



Annual Report

2024/2025



Dear readers,

In 2024/25, OEKO-TEX® continued to navigate an evolving regulatory and market environment, shaped by increasing demands for transparency and credible sustainability data. Across the textile and leather industry, we observed a consistent rise in demand for tested and trusted solutions.

This year, more than 57,000 OEKO-TEX® certificates and labels were issued, a result of close cooperation with our 17 testing institutes and a focus on qualitative growth through harmonisation and technical refinement. These efforts serve to further strengthen the reliability of our services.

Strategic partnerships have played a significantly role in this development. Our collaboration with Cradle to Cradle supports mutual recognition and helps reduce complexity for industry stakeholders. Joint activities with the Global Nature Fund further deepened our commitment to biodiversity and water stewardship.

This year also marked the 10th anniversary of the OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN label, a milestone that prompts both reflection and renewed dedication to traceability and transparency. Today, over 18,000 labelled products provide consumers with accessible, verifiable supply chain data.

We extend our sincere thanks to all stakeholders, from license holders and testing institutes to partners across industry and civil society, for their ongoing trust, engagement and input. Your expertise has been essential in adapting our tools to current and future needs and in strengthening the impact of OEKO-TEX® across global markets. These relationships are central to our shared progress.

This report reflects the collective efforts of many. I hope it offers valuable insights into the progress we have made together, as well as what lies ahead. We invite you to engage with its findings and, as always, welcome your feedback and ideas.



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, the OEKO-TEX® Association, comprising 17 international testing institutes, 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. Our association thrives 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.

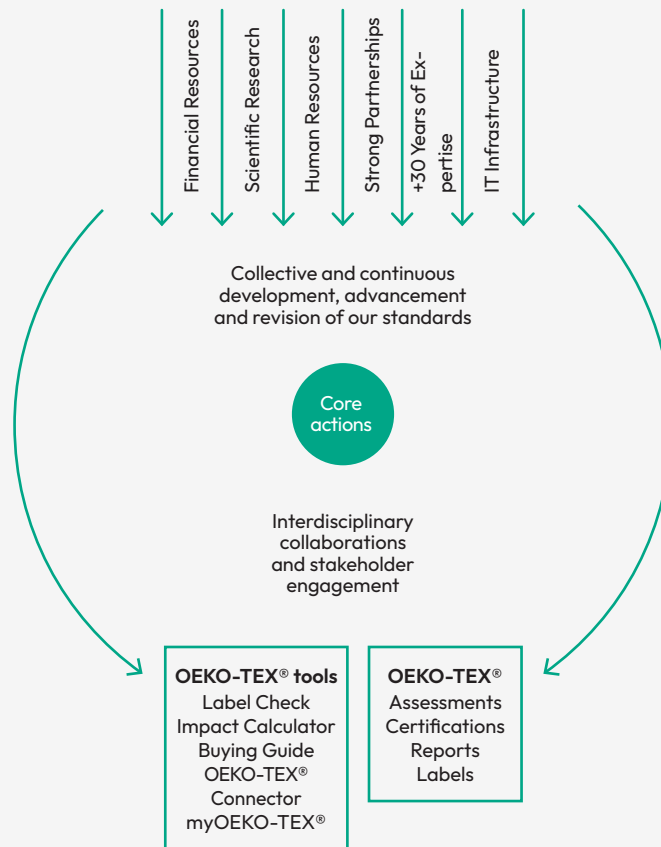


Trust

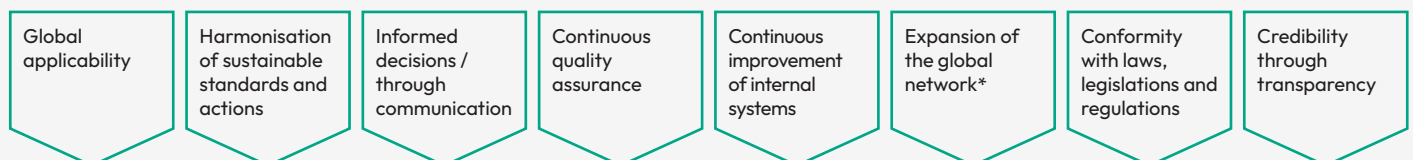
Trust is the foundation of our action. We trust in science. OEKO-TEX® is an international network of independent scientific experts. We test and certify by using clear, consistent criteria, which we communicate openly.

