# National Verification Report

## NEEDS VALIDATION IN [ROMANIA]

Deliverable: PR1/T1.1.2



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## REVISION HISTORY

| Version | Date | Author | Description | Action | Pages |
|---------|------|--------|-------------|--------|-------|
| 1.0 | 25/7/2022 | ATERMON | Creation | C | 4 |
| 1.1 | 24/08/2022 | TUIASI | Fill the document | I | 19 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

(*) Action: C = Creation, I = Insert, U = Update, R = Replace, D = Delete

## REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

| ID | Reference | | Title |
|----|-----------|--|-------|
| 1 | 2021-1-EL01-KA220-VET-000034695 | | AR4RECLOTHING Proposal |
| 2 | PR1 / T1.1.1 | | National Research Report |

## APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

| ID | Reference | | Title |
|----|-----------|--|-------|
| 1 |  | |  |
| 2 |  | |  |

# Contents

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Scope of the project

Research has depicted the linkage between environment-oriented activities and gender disparities. In fact, gender equality matters to environmental sustainability with women performing two thirds of global working hours and being more dependent on natural resources in comparison with men (Irish Aid, 2013). However, the agenda promoting the importance of gender equality for the ecosystem still remains unfinished despite all the initiatives taken towards the establishment of eco-friendly activities (UN women, 2014). Therefore, while there is still a high level of gender inequality, women act as half of the world's resource managers, making their role crucial towards safeguarding the environment (Global Environment Facility, 2018). With clothing upcycling being the new trend for green fashion, there has been no concrete initiative promoting women's active participation in upcycling practices, despite EU's endeavor towards environmental sustainability. Therefore, the need for VET trainers and textile professionals (manufacturers, designers, colorists, etc.) to engage in an open dialogue in order to support gender-based training towards buckling down environmental challenges through clothing upcycling activities constitutes a brand new initiative in alignment with EU goals for resource efficiency (Europe 2020 Strategy).

## 1.2 Purpose of the document

The objective of the present report is to present the results of the needs verification analysis performed with representatives of the target group at national level. The organization involved 37 participants from the project target audience in order to validate the needs conceived during the thorough desk research conducted both at pre-application level and as part of the project activities. Therefore, the current report collects the results of the needs verification questionnaire addressed to textile manufacturers/students/professionals/NGOs for gender equality and/or environmental sustainability and other stakeholders. The aim is to receive valuable feedback towards developing training materials tailored to the current state of play and the actual needs in the field of textile upcycling and environmental consciousness.

## 1.3 Project target groups

The target groups addressed and affected by this research are:
➢ Directly:
▪ Textile professionals (manufacturers, designers, colorists, stylists, converters, etc.) interested in or already taking initiatives towards environmental sustainability
▪ VET & Textile experts willing to actively participate in an open dialogue about green methods that establish the importance of gender equality for the ecosystem

- HEI with Textile departments

➢ Indirectly:
  - VET training organizations
  - Public bodies
  - NGOs or other organizations/authorities taking initiatives towards renewable resources and energy efficiency
  - AR developers or developers/organizations willing to embrace innovative digital solutions for sustainable training purposes and enhanced learning experiences
  - Policy makers

# 2. Methodology

## 2.1 Needs Verification Questionnaire

The questionnaire distributed either through online surveys or in a printed format was the following:

### 1. Introduction

Hello future AR4Recloth-ers!

Our team has conducted extended research in Romania, Greece, Poland, Spain, Latvia and the Netherlands to map the needs at national level in green practices, gender equality and clothing upcycling!

This questionnaire aims to receive your input in order to establish that our findings are valid! Our goal is to create personalized training materials and tools tailored to your own needs!

*Will you help us?*

It will only take you **10 minutes** and all information will be kept confidential and will be used ONLY for the purposes of the project!

Thank you in advance for your time!

### 2. Questions

*2.1 Demographic Data*

2.1.1 What is your gender?
  - ☐ Female

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Agender
- ☐ Bigender
- ☐ Nonbinary
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2.1.2 What is your level of education?

