

**Sustainable Textile School 2017**  
Reichenhainer Str. 31-33, 09107 Chemnitz, Germany

## Sustainability and digitalization hand in hand!

The „Sustainable Textile School“ in Chemnitz is launching the “Textile University 4.0” in cooperation with TU Chemnitz (Chemnitz University of Technology) from September 18 to 20.



**Sustainable Textile School**  
SUSTAINABLE ENGINEERING THROUGH  
A CIRCULAR TEXTILE CHAIN

18 TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2017  
CHEMNITZ, GERMANY

The graphic features a central white circle with a green ring inside, overlaid on a background of crumpled orange and green fabric. The text is centered within a white rectangular box.

Industry experts all agree: Sustainability is not just “nice to have”, but rather a “must have”. In line with the mantra “knowledge is power”, it is thus vital to provide both young and professional experts in the textile industry with high-quality practical knowledge that is geared towards digitalization and globalization and always corresponds to the latest technology. This is exactly what the “Sustainable Textile School” offers, taking place for the first time from September 18 to 20 at TU Chemnitz. A new type of project called “Online Textile University 4.0” will also be launched for the first time.

The global textile industry is a growing and positively developing industry that has rapidly evolved over the last 200 years. Regionally and globally speaking, it will be the topics of sustainability and digitalization, as well as further globalization of supply chains that will dominate the future of this industry. The textile industry is the second largest environment polluter after the oil industry and it is particularly water that needs to be preserved by all means. It is all too common for the textile industry to receive bad press due to its substantial impact on water pollution without even mentioning the social problems in the global textile industry. The topic of “Fast Fashion” is gaining more and more momentum in order to satisfy the needs of the consumer and this is having a large impact. In the USA and Europe alone, the industry produces approx. 21 million tons of textile waste per year. It is thus more and more important to introduce the topic of sustainability in all its “sustainable” facets to the textile industry. That is also why it is crucial for future employees, companies and founders in this field to learn about the aspects and effects of these factors in their training, as well as throughout their professional career and to understand what sustainability means in the textile industry. Only then will they be able to intelligently assess, take advantage of and thus minimize the chances and potential risks that they are faced with.

Although the industry already offers numerous possibilities to operate more sustainably, the biggest problem still lies in the definition of “sustainability”. The industry is still a long way away from the “win-win” solution that it is striving for which could be down to the industry not speaking the same language as the end consumer when it comes to sustainability. Many solutions are seen as “isolated solutions” and are not linked with one another, thus not being considered as one whole solution. The “added value” that sustainability brings to the industry should be seen. The term “sustainability” is often used too generally and is not rooted in the strategic orientation of a company. The crucial paradigm shift from “nice to have” to “must have” is not apparent for some companies.

Working with the GHERZI Textile Organization, the Chemnitz University of Technology tasked itself with addressing this issue more directly and changing it. The “Sustainable Textile School” was founded in order to pass on existing expert knowledge to coming generations in a more targeted manner, as well as to simply start a dialog on the subject.

“Sustainable Textile School” 2017 at TU Chemnitz

Global experts from all industry giants are drafted to fit the content of the course, considering all levels of value creation for the textile industry with respect to sustainability and communicate the resulting corporate duties in a more precise manner.

But that’s not all. The Textile School is not just a one-off high-quality conference. Instead, it aims to materialize the vision of a “Textile University 4.0” as part of the event. This future university will think globally, digitally, and sustainably. It will consider all areas and all factors of the textile value creation chain, including their recycling processes, from natural and artificial fibers to the finished item, whether it be a headliner or a shirt. The aim will be to establish a supply-chain management and product development management system, as well as an entrepreneurial decision template for participants from an engineering point-of-view.

It’s high time for the “Textile University 4.0”

In close cooperation with the digital learning software provider, Chemmedia, [www.chemmedia.de](http://www.chemmedia.de), a digital online-based Textile University 4.0 will be developed and launched. The digitalization will help to change the teaching and education of students and the further training of industry professionals, allowing knowledge and content to be transmitted and received any time, any place. It is no longer crucial for teachers to welcome their students to lecture halls with attendance lists; it will be much more about combining the learning material, level and targets in a more customer and student-focused manner and transmitting this material online.

The “Textile University 4.0” has made that its clear goal. The first step will be presenting a knowledge and engineering-based neutral demonstration of an ecologically sustainable

textile production from fiber to finished product as part of the “Sustainable Textile School 2017”. During the event, representatives from both economics and teaching fields will share their knowledge and its practical relevance with an international audience of students and industry professionals.

The future of the textile industry will also be digitally decided. Here it is also important to develop young professionals in a more targeted manner so that they can take advantage of the opportunities and risks of digitalization and advancing globalization in terms of sustainability as both an employee and a business person. Chemnitz is opening the door to the digital future of the textile industry. Be a part of it!

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Gherzi is an international consulting company specialized on the textile industry. Gherzi's customers and areas of responsibility are in the field of fiber up to the packaged finished product.

Gherzi van Delden GmbH  
Weyerhofstr 67, 47803 Krefeld, Germany  
Phone: +41 44 2196000  
Email: [info@gherzi.com](mailto:info@gherzi.com)  
Web: [www.gherzi.com](http://www.gherzi.com)

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Authors:

Gherzi van Delden GmbH

- Anton Schumann, [a.schumann@gherzi.com](mailto:a.schumann@gherzi.com)
- Reiner Hengstmann, [reiner.hengstmann@go4more.global](mailto:reiner.hengstmann@go4more.global)
- Boris Kaiser, Haus E, Chemnitz, [kaiser@sustainable-textile-school.com](mailto:kaiser@sustainable-textile-school.com)