



Annual Report

2025/2026



Dear readers,

Looking at the recent shifts in our industry, I am certain of one thing we can all agree on: trust has become our hardest currency. Navigating an evolving market filled with complex regulations can feel daunting. Yet, for me, this shift represents a profound opportunity. At OEKO-TEX®, we have always believed that true progress happens when transparency goes beyond mere compliance. This year, our growth of 5% over all certificates and labels issued proves that the industry shares this belief.

A major milestone in this journey is our partnership with TextileGenesis. Moving our certification system into the digital future is a personal priority for me. By digitising transactions for OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON, we are making our processes secure, data-driven and scalable. We intentionally designed this as a pilot. Once established, we will extend this step by step to other certifications and labels. Real-time transparency is essential to safeguard trust, and our ambition is not just to keep pace, but to actively shape future-ready, fraud-resistant standards.

This digital leap is particularly vital for organic cotton, where certifications grew by 214% in over 20 countries. Brands and consumers rightly demand verified supply chains.

Our urgent call for trustworthy claims will soon become law. From September 2026, the EU's Empowering Consumers Directive (EmpCo) will hold the wider industry to account. For some, this is a hurdle. For us, it is a validation. OEKO-TEX® has been fighting against greenwashing for over three decades. Transparency has always been at the absolute core of everything we do. We are fully prepared and uniquely positioned to support companies and brands in meeting these strict new requirements.

My sincere thanks go to our licence holders, certification bodies and global partners. Your continued trust is what drives our shared progress.

I hope this report offers valuable insights into our journey ahead, and I warmly welcome your feedback.



Dr. Alfred J. Beerli
CEO, OEKO-TEX®



Our mission, vision and core values

Our mission remains clear: to empower consumers and the industry with reliable certifications that prioritize health and environmental stewardship.

In a world increasingly aware of the environmental and health impacts of the textile and leather industries, OEKO-TEX® stands for trust and innovation. Since its founding in 1992, OEKO-TEX® has been dedicated to safeguarding consumers by rigorously testing and certifying textiles and leather for harmful substances. This commitment not only protects consumer health but also fosters greater transparency and accountability within the industry.

The journey of OEKO-TEX® has always been marked by collaboration and continuous improvement. We thrive on the synergy between industry stakeholders, ensuring that our standards evolve to meet the highest safety and sustainability benchmarks. By working together, we aim to transform the textile and leather sectors, driving them towards a more sustainable future.

Vision

Our vision

We are leading the way in traceability and transparency for maximising sustainable impact and promoting sustainable choices across the entire textile and leather value chain.

Mission

Our mission

OEKO-TEX® inspires trust in the textile and leather industry. Driven by sustainability, our work is communicate openly.



Sustainability

With our independent scientific methods, we inspire and shape a sustainable future. We are an active, solution-driven partner in innovative projects, with a positive mindset and progressive approach.



Safety

For over 30 years, we have enabled companies and consumers to make confident decisions. We drive product and human safety through reliable solutions. From companies and their employees to consumers and their families, everyone can rely on our certified products and processes.