- ☐ None
- ☐ High School
- ☐ College / Vocational education
- ☐ Bachelor
- ☐ Master
- ☐ Ph.D

2.1.3 What is your current occupation?

- ☐ I am a student in Textile/Clothing Manufaturing
- ☐ I am a student in Social/Humanitary/Gender studies
- ☐ I am a student in Environmental studies
- ☐ I have just finished my studies and looking for a job
- ☐ I work in the textile manufacturing industry
- ☐ I work for the protection of the environment
- ☐ I work for societal issues (incl. Gender equality)
- ☐ I am currently unemployed
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other

### *2.2 Level of awareness*

Regarding your knowledge about eco-sustainable practices, please answer to the following questions:

2.2.1   Have you heard of any actions *initiated by women* towards environmental sustainability?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

2.2.1.a If yes, please shortly describe them below

_____

Regarding your knowledge about green practices, please answer to the following questions:

2.2.2   Have you heard of any environmental actions in the textile industry?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

2.2.2.a If yes, please shortly describe them below

_____

_____

2.2.3   What is your level of awareness in relation to the following practices/concepts? (1=not aware at all, 5=fully aware)

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.2.3.a Circular clothing for sustainability |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.b Circular material use |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.c Sustainable Design |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.d Digital solutions for sustainable innovations |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.e Awareness-raising campaigns for clothing recycling |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.f Awareness-raising actions for responsible textile consumption |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.g Sustainable business models |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.h Sustainability in fashion industry |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.i Women participation in the protection of the environment |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.3.j Gender-based training/learning methods |  |  |  |  |  |

### *2.3 Level of skills*

2.3.1   What is your level of skills regarding the following? (1=lowest level, 5=highest level)

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.3.1.a Creativity |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.b Teamwork |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.c Understanding of the work to be done |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.d Problem-solving |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.e Planning |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.f Communication |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.g Public speaking |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.h Attention to detail |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.i Self-motivation |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.j Leadership |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.3.1.k Negotiation |  |  |  |  |  |

## 2.4 Experience

2.4.1   Have you received any kind of training about environmental sustainability?

☐   Yes
☐   No

2.4.1.a If yes, please shortly describe them below

_____
_____


2.4.2   Have you received any kind of training about gender equality?

☐   Yes
☐   No

2.4.2.a If yes, please shortly describe them below

_____
_____


2.4.3   Have you received any kind of training about textile upcycling?

☐   Yes
☐   No

2.4.3.a If yes, please shortly describe them below

_____
_____


## 2.5 Interest

2.5.1   Do you like the idea of AR4Recloting?

☐   Yes
☐   No
☐   Not sure

2.5.1.a If no, please shortly explain below

_____
_____

2.5.2  Are you interested in further participating in AR4Recloting activities?

- ☐  Yes
- ☐  No
- ☐  Not sure

2.5.2.a If no, please shortly explain below

_____

_____

*Thank you so much for your time!*

You can learn more about our news here: http://ar4reclothing.erasmusplus.website/
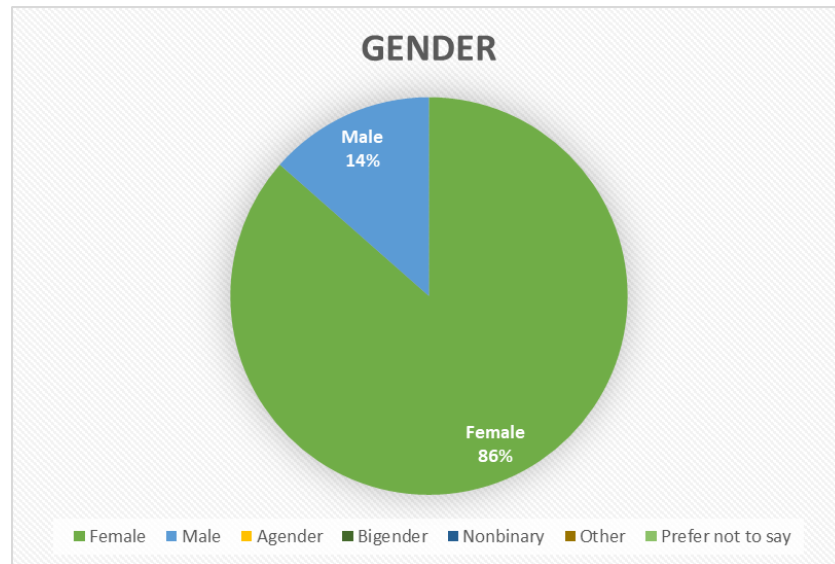
# 3.   Results

