



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Project duration:  
01 Oct 2023 - 31 March 2026

European Commission  
Grant: € 250 000

**Leader:** Vasconcelos & c<sup>a</sup>,  
LD<sup>a</sup> - Belcinto (Portugal)



European Footwear  
Confederation – CEC (Belgium)



Centro Tecnológico do Calçado  
de Portugal-CTCP  
(Portugal)



Asociación de Empresarios de  
la Piel de Ubrique-ASOPIEL  
(Spain)



Fundación Centro  
Tecnológico de la Piel de  
Andalucía (Spain)



Gheorghe Asachi Technical  
University of Iasi-TUIASI  
(Romania)



Globalnet sp. z o.o. (Poland)



EN

# Learning Factories

2023-1-PT01-KA220-VET-000165560

Creative and Agile training for Green and Digital  
transition in Leather Goods sector

[www.learningfactoriesproject.eu](http://www.learningfactoriesproject.eu)



LEARNING  
FACTORIES

## Background and Project Description

European leather goods represent a traditional manufacturing sector within the high-end fashion industry that has an exponential growth, a high level of profitability and a relevant impact on the economy of several European countries. The sector currently employs up to 150 000 people in the European Union, but faces two major challenges: the insufficient level of qualification of its current employees due to the rapid technological change, and the lack of attraction and retention of young new workers. This results in a risk of reduced competitiveness of EU manufacturing companies due to the loss of the European expertise in this field.

The lack of the necessary skills of students and new workers can only be tackled by quickly upgrading the education and training system with innovative teaching methods, creative content, flexible programmes and learning approaches.

Against this background, the **Erasmus+** Learning Factories project has the **overall objective** of upgrading the training process in the leather goods sector by putting companies at the forefront. With the participation of leather goods SMEs as well as public and private providers of Vocational Education Training (VET), partners will develop training courses to respond to the current and future skills needs of companies. A new era of agile short-term creative programmes with AI and video-based content, both in iVET and cVET, will be developed and piloted with the aim of increasing the attractiveness and retention of employees while preparing them with the skills needed to support the green and digital transition, and increasing competitiveness in the sector.

## Objectives

- To promote partnerships between education and industry, i.e. leather goods companies (SMEs) and public and private VET providers, by working together in the development of high-quality i-VET and c-VET programmes capable of attracting new workers, and better preparing employees with the skills needed.
- To empower employees in their professional growth by giving SMEs the means to prepare them and implement reskilling and upskilling plans, as well as to provide companies with a scanning tool for identifying training needs and directing them towards customised curricula, within a "training needs observatory" within each company.
- To promote the development of digital and green skills that support the digital transformation of the leather goods industry, particularly in manufacturing practices, the adoption of materials, and the use of clean technologies.

## Expected Outcomes

- To help revolutionise the way VET is designed and structured by putting companies at the forefront, and involving them from the start in the training process.
- To introduce artificial intelligence in training in the leather goods sector for the first time.
- To create flexible and ready-to-use short-term curricula based on companies' current needs in terms of digital and green skills to support the digital and green transformation of the leather goods industry.

*Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Agência Nacional Erasmus+ Educação e Formação. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*

## Lead Partner:

Vasconcelos & c<sup>a</sup>, LD<sup>a</sup>, (Belcinto)

[www.belcinto.com](http://www.belcinto.com)

Rua Oliveira Figueiredo, 3700-202

São João da Madeira, Portugal

## Communication:

CEC - European Footwear Confederation

[www.cec-footwearindustry.eu](http://www.cec-footwearindustry.eu)

Square de Meeûs 37

1000 Brussels, Belgium