

Improving vocational training in the textile industry through the digital training platform "textil trainer ": A collaborative approach in Saxony

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Abstract:

The Textile Trainer project pursues the ambitious goal of revolutionizing training in the textile industry through a state-of-the-art and adaptable online learning concept. The platform offers a wide range of courses covering all aspects of the textile value chain, from fibre production to advanced sustainability concepts. These courses are developed in collaboration with industry experts as well as academic institutions to ensure the highest level of quality and currency.

A key feature of the Textile Trainer is the flexibility it offers learners. They have the opportunity to complete the courses according to their individual schedules and preferences, whether on their mobile device, at school or at work. The learning platform is designed to be engaging and effective with a variety of different learning materials, including high-quality visuals like shown in Figure 1, animations and interactive elements.

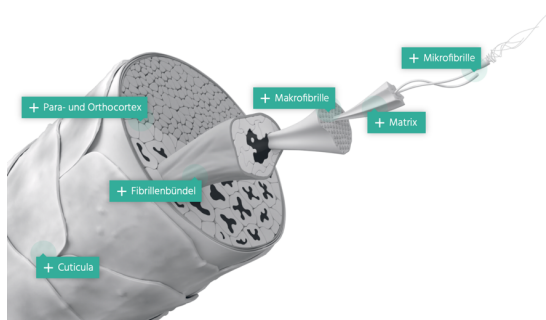


Figure 1 Example of the visualization of a fiber structure

Another advantage of the Textile Trainer is the low access threshold for learners. The courses are deliberately written in simple language and equipped with an integrated glossary and additional information in pop-up windows. This makes it easier for the main target group of career changers to understand even complex concepts and to undertake targeted further training. All advantages are listed in table 1.

A special focus is placed on sustainability topics that are covered along the entire textile value chain. These courses deal with topics such as circular economy, recycling and sustainable material innovations and emphasize the project's commitment to a greener future for the textile industry. Meanwhile, over 6,000 individuals have registered on the platform, and their feedback on the project has been predominantly positive. In 2023, the users of the learning platform were systematically surveyed through an online questionnaire. The group is very diverse, including company leaders, trainers, apprentices, semi-skilled and skilled workers, students,

teachers, and hobby crafters. Over 81% of survey participants indicated that they would be very likely to recommend the learning platform.

Table 1 Overview of advantages of textile trainer

Free training for your (future) employees	Quick, easy and independent familiarisation with textile topics	Easy professional entry into your company, even for people from outside the industry
free of charge: no training, travel, accommodation or cancellation costs	Simple language and explanation of technical terms	Individual choice of focus through subdivision into different topics
Quality assurance in the area of in-house training	Building up and securing your own skilled labour	Retention of skilled workers in the company

Several partner companies in Saxony have integrated the platform into their corporate training programs. Notably, medium-sized companies have been pioneers in this effort, driven by dedicated departments focusing on employee training and development. However, smaller companies face more challenges, primarily due to a lack of personnel capacity to implement such initiatives. Learners have expressed a desire for more time allocated during working hours for their training and development on the platform.

The continuation of the project within the framework of Textile Trainer 2.0 promises further innovations and improvements. New courses will be developed to meet the changing needs of the industry and companies will be enabled to create their own training content. In addition, the use of artificial intelligence in teaching is being driven forward in order to make the learning offer even more effective and to continuously optimize the learning process. Textile Trainer 2.0 thus keeps its finger on the pulse of the times and sets standards in digital training for the textile industry.

Keywords: digital, education, vocational training, platform.

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