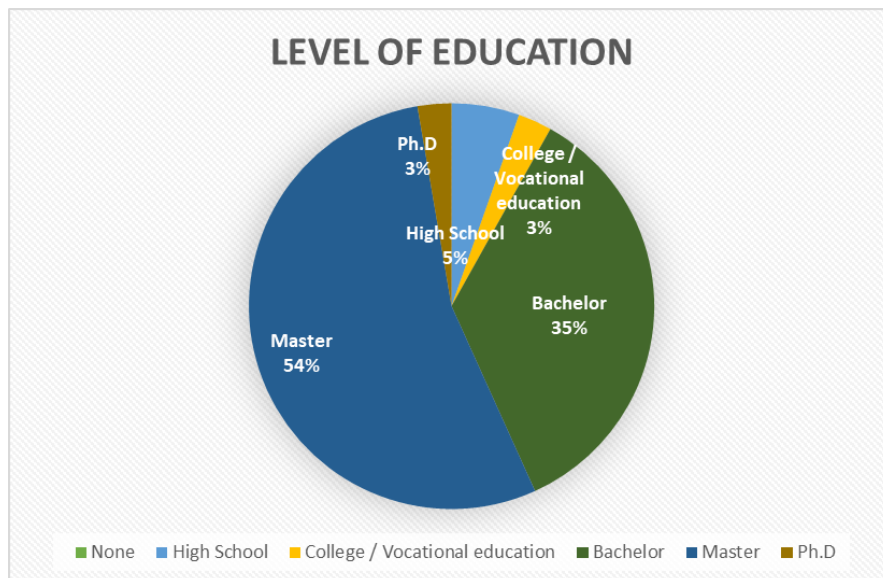## 3.1   Demographic data

### 3.1.1 Gender



*Graph 1. Gender of participants*

### 3.1.2 Level of education



*Graph 2. Educational level of participants*

### 3.1.3 Current occupation



**CURRENT OCCUPATION**

Other
20%

I am currently unemployed
3%

I am a student in Textile/Clothing Manufaturing
35%

I work in the textile manufacturing industry
42%

- I am a student in Textile/Clothing Manufaturing
- I am a student in Social/Humanitary/Gender studies
- I am a student in Environmental studies
- I have just finished my studies and looking for a job
- I work in the textile manufacturing industry
- I work for the protection of the environment
- I work for societal issues (incl. Gender equality)
- I am currently unemployed
- I prefer not to say
- Other

*Graph 3. Current occupation of participants*

Note: The number of responses is greater than the number of respondents because some Master's students work in the textile sector.
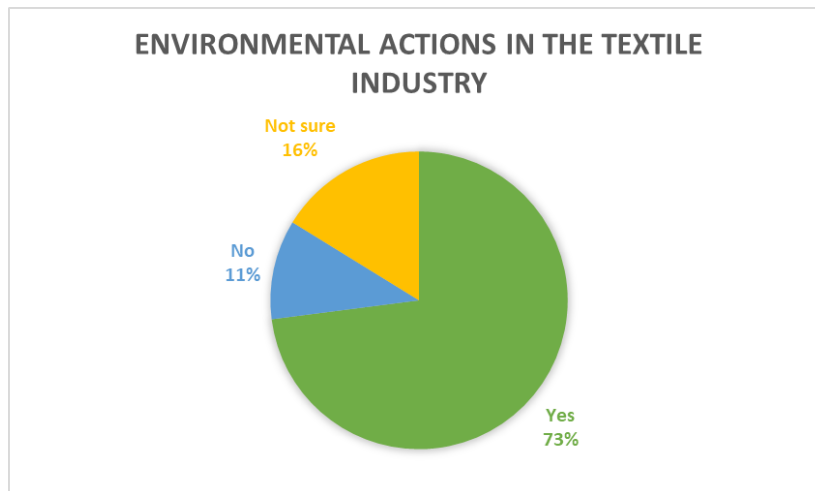
## 3.2 Level of awareness

### 3.2.1 Knowledge of existing eco-sustainability actions by women

ACTIONS BY WOMEN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Not sure
38%