Theory of change

Input



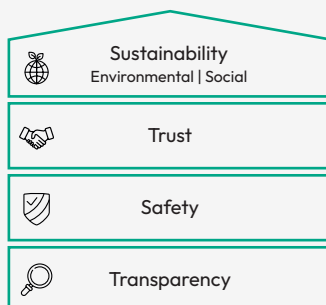
Output



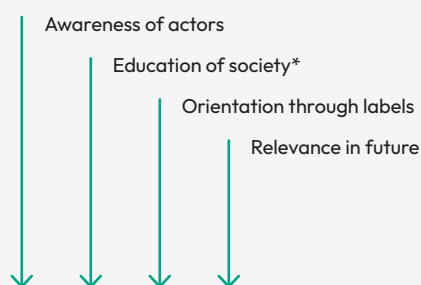
Theory of change

Outcome

Increased...



Leads to...



Impact

Resulting in...



Facts & numbers at a glance



57,412

certificates & label issued

+ 8% compared to 2023/2024



ORGANIC COTTON

+ 127%

of OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON certificates compared to 2023/2024



ECO PASSPORT

Over
50,000

ECO PASSPORT certified chemicals

+ 10%

growth in certificates compared to 2023/2024

Public Stakeholder Consultation:

The consultation was conducted in Fall 2024 to create and revise our standards.

Above

80%

rate on agreement in

13

proposals

159

participants

28

countries represented

OEKO-TEX® campaign 10 year MADE IN GREEN



MADE IN GREEN

As part of our 10 year celebration of MADE IN GREEN, the “Wear what feels right” campaign reached over

8 million

individuals and generated more than

Increasing Supply Chain Traceability:

Over

18,000



MADE IN GREEN

labelled products

Over

5,300

companies are part of the MADE IN GREEN supply chain

20 million

impressions - helping consumers make informed choices about what they wear.

~ 20 M impressions on



More Highlights

Strengthening Chemical Safety:

As part of our ongoing commitment to consumer and environmental safety, OEKO-TEX® has updated its Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSL) and Restricted Substances List (RSL) to reflect the latest scientific findings and regulatory developments. In 2025, the following changes were implemented:

- Stricter protection for vulnerable groups: Biologically active substances have been banned in baby articles and products that come into direct contact with mucous membranes, further reducing exposure risks for sensitive users.
- Ban on fragrances in all product categories: Fragrances, which are known to trigger allergic reactions in some individuals, are now completely banned across all textile and leather products certified under OEKO-TEX® standards.
- Tighter control of bisphenols: The limit value for Bisphenol A has been reduced to reflect its classification as an endocrine disruptor. In addition, Bisphenol AF and Bisphenol F have been added to the list of restricted substances, ensuring broader protection against potentially harmful bisphenols

In 2025, OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT significantly expanded its certification scope to include commodity and maintenance chemicals, broadening its impact across the textile and leather supply chains. This move supports earlier detection of harmful substances, better worker protection, and improved environmental safety.

The new scope already includes two certified commodity chemicals and two certified maintenance chemicals. Second-life commodity chemicals are now subject to more frequent testing to ensure consistent quality.

Additionally, biodegradability requirements were introduced for relevant substances such as surfactants, softeners and complexing agents. These changes strengthen ECO PASSPORT's role in promoting safer, more transparent chemical use in the industry.



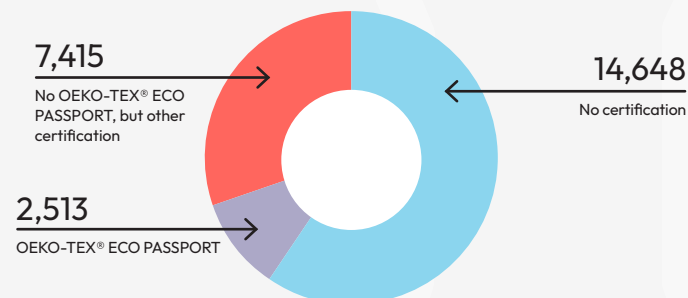
Strengthening Chemical Management:

The collaboration of OEKO-TEX® STeP and GoBlu is growing with the aim to increase transparency.

Chemistry is central to everything. Without clear, accessible information about where products are made, how they are processed, and which chemicals are involved, we can't meaningfully demonstrate progress. For us transparency goes beyond simply sharing information it is about providing our stakeholders with the insights needed to make smarter choices, minimize risks, and achieve sustainability goals.

