prepare the presentation.

After the break each group presents the results of its work. This can take place in the museum educational room, which provides the common technical devices, or somewhere else in the museum, e.g. in the exhibition space. The presentations follow the method of Science Slam: there is no set structure, the pupils can be as creative as they want. They can present their results traditionally by using paper and pen on the flip chart or modernly by using a beamer presentation or by using the performative arts.

The only restriction is to keep the duration of the presentation down to 5 to 10 min and to break the relevant information down in an interesting way with the means provided. The presentation of the results is moderated by the staff member of the museum educational department. At the end the other pupils decide which presentation, or 'performance', is the best and declare the winner.

## 5. Results

The museum educational programme 'Textiles thought differently' wants to show that there is more to textiles than just regular clothing. It gives an insight into the exciting and innovative world of technical textiles. It also considers the use of technical textiles and their influence on functionality and safety in motorsports. The programme shows innovative products and developments, partly with a regional focus, and it allows analyzing them creatively.

By using different methods the pupils learn about interdisciplinary aspects of history, technology, economy, science, sports and arts. The concept of the museum educational programme takes into consideration content, layout and space of the special exhibition as well as the specific curriculums and interests of the different grades of school. The main aim of the programme is to foster creativity, learning and fun.

## 6. Evaluation/transnational added value

The museum educational programme 'Textiles thought differently' was conducted during the 'days of industrial culture Chemnitz' from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017, to which the Museum of Textiles and Motorsports was an important contributor.

Apart from this the programme has not been set into action yet. The programme is ready to start, as the concept is developed, the materials are prepared, a flyer with all the relevant information has been printed (see annex), and 35 grammar schools, secondary schools and vocational training schools in the District of Zwickau, neighbouring local communities of the District of the Ore Mountains and the city of Chemnitz have been invited to use the programme. Until now, the resonance for booking is low.

## 7. Outlook and sustainability

For mid-2018 it is planned to include the special exhibition 'Technology in Textiles' into the permanent exhibition of the Museum for Textiles and Motorsports Hohenstein-Ernstthal. Because the

subject of technological textiles is highly relevant for the museum this section of the exhibition is going to be expanded next year. The museum educational programme 'Textiles thought differently' is going to be used as the basis for the museum educational programme for this new section of the museum.

Although the museum educational programme 'Textiles thought differently' has not been put into action yet the directorship of the Museum for Textiles and Motorsports is convinced of its relevance and importance. The programme will be developed further and included into a future museum educational programme. So 'Textiles thought differently' will be available for future bookings.

## 8. Annexes incl. picture documentation

Example work sheet for 'Team History' (file name: PP1\_English Summary\_T3.3.1\_annex\_Work Sheet Team History)

Flyer of the special exhibition 'Technology in Textiles' (file name: PP1\_English Summary\_T3.3.1\_annex\_Flyer special exhibition)