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The Refashioned Youth

A guide to Sustainable Policies, Benefits, and Workplace Advice for individuals and organisations

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Important note from the creators



This guide is an educational and practical resource for individuals and organisations interested in sustainable fashion. It is not legal advice and does not replace the text of EU law, national legislation, official guidance or advice from competent authorities.

The policy overview reflects the status stated for 30 October 2026 in the supplied project material. Before making procurement, waste-management or marketing decisions, readers should verify the applicable rules, national transposition and responsible authorities.

This guide was created as a result of the “The Refashioned Youth” Erasmus+ Youth Exchange, project code 2025-3-RO01-KA152-YOU-000367724, coordinated by Asociania Armonie între Generanii, Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and with the following participating organisations:

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The table of contets intentionally missed the Welcome section, section in which is presented the purpose of the guide and how to use it

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This guide is designed to be used by four cathegories.

CATHEGORY 01

Individuals

Discover practical ways to make more sustainable clothing choices, reduce textile waste, and apply responsible fashion habits in everyday life.

CATHEGORY 02

Team Leaders

Learn how to guide teams towards sustainable practices, encourage participation, and turn environmental commitments into clear actions and measurable goals.

CATHEGORY 03

Procurement Teams

Explore how to make more responsible purchasing decisions, choose durable and sustainable textile products, and support reuse, repair, and circularity.

CATHEGORY 04

Communicators

Find guidance on communicating sustainability clearly, making credible environmental claims, and helping people understand the value of responsible fashion.

Supplementary Resources

ReGeneration, the organisation's consortium to which AIG belongs, is constantly working to provide good practice resources. Check ReGeneration's online presence for more resources.

Recommended Workflow

You do not need to read every section in order. Choose the route that best matches your role and priorities: individuals can start with Sections 05 and 10; team leaders with Sections 02 and 11; procurement teams with Sections 03 and 07; and communicators with Section 08. Use the remaining sections as needed to deepen your understanding and turn recommendations into practical action.

Welcome (1/2)

Clothing is part of everyday life, personal identity and organisational culture. It is also connected to resource use, waste and climate impact. Sustainable fashion is not only about choosing a different product: it is about using garments for longer, repairing and sharing them, buying with care and communicating clearly about what has changed.

The Refashioned Youth brought together young people from Romania, Spain, North Macedonia, Türkiye and Germany for a week of workshops on sustainable fashion, upcycling and reuse. This guide turns that shared learning into a practical resource for people and organisations.

Welcome (2/2)

What this guide is designed to do
Explain the policy context that shapes textile consumption and organisational decisions.
Show how sustainable choices can support environmental goals, savings, skills and credibility.
Offer practical actions for procurement, uniforms, events, waste, communication and workplace culture.
Help readers move from good intentions to clear responsibilities and measurable steps.

How to use it
Read it from beginning to end for a complete overview, or use the contents page to find the section most relevant to your role. Choose one action to complete this month, record what happened and build from there.



01 · History, goals & culture

The project behind the guide

The Refashioned Youth was an Erasmus+ youth exchange held in Bușteni, Romania, from 1–7 June 2026. Participants came from Romania, Spain, North Macedonia, Türkiye and Germany and explored sustainable fashion through workshops focused on upcycling, reuse and conscious consumption.

Three shared objectives

Reduce the impact of fast fashion on global warming.

Help young people make more sustainable fashion choices.

Raise awareness of conscious consumption.

The culture this guide encourages

Value	What it looks like
Use resources thoughtfully	Consider need, durability and repair before buying something new.
Keep products in use	Repair, reuse, share or donate suitable garments before treating them as waste.
Be honest	Make environmental claims that are specific and can be supported with evidence.
Learn together	Use workshops and everyday conversations to share skills and improve practice.
Take practical action	Start small, assign responsibility and measure progress rather than relying on slogans.

02 · Workplace commitments

A simple commitment

We aim to keep clothing, merchandise and event materials in use for longer, reduce avoidable textile waste, buy thoughtfully and describe our environmental actions honestly.

Six commitments to adapt

Buy less and buy for a long life. Consider durability, repairability, material information and the actual need before placing an order.

Reuse before recycling. Offer suitable garments and fabrics for repair, upcycling or donation before considering disposal.