- OEKO-TEX® currently has 285 facilities (+6% compared to last year) connected in The BHive® platform. Out of these, 209 facilities have uploaded their chemical inventory data
- 24,576 unique chemicals are uploaded and checked regularly by the auditors of our institutes.
- 11% of the uploaded chemicals are OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT certified

Unique chemicals across all facilities



More to come:

- We are working in close collaboration with GoBlu on the "Auditor Application" for the smartphone, which allows auditors to check in real-time the chemicals on-site towards their uploaded inventory. – stay tuned!
- OEKO-TEX® STeP certificate numbers are now displayed in The BHive®, which increases visibility of the certificates to brands and other 3rd parties

Reinforcing corporate responsibility through international alignment

The development of OEKO-TEX® RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS was guided by key international frameworks, including the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector. Participating in the OECD Standards Assessment was a natural next step. Our strong alignment result confirms our role as a trusted partner for corporate due diligence in the textile and leather industry. The detailed results of the assessment are available [here](#).



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



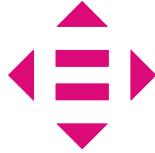
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



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



13 CLIMATE ACTION



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.

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

Our association consists of independent research and test institutes in Europe and Japan. Together we work to continuously develop test methods, define limit values and setting the highest standards for the textile and leather industry.

Our OEKO-TEX® testing institutes and their contact offices are present in over 70 countries.



Our Standard Setting Process

Our core ambition is to keep the high quality of our certification standards. To ensure that the standards remain at the highest technical level, they are revised every year. Various OEKO-TEX® committees track global regulations, scientific data and industry technologies and discuss about future updates of the OEKO-TEX® standards. The committees are made up of internal and external experts from various disciplines and countries. Textile engineers, technicians, chemists, toxicologists, lawyers, social scientists, marketers, etc. are represented so that as many perspectives as possible can be considered. Through this broad expertise and the collaborative negotiation process, we create industry-leading standards that meet the high demands for transparency and credibility. The participation of stakeholders in the OEKO-TEX® standard-setting process is highly important. The Public Stakeholder Consultation provides input on a regular base. The International Advisory Board gives recommendations based on the proposals to the Steering Committee.

Working Groups

Working Groups meet regularly for compilation and deepening of the proposals made in the Technical Committee meetings. Elaborations and discussions are presented in the Technical Committee meetings. They work on document optimization, product developments and implementation. Additionally, feedback from external stakeholders of the OEKO-TEX® Public Stakeholder Consultation shall be discussed and considered for implementation.

- 12 working groups
- 70 persons participating in our working groups
- 40 women
- 30 men
- Based in 11 countries

More information about our Standard-Setting Process can be found here:
www.oeko-tex.com



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.

Global Nature Fund

In collaboration with the Global Nature Fund, we are committed to protecting biodiversity throughout the textile value chain. Together, we are developing criteria to promote environmentally responsible textile production.

ZERO DISCHARGE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS (ZDHC)

We strengthen our collaboration with ZDHC to promote sustainable chemical management and advance cleaner chemistry principles. The partnership seeks to drive sustainability while meeting the needs of chemical formulators / manufacturers, suppliers, brands and retailers.

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.

Cradle to Cradle

OEKO-TEX® cooperates with Cradle to Cradle to support improvement in standards and promotes ethical, fair, and open dialogue for the common good of the textile industry. The parties agree to pursue a path of cooperation and program recognition to enhance the value of product circularity, product safety, environmental, social and governance compliance certifications in the textile sectors.

Service and solution providers

OEKO-TEX® engages with multiple service and solution providers to enhance traceability and transparency by verifying certificate information and jointly preparing for current and future legislation.

Confidence & trust through audits.

The OEKO-TEX® testing institutes 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 the OEKO-TEX® Association.
- ✓ **Through 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 testing institute of the OEKO-TEX® Association undergoes an audit conducted by OEKO-TEX®. This institute audit serves as a formal checkpoint, facilitating a third-party evaluation of their procedures and pinpointing areas where the support of the OEKO-TEX® Association can be extended.

All about audits:

26

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

39

experienced STeP auditors were re-trained, using the training to share their experiences and deepen their knowledge.

161

professional STeP auditors working within the OEKO-TEX® Association.

10,364

On-Site Visits for STANDARD 100, LEATHER STANDARD and ORGANIC COTTON were carried out.

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

44

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.