Yes
43%

No
19%
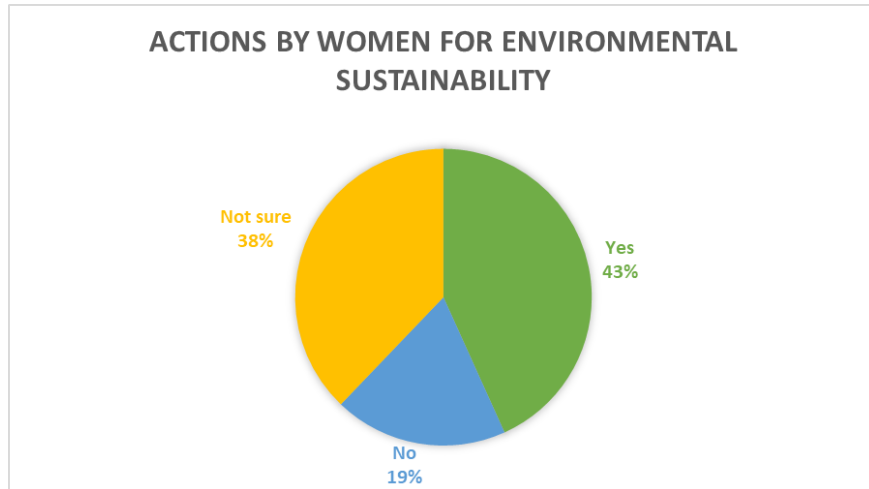
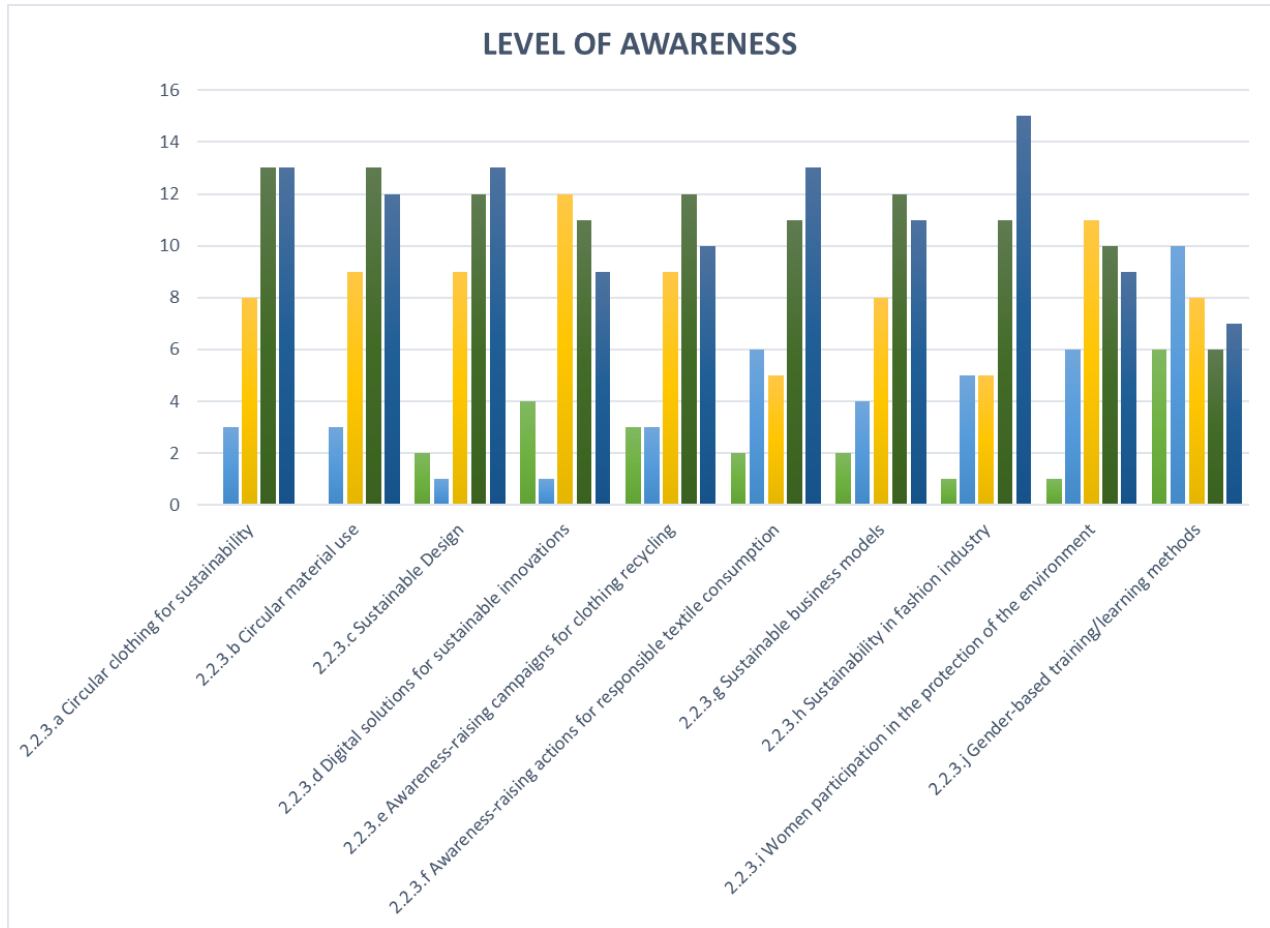*Graph 4. Participants' knowledge in environmental actions by women*

