

Smau Padova 2016 SUCCESS STORIES

A textile manufacturing plant plans to save 100% of water

olimpias group

The European project Wasatex aims for total sustainability in the textile sector

Nicola Marini: "Before the innovative intervention the plant of Osijek used 1600 cubic meters of water; today it saves 1000 cubic meters, i.e. the daily water consumption of a small city of 7000 inhabitants. And now we aim for the top."

The idea in brief

To save water in textile industries and to save energy in the production process, too. This is Wasatex, a European project that sees three Italian companies with a very ambitious mission that turns out to be close at hand: a 100% saving of water. The three companies – Olimpias Group, Europrogetti and Aspel – are working on a plant in Croatia, in Osijek, which in November 2015 was already working with a water saving of 70%. Before the innovative intervention the plant of Osijek used 1600 cubic meters of water; today it saves 1000 cubic meters, i.e. the daily water consumption of a small city of 7000 inhabitants.

The site of the project: www.wasatex.eu

The water cycle

The entire textile industry is based on the usage of large quantities of water, but it is a fact that in the last years the sector has worked hard to implement always more sustainable technologies and procedures.

On one hand they aim for machines that use a priori less water, on the other, like in the Wasatex project, they work on the recycling, i.e. on the depuration processes. In the Osijek plants there is not just water recycling. In fact, in the processes of dyeing and washing, the liquid is used at different temperatures, in an interval ranging from 30 to 90 degrees. Therefore, they need a function of water heating. But in the new process they manage to start from a temperature of 30 degrees, with a resulting saving in gas consumption for the heating. The estimate is that of a saving of 530.000 cubic meters of gas per year. Additionally, the renewed activity of the plant helps to save 1250 tons of CO2 per year.

There is another relevant aspect of the Wasatex project: all the sustainability projects are simpler when there is a possibility of starting from scratch, i.e. of designing a plant ex novo. In Osijek, the tougher challenge was chosen instead: the plant has never stopped working while the process changes were being implemented. The result is extremely relevant because, naturally, sustainability is a complex objective, which must be able to work on the existing, and transform it.

Not only textile

Relevant data is emerging from this project. The technologies used for the purification give interesting information not only for the textile department. The need to purify water is present in many sectors, and the technologies adopted in Osijek can “migrate” effectively to other production departments.

The companies

Wasatex involves three Italian companies.

Olimpias Group is an important company in the area of textile industries, with many plants situated in various countries. It is part of the Benetton holding.

Europrogetti is a company based in Padova, specialized in the realization of purification systems. It works especially in the textile sector but it develops projects in other production areas, too.

Aspel specializes in management and maintenance of purification systems for domestic and industrial wastewaters.

http://www.smau.it/padova16/success_stories/il-progetto-europeo-watatex-punta-alla-sostenibilita-totale-nel-settore-del-tessile/