2024/2025 product control testing in numbers:

+7,700

test reports from more than 70 countries

+9,500

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

+45,000

tests and checks were performed on the samples

> 90%

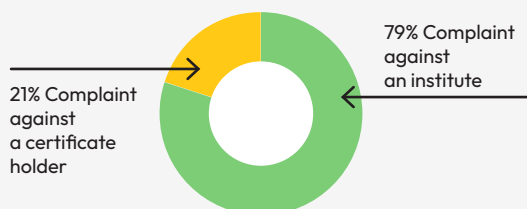
of the random samples confirmed certification results

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.

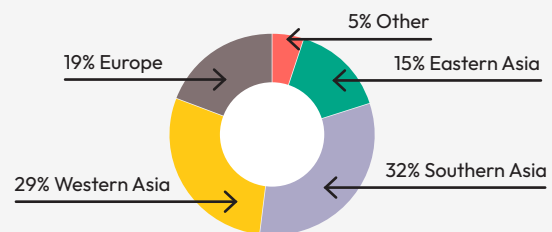
By offering a structured and accessible avenue for grievances, the complaint mechanism enhances trust in the OEKO-TEX® system and reinforces the accountability of certified companies and participating institutes. It ensures that all stakeholders uphold our shared values of responsibility, transparency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

In 2024/2025, OEKO-TEX® received 42 complaints. A significant share concerned the work of OEKO-TEX® institutes, with a number originating from fellow testing institutes. The most frequently addressed topic concerned certification processes requiring closer alignment with OEKO-TEX® guidelines.

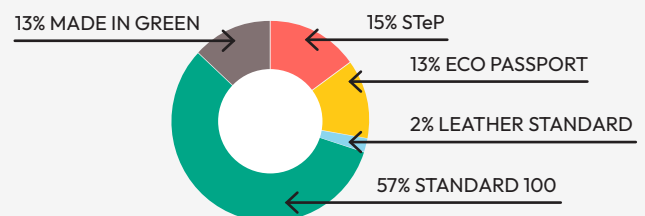


Approximately 20% of the complaints came from customers, meaning both certificate holders and other stakeholders such as end consumers, with about half of these relating to social concerns such as fair wages and access to social security.

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



More than half 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

End consumer awareness campaign – “Wear what feels right. Conscious choices made easy. ”

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the **MADE IN GREEN** label, OEKO-TEX® launched a 10-week global marketing campaign from late April to late June. The initiative aimed to strengthen end consumer awareness and education around safe, responsible choices.

With the tagline „**Wear what feels right**“, the campaign leveraged multiple social media platforms — including TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, WeChat, YouTube, and LinkedIn — to share engaging stories about the benefits of the **MADE IN GREEN** label.

Key campaign results:

- **Over 20 million impressions** across all channels
- **11 influencer collaborations** to amplify reach and authenticity
- Diverse content formats, from short-form videos to educational posts, tailored to each platform's audience

This campaign significantly increased visibility for the **MADE IN GREEN** label and reinforced OEKO-TEX®'s commitment to transparency and consumer trust.



