



CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF THE REFASHION COURSE PILOTING (IO3)



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Contributors



- National Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption (CNPCD) - Timișoara, Romania



- Katty Fashion S.R.L. – Iași, Romania



- Effebe Association for Banking & Finance – Rome, Italy



- Innovation Hive – Larissa, Greece



- International Institute for the Implementation of Sustainable Development (MIITR) – Maribor, Slovenia





- Centrul de Resurse pentru Inițiative Etice și Solidare (CRIES) – Timișoara, Romania

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1. Executive summary

During the implementation process of the ReFashion project, an activity of great significance is the organization and facilitation of the ReFashion piloting activities. The piloting activities are implemented in order for the partnership to collect feedback from the interested parties from the target group, VET students, VET teachers, NGOs etc., so that the training modules, and digital tools under the ReFashion project can be updated and adjusted, so that they can better fit the needs of the course users.

In that context, national piloting sessions were organized and conducted in the partner countries, meaning Romania, Italy, Slovenia and Greece. According to the requirements of the application form, the piloting process was divided in two separate segments: one face-to-face piloting session, emphasizing to the presentation of the training modules and their content, and one online piloting session, emphasizing in presenting the educational platform, and the way the content is embedded and accessible from there.

For **Greece**, the face-to-face piloting session was conducted by Innovation Hive and it took place on 23rd June 2023, with the active participation of VET students, fashion designers, shop owners and brand owners.

In general, the ReFashion piloting activities in Greece were very successful, with the interest and active participation of people relevant to the topic, both students, fashion designers, brand owners etc., who expressed their will for more actions of that kind to be promoted in a local level.

In **Italy**, the face-to-face piloting session was held in presence in a fashion school based in Rome, on 8th June 2023. It hosted 12 participants from the IIS Leon Battista Alberti fashion school, among which both students and professors.

Overall, Italian participants from both the face-to-face and the online session were very interested in the training contents and satisfied about the training organization and modalities, appreciating above all the interactivity and the up-to-date and precise information presented in relation to the fashion sector.

The face-to-face piloting session in **Slovenia** took place on 9th June 2023 at the Secondary School of Design Maribor with 21 participants, mainly students and a few of their teachers, all of which have successfully completed the training. The participants expressed overall satisfaction with the training course with the main



remarks being that the course would be better if the materials were also translated into Slovene for this event as well. There is overall satisfaction with the materials provided and expressed enthusiasm from teachers, who expressed interest in using the modules in their classes after they are translated into Slovene.

The face-to-face piloting of the ReFashion course in **Romania** was organized on 8th June 2023, in partnership with the Faculty of Arts and Design Timișoara, facilitating the participation of students and some professors. It counted 16 trainees and 3 training facilitators from CNCPD and CRIES organizations. Overall, the large diversity of the participants was appreciated: students and teachers from University, VET teachers, professionals from the T&F industry, designers, social enterprises, and other NGOs interested in this theme. The participants appreciated the importance of the subject, the interactive tools developed in the project, and the relevant information and resources selected.

The second piloting session was jointly held online, together with all other project partners, on 27th June 2023. Firstly, a joint session (in English) with all project partners was organised, in which the aim and objectives of the project, as well as the digital ReFashion platform, were presented, and participants were invited to subscribe to the platform in order to access the course contents and the interactive activities. In the second part of the session, participants were split into 4 different rooms and each partner continued the training in their national languages, according to the interests and preferences expressed by national trainees, as well as to each partner's expertise. 57 people participated in the online session, from all countries involved in our project: Italy, Greece, Slovenia and Romania.

The on-line session format allowed the project consortium to involve all participants in a joint session (the first part of training), dedicated especially to the presentation and testing of online ReFashion Platform, an important output of our project. The participants had the chance to address direct questions to the colleagues from Innovation Hive, leading organization for this output.