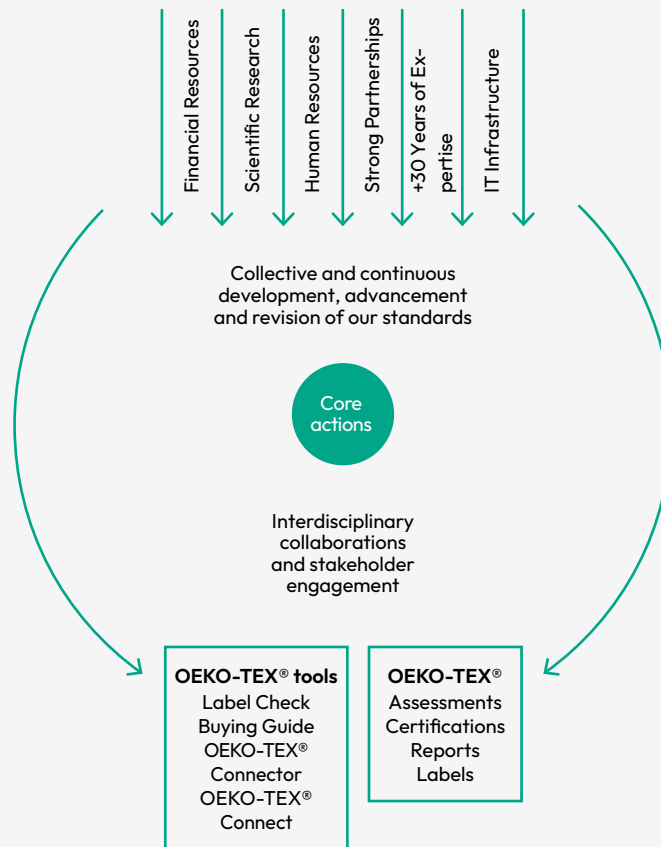


Trust

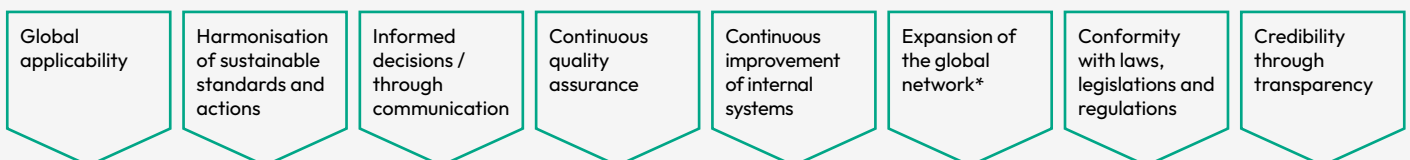
Trust is the foundation of our action. We trust in science. OEKO-TEX® is a global certification scheme that works together with independent scientific experts. We test and certify by using clear, consistent criteria, which we communicate openly.

Theory of change

Input



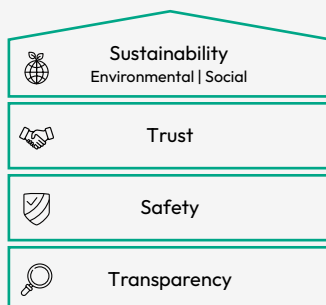
Output



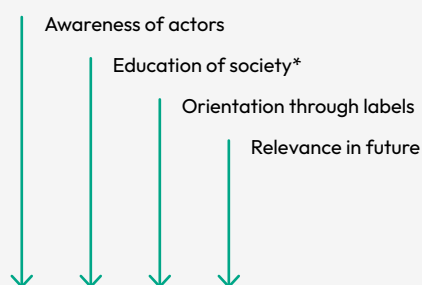
Theory of change

Outcome

Increased...



Leads to...



Impact

Resulting in...



Facts & numbers at a glance



ECO
PASSPORT

Over
2,270
issued certificates

Over
68,000
ECO PASSPORT
certified chemicals

+ 13%
growth in
certificates compared
to 2024/2025



60,495
certificates & label issued
+ 5% compared to
2024/2025



ORGANIC
COTTON

driving trust through digitalisation

+ 214%

of OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON
certificates compared to 2024/2025

we expanded our footprint in the
organic cotton supply chain in over

20 countries



STeP

1,493
valid STeP certificates

Over
1.3 Million
workers in STeP certified facilities

with an average social responsibility score of

89%

Increasing Supply Chain Traceability:



MADE IN
GREEN

Over
20,400
labelled products

Over
6,000
companies are part of the
MADE IN GREEN
supply chain

Over

500

ORGANIC COTTON certificates

Total certified fibre volume from ginnerers

33.7 M kg

completed and approved transaction volume

More Highlights

Strengthening Chemical Safety:

PFAS regulations have evolved rapidly in recent years, creating significant compliance challenges for the textile and leather industry. In response, OEKO-TEX® introduced a comprehensive ban on the intentional use of PFAS across its certifications in 2024. However, due to the highly persistent nature of these substances, PFAS may still be detected as unintentional contamination originating from environmental sources, water, raw materials, or manufacturing equipment.

To address this challenge, OEKO-TEX® has established stringent limit values for individual PFAS as well as a total PFAS limit value in January 2026. These requirements are aligned with the most stringent regulatory frameworks currently in force worldwide, helping companies navigate an increasingly complex regulatory landscape while driving the phase out of PFAS from global supply chains.

By combining strict requirements with robust testing, OEKO-TEX® aims to support the reduction of PFAS emissions and contribute to the long-term protection of ecosystems and human health.

In 2026, OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT marks its tenth anniversary, with over 1,400 customers across more than 50 countries. In the light of this anniversary a detailed analysis of laboratory findings from its testing parameters was published. The statistics from 2025 are available [here](#).

Since June 2026, OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT has further expanded its certification scope. After the addition of commodity and maintenance chemicals in 2025 ECO PASSPORT now also certifies wastewater treatment chemicals. This expansion aims to phase out harmful substances earlier, enhance worker safety and prioritise environmental protection.

Since 2026, ECO PASSPORT certified polymers can highlight recycling on the certificate. As soon as the necessary information and proof for recycling has been given, ECO PASSPORT certificate will indicate which products were produced using recycled materials.



