

CCILA: Simpósio luso-alemão "Reciclagem Têxtil"

**Challenges and Opportunities in the
Management of Used Textiles:
APED's pilot project**

March 24th 2026

AGENDA



1. APED: WHO WE ARE



2. APED: WHAT WE DO



3. THE RETAIL SECTOR AND THE MANAGEMENT OF USED TEXTILES



4. PILOT-PROJECT

225 ASSOCIATES

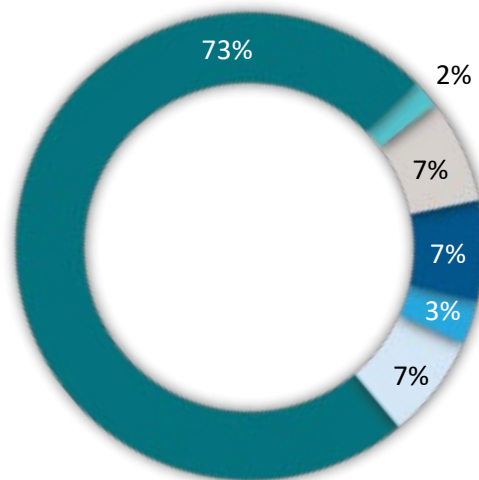


APED IN NUMBERS

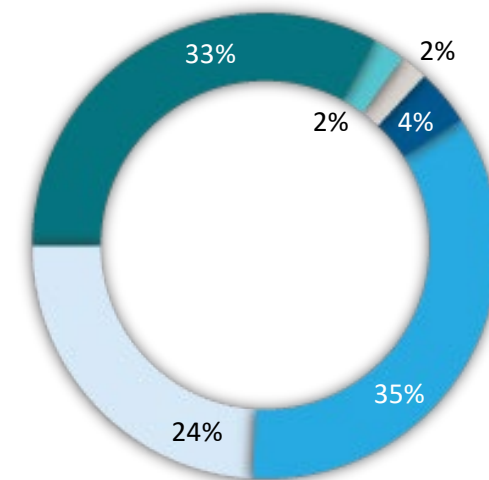


Sector breakdown

Revenue



Number of companies



- Food and beverages
- Consumer Electronics
- Textiles / Footwear
- Sports
- Furniture / DIY
- Others

WHAT WE DO

PROMOTE **COOPERATION** AMONGST ASSOCIATES

towards achieving convergent positions on matters of common interest.



DEFEND THE **PRESTIGE** OF THE DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ACTIVITY

and promote the sector while providing impartial information to the public about that activity.



ESTABLISH AND ORGANIZE **CONTACTS, COOPERATION ACTIONS, AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

with entities directly or indirectly related to the Association's activity.



UNDERTAKE ANY OTHER **ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES**

in the interest of the Associates or of the insurance activity in general.



PROMOTE THE **DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE**

in the interest of the Associates, in Portugal and abroad, regarding the retail and distribution activity, through training actions, publication of studies/reports, webinars, campaigns, and provision of other services that help enhance and develop the sector.



REPRESENT AND DEFEND THE **COMMON INTERESTS OF THE ASSOCIATES**

and communicate their common positions, both nationally and internationally, to the Government, relevant Ministries and their agencies, as well as European institutions.



NEGOTIATE THE **COLLECTIVE LABOUR AGREEMENT (CCT)** on behalf of the Associates.



CONTEXT

- According to the European Commission, **5 million tonnes** of clothing discarded each year in the EU - around **12kg** per person. Moreover, it is estimated that only around **1%** of textiles are recycled into new products.(1)
- In 2023, Portugal produced around **5.3 million tonnes** of municipal waste, with textiles accounting for approximately **4.38%** of this total—about **234,000 tonnes** (2). These materials are mostly discarded in unsorted waste, reflecting the still early stage of separate collection in Portugal.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE TEXTILE SECTOR

The massive amount of textile waste constitutes a systemic environmental problem, with significant impacts across the entire value chain which include:



(1) <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/pt/press-room/20250905IPR30172/parlamento-aprova-novas-regras-para-reduzir-o-desperdicio-de-texteis-e-alimentos>

(2) https://apambiente.pt/sites/default/files/Residuos/Producao_Gest%C3%A3o_Residuos/Dados%20RU/2023/raru_2023.pdf

CONTEXT

- In September 2025, the **Directive (EU) 2025/1892** of the European Parliament and of the Council of was published, amending the Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Waste Framework Directive).
- Amongst others, the main innovation introduced by this amendment is the establishment, of **an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** scheme for the specific waste streams of textiles. Which addresses the need, highlighted by the European Commission, for **producers of textile products to take responsibility for the waste generated by their products**, with a view to creating a circular economy based on the collection, sorting, reuse, preparation for reuse, and recycling of textiles.
- Member States shall ensure that the extended EPR schemes are established by **17 April 2028** (2029 for micro enterprises*).