2. Organization and structure of the pilot

2.1 Organisation of the training course

For the promotion and dissemination of the face-to-face piloting in Larissa (**Greece**), relevant posts were prepared and disseminated through Innovation Hive's social media, as well as targeted email invitations were sent to relevant stakeholders in a local level.

A Google Form invitation was developed and disseminated through the relevant posts and communications, providing important information about the event, such as the time of start, the duration and the place.

For facilitating the face-to-face piloting session, a thorough presentation was developed, containing information, materials and examples from the majority of the training modules, and lastly, QR codes for the website and e-platform, in order for us to promote our digital media, and enhance our registrations.

The piloting session took place on the 23rd of June 2023, at 12.00 pm, at Innovation Hive's premises in Larissa, Greece. Its duration was approximately 3.5 hours, since after the presentation and explanation of the modules, an interesting discussion took place, regarding the fashion sustainability status in the local level of Larissa, and in Greece in general.

The face-to-face piloting session was attended by 10 participants, including VET students, fashion designers, shop and brand owners, and representatives from the local chambers of commerce.

The face-to-face ReFashion piloting session in **Italy** was held in presence in a fashion school based in Rome - IISS Leon Battista Alberti - on 8th June 2023, hosting both fashion students and professors, and it lasted 3 hours. Participants were reached through direct contact with teachers and other managerial figures of the fashion school.

An invitation for both the F2F and the online sessions was created and shared both as a printed poster and through two posts on EFFEBI's Facebook page: one before the F2F session and one before the online session. The invitation to join the piloting sessions was also disseminated through the third newsletter and through direct contacts (emails) with professionals working in the textiles and fashion industry at local and national level.

In **Slovenia**, the face-to-face piloting was organized in cooperation with the Secondary School of Design Maribor on June 9th 2023, 9.30 (CET), through a connection to one of their teachers. Since the school is increasingly more



interested in topics of sustainable fashion and production, they have expressed interest in learning about these topics and the ReFashion project. MIITR disseminated the project with the help of the school's teachers, that joined the piloting course with their students, primarily students of Arts and Design.

MIITR trainers prepared the presentation and summary of the project and thoroughly prepared for presentation of the 3 selected modules (1.1, 1.2 and 1.3) that they thought would be the most relevant according to participants' interests. MIITR complemented the event with a small banquet, where participants could more openly discuss the topics of sustainable fashion and our project.

On the other side, they promoted the online training course via MIITR's social media and started collecting the registrations approximately a week prior to the event taking place. 11 participants registered and were sent an e-mail with all the relevant details (a request to register on the platform as well as the Zoom link) a day prior to the online piloting. 50% of participants were designers, 37,5% of them were from NGO's and 12,5% from small businesses.

In **Romania**, the face-to-face session was organized on 8th June in partnership with the Faculty of Arts and Design Timisoara, facilitating the participation of students and some professors, and it lasted three hours. This piloting session counted 16 trainees and 3 training facilitators from CNCPD and CRIES organizations. The session schedule was from 10 am to 3 pm. All Romanian partners were actively involved in the promotion of Refashion courses.

The promotion of face-to-face sessions, organized in Timișoara, was realized especially by CNCPD and CRIES. They used different methods: direct invitations to main stakeholders, sending emails with information about training sessions, and social media (Facebook and Instagram). Also, the Faculty of Arts and Design Timisoara was involved in the promotion of training sessions among students, using in this sense the electronic board within the faculty. CNCPD promoted the training during different activities organized in other projects implemented by the organization, and CRIES promoted the training among TVET and other teachers involved in the educational program to promote responsible consumption in schools.

Complementary to the aspects presented above, the online session was also promoted by Katty Fashion among different stakeholders from the Eastern part of Romania. Also, on 22nd June the Romanian partners sent a special newsletter to inform more than 300 Romanian stakeholders about this training opportunity.

2.2 Profile of participants



The face-to-face participants came from different backgrounds, occupations, age and profiles.