Strengthening Chemical Management:

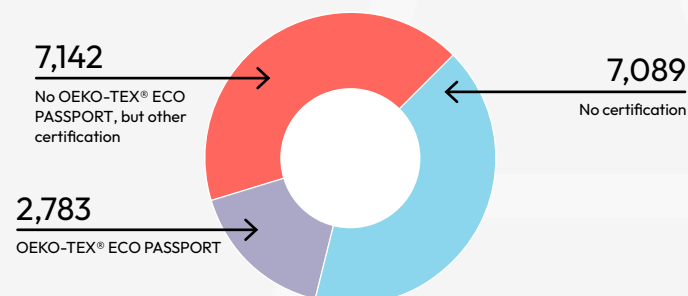
The collaboration between OEKO-TEX® STeP and The BHive® continues to grow, with transparency in chemical management as its shared aim.

Chemistry is central to everything. Without clear, accessible information about how products are processed and which chemicals are involved, progress cannot be demonstrated. For us, transparency goes beyond sharing information. It is about giving our stakeholders the insights they need to make smarter choices, minimise risks and reach their sustainability goals.

Over the past year the partnership has moved from principle into practice. The product team has run continuous webinars together with The BHive® Team to build auditor knowledge and confidence in chemical inventory assessment. In parallel, the auditor app has been tested with experienced auditors to improve the efficiency of on-site chemical inventory checks, and pilots have been carried out with customers in real certification settings.

- OEKO-TEX® currently has 306 facilities (+8% compared to last year) connected in The BHive® platform. Out of these, 218 facilities have uploaded their chemical inventory data
- 25,545 chemicals are uploaded and checked regularly by auditors of our accredited certification body
- 16% of the uploaded chemicals are ECO PASSPORT certified (+5% compared to last year)

Unique chemicals across all facilities



Strengthening traceability

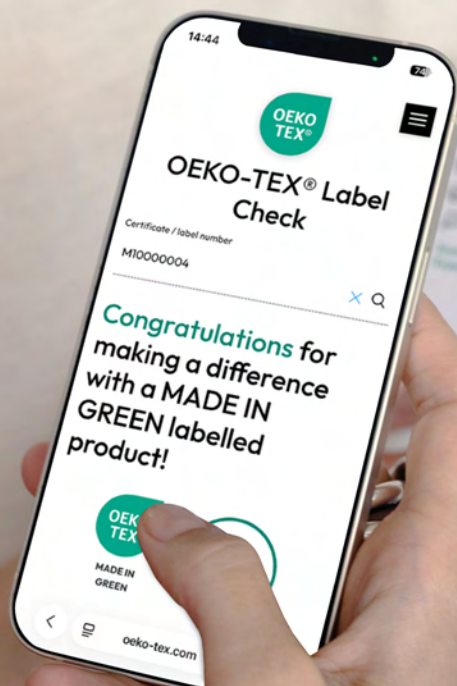
One of our key milestones of the year was the successful integration of OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON and OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN, marked by the launch of the first MADE IN GREEN labelled product based on ORGANIC COTTON certification. The initiative combined certified organic fibre sourcing and traceability with transparency into the environmental and social conditions under which products are manufactured. By connecting these elements within a single framework, OEKO-TEX® strengthened its ability to deliver trusted sustainability solutions that meet growing market expectations for transparency and accountability.

Another important milestone during the year was the advancement of digital traceability for OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON through the integration of TextileGenesis into certification and validation processes. This strengthened OEKO-TEX®'s ability to verify the flow of certified organic cotton throughout the supply chain and laid the foundation for enhanced transparency across products and facilities. By combining digital traceability with existing certification requirements, OEKO-TEX® took a significant step towards delivering more robust and scalable supply chain assurance solutions.

Complementing these developments, OEKO-TEX® increased external engagement on organic cotton and traceability through webinars and industry partnerships. An OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON webinar organised together with TextileGenesis and ATLAS attracted 325 registrations and 178 participants from 24 countries. These initiatives are helping drive wider understanding and adoption of traceable supply chains, supporting our long-term vision of greater transparency, accountability and trust throughout the textile value chain.

Strengthening partnerships

A notable development during the year was the exploration of sustainable finance opportunities linked to OEKO-TEX® certifications. Through research, stakeholder engagement and discussions with financial institutions, we identified ways in which OEKO-TEX® certifications can support companies in demonstrating sustainability performance and potentially improving access to green and sustainability-linked financing programmes. This represents an emerging opportunity to create additional business value for certified companies beyond compliance and market access.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Good health and well-being

Safety at workplace, good hygiene, medical requirements and social insurance are obligatory for the OEKO-TEX® STeP certification. Extensive product tests for harmful substances such as pesticides, PFAS or azo colorants to ensure consumer safety for OEKO-TEX® labelled products.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Quality education

We inform and update our customers, end consumers and other stakeholders about relevant sustainability topics to enhance awareness and support informed decision making. Important element of our quality assurance system is the training of auditors. OEKO-TEX® STeP obliges facility in conducting trainings and education of management and employees on social and environmental topics.

