



News from Poland

At the end of July, a shearing of sheep occurred in the surroundings of Koniakow. Shearing was an excellent opportunity to admire the marvelous landscape of Beskid’s mountains, observe pastoral customs and take new wool samples for further testing.



- The chapter **The Pastoralism in the Silesian Beskids (South Poland): In the Past and Today**, which presents the background of Woolume project is prepared. The chapter is available for reading as a part of the book “Sheep Farming” published by IntechOpen.

<https://www.intechopen.com/online-first/78336>. We are looking forward to the rest of the book!

- On September 6–12, the group representing the Polish project partners finally visited Norway! The rich schedule of the visit included a short course of sorting and classifying wool for specific applications. During the visit, several technological tests in the spinning mill of Norwegian partner Selbu Spinneri were performed and a batch of samples for further research was prepared. Moreover, the visit included visiting the Mitten Museum in Selbu and other places related to the processing and selling of wool, what was connected with many essential and fruitful discussions with Norwegian partners. Great visit, great hospitality, and lots and lots of new knowledge.



Conferences

A poster entitled „Local wool as a challenge for producers and users” was presented during the 20th World Textile Conference **Autex 2021 – Unfolding the future** (5-9 September 2021), a 100% online event. It is noticeable that sustainable development is becoming an essential topic at textile conferences (<https://autex2021.org/programs>).

Academic local wool book “in print”

The book we have been working on as part of a delivery for WOOLUME, **Local, Slow and Sustainable Fashion Fibres: Wool as a Fabric for Change** (Palgrave Macmillan) is delivered as a final manuscript and has been peer reviewed. We are currently waiting for the last endorsements, and here you can enjoy one we received from Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen: 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.

SIFO’s first report for WOOLUME is available

Mapping the market for acoustic and sound absorbing products made from wool is now published. This report is the first deliverable from work package 2 of the WOOLUME project. The aim of the report has been to map the market for acoustic and sound absorbing products made of wool to examine the potential to introduce coarse wool as a material. This has been done through desktop research and interviews with a focus on the qualities of wool as a natural product. Findings show that though man-made materials dominate the market for acoustic products due to lower prices, wool is preferred as a material due to its natural properties as well as aesthetics. Producers using wool consider their products to be high-end, intended for people who want very good quality products and who are willing to pay a higher price to achieve this. However, few producers use coarse wool in these products, and many are made of pure Merino wool. Using Merino wool which is often considered of very fine quality due to the low micron-count does not correspond with the ideal of good utilisation of resources. Therefore, we are proposing to utilise coarse wool which today is discarded as a mere by-product to meat-production. Merino could instead be used for products where fineness and softness are important factors such as for clothing. In addition, we argue for the rawness and uniqueness of the look of coarse wool as positive in terms of aesthetics and as something that adds to the position of acoustic products made of wool as high-end. <https://oda.oslomet.no/oda-xmlui/handle/11250/2773899>