



## Newsletter # 1 2022

Dear WOOLUME-friends,

The implementation of the project during pandemic is not easy. Isolation, quarantine, no possibility of personal contacting and travelling are just some obstacles in the execution of the project in accordance with the assumed plan. However, despite the difficult conditions, the project goes on. In November during an on-line Polish national conference on circular economy, the presentation on application of wool from a mountain sheep, as an example of rational management of waste materials was presented.

In December despite pandemic, the annual winter shearing of sheep in the farm of Kohut family was performed. The shearing coincided with the first snow this winter and occurs in really winter scenery. For Woolume a next portion of raw material and new samples for laboratory tests were collected.





Winter sheep shearing in the farm of the Kohut family

In December, the next trials on weaving and tufting were performed. For trials, the rug yarns produced in Norway by Selbu Spinneri from Polish mountain wool were applied. The results of trials presented on pictures only confirmed the statement assumed at the beginning of the project: lower quality mountain wool can be used for manufacturing attractive products!!!



Wool products made with the weaving and tufting techniques.

## New WOOLUME report

We are happy to announce that the latest delivery for WOOLUME just ‘hot off the press’. Many exciting applications for wool – that isn’t ideal for clothing or finer textiles. Here is a link to where the report can be downloaded: <https://oda.oslomet.no/oda-xmlui/handle/11250/2839326>. This is a really great over-view of innovative uses of wool that is ‘vacant’ or hard for the current industrial system to use.



**Book on local wool around the corner** (February 20<sup>th</sup>)  
Out academic publication *Local, Slow and Sustainable Fashion: Wool as a Fabric for Change*, is about to be published – finally! With a WOOLUME chapter, this book explores the importance of the agriculturally-based fiber and textile industry, and how local, small-scale operations and markets, coupled with a connection to soil health, can lead the way to new transformative changes. It draws on a four-year research project on Norwegian wool, as well as similar studies in Poland and Portugal. It also explores the role of women and the Indigenous perspective: in Europe this will constitute Sami and

Inuit, in Northern America the Inuit and First Nations in Canada, along with Native Americans. Born out of academic interest in the slow food movement, the importance of local raw materials has been put under the spotlight in recent years. Meanwhile, the havoc wreaked by the fast fashion industry has been drawing attention to the need for a new, sustainable approach to clothing and textile manufacture. This edited collection is unique in its scope, taking the conversation beyond traditional debates around fast fashion and agriculture, and examining how textile industry is rooted in the land, and within society and community. Featuring a diverse range of authors, the book will be valuable reading for academics interested in sustainable management, the study of consumption, the study of Indigenous perspectives, and the study of agricultural practices. Here are two endorsements:

This book is a *tour de force* and a heart-on-sleeve exploration of how a familiar fibre can radically change the fashion and sustainability story.

**Professor Kate Fletcher**, Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion, UK

The authors of this fascinating book use wool as a lens through which to see important aspects of the contemporary world: corporate capitalism, consumerism, standardisation and their opposites: localised crafts and practices, quality of life, sustainability. Readable, enlightening and engaged, this book is fuelled by a passion for wool and expertly weaves, spins, cards and knits the small and the large scale, contributing not only to our knowledge about fabrics and sustainability, but also adds depth to our understanding of globalisation.

**Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen**, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo, Norway