#1 NEWSLETTER

DesignSmart

Design Smart is an EU funded project aiming to strengthen VET provider's capacity to equip SMEs —especially women entrepreneurs—with essential digital and green skills. Through a VET Curriculum, AI ChatBot, Eco-Fashion Simulator, OERs, mentorship programs, and micro-credentials, SMEs will improve their capacity to integrate AI and circular economy models, fostering long-term competitiveness and policy influence.

Project Kick-Off

The Design-Smart project officially kicked off with its first face-to-face meeting held on 18–19 December in Italy, hosted by Politecnico Calzaturiero.

Project partners came together to align on objectives, define implementation strategies, and set the foundations for collaboration over the coming months.

During the meeting, partners discussed the project roadmap and explored Politecnico Calzaturiero's innovation labs and facilities focused on sustainable footwear design and advanced manufacturing technologies.

Current Phase
Research & Needs Assessment

Design-Smart is currently in its research phase, focusing on sustainable fashion, AI-driven eco-design, and the digitalisation of VET systems.

To support this work, the project is conducting:

- A questionnaire to assess training gaps among VET providers and digital adoption barriers faced by SMEs
- Focus groups engaging VET providers, SMEs, and sustainability experts to gather in-depth insights

The results of this phase will directly inform the development of the project's training materials and digital tools.

What's Next

In the coming months, Design-Smart will analyse research findings and begin the development of its VET curriculum and digital tools.

Pilot activities, training programmes, and mentorship initiatives will follow, supporting VET providers and SMEs across Europe in adopting sustainable and innovative practices.

Design-Smart Is Now Online

Website

The official Design-Smart website is now live, serving as the central hub for project news, results, and resources.

Social Media

💼 LinkedIn: Follow us for professional updates and insights

📘 Facebook: Join the community and project news

📸 Instagram: Visual highlights and behind-the-scenes moments

Follow our project

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