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 +34%

10,114 → 13,538 Follower



Facebook +8%

8,076 → 8,734 Follower



Wechat +10%

33,293 → 36,558 Follower



LinkedIn +14%

43,303 → 49,374 Follower

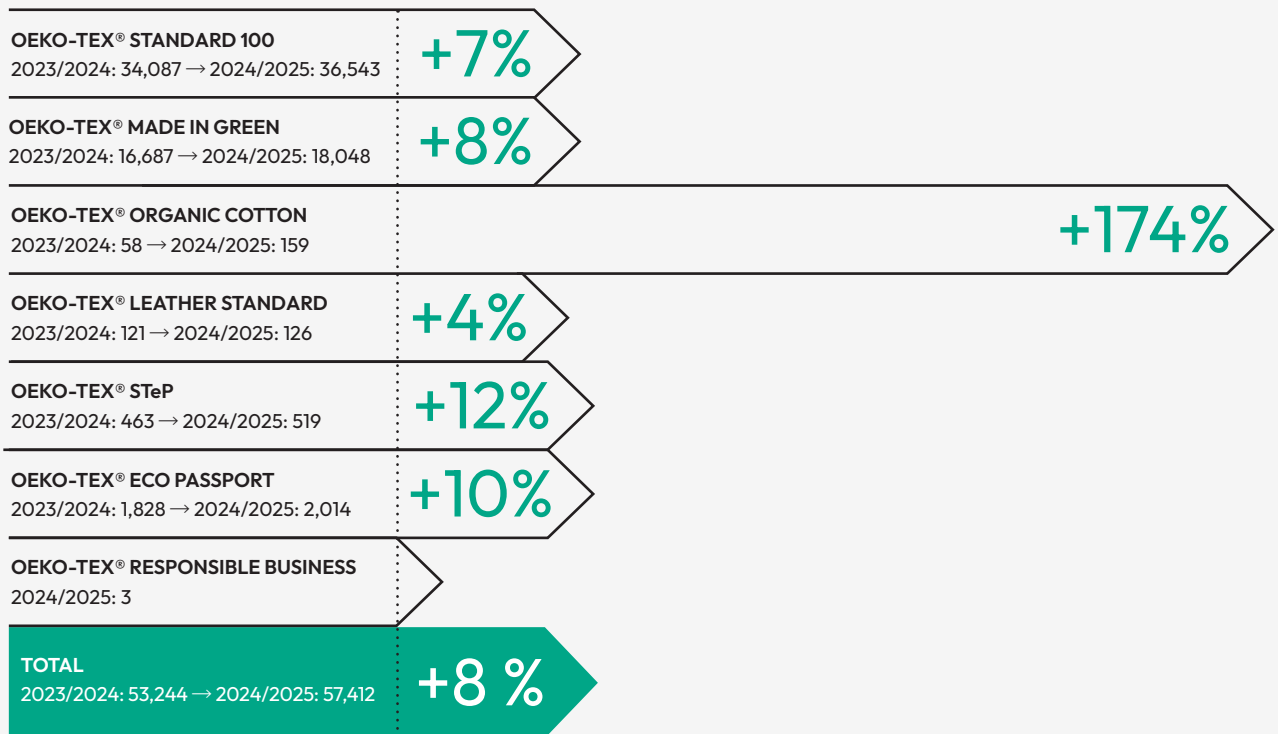


TikTok New Channel

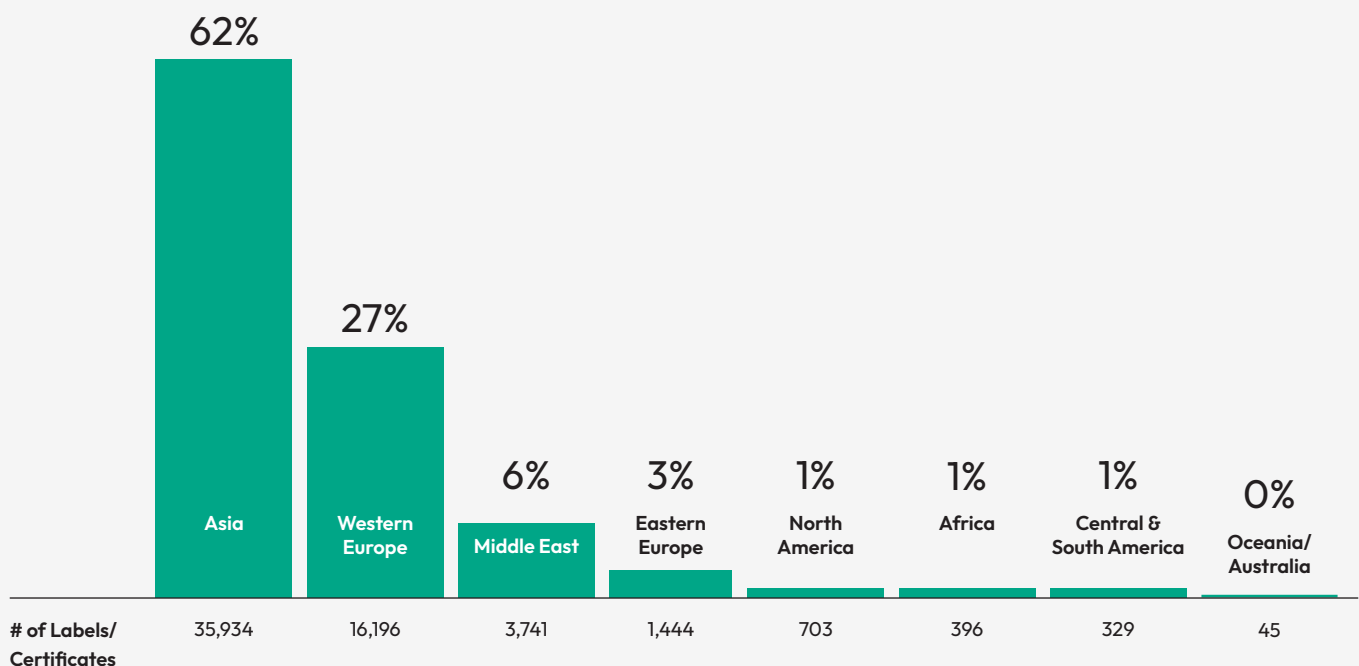
109 Follower



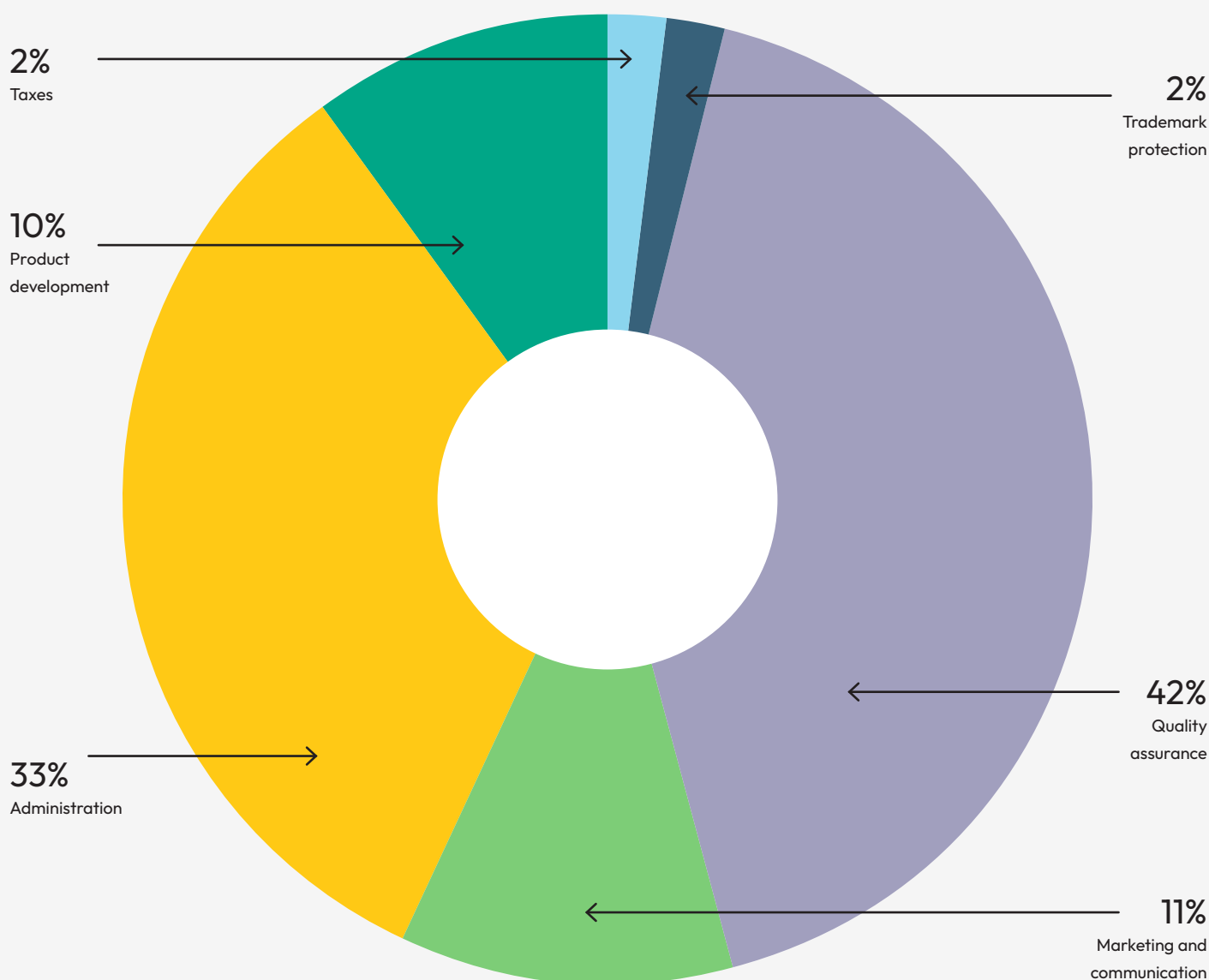
Number of certificates and labels



Worldwide distribution of certificates and labels



Overview of expenses with clear focus on quality.



The OEKO-TEX logo is a green circle with the text "OEKO-TEX®" in white. It is positioned in the upper center of the image, overlapping the faces of the two women.

OEKO
TEX®

Ensuring sustainability and trust in textiles and leather.

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Commercial Register Office of the Canton of Zurich