



Newsletter # 1 2023

Dear friends of WOOLUME,

We would like to wish all our project participants and friends a Happy Easter and update you with some news!

Many new papers under-ways!

The publication: J. Broda, A. Gawlowski, M. Rom, K. Kobiela-Mendrek. *Utilisation of waste wool from mountain sheep as fertilizer in winter wheat cultivation* has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Natural Fibers.

The publication: J. Broda, K. Kobiela-Mendrek, M. Bączek, M. Rom, I. Espelien. *Sound absorption of tufted carpets produced from coarse wool of mountain sheep* is sent for publication in the Journal of Natural Fibers.

The abstract: K.Kobiela-Mendrek, M. Baczek, J. Broda, M. Rom, I. Espelien, M. Kohut. SOUND-ABSORBING PROPERTIES OF DECORATIVE MATERIALS MADE OF WASTE MOUNTAIN SHEEP WOOL has been accepted for oral presentation at the ICNF2023 – 6th International Conference on Natural Fibers. The conference will take place between 19th and 21st of June, 2023, in Funchal, Portugal. Happy memories from meeting at this conference in the Azores!

The abstract: J. Broda, M. Rom, A. Gawlowski, K. Kobiela-Mendrek, T. Kukulski, D. Binias. BIODEGRADATION OF SHEEP WOOL INTENDED FOR PLANT FERTILIZATION has been accepted for the Autex 2023 conference, which will take place between 26th and 28th of June, 2023, in Melbourne, Australia. It will be wintertime there, so bring some wool!

The abstracts: M. Rom, J. Broda, K. Kobiela-Mendrek, M. Kohut, I. Espelien. WOOL FROM LOCAL SHEEP BREEDS - ZERO WASTE PLAN FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES and M. Rom, J. Broda, K. Kobiela-Mendrek, L. Przywara, M. Kohut. SUSTAINABILITY AND SAFETY OF POLISH MOUNTAIN SHEEP WOOL have been accepted for the 92nd Textile Institute World Conference, which will be held between 3rd and 6th of July, 2023, in Huddersfield, UK. Would recommend that the visit there also includes a trip to the Haworth Wool Scouring Mill in Bradford!

Final conference for the project

To fulfill the project deliverables, there needs to be held a final conference in Poland. As the project received the okay for being prolonged until April 30th, 2024, the conference was postponed until this coming fall. The plan was that the cultural activities and traditions in connection with transhumance would be part of the conference, however, considering the late date of the conference this is not possible. The proposed dates have been decided: the conference will start on the evening of October 25th. The main conference proceedings will be 26th and 27th, with technical tours on the 28th.

Other Wool related activities and conferences

It looks like the Baltic Wool Conference will not take place in 2023. But this does not mean that wool will be “off the table”! As you have already surmised, there will be a presence for WOOLUME in several conferences. There are also other opportunities, for example the Natural Fiber Conference will be held in Biella, Italy, 28th and 29th of September, 2023. They have just started planning the program, and Tone has been invited to speak, but of course we can suggest other speakers! There will be a wool conference held by the National Museum in Oslo on the 21st of September, in connection with the wool exhibit which is opening there on May 25th. Ingun and Tone have contributed to the exhibit’s catalogue with a chapter, expanding on some of the themes from Local, Slow and Sustainable Fashion: Wool as a Fabric for Change.

Tøffen – a tv-star!

Ingun participated in a popular tv-program, *Praktisk info med Jon Almaas*, which aims to give practical advice to viewers about more or less everything. For a good 15 minutes, the viewers could learn all sorts of things about wool, as the program had visited the wool station at Gol, Ingun was asked all sorts of questions about wool’s properties and Tøffen, an old Norwegian Spæl sheep, charmed everyone.



Future applications

There has been now interest to follow up the EU Horizon call for “food, bioeconomy, natural resources and the environment” so far from any of the ongoing projects or networks. No one has really had time either to follow up the new Soil Mission from the EU. Tone will be travelling to Riga after Easter and will have meetings with the Nordic Council of Ministers, for possible bilateral funding under Interreg for the Baltic Sea region. This will, however, not be related to wool, but looking at how to develop Targeted Producer Responsibility and thereby influencing PEF, and the ecodesign directive, both which currently are not very positive for wool.

In the meanwhile, Selbu spinning mill has been spinning the latest batch of Polish wool:

