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Exploring Circularity in Italian Textiles: Findings from the RESTART Survey

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Abstract:

This paper presents preliminary findings from a survey investigating sustainability, circularity, and resilience in the Italian textile supply chain. With 230 responses collected so far, the survey provides insights into current practices, challenges, and opportunities faced by industry stakeholders. The survey (i) gathers data on the use of recycled materials, renewable energy, waste management, environmental assessments, certifications, and investments in sustainability; (ii) examines market positioning and the contribution of certified/recycled products to company turnover; (iii) details the company's production structure and involvement in recycling activities; (iv) assesses supply chain relationships based on information exchange, operational linkages, legal bonds, cooperation, and relationship-specific adaptations, (v) explores merger and acquisition activities and interest in vertical integration, and (vi) investigates services supporting circular transition. The data reveals a growing awareness and adoption of sustainable practices, although significant barriers related to cost, buyer-supplier relationships, and technology persist. This study offers a valuable foundation for future research and policy-making aimed at fostering a more sustainable and resilient textile.