Follow the waste hierarchy. Prioritise prevention, then reuse, then recycling, and use disposal only as a last resort.

Ask for evidence. Request information to support supplier claims and consider recognised certifications where relevant.

Communicate honestly. Make claims that are specific, verifiable and clearly connected to the product or process described.

Teach and share. Organise awareness activities, repair sessions, clothing swaps or upcycling workshops.

Last part of section 02

02 · Workplace commitments

Make the commitment operational

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Decision	Complete Locally
Policy owner	_____ _____ [Name or role]
Scope	_____ _____ [Uniforms, merchandise, event materials, staff clothing, donations or other categories]
Annual activity target	_____ _____ [Number] awareness, repair or upcycling activities per year
Review date	_____ _____ [Date]
Reporting line	_____ _____ [Team, manager or governing body]
Indicators	_____ _____ [Garments reused, purchases avoided, textile waste collected separately, participation or other measures]

03 · Policies & procedures

The EU policy framework is moving textiles towards durability, repair, reuse, recycling and more reliable environmental information. The overview below follows the supplied material and is dated October 2026. Confirm the current legal status and national implementation before acting.

03.01

POLICY EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles

STATUS Adopted 30 March 2022

PRACTICAL MEANING The overall direction is to make textiles durable, repairable, reusable and recyclable, while addressing fast fashion, unsold stock, microplastics and greenwashing.

03.02

POLICY Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) and Digital Product Passport

STATUS Textile-specific requirements

PRACTICAL MEANING Ask suppliers for reliable product and material information. Check the status of requirements that apply to the product you buy or place on the market.

03 · Policies & procedures

03.03

POLICY	Revised Waste Framework Directive
STATUS	Adopted 30 March 2022
PRACTICAL MEANING	The overall direction is to make textiles durable, repairable, reusable and recyclable, while addressing fast fashion, unsold stock, microplastics and greenwashing.

03.04

POLICY	Separate collection of textile waste
STATUS	Required in the EU since 1 January 2025
PRACTICAL MEANING	Do not automatically put unwanted textiles into general waste. Identify the appropriate local collection route.

03 · Policies & procedures

03.05

POLICY	Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (EU) 2024/825
STATUS	Stated as applying from 27 September 2026
PRACTICAL MEANING	Review environmental claims. Generic terms such as “green” or “eco-friendly” should not be used as unsupported stand-alone claims.

What to do before acting

Check which requirements apply to your organisation, product category and role in the supply chain.

Keep supplier declarations, certificates and other evidence used to support purchasing or marketing decisions.

Confirm local textile collection and donation requirements with the relevant authority or service provider.

Review claims and internal procedures whenever rules or official guidance change

04 · Roles & responsibilities

Sustainable fashion works best when people know what they can influence and who is responsible for decisions. Responsibilities will vary by organisation; use this table as a starting point.

Role	What it looks like
Leadership or management	Approve the policy, set priorities, assign an owner and review progress.
Procurement	Define purchasing needs, request product information and evidence, and consider durability and repairability.
Facilities or operations	Manage stock, set up collection points and identify appropriate textile collection routes.
HR and team leads	Support staff learning, clothing swaps, repair sessions and participation.
Communications	Check environmental claims, retain evidence and ensure messages accurately describe the action taken.
Staff and participants	Use garments thoughtfully, follow reuse and collection procedures, and share improvement ideas.
Policy owner	Coordinate actions, maintain indicators and report progress at an agreed interval.

A useful rule

Assign one accountable owner, but distribute the work. Sustainability should be supported by procurement, operations, communications and the people who use the clothing or materials.

05 · Everyday consumption

Individuals can reduce avoidable purchases and keep clothing useful for longer through a sequence of small choices. Organisations can make those choices easier by providing time, skills and opportunities to reuse.

Before buying

Think about how often the item will be used and whether it will remain useful over time.

Look for information about materials, durability and repairability.

Consider second-hand, shared, borrowed or repaired options when appropriate.

Pause and check whether you already own something that meets the need.

While using clothing

Follow care instructions to help garments last.

Restyle or adapt garments instead of replacing them automatically.

Repair a loose button, seam or small tear when practical.

Share skills and resources with friends, colleagues or a local group.