### 3.2.2   Knowledge of existing eco-sustainability actions in textile industry

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Not sure
16%

No
11%

Yes
73%

*Graph 5. Participants' knowledge in environmental actions in textile*

### 3.2.3 Awareness of sustainable and gender-equality concepts

**LEVEL OF AWARENESS**

*Graph 6. Participants' awareness in sustainable texting upcycling and gender equality*

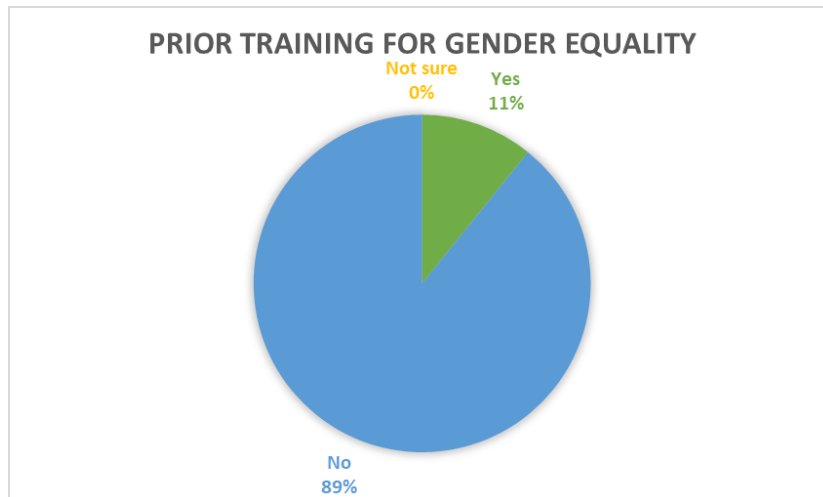## 3.3    Level of skills

### 3.3.1 Level of hybrid skills

**LEVEL OF SKILLS**
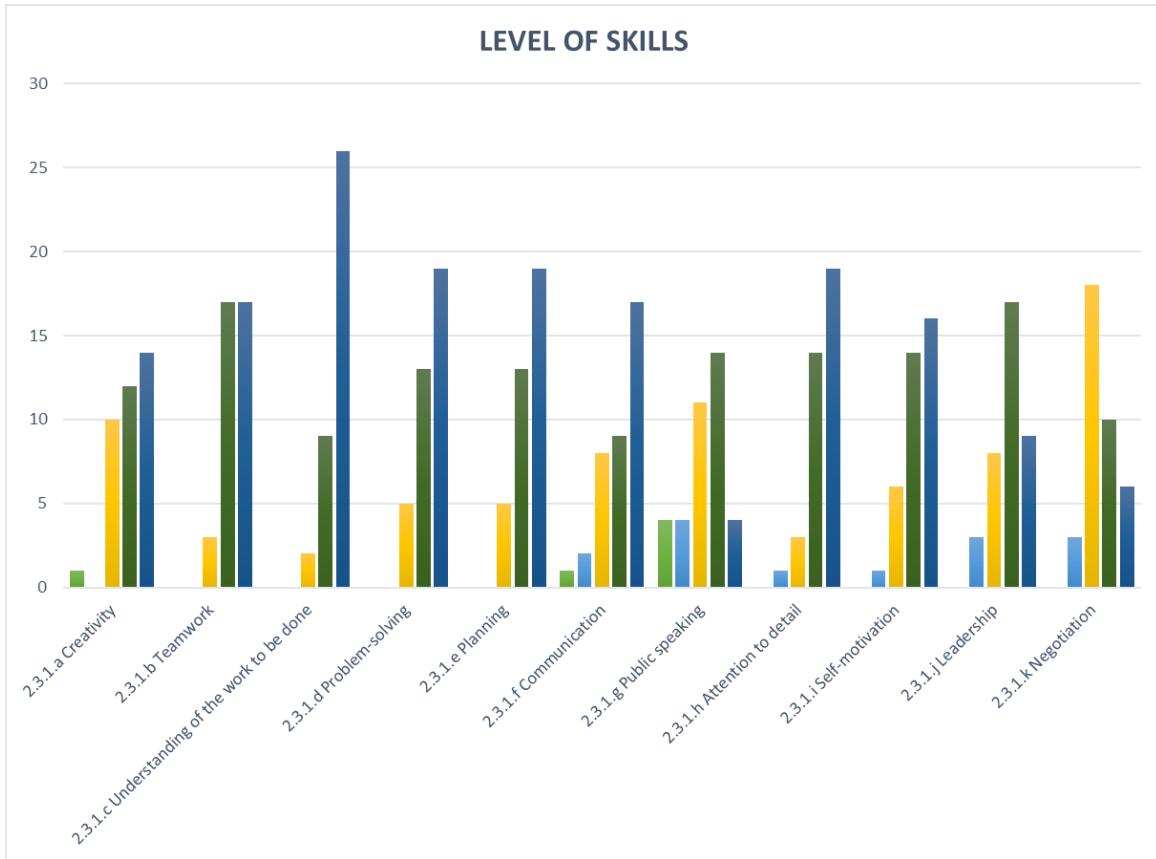


*Graph 7. Participants' skills for sustainable textile upcycling*