In **Greece**, the face-to-face piloting was attended by 3 fashion designers, who also are store and brand owners, and are involved in the whole lifecycle of the garment design and production. Their ages varied from 35-50.

Furthermore, the piloting session was attended by 2 owners of a second-hand shop in Larissa, who have a strong interest and passion for sustainable fashion, and have emphasized their actions in promoting thrifting and swapping in the city of Larissa. Their ages varied from 29-31.

Lastly, 5 VET students attended the course, some from the design background, who expressed their interest in making their first steps in the Greek market, and some with a background targeted to sustainability. Their ages varied from 25-30.

In **Italy**, the face-to-face session was implemented in a fashion school in Rome. Therefore, trainees were both professors and students from this fashion school. Out of 12 attendees, only 1 was male, while 11 were female. Students were aged 15+.

The online session hosted professionals and representatives from NGOs and other organisations interested in the fashion field. Out of 9 attendees, all but one were female. Some trainees were expert in the design phase, while others were expert in the technical creation of garments. Some staff members from EFFEBI participated in the training as well, as project managers of fashion-related projects.

In **Slovenia**, the participants were students of the Secondary School of Design Maribor, primarily from the Design studies programme, and their teachers. All participants were female. Since most of the participants were Secondary school students, they were aged between 15 and 19, and all were enrolled in an education programme to become future Designers in the supply side of the Fashion industry. 71,4 % of all participants (n = 21) were (future) designers, 23,8 % of participants were teachers, and 4,8 % (1 person) was a fashion retailer.

Romania, the 16 trainees involved in the face-to-face session were 2 male and 14 female. They had very different backgrounds as 11 students and teachers from the Faculty of Arts and Design Timișoara, 2 teachers from TVET schools, 1 participant from a social enterprise focused on textiles' production, and 1 volunteer from CRIES organization.

The online session hosted professionals and representatives from textiles association, textiles companies, designers, teachers from university and schools, NGOs and other organizations interested in the fashion field. The total number of Romanian participants was 27 persons, which 4 facilitators from CRIES and CNCPD



organizations. The participants were from different cities in Romania: Timișoara, Iași, Sibiu, and Bucharest. Katty Fashion facilitated the participation of different employees and collaborators from Iași, involved in F&T industry.

2.3 Structure of the training course

GREECE

Training format (face-to-face, blended, etc)	Both a face-to-face and an online piloting session were organized.
Duration of the training	The face-to-face training lasted approximately 3.5 hours, and the online training lasted approximately 3 hours.
Number of sessions	2: one face-to-face and one online.
Contents covered	All the training modules were presented, some during the face-to-face, and some during the online training using the platform.
Total nr. of participants	16 participants
Training methods used Use of learning materials (Use of multimedia, use of all worksheets or partially, adaptations needed, etc)	<p>For the facilitation of the face-to-face training, we started with some icebreaking activities, in order for the participants to introduce themselves to each other and feel comfortable. Some sustainable quizzes were prepared, in order for the participants to test their knowledge on the topic.</p> <p>A presentation was developed in Greek, covering all the basic aspects of the piloting, meaning a presentation of the project, its objectives, the partnership, and the milestones achieved so far, and a thorough presentation of the majority of the training modules, with practical examples.</p> <p>After that, Innovation Hive has prepared QR codes redirecting the participants to the website and the e-platform, inviting the participants to</p>