Gender equality

Gender equality is an important part of our OEKO-TEX® values: Our Code of Conduct is related to the International Bill of Human Rights and the ILO labour standards to ensure an active engagement of all employees.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



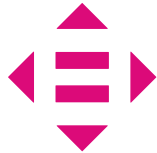
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Clean water and sanitation

OEKO-TEX® STeP and OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT support facilities to monitor and optimize their chemical management and their wastewater quality – for more agile responses to new demands and the prevention of hazardous chemicals and disposal of untreated wastewater.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduced inequalities

Fair wages, working hours and equal treatment of workers without any discrimination regarding race, origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity that's what we stand for.

Responsible consumption and production

OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN guides consumers to responsible consumption by making supply chains transparent and traceable. The OEKO-TEX® STeP certification ensures the long term implementation of environmentally friendly production processes. OEKO-TEX® RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS supports companies to integrate and practice environmental and human rights due diligence in their management systems.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Climate action

OEKO-TEX® STeP provides a comprehensive analysis and assessment of all production processes with the aim to implement best practices, efficient processes and reduce the carbon footprint across the whole supply chain. OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON supports sustainability, soil health and regenerative farming as well as biodiversity.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Partnerships for the goals

Strong partnerships and trustworthy collaborations are key element of our business for achieving positive impact on responsible consumption and production. Therefore, we exchange with various international, multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the UN, OECD, ISEAL, ZDHC and the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





We are there for you worldwide

OEKO-TEX® is a global certification scheme for textile and leather sustainability with accredited certification bodies in Europe and Japan. With external, independent experts we continuously develop test methods, define limit values and setting the highest standards for the textile and leather industry.

Our accredited certification bodies and their contact offices are present in over 70 countries.





Partnerships & Initiatives

EURATEX

As an official partner of EURATEX, we actively contribute to strengthening textile safety, transparency, and sustainability across the European textile value chain. This collaboration enables us to help shape impactful policy frameworks and support responsible, forward-looking decisions within the industry.

ISEAL

With our ISEAL Community Member OEKO-TEX® underlines its commitment to generate trust and transparency. By taking part in ISEAL's learning, collaboration and innovation activities, we are working to improve our standards and management system as well as creating greater impact.

ZERO DISCHARGE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS (ZDHC)

OEKO-TEX® is a ZDHC Approved MRSL Certification Standard, with OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT certificates aligned to the latest ZDHC MRSL and Conformance Guidance, ensuring compliance through OEKO-TEX®'s services. The collaboration between OEKO-TEX® and ZDHC drives sustainable chemical management and cleaner chemistry, meeting the needs of chemical formulators, manufacturers, suppliers, brands and retailers alike.

TextileGenesis

OEKO-TEX® chooses to work with TextileGenesis to make organic cotton certificates fully digital, using token-based technology to track cotton securely from the farm all the way to the finished product, replacing the old paper-based system. For customers, this means stronger proof that their organic cotton products are genuine, less paperwork in the supply chain, and more trust in sustainability claims.

Confidence & trust through audits.

The accredited certification bodies link our standards and customers. They significantly contribute by implementing and enforcing these standards. In over 70 countries, they showcase our global presence.

This expansive reach, however, presents a unique challenge in maintaining consistent quality standards due to diverse cultural perspectives and ongoing expansion.

Some of the measures we take to ensure consistent quality are:

- ✓ **Round Robin Tests** assure that all laboratories perform accordingly
- ✓ **Our OEKO-TEX® STeP auditors** receive comprehensive training from OEKO-TEX®
- ✓ **Through product control testing**, we ensure the conformity of products in the market, while round robin tests ensure harmonized methodologies and synchronized laboratory operations.
- ✓ **Institute audits** play a pivotal role in aligning people and processes with our standards and principles. Thus, on a triennial basis, each accredited certification body undergoes an audit conducted by OEKO-TEX®. This audit serves as a formal checkpoint, facilitating a third-party evaluation of their procedures and pinpointing areas where the support of the OEKO-TEX® can be extended.

Auditor Competence and Assurance

OEKO-TEX® continued to strengthen auditor competence, consistency and assurance across its certification portfolio through targeted training, cross-product collaboration and on-site activities.

15

new STeP auditors successfully completed the three-day in-person STeP Auditor Training.