Main changes brought by the Directive (EU) 2025/1892 regarding textiles:

- 1. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** scheme for specific waste streams of textiles (including footwear);
- 2.** Member States may establish an EPR scheme for **mattress** producers;
- 3.** Member States must create a **producer register**, and producers will be required to register;
- 4.** Producers must ensure compliance with their obligations under the EPR scheme through **integrated management systems** for this new specific waste stream, to be duly licensed for that purpose;
- 5.** Producers will be required to cover certain **costs**, including: (i) collection for reuse purposes, (ii) transport of used and waste products, (iii) sorting, preparation for reuse, recycling, other operations, and disposal, (iv) collection, transport, and treatment of waste by social economy entities and other operators that are part of the collection system.

PILOT PROJECT FOR MANAGEMENT OF USED TEXTILES

To address the new European goals, APED has recently launched a **pilot project for return and recycling of used textiles**, aligned with the sector's sustainability and circular economy objectives.

DETAILS

Duration: 12 months

Funding: Environment and Energy Ministry's Environmental Fund
APED responsible for design and implementation.

PILOT PROJECT'S GOAL

The project aims to **design and test models for the separate collection, classification, and sorting of textile waste, ensuring its proper management** in subsequent stages: preparation for reuse, recycling, energy recovery, or landfill disposal **in preparation for the future national EPR scheme**. It also seeks to understand **consumer motivations** regarding the separate collection of textile waste.



**PROJETO
GESTÃO TÊXTIL
CIRCULAR**



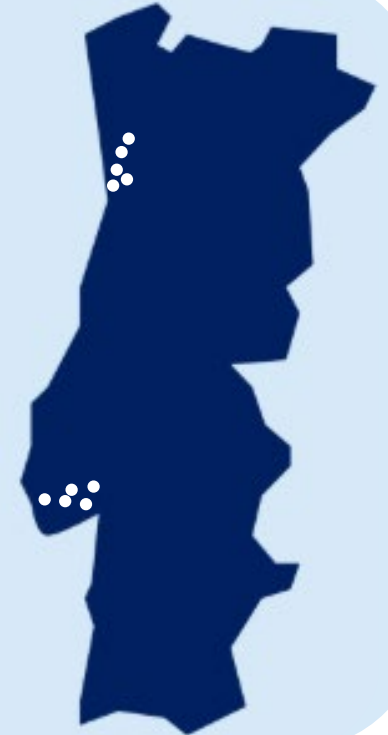
PILOT PROJECT FOR MANAGEMENT OF USED TEXTILES

The project is being developed in collaboration with some of APED's Associates and with various stakeholders involved in the textile value chain with collection of used textiles handed in by the consumers, via containers made available in Associates' stores.



PILOT PROJECT'S COLLECTION POINTS (10 IN TOTAL)

- Auchan de Sintra
- Auchan da Maia
- Continente Bom Dia Alfragide
- Continente Bom Dia de Padrão da Légua
- El Corte Inglés Lisboa
- El Corte Inglés Porto
- Decathlon Amadora
- Decathlon Lisboa Oriente
- Decathlon Maia
- Decathlon Porto



INOVATION

Encourage the adoption of innovative approaches at all stages of the process, including technologies, operations, business processes and logistics solutions, fostering the development of sustainable and competitive solutions.



WASTE HIERARCHY

Ensure that the pilot complies with the principles of the waste management hierarchy, prioritising reuse, followed by recycling (with a focus on high-value solutions), and, as a last resort, recovery and landfill.



NATIONAL SCALABILITY

Ensure that the proposed model, together with the stakeholders involved, is capable of being replicated and scaled across the national territory, in the context of the future EPR.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

TRACEABILITY

Include stakeholders capable of monitoring and recording the movement of used textiles throughout the entire value chain, enabling the tracking of the origin, destination, and transformation of materials.



SOCIAL INCLUSION

Integrate dimensions of positive social impact, namely through the involvement of social economy organisations, the creation of employment opportunities, and the donation of textiles to people in vulnerable situations.



OPERATIONAL SIMPLICITY

Develop practical and accessible solutions that can be easily integrated into the existing processes of the entities involved, minimizing technical complexity and operational burdens, given that it is a pilot project.





Thank you!



Gonçalo Lobo Xavier –General Manager



Goncalo.loboxavier@aped.pt

