

SUSTAINABILITY IN FASHION – URGENCY AND INNOVATION

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Sustainability has become a central theme in several areas of knowledge, and fashion is no exception. The fashion industry, known for being one of the most significant contributors to environmental damage, urgently needs to review its processes and practices. With this premise, the second edition of the International Fashion & Sustainability Conference was held on November 28, 29, and 30, 2024, in Lisbon.

The FL_Fashion Sustainability – International Conference is a space for industry, business, and academia to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge. This edition was organized into six main thematic areas: Sustainability in Fashion, Trend Communication in Fashion, Fashion, and Audiovisual for Sustainability, Tradition, and Identity in Fashion, and Education for Sustainability in Fashion, and Innovation and Sustainability. The diversity of approaches was highlighted in the plenary sessions, parallel sessions for the presentation of research projects, exhibition spaces, and interactive sessions for the presentation of projects by authors and the industry.

For this edition of Revista Caleidoscópio, five articles were selected that best represent the different thematic areas submitted to the conference, all with a primary focus on sustainability in fashion.

Discussing sustainability in all its forms – economic, environmental, and social – is urgent. It is essential to reflect on how fashion, an industry in constant growth, can mitigate its negative environmental impacts. However, sustainability goes beyond the environment. It is imperative to discuss the social dimension, valuing the knowledge and values of minorities, such as the elderly and artisans, whose wisdom is invaluable to the community.

Economic sustainability is also crucial to the success of brands, industries, and small- and medium-sized companies. This should be a central theme in any discussion about sustainability in fashion. Circularity and innovation are rich topics that still have much to explore. Portugal is one of the countries at the forefront of investment in sustainability in the textile and clothing industry. To enrich environmental knowledge, sharing emerging projects with multiple stakeholders from academia and the business world is vital.

This editorial aims to give visibility to the articles resulting from the conference and highlight the urgency of concerted action in favor of sustainability. Fashion can and should be a vector for change, where creativity and responsibility go hand in hand towards a more sustainable future.