## 3.4 Experience

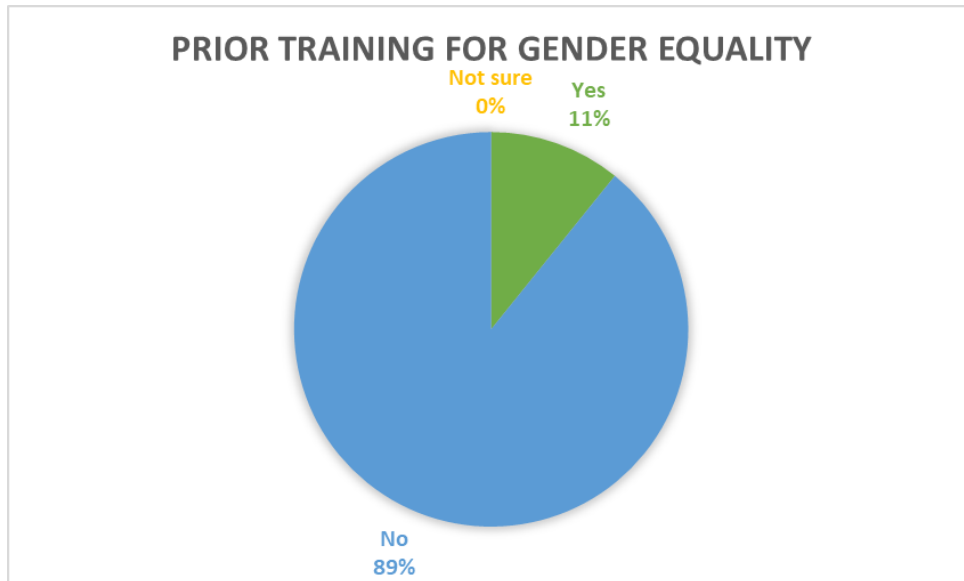### 3.4.1 Prior training for environmental sustainability

**PRIOR TRAINING FOR GENDER EQUALITY**



Not sure 0%
Yes 11%
No 89%

*Graph 8. Participants' prior training for environmental sustainability*

14

### 3.4.2 Prior training for gender equality

**PRIOR TRAINING FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

Not sure
0%

Yes
11%

No
89%

*Graph 9. Participants' prior training for gender equality*

### 3.4.3 Prior training for textile upcycling

**PRIOR TRAINING FOR TEXTILE UPCYCLING**

Not sure
0%

Yes
38%

No
62%
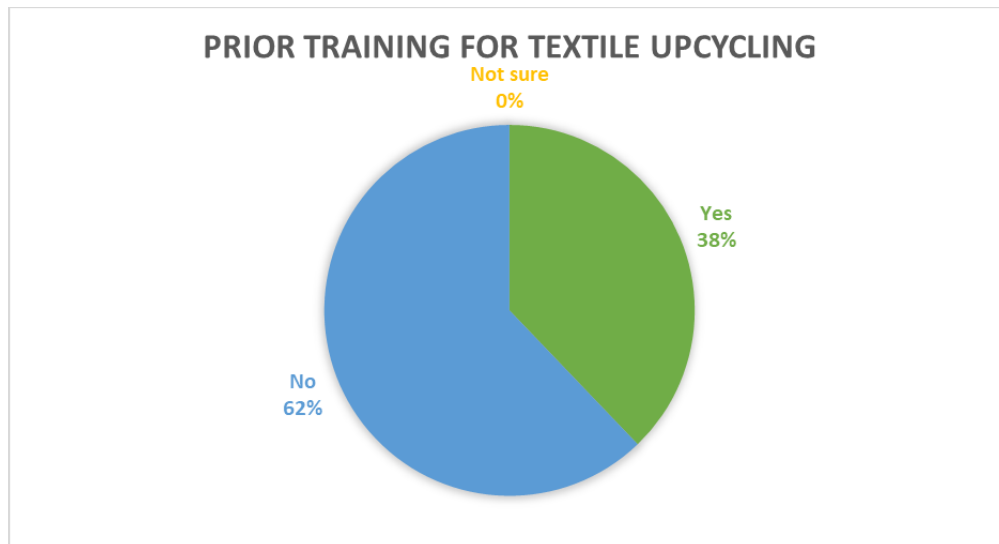
*Graph 10. Participants' prior training for textile upcycling*

