

VISIONARY TALKS - B2B Torino Fashion Match 2026
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Upcycling police uniforms

Results of the EU-funded RiVestiTo project

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CITTA' DI TORINO

The challenge



The local police had to dispose of a large quantity of uniforms (still in very good condition) due to clothing updates and staff turnover. These items would normally go to downcycling or waste-to-energy plants. The City of Turin posed the question of how to save them with circular economy initiatives.



The solution



RiVestiTo team proposed a wise interpretation of the legislation, so as to treat this discarded textiles as goods, and not as waste, and engage local artisans to whom the material could be given free of charge to be reused and upcycled.



Process



Discussion

October 2024: Start of discussions between the RiVestiTo team and the Turin Local Police Force

Protocol

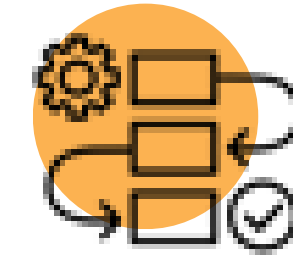
May 2025: A memorandum of understanding was signed between the City of Turin and the RiVestiTo consortium, aimed at enabling the upcycling of the discarded uniforms, under specific conditions.

Logistics

The Local Police identified the discarded clothing items to be managed, defined the departments where the material would be collected and stocked, and appointed a contact person responsible for overseeing and monitoring the activities.



Process



Inventory

A digital inventory of **1041 items** was made and then they were sorted by type.

Logos removal

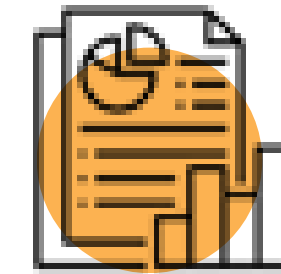
All identifying elements present on the clothing (buttons, pins, logos, stitching, and all other elements attributable to the Local Police Corps) were removed.

Call to action

A call to action was launched to all the city's textile artisans (previously mapped) to identify those interested in receiving the material, under the agreed-upon conditions. Their preferences in terms of types and quantity were collected, and delivery dates were scheduled.



Process



Distribution

817 items (including trousers, skirts, shirts, jackets, sweaters, and wool vests) were delivered to 12 artisans, while 224 were disposed of (because they contained distinctive elements that were difficult to remove or too distinctive to be reused).

Upcycling

Each artisan was able to transform the garments as they wished, without any time constraints, and was **free to resell the resulting products**. Various events, videos, and a fashion show were organized to showcase the work.

Tracking

The process was recorded on a digital form, to ensure the traceability of the project and its impacts

The 12 upcyclers involved

- Essemme Studio
- Albergo di Virtù
- AN-Gì
- Night Monsters
- Sassi Lab
- Cristiana D'Antuono
- Sartoria Popolare APS
- Tanticchia
- Sartoria Ge.Lo
- lezyrose
- La gruccia di Arianna
- Barone Ostu

