

## Press Release:

Ismaning, November 04th, 2019

PERFORMANCE DAYS © functional fabrics fair  
produced by Design & Development GmbH Textile Consult  
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sustain&innovate: a series of significant talks on issues of sustainability on the second day of PERFORMANCE DAYS

## The great importance of the HIGG Index for sustainable action in the textile value chain

*Many internationally renowned speakers will give interesting and informative talks at the sustainability conference **sustain&innovate** on November 14th in Munich, offering help throughout all stages of the textile value chain with the aim of becoming even more sustainable. One of such specialists is Karin Ekberg.*

Sustainability is the key issue within the industry, and it is the topic which the **sustain&innovate** conference on 14 November 2019 in Munich will revolve around. On the second day of **PERFORMANCE DAYS**, the trade fair for functional textiles for sport, fashion and workwear, the focus will be fully on sustainability. The new conference, initiated by **PERFORMANCE DAYS** and **SPORTSFASHION by SAZ**, informs the functional textile branch about all opportunities for sustainable production. Renowned speakers will give talks on the latest developments in textile sustainability. An important name among them is Karin Ekberg from Leadership & Sustainability, a member of SAC and also a Higg FEM verifier. The HIGG specialist will provide an in-depth insight into the possibilities and benefits of the HIGG Index and introduce you to the HIGG module FEM (Facility Environmental Module). Here in an interview prior to the fair where she gives a sneak preview:

**PERFORMANCE DAYS:** Karin, you will be giving a talk at our sustainability conference **sustain&innovate** about the HIGG index environmental module FEM. Why is this tool so important for sustainability in the textile branch?

**Karin Ekberg:** With the Higg FEM (Facility Environmental Tool) from SAC (Sustainable Apparel Coalition), suppliers and producers, from fibre manufacturers to garment factories or converters, can document and evaluate the environmental performance of their company, and learn how they can develop further in terms of sustainability.

**PD:** What makes the HIGG Index so special?

**Karin Ekberg:** This tool consists of several parts and is specifically designed for the extended textile branch. It is a fully comprehensive tool for all enterprises in the textile value chain to gauge and improve the sustainability of their own businesses and products, or those of their suppliers.

**PD:** That sounds very complex. How was this tool developed?

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**Karin Ekberg:** The Sustainable Apparel Coalition SAC developed it with its members, not just in a small circle, but as a large coalition. This allowed for the flow of various aspects and the collective knowledge of its members, it is something we are proud of!

**PD:** How can we imagine the setup of this tool?

**Karin Ekberg:** There are three levels at HIGG: firstly, the brand&retail tool for clothing brands and for major retailers who wish to research sustainability on a strategic level. Then there's a large area for all facilities, i.e. factories, which is divided into two further areas: the environmental module FEM (Facility Environmental Module) and the module for social and labour aspects, the FSLM, which has been newly developed.

There are also various tools in the product area: the Material Sustainability Index for example to find out how sustainable the materials used really are, and a design- and development module for designers and design decision-makers to learn how to implement sustainability into the design process. The footprint module is also very exciting: Here you can analyse the life cycle of the finished product.

**PD:** That is very extensive. Who can use HIGG as a tool?

**Karin Ekberg:** On the one hand, the members of the SAC, which is growing steadily as we speak. You can also buy individual access to the software platform. The important thing here is that anyone in the textile industry can evaluate their own environmental performance. You then see where you stand and learn how you can develop further.

**PD:** How many users are already using this tool?

**Karin Ekberg:** If you count the accounts, it's already more than 10.000, although we haven't even finished developing some modules yet. The footprint tool, for example, is only just being finalised, yet we already have over 8.000 users online in the facility module.

**PD:** Whoever scores well on the HIGG Index surely wishes to communicate that. How do you publicise particular scores and your great modules?

**Karin Ekberg:** For the users of our tools, it is a self-assessment. Everyone can post their scores on the internal platform, which meanwhile more and more manufacturers are actually doing. If you want to go public with your results, you first have to undergo an external verification process, and then you can release your results or scores. We are currently working on informing retailers more about this.

**PD:** We look forward to your Expert Talk! Thanks for the clarification.

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If you wish to find out more about the HIGG Index and the FEM, then don't miss Karin Ekberg's talk on 14 November 2019, 12:00h at the sustain&innovate conference. It takes place at the Expert Talk Area of PERFORMANCE DAYS, in Hall C1 of Messe München.

Admission to the fair and conference talks are free of charge for visitors! It is however recommended to pre-register in advance at [www.performancedays.com](http://www.performancedays.com) to avoid waiting times at entrances.

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### **About PERFORMANCE DAYS**

PERFORMANCE DAYS – the “functional fabric fair” launched in 2008, is the first and only event created especially for functional fabrics for sports and work clothing. The aim of the semi-annual trade fair is to give leading and innovative textile manufacturers, suppliers and service providers the opportunity to present their functional fabrics, membranes plus treatments, laminates, paddings, finishes, and accessories such as yarns, tapes, prints, buttons, and zippers.

The industry experts who come to this fair – the designers, product managers, buyers, and decision-makers of almost every European active clothing and functional wear brand (see [Visitor List](#)) – will find a complete selection of high quality materials available at just the right time in April/May and October/November. These dates are intentionally scheduled early and are optimal for summer and winter sport and sportive fashion collections. A listing of current exhibitors is available online at “[Exhibitor List](#)” as well as all past trade fair catalogs at “[Catalogs](#).”

The relaxed and focused workshop-like atmosphere at PERFORMANCE DAYS differentiates it from other fairs. That is one of the reasons why the Munich based Functional Fabric Fair, at the heart of the European sportswear industry, has become one of the top addresses for new fabrics, innovations, and is the preferred meeting place to conduct business.

[The](#) unique PERFORMANCE FORUM at PERFORMANCE DAYS gives visitors an inspiring and informed overview of the latest materials, trends, and innovations by the exhibitors. [This](#) is also where the [\(ECO\) PERFORMANCE AWARD](#) is presented.

Valuable [expert talks](#), [workshops](#), and [guided tours](#) round out the informative program. All lectures will be available online after the trade fair – see “[Presentations Library](#).”

**Free entrance and admission to all events for industry visitors.**

**More information and online registration at: [www.performancedays.com](http://www.performancedays.com)**

### **About the Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS**

As “[Functional Fabric Fair powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS](#)” the trade fair has also been taking place in the US in cooperation with [Reed Exhibitions](#) since 2018. Located in the Javits Center in New York City as well as in the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR, the sourcing fair exhibits the latest industry trends analogous to the event in Munich and is the platform in the USA for sourcing functional fabrics and accessories. The event includes exhibits, workshops, industry lectures, and a program for professional networking and networked manufacturers and buyers.

**New York City, NY: July 20-21<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**Portland, OR: November 18-19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**