15

experienced STeP auditors participated in a two-day refresher training focused on knowledge exchange and practical case discussions.

154

professional STeP auditors working to supporting the consistent implementation of STeP requirements across its global network.

11,137

On-Site Visits were carried out for STANDARD 100, LEATHER STANDARD, ECO PASSPORT and ORGANIC COTTON, while STeP Audits were conducted as part of the STeP certification process.

Cross-Product Lead Auditor Group

To strengthen consistency and collaboration across the OEKO-TEX® certification portfolio, the first cross-product Lead Auditor Group was established during the reporting period.

The group brings together experienced Lead Auditors from across OEKO-TEX® standards, providing a common platform for knowledge

exchange, discussion of challenging audit cases and greater consistency in the interpretation and application of requirements.

The first kick-off meeting was successfully conducted, establishing the foundation for continued collaboration and knowledge sharing across the OEKO-TEX® auditor community.

Round robin tests

Round robin testing provides an interlaboratory comparison between our testing institutes. They are an important part of our strategy to ensure the high quality of our measuring procedures and laboratories. Identical samples are tested with identical test methods at each institute. The results are compared for accuracy and consistency. These important quality measures allow us to make confident statements about the integrity of our certificates and our trusted member institutes. Participation in the annual round robin tests is mandatory for institutes that test for OEKO-TEX® and vital to guaranteeing the quality of our certifications.

20

Participating testing laboratories

41

Test parameters were checked

Product controls



The OEKO-TEX® quality assurance strategy includes control testing of STANDARD 100, LEATHER STANDARD, ORGANIC COTTON and ECO PASSPORT certified and MADE IN GREEN labelled products.

2025/2026 product control testing in numbers:

+8,300

test reports from more than 70 countries

+10,000

samples taken from retail stores, during on-site visits or certificate renewal

+47,000

tests and checks were performed on the samples

+ 800

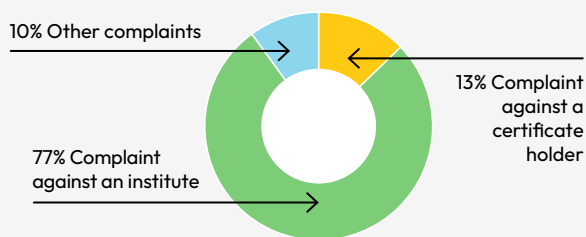
harmful substances covered by product control tests

Complaint Management

The OEKO-TEX® complaint mechanism is a cornerstone of our commitment to transparency and credibility. It enables stakeholders, including workers, customers and members of civil society, to raise concerns about potential violations of our standards, Code of Conduct or Terms of Use. Every complaint is evaluated with fairness, confidentiality and impartiality. Depending on the severity and substantiation of the concern, corrective measures are initiated. These can range from mandatory improvement actions to the withdrawal of certificates. In certain cases, OEKO-TEX® may also conduct unannounced audits or initiate an in-depth investigation of the responsible institute.

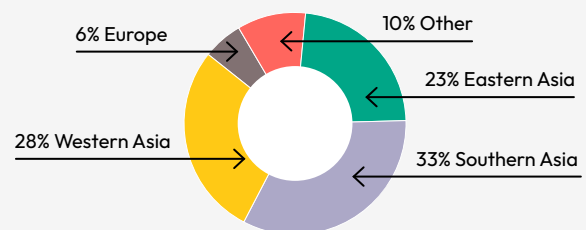
By offering a structured and accessible avenue for grievances, the complaint mechanism enhances trust in the OEKO-TEX® system and reinforces the accountability of certified companies and participating institutes. It ensures that all stakeholders uphold our shared values of responsibility, transparency and integrity. More information about our complaint mechanism can be found here: www.oeko-tex.com

In 2025/2026, OEKO-TEX® received 87 complaints. A significant share concerned the work of certification bodies, with a number originating from fellow accredited certification bodies. The most frequently addressed topic concerned certification processes requiring closer alignment with OEKO-TEX® guidelines.

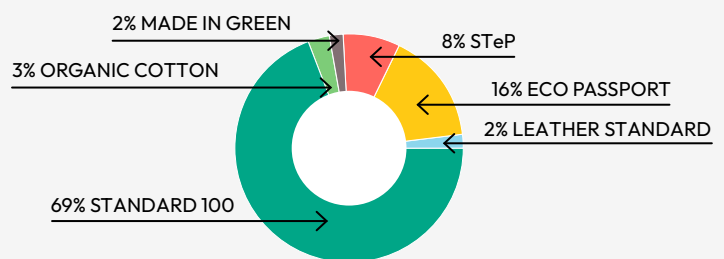


Approximately 13% of the complaints came from customers, meaning both certificate holders and other stakeholders such as end consumers, with about half of these relating to social concerns such as fair wages and access to social security.

