

Abstract

Japan's silk industry has been rapidly declining due to the aging workforce and the shortage of successors. To reverse this trend, the establishment of industry–government–academia consortia is essential for fostering collaboration among organizations and for addressing current challenges through evidence-based approaches. In Europe, the ARACNE project (Advocating the Role of Silk Art and Cultural Heritage at National and European Scale), funded by the Horizon Europe research and innovation framework and launched in 2023 under the leadership of CREA in Italy, represents a successful example of such collaboration. ARACNE connects manufacturers, research institutions, and educational bodies to build an ecosystem for revitalizing the European silk sector through cultural-heritage documentation and educational initiatives. This article reviews the background and activities of ARACNE and explores how similar consortium models could be applied to support the revitalization and sustainable development of Japan's silk industry.

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