



Stylish Filo responds to challenges

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65th edition highlights optimism, innovation and circular supply chain focus.



The 65th edition signalled with positive results for the new season.

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2nd March 2026

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Milan, Italy

Knitted Outerwear

The 65th edition of Filo international yarn exhibition, held at Rho Fiera Milano, presented a freer and more optimistic vision for fashion and fabrics for 2026/7, expressed through bright, light colour palettes and innovative developments.

The event recorded a good overall attendance from exhibitors and visitors. This was an encouraging result, given current global economic uncertainty and a few logistical

challenges posed by the fact that the Milan Cortina Winter Olympic Games opening took place during the week.

It was noted that International coverage of this nearby Olympic event served to highlight the important role of fabrics in the pursuit of astonishing goals by today's sportsman and women.



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Firm opportunities for convergence of fashion with sectors such as sport, wellness and health are opening new markets for technical and performance yarns.

New Horizons

An important development came with ‘close synergy’ Filo established for the first time with Lineapelle the leather goods exhibition, exhibiting to mutual satisfaction, with many visitors reported attending both exhibitions.

The theme of this edition of Filo involved renewed focus on the very beginning of the textile supply chain, as increasing attention is directed towards the early stages of garment production. A government minister talked of establishing direct responsibility for waste to combat some Fast Fashion.

Speakers in the many discussion groups pointed at clean processes, chemical responsibility and non-polluting technologies as being no longer optional but increasingly expected by both brands and end consumers. Information is aimed at being clearer, more transparent and oriented toward the entire value chain, from manufacturer to final use.

Sustainability has long been integral to Filo’s identity, and many of the issues now widely discussed across the industry were first explored here. Today the concept has evolved into a framework that results in measurable results.

Natural Fibres meet select synthetics

Natural fibres remained central, though probably not in the majority overall, supported by extensive research and communication to underline performance and provenance, answering a continuing demand for man made fabrics for particular effects and qualities but also noting a lift in blending natural fibres with man-made in advanced material combinations. These designed to enhance performance, durability and visual effects that would otherwise be difficult to achieve.

Wool Steps up

Giusy Bettoni founder of *CLASS* and eco pioneer introduced native wools as an identifying feature of potential interest. With the current interest in wool, knitwear is experiencing renewed interest, particularly using soft, tactile yarns such as brushed and embroidered lambswool, as well as lightweight yet warm constructions for contemporary winter fashion in cashmere linen etc.



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The Filo project highlighted the value of native wools, promoting local fibre chains and transforming regional resources into high-quality niche products for fashion, interiors and design, an idea finding favour in many areas of Europe chiming with current fashions for story telling and history.

Trends and Creative Direction

Filo offers Nexus to the industry, with designer Rosssano Bisio presenting fabrics made exclusively from Filo Yarns. Here designers are encouraged to take a bolder look at the combinations of different weights colours and ingredients using difference in qualities they can bring to specific yarns in order to extend their appeal.

The Filo Yarns had experimental designs, with bold combinations of different weights, textures, fibres and colour intensities. Material composition is now considered as important as visual appearance to customers, with designers exploring how fibre content influences performance, handle and sustainability.

2027 colour directions are less imposed than before, however they did lean towards soft whites, pale pinks and no natural tones, understated effects. Wool, cotton, linen and innovative developments such as Tencel Lyocell featured strongly, to reflect a balance between natural authenticity and technological advancement.

Yarn and fabric dyes were also a keen area of development with new colour mixes obtained with minimum effect on the environment.

Industry collaboration and policy

Italy's strong position in a fully integrated textile supply chain was evident throughout the show. The sector's commitment to circularity and eco-design is also being reinforced at policy level. Italy's Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security, Gilberto Pichetto Fratin outlined plans to counter fast fashion through extended producer responsibility, focusing on post-consumer textile waste and encouraging sustainable product design.

Synergy.

The partnership between Filo and Lineapelle the leather exhibition was launched to provide visitors with a broader view of materials across textiles and leather, hoping to generate valuable synergy between the two events. The move was judged to be mutually successful said Paolo Monfermoso the CEO of Filo, citing a satisfying crossover of visitors to each area.

Filo initiatives were organised; such as Piemonte's Buyers' Days (within the PIF integrated supply chain project) demonstrate efforts to support internationalisation and attract investment.

Buyers this year attended from across Europe including France, the UK, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Hungary and Finland as well as from India and China, extending its reach for internationalism and investment.

Well known names exhibiting included Safilin, Monticolor, Filmar, Lenzing Sperry, Zegna Baruffa, Lurex Sudwolle, Servizi e Seta and Schoeller.

Research and experimentation

Developments included striking Lurex metal-effect yarns achieved without actual metal content, and other interesting directional brushing and speckled dye techniques for varied surface effects.

Advanced finishing processes have developed for comfort and performance, and creative reuse of production waste for accessories and packaging is saving money; Circular ideas, recycled cotton, wool and cashmere blends made from post-consumer sources, alongside certified yarns meeting standards such as Oeko-Tex, GRS and RWS.

Outlook

Overall, Filo 65 wished to demonstrate an industry responding proactively to change with a view of the supply chain, strong local roots combined with international outlook, and a clear commitment to circularity and innovation. Intending to shape the future of yarn development 'for a solid and competitive supply chain rooted in the local areas.'

The importance of what happens at the very beginning of the chain in fashion and textiles knitted and woven was clearly signalled by the strong impetus to maximise non-polluting developments.

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