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# Municipality of Prato

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February 10, 2026



## Local Context

The **Prato Textile District** is today one of the most important textile and apparel production hubs in Europe and the world. With over 7,000 active companies and nearly 43,000 employees, it represents a **highly integrated industrial ecosystem** within the economic and social fabric of the region.

- **7,119** active companies
- **2,548** textile businesses
- **4,571** apparel businesses
- **€2.3 billion** in annual exports
- **3%** of total European textile production.



PRATO  
TEXTILE  
DISTRICT

It is built on **small specialized enterprises, supply chain collaboration, and flexible organization**, a system that continuously evolved by investing in quality, innovation, circular economy, and social responsibility.



## Industrial organization

Services to businesses, transportation, schools, professionals, banks, and other manufacturing sectors such as textile machinery and chemicals are almost entirely functional to the core sector, which is textile and fashion.

It is evident that the **strong interconnections between companies in different phases within a self-contained territorial system** make the entire district potentially vulnerable to changes affecting even a single component.





## Governance

The **Prato Textile District Board** is a strategic initiative established to support the ecological and digital transition, as well as the innovation of businesses in Prato's textile sector.

**Memorandum of Understanding signed on September 16, 2022**

- the Municipality of Prato
- **key business associations** (Confindustria Toscana Nord, CAN Toscana Centro, Confartigianato Prato)
- **trade unions** (CGIL, CISL, UIL)

It has evolved into a permanent platform for dialogue and coordination. The board now addresses **strategic issues** for the future of the region.



## Regulation

The Prato Textile District is committed to **actively monitoring and influencing** the development of **Italian and European regulations** to ensure they are compatible with the local specificities and the needs of local businesses.

- Collaboration between **institutions, trade associations, and companies** is essential



**Position paper on EU regulations affecting the textile district**



# Position paper

- **Ecodesign regulation** - EU rules to design more sustainable and durable products.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** - The producer is responsible for the end-of-life management of textile products.
- **Digital Product Passport (DPP)** - A digital passport ensuring traceability, transparency, and circularity.
- **VAT reduction for regenerated materials** - Fiscal incentives to promote the use of recycled materials.
- **End of waste (Textiles)** - Rules for ending waste status for textile materials.
- **REACH & Recycled Textiles** - Compliance with chemical regulations also for secondary (recycled) materials.
- **GRS Certification & Regulation (EC) No 765/2008** - Global Recycled Standard certification and EU conformity requirements.

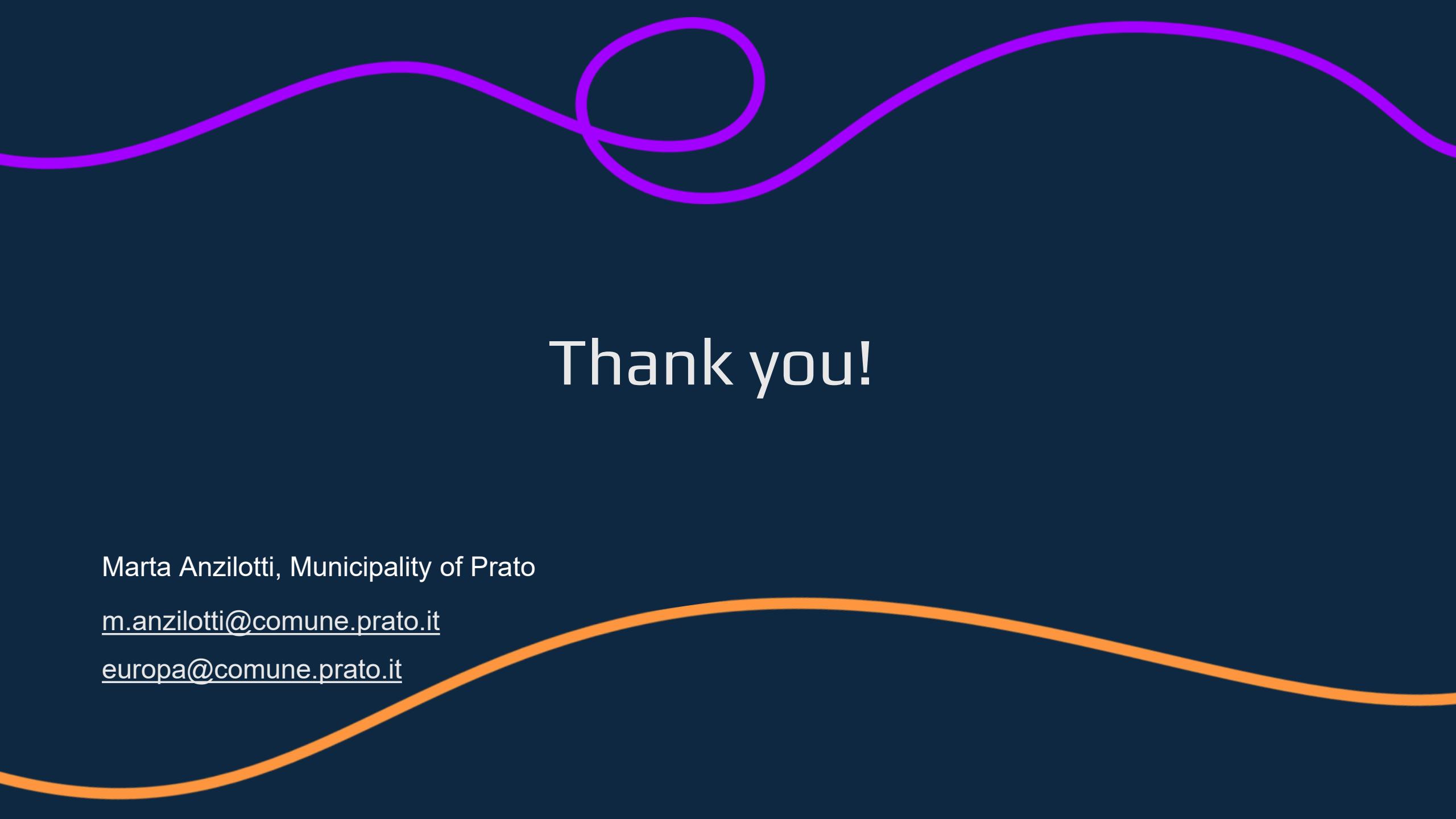


## Collaboration with industries

### Prato Textile Hub

**COMING SOON (JUNE 2026)** □ plant built by Plures Alia; sorting and treatment of textile waste, to promote material reuse and recycling, consolidating the city's role as a circular economy model

- Functional recovery of the area where the former municipal wastewater treatment plant was located
- Aimed at the subsequent reuse and recycling of textile materials
- Processing capacity of approximately **33,000 tons/year**, including:
  - 20,000 tons/year from the post-consumer circuit (covering the entire regional basin)
  - 13,000 tons/year from the pre-consumer circuit (about 50% of the district's production)
- **Automated and semi-automated sorting** based on fiber type (wool, cotton, silk, viscose, etc.) and color using near-infrared (NIR) sensors and shredding line



Thank you!

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