	<p>navigate to the website and register to the e-platform.</p> <p>Lastly, an interesting discussion commenced, covering the aspect of sustainable fashion in Larissa, hearing the opinions of both students and designers, indicating that young people nowadays make more sustainable and ethical choices concerning fashion, and that policies and initiatives have to be drafted at a local level, as well as events promoting sustainable fashion like fairs, or swapping events, in order for the people of Larissa to get to know the sustainable options they have.</p> <p>Our piloting event ended with the completion of the evaluation questionnaire, and a promise to meet again for the purposes of ReFashion.</p>
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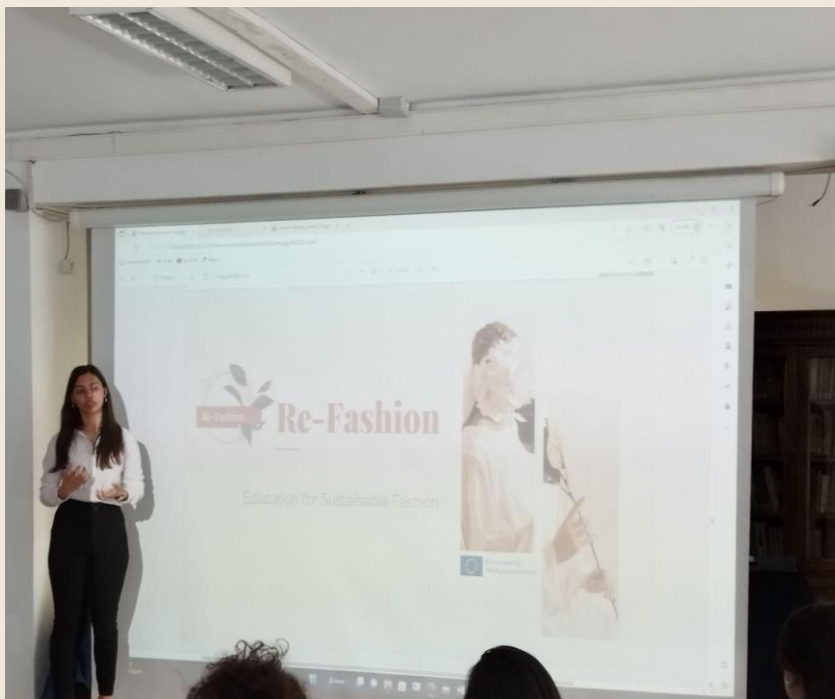


ITALY

Training format (face-to-face, blended, etc)	1 face-to-face session, 1 online session
Duration of the training	Both sessions lasted 3 hours
Number of sessions	2 sessions
Contents covered	Overall presentation of the training contents + specific focus on module 1 and 3. Concerning



	module 1, units 1.1 and 1.2 were given a greater attention
Total nr. of participants	12 F2F + 9 online = 21 participants in total 1 dropout in the online session: indeed, the total number of people who completed the registration form was 10. All other participants fully completed the training course
Training methods used Use of learning materials (Use of multimedia, use of all worksheets or partially, adaptations needed, etc)	Power Point and Genially slides, as well as the ReFashion digital platform. No adaptations needed.



SLOVENIA

Training format (face-to-face, blended, etc)	1 Face-to-face session and 1 online session
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Duration of the training	F2F: 9.30 – 12.30 (3 hours) Online: 9.00 – 11.30 (2,5 hours)
Number of sessions	3 sessions face-to-face, 2 sessions online
Contents covered	F2F: 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 Online: 1.1 and 1.2
Total nr. of participants	21 F2F and 8 online
Training methods used Use of learning materials (Use of multimedia, use of all worksheets or partially, adaptations needed, etc)	Use of the ReFashion E-learning platform and developed Modules



ROMANIA

Training format (face-to-face, blended, etc)	1 face-to-face session, 1 online session
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Duration of the training	Both sessions lasted 3 hours
Number of sessions	2 sessions
Contents covered	<p>Overall presentation of the training contents + different units from module 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>Selected units 2.3 The impact of garments design and Unit 3.1 The end of life management of garments were presented.</p> <p>The presentation of unit 2.1 Presentation and testing of ReFashion platform was organized during the online session.</p>
Total nr. of participants	<p>16 F2F + 23 online = 39 participants in total. Some of the people who participated in the face to face session were also involved in the online session.</p> <p>The total number of people registered was higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 persons were registered for face to face session; • 55 persons were registered for the on-line session. <p>All other participants fully completed the training course</p>
Training methods used Use of learning materials (Use of multimedia, use of all worksheets or partially, adaptations needed, etc)	Power Point and Genially slides and exercises, as well as the ReFashion digital platform. No adaptations needed



2.4 The joint online session

During the online piloting session, the project was presented, as well as its goals and objectives, and participants got to meet all partners behind the project.