## 3.5     Interest

### 3.5.1   Likelihood of AR4ReClothing

**LIKELIHOOD OF AR4RECLOTHING**

No
5%

Not sure
3%

Yes
92%
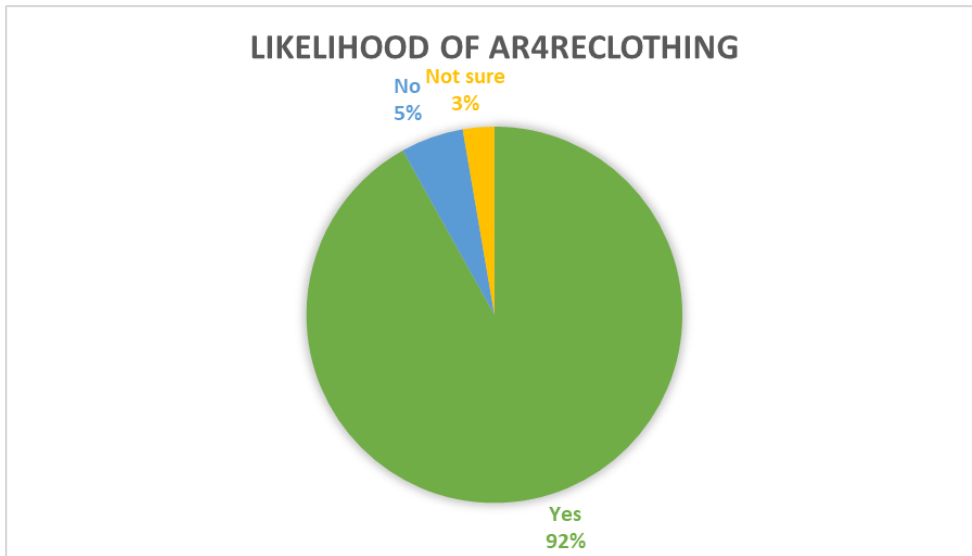
*Graph 11. Participants' preference in the project*

### 3.5.2   Interest in further participation

**FURTHER INTEREST IN AR4RECLOTHING**

Not sure
16%

No
6%

Yes
78%
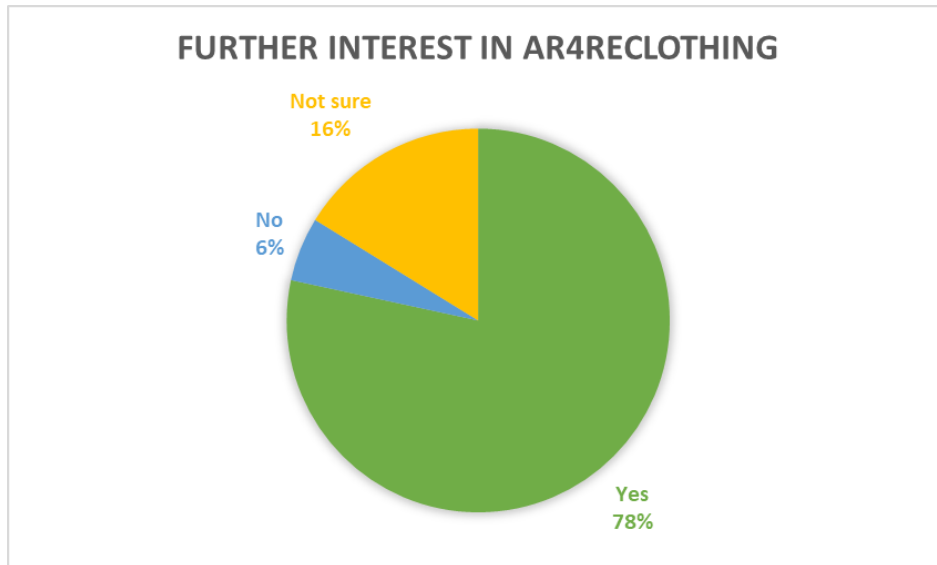
*Graph 12. Participants' interest in further participation*

# 4.  Conclusions

## What is the gender of most respondents?

The representative proportion of respondents are women (86%) and only 14% are men. There is no other category of gender.

