



## ACTE meeting in Łódź, Poland

On 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> April a meeting of representatives of the European Textile Collectivities Association (ACTE) was held in Łódź, a leading Polish member of the Association.

Founded in 1991 in Guimaraes, the association has brought together more than 70 historically textile-based territories and over 30 research institutes from 10 European countries- Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Its main goal is to represent and defend the interests of territorial collectives and adherent organisations which represent territories with textile, clothing, leather, footwear and fashion accessory sectors. ACTE performs lobbying actions in order to influence European and national policies, prepares and manages joint projects supported by the European Union, undertakes awareness raising actions to foster external communication of the member territories and makes a great effort to be present in pertinent media. More about ACTE can be found at: [www.acte.net](http://www.acte.net)

Within the three-day long programme in Łódź, representatives of textiles territories had an opportunity to assist the Executive Committee (19<sup>th</sup> April) and take part in the XX General Assembly (20<sup>th</sup> April), which was chaired by Mrs. Hanna Zdanowska - Mayor of the City of Łódź and President of the General Assembly. Apart of the official reunions, ACTE members had the possibility to become familiar with the development of the City of Łódź and its most important projects, primarily the EC-1 - New Center of Łódź.

ACTE's visit to Łódź coincided with the Fashion Philosophy Fashion Week Poland and the Polish-French Day of Innovative Textile Industry, organised at the EEDRI Institute – an adherent member of ACTE, by the French Embassy and the Promotion, Tourism and International Relations Office of the City of Lodz, in the presence of Mr. Igor Mitroczuk - Councillor in the Ministry of Economy, Mrs. Leila Mehane- representative of the Crosstexnet cluster and Mr. Francois-Xavier Kowandy - representative of the French Embassy. Participating in the meeting were representatives of various textile institutions and enterprises from Lodz such as TRICOMED, Hexeline, Cluster of Fashion Industries, Institute EEDRI, Technical University of Łódź and Warsaw University of Technology. The meeting was an opportunity to become familiar with textile clusters in Poland and France and to exchange contacts with a view to future cooperation. The official part of the meeting was accompanied by technical visits to the Textile Research Institute and the Institute of Biopolymers and Chemical Fibres, which illustrated a part of the textile potential of the City of Łódź.

In the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> April guests of the French-Polish Day of Innovative Textiles and ACTE members took part in the official inauguration of the "Futurotextiles" exhibiton, showing innovative applications for textiles in medicine, biology, architecture and construction. The exhibition was prepared by ACTE and has visited a couple of cities- members of the Association - Lille (France), Ronse/Renaix (Belgium), Prato (Italy), Barcelona and Cordoba (Spain). Mr. Eric André Martin- Charge d'Affaires at the French Embassy in Poland, and Mr. François Michel Delannoy - President of ACTE were among the representatives who also took part in the inauguration. The exhibition was free of charge and was displayed until 20<sup>th</sup> May at the Central Textile Museum in Łódź [www.muzeumwlokiennictwa.pl](http://www.muzeumwlokiennictwa.pl), located in the famous White Factory.

On 19<sup>th</sup> April ACTE guests had the opportunity to visit some interesting attractions of the City of Łódź - The Strzeminski Academy of Art, the cultural and shopping centre 'Manufaktura' with the Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Cinematography. After the Executive Committee meeting, in the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> May in the elegant Ballroom of the hotel Andel's, guests participated in the Fashion Philosophy Fashion Week Poland. Students of the Fashion Promotion Center of the Strzeminski Academy of Art together with Tarrakanova, a fashion designer from Belarus - [www.fashionweek.pl](http://www.fashionweek.pl) presented their collections on the catwalk.

After the General Assembly meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> April the guests visited the Faculty of Material Technologies and Textile Design at the Technical University as well as the Bleaching and Colouring Enterprise KNK Kanake.

ACTE members were very much impressed by the development of the City of Łódź. Their stay in Lodz, with lots of meetings and interaction, will enable the ACTE association to more strongly fight for an innovative, creative textile industry and textile territories. A manifesto was prepared during the General Assembly, addressed to the European Union, asking for the creation of better organisation and formal frameworks in favour of the development of the textile industry.

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