**Project title:** SozioTex – New Socio-technical Systems in the Textile Industry

**Partner:** Institut für Textiltechnik (ITA) in cooperation with the Chair of Sociology of Technology and Organization (STO) at RWTH Aachen University

**Duration:** 11/2014 – 04/2020

**Funding Agency:** BMBF

---

**Mission Statement**

In order to address the topic "Human-Technology Interaction for Demographic Change", taking into account the ethical, legal and social implications of technological developments in the textile industry, an interdisciplinary research group was established at the Institut für Textiltechnik (ITA) in cooperation with the Chair of Sociology of Technology and Organization (STO) at RWTH Aachen University.

The research focus is on the analysis of sociotechnical systems in dealing with new technologies in the aging textile industry. The heterogeneity of employees in the textile industry has increased the most compared to other industries. At the same time, the orientation towards new production technologies such as those of industry 4.0 is increasing. Contents are, with focus on co-workers of all age groups, the conception, development and introduction of technical and social innovations (authority structure and machine organization) for the textile industry which are necessary for a successful human machine interaction.

Industry 4.0 can only work if employees are considered from the outset, as they are the ones who integrate and use the systems.

**Approach**

The research focus is on the analysis and targeted design of socio-technical systems for an aging workforce, especially when dealing with innovative and networked production steps. One focus is on the implementation of intelligent human-machine interfaces, e.g. for operating and support systems. But per-
sonnel, organisational and training issues must also be integrated into re-
search from the outset as so-called "soft" factors. The approach is to be
transferred to other sectors in the future.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the Federal Ministry of Education and Research
(BMBF) for its support of the junior research group "New Sociotechnical
Systems in the Textile Industry (SozioTex)" and the VDI/VDE Innovation +
Technik GmbH for its coordination. Information on the project can be found
on the BMBF homepage:
https://www.technik-zum-menschen-bringen.de/projekte/soziotex

Contact

Institut für Textiltechnik (ITA) of RWTH Aachen University
Dr. Andrea Altepost
Otto-Blumenthal-Str. 1
52074 Aachen
E-mail: andrea.altepost@ita.rwth-aachen.de
Homepage: www.soziotex.de