The main aim of the online session was the presentation of the e-platform, and the presentation of some, if not all, the training modules, using the platform.

At the beginning of the session, partners introduced themselves, and the coordinator presented the project, the objectives, the results, and the milestones achieved so far. Furthermore, an introduction to circular economy was presented, in order for the participants to familiarize with the main topic from which all our presentations derive.

When it comes to the ReFashion educational platform, Innovation Hive took the responsibility to present a presentation about the platform and its main features, and then, using the platform, its environment was presented, how someone can register, how someone can navigate to the materials and take the quizzes, and what possibilities the platform offers.

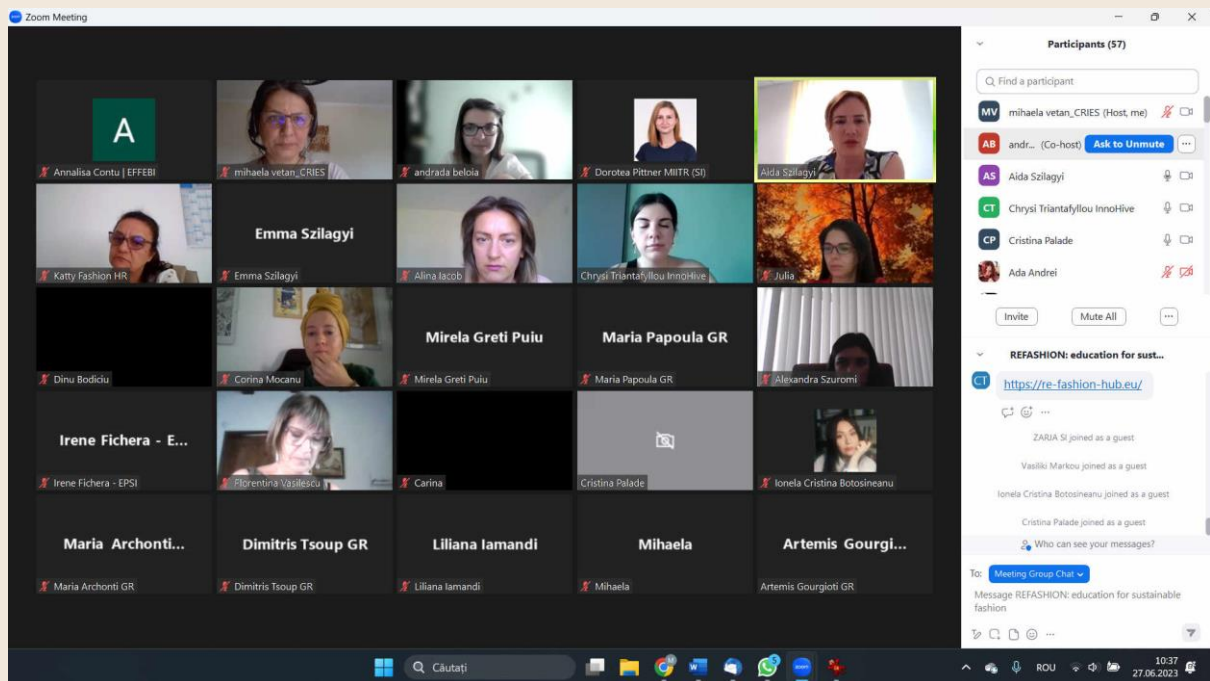
After providing some time for the participants to create their accounts to the platform, participants were divided to national rooms, where the presentation from Genially continued using the platform.