When you no longer need an item

If it is still wearable, consider a clothing swap, resale or donation route that accepts it.

If it needs work, consider repair or upcycling.

Do not assume every donation point can accept every textile or that every collected item will be reused.

If it cannot be reused, check the local textile collection route and its acceptance rules.

06 · Textile collection & reuse

Collection is important, but preventing waste and keeping usable garments in circulation should come first. A collection point is only useful when people know what belongs there and what happens next.

Set up a practical system

Estimate what types and quantities of textiles your organisation generates. Identify a suitable reuse, donation or textile collection partner and confirm acceptance criteria. Choose an accessible, clearly labelled collection location. Tell staff what can be deposited, how items should be prepared and whom to contact with questions. Record collection volumes where feasible and review whether the route is working.

Avoid

Putting textiles in general waste without checking the available separate collection route. Assuming all collected textiles are suitable for donation or recycling. Launching a collection drive without agreeing what happens to the items afterward.

Use the waste hierarchy

Priority	What it looks like
1.Prevent	Avoid creating unnecessary textile demand or waste.
2.Reuse	Keep garments and fabrics in use.
3.Recycle	Use an appropriate textile recycling route when reuse is not suitable.
4.Dispose	Use disposal only when higher options are not feasible.

07 · Procurement & merchandise

Buying decisions shape the environmental footprint and the volume of textiles an organisation manages. The aim is not simply to find a product labelled sustainable; it is to define the real need and ask for evidence that helps compare options.

A better purchasing sequence

Check existing stock before placing an order.

Confirm the purpose, quantity, delivery date and expected useful life.

Ask for relevant material information and evidence of durability or repairability. Consider whether the design will remain usable beyond one event or campaign
.
Plan maintenance, repair, storage, reuse and end-of-life handling before purchase.

Record the decision and any evidence used to support environmental claims.



07 · Procurement & merchandise

Supplier questions

Question	Why ask it?
What are the product's main materials?	To understand what is being purchased and compare options.
What information supports the environmental claim?	To avoid relying on vague marketing language.
Can the item be repaired, and are replacement parts or repair instructions available?	To support a longer useful life.
Can the supplier provide recognised certifications or traceable documentation where relevant?	To make comparisons more reliable.
What happens to surplus or obsolete stock?	To prevent avoidable waste after the event or campaign.

Uniforms and merchandise

Order only what you expect to use. Choose designs that remain relevant, keep an inventory, and plan how items will be repaired, reused or redistributed when they are no longer needed by the first user.

08 · Communication & claims

Communication should describe what an organisation actually does, not what it hopes people will infer. Environmental statements should be clear, specific, proportionate and supported by evidence.

A practical review

Identify every environmental claim on websites, social media, labels, presentations and campaign materials.

Check whether each claim identifies the product, service or process it refers to.

Keep the evidence that supports the statement and make sure it is current.

Ask a responsible colleague to review claims before publication.

Correct or remove claims that are unclear, too broad or not adequately supported.



08 · Communication & claims

Prefer specific descriptions

Unsupported wording	Evidence based
“We are green.”	Describe the particular action, its scope and the evidence available.
“This product is eco-friendly.”	Identify the verified feature or material information relevant to this product.
“Our event is sustainable.”	State which practices were used, such as reusable materials or a documented textile collection route.
“100% circular.”	Use only if the claim’s meaning, scope and evidence can substantiate it.

The EU Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (EU) 2024/825 is stated in the supplied material as applying from 27 September 2026. Verify the applicable legal requirements and national implementation before approving claims.

09 · Learning & participation

Workshops help turn broad ideas into skills people can use. They can also build relationships, support intercultural learning and make sustainable choices visible in everyday life.

09.01

Activity	Repair corner
Format	Invite participants to bring a garment needing a small repair; provide basic tools and guidance.
What to capture	Number of participants; items repaired.

09.02

Activity	Upcycling session
Format	Use suitable old garments or fabric to create a new useful item.
What to capture	Items repurposed; skills practised; participant feedback.

09 · Learning & participation

09.03

Activity	Clothing swap
Format	Set clear rules for clean, wearable items and fair exchange.
What to capture	Items exchanged; participant numbers.

09.04

Activity	Conscious-consumption workshop
Format	Discuss need, durability, care, repair and reuse through practical examples.
What to capture	Learning points; intended changes.