Most of these complaints originated in Asia, reflecting the geographic distribution of our certificate holders.



Almost two-thirds of the complaints concerned OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certifications. This is in line with expectations, as STANDARD 100 remains our largest and most widely used certification.



Legal

The registration of the OEKO-TEX® umbrella logo and the OEKO-TEX® product logos in various jurisdictions forms the basis for the right to use and protect the trademarks. On this basis, OEKO-TEX® establishes mechanisms to protect its trademarks and asserts its rights to these trademarks on the market against third parties.



Trademark Registration

In light of our rebranding in 2022, our trademark applications have now been successfully registered in most jurisdictions. In most of these jurisdictions, the OEKO-TEX® umbrella logo is registered as a certification mark. Certification marks have a quality and guarantee function for goods and services. The owner of the certification mark guarantees the manner in which the goods are manufactured, or the services are provided, the quality, accuracy, or other characteristics. Certification marks can be used by anyone who follows the regulations governing the mark. This simplifies other legal considerations like licencing or combatting misuse of our marks.

Preventive Trademark Protection

To safeguard the OEKO-TEX® trademarks, we proactively monitor newly registered trademarks across various jurisdictions for similarities in substance or appearance. When potential conflicts are identified, we initiate formal objection proceedings. We also monitor internet domain registrations for names that closely resemble OEKO-TEX® trademarks. In such cases, we pursue action through the Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP). In addition, we cooperate with customs authorities in multiple countries. When goods suspected of trademark misuse are detected at the border, they are only cleared once any improper references to OEKO-TEX® trademarks have been removed.



Protection Against Trademark Misuse

Trademark misuse typically involves the incorrect use of our marks on products or in marketing materials. OEKO-TEX® labelling rules define how certificate holders and third parties may use our trademarks properly. When misuse is identified, we take civil- and, where necessary, criminal action. We are supported in this by a global network of legal experts who enforce our rights across different jurisdictions.



Marketing Collaboration & Social Media

The Fashion Stitch: The OEKO-TEX® storytelling podcast

In 2025, OEKO-TEX® stepped into a new medium with the launch of The Fashion Stitch — a storytelling podcast created in collaboration with Fashion Changers and renowned sustainability journalist Clare Press. Running from 1 October to 5 November 2025, the series brought together a trailer and six episodes in English, exploring the people and ideas shaping a more transparent and responsible textile industry.

Available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other major platforms, The Fashion Stitch extended OEKO-TEX®'s voice beyond certification and into conversation.

A dedicated landing page, PR outreach, and a six-part newsletter series supported the launch, with newsletters achieving an average open rate of over 40% - a strong signal of audience engagement. Paid promotion on Instagram across the UK and US markets drove more than 1.6 million impressions and 1.3 million reach, introducing the OEKO-TEX® name to new, style- and sustainability-conscious communities.

Perhaps the most striking result: listeners tuned in from 61 countries, underscoring the universal relevance of sustainable textile production.



[Learn more and
listen here!](#)

Social Media Traffic

OEKO-TEX® has increased efforts to engage target audiences using a focused social media strategy and achieved healthy KPI growth.

To further increase our social media presence in focus markets it is important to create engaging, educational and emotional content.



