



Ensuring a sustainable future for the TCLF industries in South East Europe

update 9/2022



EU-funded project 2021-23 supports our work

“Ensuring a sustainable future for the South East European Textiles, Clothing, Leather and Footwear Industries”

- Three European industry associations and industriAll Europe as partners
- Bulgaria, Croatia, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia
- 10 affiliated unions, 10 national employer/industry associations
- 400,000 registered workers





Objectives of the project are to contribute to...

- **...enhance the representativeness of employer associations and trade unions** by increasing their membership and consolidating their structures.
- **...develop the skills and capacity** of the social partners and their members on industrial strategy, social dialogue and collective bargaining.
- **...develop and implement strategies** for industrial development and social progress.
- **...open the path towards improved social dialogue and collective agreements**, including industry-level bargaining, multi-employer agreements





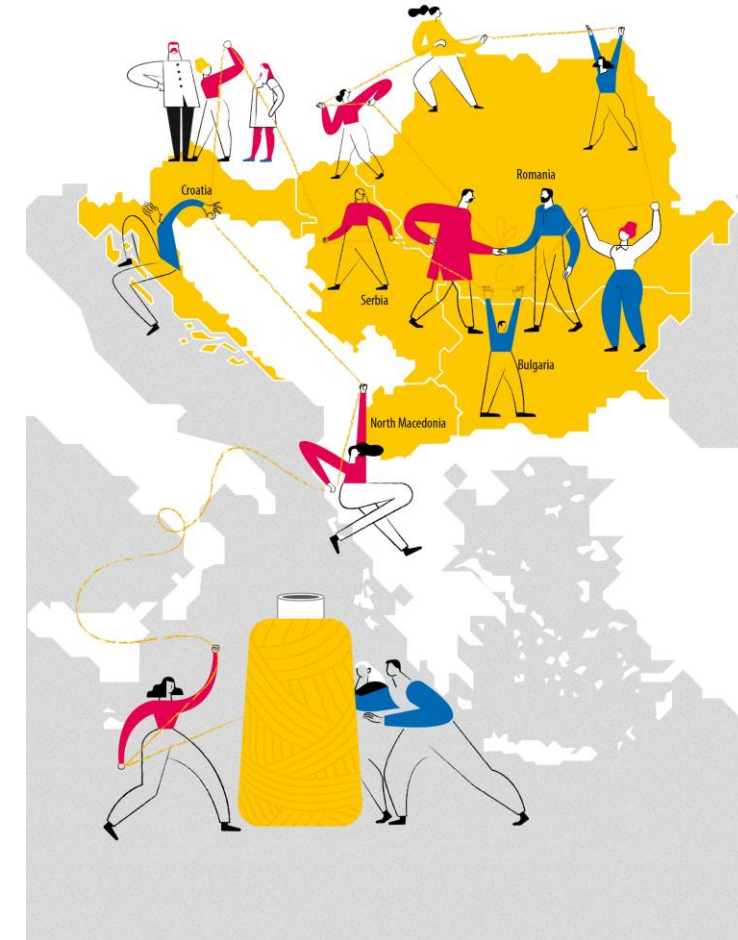
Project plan 2021-2023 - What's already done?

- ✓ Mapping of situation in the countries (June 2021 – February 2022)
- ✓ Online exchange Portugal (September 2021)
- ✓ Series of preparatory online meetings with 6 employer/industry associations ; 9 trade unions (January + February 2022)
- ✓ National Workshops in Skopje/North Macedonia (May 2022) and Zagreb/Croatia (June 2022)



Project plan 2021-2023 - What's still ahead?

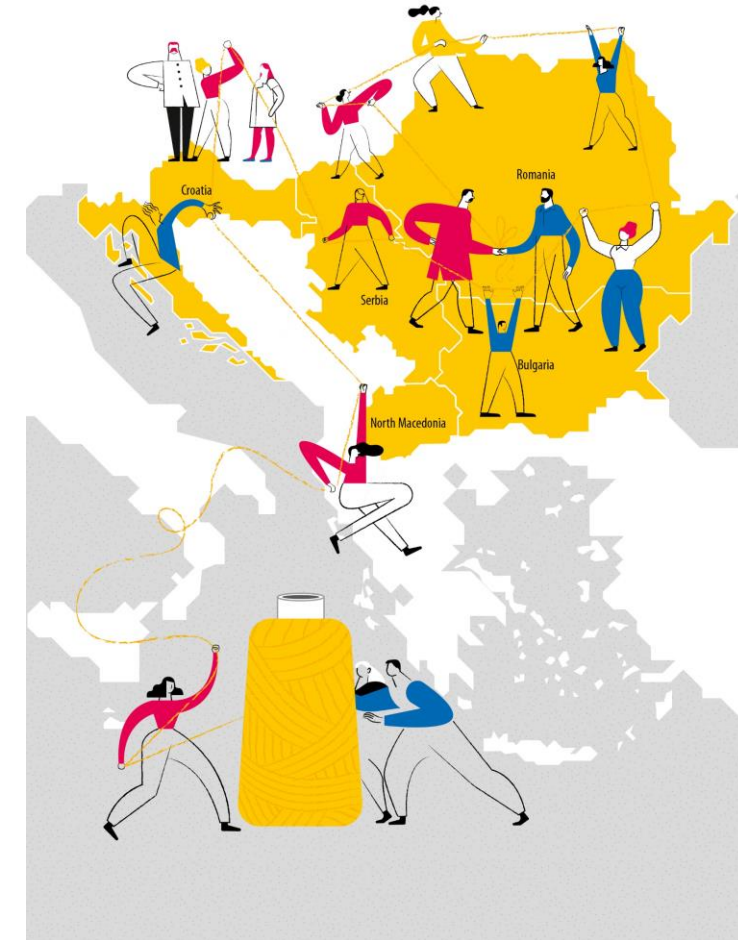
- National workshops in Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia
 - Separate sessions for employers and trade unions, joint sessions
 - Session with national social partners, brands, suppliers, governments
- Drafting of action plans
- National level follow-up of action plans
- Final project conference, Spring 2023
- Implementation continues in coming years





First conclusions

- Attracting young workers seems being a major challenge, other industries/countries offer higher wages
- The profile of the TCLF industries could be raised by focusing on innovative and high-quality products and investing in decent working conditions, better wages and career opportunities
- Strong social partners working together with governmental bodies, professional education centres and research institutions are the ground for building a winning concept for the TCLF industries



Agenda



Tuesday 13 September

- 10:00 **Joint opening session for employer and worker representatives**
- 11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:15 **TCLF industry landscape in Bulgaria – main findings in the mapping**
- 12:00 **Lunch break**
- 13:30 **Separate workshop sessions for employer and worker representatives**
- 15:00 **Coffee break**
- 15:30 **Separate workshop sessions continuous**
- 17:00 **End of first day's session**
- 19:00 **Joint dinner – *place to be announced***

Wednesday 14 September

- 09:00 **Welcome and introduction**
– reports from the sessions of the first afternoon
- 09:30 **Towards a sustainable TCLF industry in Bulgaria - session of social partners with government representatives, training and research institutes and brands**
- 11:15 **Coffee break**
- 11:30 **European Union policies and Bulgaria: EU Textiles Strategy, TCLF Pact for Skills**
- 12:00 **Case study from Portugal**
- 12:30 **Joint concluding session for worker and employer representatives**
- 13:30 **End of the workshop and lunch in the hotel**