Lastly, participants filled the evaluation questionnaire, discussed a bit about the presented topics, and expressed their interest in participating to future project activities.

Therefore, the ReFashion online platform was mainly used in order to present the training course and its contents to participants. In addition to that, before starting presenting the training contents, an overview of the whole platform was given to trainees, presenting the homepage, the news section and the course section, together with its interactive activities. Trainees were explained how to create an account on the platform and how to enroll in the training course.

The online platform was considered very intuitive and easy to use, both for trainers and for trainees, and participants to the online session found the training course interesting and interactive and enjoyed it.



3. Results and evaluation



Two evaluation questionnaires were created and disseminated among trainees. The first one is related to the course contents, their relevance and their appropriateness. The second one is related to the online platform in which the training contents are hosted, its easiness and technical characteristics. The participants to the face-to-face piloting session had to answer and provide their feedback to the following topics:

- The learning process is fun and accessible to the user
- I have acquainted more knowledge on the presented topics
- The topics presented reach out to my expectations
- Time was well-organized
- The educational material is relevant to the aims of the project
- I would recommend to other people to participate in such actions
- Comments and recommendations for further improvement

Concerning the online piloting session, a common questionnaire was provided to the participants, containing the following questions/topics:

- The platform allows easy access to the visitors.
- Availability of directions and instructions are available on the platform.
- The platform design facilitates the project objectives.
- The environment of the platform is friendly and interactive.
- The platform contains all the necessary elements and features that I would like to use.
- The content of the platform is suitable and aligned to the project objectives.
- The content of the course is relevant, appropriate and clear.
- The content of the course is covering technical details.
- The way the training materials have been developed is innovative and easy to use.
- The way the platform is developed is clear, and the structure of training materials accompanied by quizzes is easy to use.
- What particular aspect(s) of the e-learning platform do you like?



- Please provide, if any, suggestions for improvements.

Overall, participants from both the face-to-face and the online session were very interested in the training contents and satisfied about the training organization and modalities, appreciating above all the interactivity and the up-to-date and precise information presented in relation to the fashion sector. The ReFashion online platform was considered as useful, easy to use and intuitive.

3.1 Satisfaction with the training

For what concerns the training contents, the feedback received was overall positive. Almost all participants answered that they strongly agree, or simply agree with the aforementioned topics, and as further comments and recommendations, they asked for more actions like this to be implemented in a local level, in order for the people to familiarize with the notion of sustainable fashion, and get to know feasible ways in which they could achieve that, and change their consumer behaviours. Furthermore, they were interested to see how that educational material could be implemented in an already existing curriculum, or how it could affect policy-making.

Trainees emphasized that the added interactivity in Genially modules makes the learning process so much more fun and engaging, and it combines the pleasant with useful. Most participants believe they have acquired new knowledge, relevant to their field of study and interests. A bit more participants (but still a minority) believed that the time was not properly scheduled. We believe that the topics could be more thoroughly covered if teachers used the presentations in class or the participants could learn at home, at their own pace, since some of the topics may be harder to understand for someone who has just started learning about design and sustainable fashion. Most believe that the training objectives have been met and that the training material is relevant to course goals. While there is still room for improvements, primarily regarding the time of covering these topics and the materials being translated to their national languages, most participants agree that they would recommend this training course to others.

Lastly, the diversity of trainees and the possibility to learn from each other was highlighted as a point of strength of the training as well.

The online participants answered that they strongly, or simply agree with all the aforementioned statements contained in the online session evaluation questionnaire, and were eager to participate in the online session, especially because they got to meet all the partners behind the project. Above all,



respondents appreciated the easiness, usefulness and completeness of the ReFashion platform, as well as the course contents contained in it, its graphic layout and its interactivity. Among suggestions for improvements were additional articles and information, more pictures, integration of Google login on the login page and more multimedia content such as videos.