09 · Learning & participation

09.05

Activity	Supplier or claims clinic
Format	Review a product description or sustainability claim as a group.
What to capture	Questions raised; claims improved or evidence requested.

Make participation meaningful

Offer activities that are accessible to people with different levels of experience.

Explain the purpose of each activity and what will happen to leftover materials.

Invite participants to share knowledge without assuming everyone has the same resources.

Ask for feedback and use it to improve the next session.

10 · Benefits & measurement

The project's objectives point to several potential benefits: lower environmental impact, more conscious consumption, practical skills and stronger awareness. The scale of any benefit should be reported only when it has been measured or supported by evidence.

10.01

BENEFIT	Environmental impact
FOR INDIVIDUALS	Use owned garments longer and avoid unnecessary purchases.
FOR ORGANISATIONS	Reduce textile waste and unnecessary orders.
POSSIBLE INDICATOR	Garments reused; textile waste collected separately.

10.02

BENEFIT	Savings
FOR INDIVIDUALS	Repair or reuse instead of replacing where practical.
FOR ORGANISATIONS	Reduce surplus uniforms, merchandise and disposal needs.
POSSIBLE INDICATOR	Purchases avoided; repair costs compared with replacement.

10 · Benefits & measurement

10.03

BENEFIT	Skills
FOR INDIVIDUALS	Learn sewing, repairing, dyeing or designing.
FOR ORGANISATIONS	Develop staff who can lead practical workshops.
POSSIBLE INDICATOR	Participants trained; activities delivered.

10.04

BENEFIT	Legal confidence
FOR INDIVIDUALS	Recognise vague or misleading claims more readily.
FOR ORGANISATIONS	Improve readiness for relevant claims and producer-responsibility rules.
POSSIBLE INDICATOR	Claims reviewed; supplier evidence recorded.

10.05

BENEFIT	Credibility
FOR INDIVIDUALS	Make choices that align with personal values.
FOR ORGANISATIONS	Make statements that partners and customers can check.
POSSIBLE INDICATOR	Claims supported by evidence; feedback received.

10 · Benefits & measurement

10.06

BENEFIT	Team and community
FOR INDIVIDUALS	Build connections through shared activity.
FOR ORGANISATIONS	Strengthen collaboration and engagement.
POSSIBLE INDICATOR	Participation; repeat activities; feedback.

10.07

BENEFIT	Intercultural learning
FOR INDIVIDUALS	Meet people from other countries and share perspectives.
FOR ORGANISATIONS	Develop networks and partnerships across borders.
POSSIBLE INDICATOR	Partner links; joint activities; participant feedback.

Record results responsibly

Set a baseline before reporting improvement. Define each indicator, record the period covered and explain how the figure was collected. Do not invent or estimate results simply to fill a table.

11 · First-year action plan

A manageable plan helps an organisation move from intention to repeatable practice. Adapt the timing to your capacity and local requirements.

Prefer specific descriptions

Month	Priotity Action	Progress Evidence
1	Name a policy owner; count existing uniforms and merchandise; identify local textile collection options.	Named owner; stock count; collection route identified.
2-3	Draft or approve a short policy; add durability, repairability and evidence questions to purchasing.	Policy approved; supplier questions in use.
4-6	Run a repair or upcycling activity; review environmental claims in public communication.	Activity completed; claims review documented.
7-9	Track reuse, purchases and textile waste; ask staff and participants for feedback.	First indicator update; feedback summary.
10-12	Review results, identify gaps and set next-year priorities.	Annual review; revised action plan.

A short policy statement to adapt

Purpose: We want our clothing, merchandise and events to last longer, create less waste and be described honestly.
Scope: This policy covers [uniforms, merchandise, event materials, staff clothing, donations and other relevant categories].
Responsibilities: Policy owner [name/role] · Review date [date] · Reporting to [team/role].
Measures: [garments reused, kilograms of textile waste diverted from general waste, purchases avoided, activities delivered or other relevant indicators].

12 · Acknowledgements & resources

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About the project

The Refashioned Youth was an Erasmus+ youth exchange held in Bușteni, Romania, from 1–7 June 2026, with participants from Romania, Spain, North Macedonia, Türkiye and Germany.

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Thank You!