Instagram +41%
13,538 → 19,113 Follower



Facebook
11.000 Follower



Wechat +10%
36,558 → 40,259 Follower



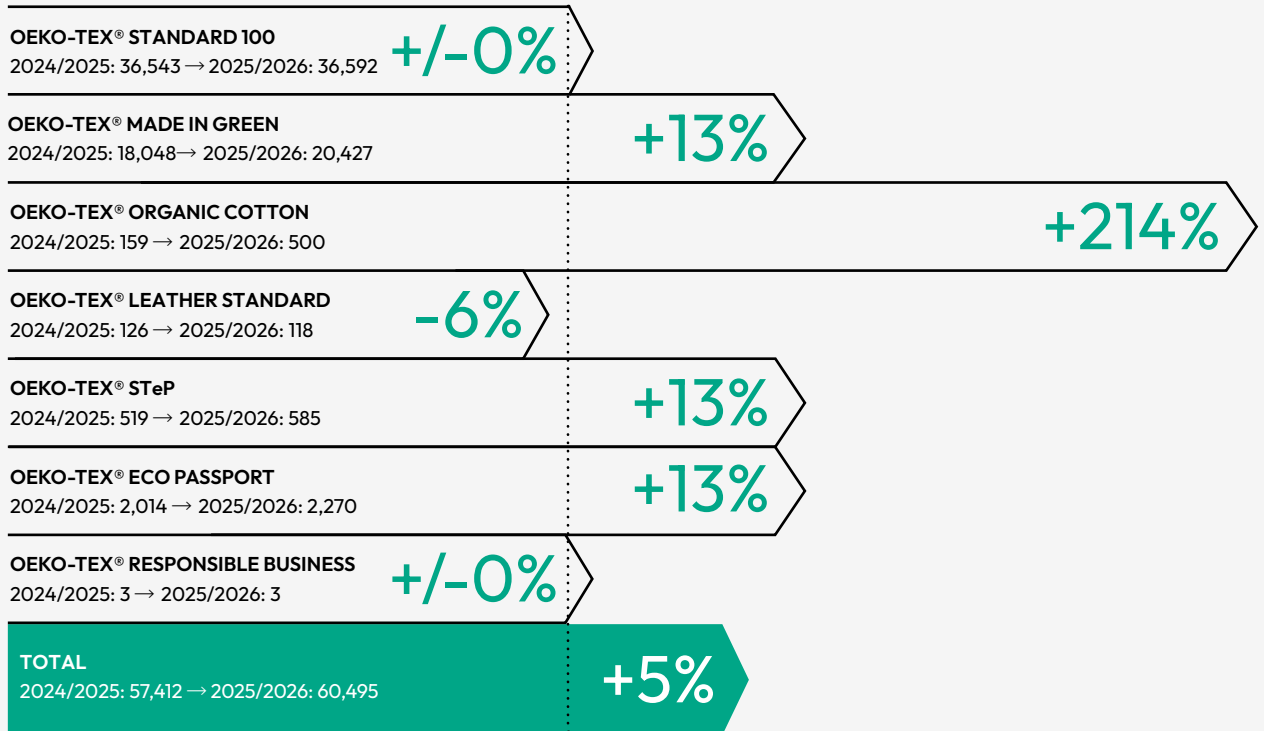
LinkedIn +28%
49,374 → 63,323 Follower



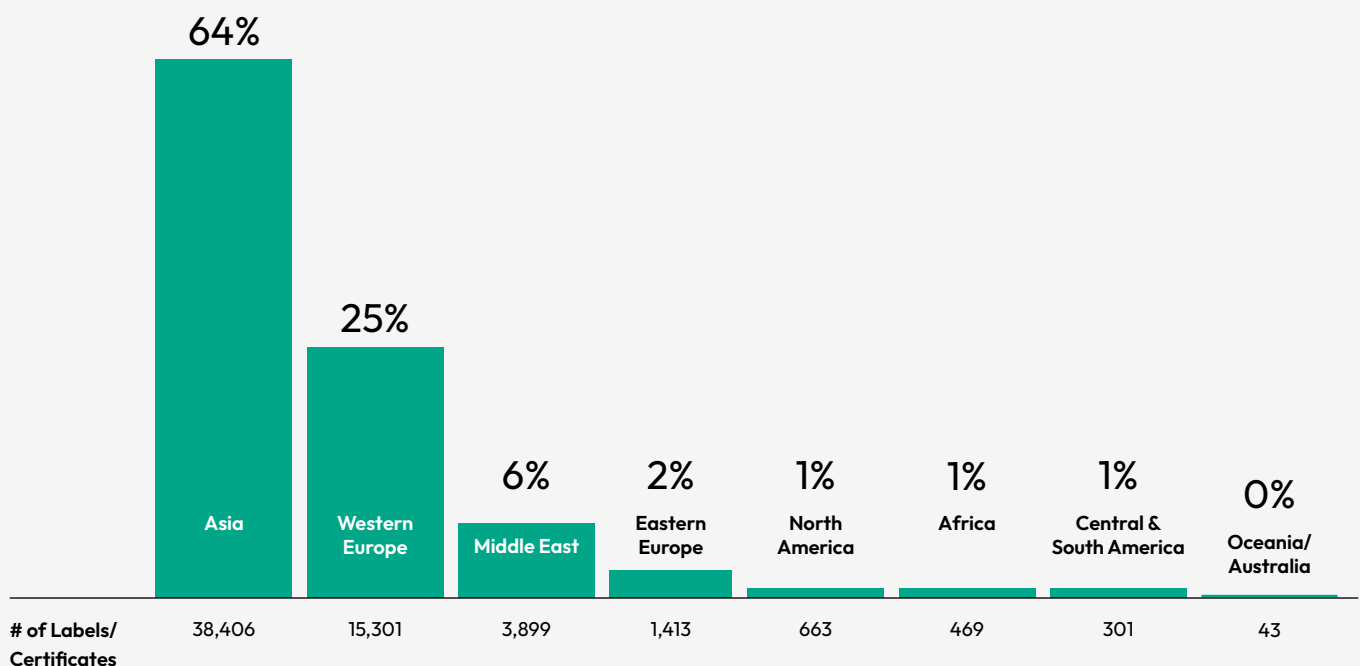
TikTok + 1,858%
109 → 2134 Follower



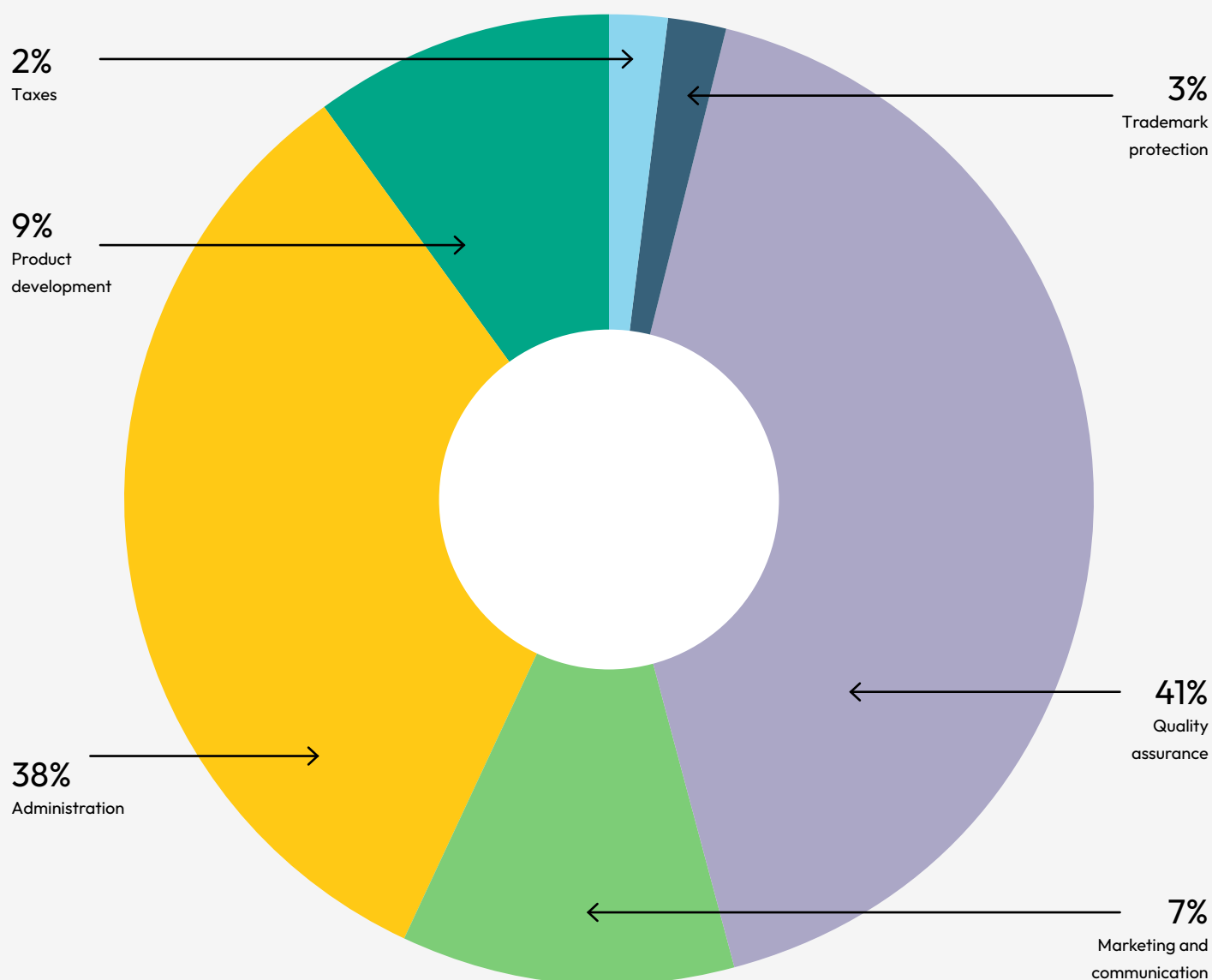
Number of certificates and labels



Worldwide distribution of certificates and labels



Overview of expenses with clear focus on quality.



The OEKO TEX logo is a green teardrop shape with the text "OEKO" and "TEX" in white, with a registered trademark symbol (®) next to "TEX".

OEKO
TEX®

Ensuring sustainability and trust in textiles and leather.

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Commercial Register Office of the Canton of Zurich