## What is the educational level of most respondents?

Each person in the group has a certain level of education. They are either bachelor's students, master's students, employees/ entrepreneurs in the textile and garment industry, vocational teachers or researchers (the same field): 35% have a bachelor's degree, 54% have a master's degree, 3% have a doctorate, 5% have a high school diploma and 3% have college/vocational education. In summary, 92% of the respondents have a higher education degree, and 8% have a high school or college level of education.

## What is the current occupation of most respondents?

Of the total number of respondents, only one is not employed (3%); the others either work in the textile and garment industry (production or research) or are students (bachelor's and master's degrees): 42% are employed in the industry, 35% are students and 20% have other jobs in the textile sector (entrepreneurs, researchers and teachers at vocational schools).
The number of responses is larger than the number of respondents because some master's students also work in the textile sector. No one works in public affairs (including gender equality), environmental studies or their protection.

## What is the average level of awareness for each of the practices examined?

Regarding women's initiatives on environmental sustainability, 43% of respondents know about it and have described what they know, 19% do not know and 38% are not sure about this issue.
In the section related to environmental measures in the textile industry, 73% of respondents are aware of this issue and have provided details, 11% have not heard of it and 16% are not sure what environmental sustainability means.
When analysing the calculated scores expressing the level of awareness of the practises studied, it is noticeable that they are very close, but in the interval [2.9÷3.97]. The scores indicate a good or very good level of awareness (the scores are above 3.5). Respondents are aware of issues related to sustainable texting, upcycling and equality.

- Circular clothing for sustainability      3.97
- Circular material use  3.92
- Sustainable Design    3.89
- Digital solutions for sustainable innovations  3.54
- Awareness-raising campaigns for clothing recycling 3.62
- Awareness-raising actions for responsible textile consumption 3.73
- Sustainable business models           3.70
- Sustainability in fashion industry        3.92
- Women participation in the protection of the environment    3.54

- Gender-based training/learning methods      2.95

The average value of the group is 3,68→indicates a good level of awareness.

What is the average level of skills for each of the competencies examined?
The results are:

- Creativity      4.027027
- Teamwork      4.378378
- Understanding of the work to be done      4.648649
- Problem-solving      4.378378
- Planning      4.378378
- Communication      4.054054
- Public speaking      3.27027
- Attention to detail      4.378378
- Self-motivation      4.216216
- Leadership      3.864865
- Negotiation      3.513514

The average value of the group is 4,01→indicates a very good level of skills and competencies.

Do participants have prior experience in any of the three key areas of the project? What is the rate?
In this case, the results are quite interesting and challenging:
- Training on environmental sustainability→43% declared YES and 57% declared NO.
- Training on gender equality→89% declared NO, and 11% declared YES
- Training on upcycling of textiles→68% declared NO and 32% declared YES.
Those who declared YES described that they completed the training either at work or by participating in specific activities of international projects (workshops and training) or by attending various lectures at TUIASI University (bachelor or master programme) or abroad.

Do they express interest in further participating in the project activities? What is the rate?
For this section, the results are:

- the idea of AR4Recloting→92% YES, 5% NO and 3% NOT SURE
- further participating in AR4Recloting activities→78% YES, 16% NOT SURE and 6% NO.

Our society is not sufficiently prepared to accept this idea. A large percentage of respondents are open to the main objective and activities of the project. Some of them are more reluctant, either because they are very busy (and their programme does not allow for many additional activities in which they can participate) or because they do not have enough information about the issues mentioned.

General conclusions:
The number of respondents was not very large, as the questionnaire was distributed when the students were on holiday and the textile and garment employees were either very busy or on holiday. Most importantly, it can be said that those who responded were interested and curious about what AR4Recloting can offer.

The largest percentage of respondents were women (86%); this category is open to in-service activities and willing to explore new topics or challenges.

The educational background has a great impact on their goals regarding their professional life: they want to acquire new competences, skills and knowledge necessary for their career, they are motivated to learn and adapt to the new conditions and to understand the changes in our society.

Respondents have gained experience in the areas of environmental sustainability and upcycling of textiles by participating in trainings and workshops or sharing good practises (over 50%). The issue of gender equality is less discussed or addressed in our country (the percentage of people trained is 11%).

As a general conclusion, the respondents indicated that they are interested in the mentioned topics and expressed their intention to participate in the future activities of the project (over 75%).