As oral feedback, the teachers participating in the face-to-face session were very glad that their students had the opportunity to participate in such training course, since they said that sustainability is a very important issue to take into consideration when working in the fashion field, but not several relevant courses and training materials are available, nor detailed or with up-to-date data. According to their feedback, therefore, it is very important that sustainability issues related to the fashion industry are learnt by students from a very early age, so that they can understand the importance of this topic and learn to take it into consideration during their professional activities.

In addition to that, teachers were especially enthusiastic about the developed modules and platform. They have expressed interest in the modules being used in their classes, since teachers themselves are giving more emphasis on sustainability each year. Teachers also expressed interest in cooperating on these types of projects in the future.

Lastly, the Romanian partners inserted a final open question, in which participants were asked to mention the most relevant subjects. In general, they mentioned:

- Collecting feedback from the consumer in order to improve the products
- Customization in small businesses;
- Clothing rental models
- Eco-Fashion Business Models
- Consumer education through created products,
- Methods of reducing return rates in e-commerce
- Creating modular garments
- Personalized online orders
- Design for longevity, aesthetic durability, HIGG Index
- Fashion innovation, sustainable procurement of materials, digital pattern layout techniques
- New requirements for companies because of the new legislation
- New business opportunities arising from sustainable fashion;



- The importance of circular design for the efficient use of resources

4. Challenges and final remarks/ recommendations

During the implementation of the piloting activities, no major challenges were met. One main point of struggle, especially in **Greece**, was the collection of the participants especially for the face-to-face piloting, since at local level, in small cities, it can be quite hard to meet VET students or teachers of the field, or designers. Nevertheless, with targeted and to-the-point actions of dissemination, InnoHive was able to overcome that obstacle.

Another challenge was to maintain the interest of the participants, especially in sessions that last long hours: that is why the project consortium chose to make the presentations interactive, to add quizzes and icebreakers, and leave enough room for discussion face-to-face, and not only feedback through questionnaires.

In **Slovenia**, the students and teachers (in particular) were impressed by the content presented, but expressed a clear wish for the content to be presented in Slovene in the first place (regardless of the modules being tested on the event), as this would make it more relevant to the students, who were all Slovene.

Lastly, since the topics were presented by one national representative from MIITR instead of someone who works in the field (this was not possible due to force majeure in trying to organize the event with Maribor Regional Chamber of Crafts), the topics may have been presented in a slightly less professional way. Greater professionalism will be achieved when the topics are presented by experts in the field, including teachers from the Maribor Secondary Design School, who have expressed great enthusiasm for the content.

In **Romania** the challenges faced in the online piloting were mainly technical. Due to the online environment, some of the participants in the joint room did not later on join the national breakout room due to unknown reasons. Still, the Romanian team had the greatest number of participants and they were able to set up a great discussion with attendees, receiving mostly positive feedback.

In **Italy** the pilot implementation ran smoothly. No challenges or problems were faced and no suggestions were made by trainees in order to improve the quality



of the training course and its contents. On the other hand, the relevance of such training course was highlighted, since trainees agree that sustainability is a very important issue to take into consideration when working in the fashion field, but not several relevant courses and training materials are available, nor detailed or with up-to-date data. Therefore, it is very important that sustainability issues related to the fashion industry are learnt by students from a very early age, so that they can understand the importance of this topic and learn to take it into consideration during their professional activities.

In general, the main suggestions received from trainees were the following:

- The training should also contain a practical part
- Organizing the training on weekends or in the evening
- The addition of voice-over on the wonderful slides would increase the value of the course even more.

These suggestions for improvement have been discussed among Partners, appreciated and agreed. However, it has been observed that they go beyond the project aims and the consortium capabilities. Therefore, within the limits of the project aims and objectives, the consortium jointly decided that the training material developed in the framework of IO1 and tested in the framework of the IO3 piloting do not need further adjustments, representing the final version of the ReFashion training course.