



# 90 years woven from passion

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Press Kit

*Riopele*

# Riopele



Founded in 1927 by José Dias de Oliveira and located in Pousada de Saramagos, municipality of Vila Nova de Famalicão, Riopele is one of the oldest textile companies in Portugal, focusing on the creation and production of fabrics for fashion and clothing collections.

As a privileged partner of the world’s leading fashion brands, Riopele offers a vertical textile production system that can meet the current demands of the fast-paced fashion industry.

José Alexandre Oliveira, Chairman of the Board of Directors and sole shareholder of the company, is the grandson of the founding member and son of Commander José da Costa Oliveira (who led the company for nearly fifty years). His administration has been marked by his strong determination towards the pursuit of corporate growth and social responsibility.

— **Core Activity**

With a production capacity of over 700 thousand metres of fabric per month, Riopele invests in the production of high-quality fabrics, based on natural, synthetic, artificial and recycled fibres, with great expertise in polyester/ viscose/ elastane blends.

Incorporating sustainable practices across the entire business, Riopele integrates the areas of R&D, Spinning, Dyeing, Twisting, Weaving and Finishing vertically, to ensure a high level of production flexibility and quality control together with a short lead time.

— **Private Label**

Due to its expertise in fabric design and production, which now spans a remarkable 93 years of activity, Riopele also has a private label clothing manufacturing service. This allows the integration of fabric production, design, manufacture and customized delivery.

Board of Directors

José  
Alexandre  
Oliveira

Chairman of the Board  
of Directors



Bernardino  
Carneiro

Executive Director

Main Indicators

Production Capacity

700 thousand meters  
/month

External markets

97%

	Average number of employees	Turnover million €	EBITDA margin (%)	Net profits million €
Annual average 2017-2018	1144	74	13	1,5
Year 2019	1175	79	13	2,1



# Vision, Mission and Values

## Vision

We are a privileged partner of the Leading Companies and Brands in the Fashion and Clothing industry and we are recognized for our Innovation, Quality and Reliability.

## Mission

We are a leading international textile company with expertise in polyester/ viscose/ elastane blend fabrics, while remaining profitable, offering competitive prices, staying extremely focused and creative, and ensuring high quality and service standards.

## Values

We believe that our values make a positive difference and contribute to create a strong brand and excellent products, thus allowing us to become a reference in the global market.

### Soundness

We stimulate a culture of innovation and people development.

### Trust

We value strong leadership and cooperation skills.

### Success

We are constantly focused on our customers and results.



# Facilities



**Hub A**  
Pousada de Saramagos, V. N. Famalicão

Covered area  
**140.000 m<sup>2</sup>**

**Hub Olífil**  
Castelões, V. N. Famalicão



**Hub B**  
Pousada de Saramagos, V. N. Famalicão

Production hours  
**24 hours**  
– 3 shifts



# Know-how

With a vertical integration process, ranging from raw materials to the fabric and/or finished garment, we ensure high production flexibility, enhanced quality control and short lead-time.



**R&D**  
In close collaboration with our customers, our R&D area is focused on the creation of innovative fabrics, that brings together the research, development and product engineering teams and activities. Thus, we can offer a complete and personalized service that covers all production stages, **from design to the finished product.**

**Spinning**  
We can work with all types of fibres and a wide array of colours. Our Spinning units consist of more than **30,000 spinning spindles, 10 winding machines and more than 60 twisting machines.** This allows the development of fantasy yarns as well as new colour combinations.



**Dyeing**  
Our Dyeing unit is dedicated to the production of samples, prototypes, and small or medium quantities, as well as serial production. It has an installed capacity of approximately **180 tons a month**, integrating the latest technology and pulling together **all types of dyeing processes.**

**Weaving**  
Our Weaving unit produces fabrics with great technical and creative complexity, providing a fast, reliable and flexible response to market demands and operating in a constant balance between innovation and tradition. Our high-tech machinery park is equipped with a **digital monitoring system** that oversees our production and **artificial vision systems** for our quality control process.





**Finishing**

Our Finishing unit is equipped with **state-of-the-art machines**. Harmoniously combining chemical and mechanical features, our Finishing procedures are divided into three distinct stages: Preparation, Dyeing and Finishing. This wide array of processes ensures **high performance of our fabrics**, in terms of aesthetics, comfort and functionality.



**Logistics**

Based on our vertical integration process and advanced management systems, we can access real-time data, enabling flow control as well as optimization of operations and shipping. We work closely with global operators to ensure **high quality and fast delivery services**.



**Quality**

To meet all the requirements and anticipate our customers' needs, **our fabrics undergo inspection**, control and, where applicable, correction processes **throughout the entire production cycle**.



**Private Label**

Our Private Label area offers a **vertical service for clothing design and production**, by following the latest fashion trends in terms of innovative fabrics and applications, based on quality, reliability and exceptional customer service values.



# Products and Brands



Our activity is centred on the creation and production of fabrics for fashion and clothing collections.

We are committed to the values of innovation, quality and sustainability, ensuring the traceability of our processes and the reliability of our service.

Our main brands →



Tenowa - The Rebirth of Textiles is a low environmental impact brand of fashion fabrics, which brings together recycling and reuse of textile waste from conventional processes. Therefore, Tenowa brand is inserted in a circular and sustainable production paradigm. The Tenowa brand was awarded the COTEC 2018 Innovative Product, the "iTechStyle Awards 2018", in the sustainable product category, the "Best Art Work Award" by The Society of Fashion & Textile Industry and the "Selo Famalicão Visão'25", in the Famalicão Made IN category.



Riopele's solid expertise in blending polyester/ viscose with recycled polyester fibre, produced from recycled materials such as plastic bottles, has allowed the development of new comfortable and versatile fabrics that embody all the benefits of the traditional Çeramica brand. Breathability, easy-care, ultraviolet radiation protection, long-lasting appearance and optimal performance are some of its main features.



Developed by Riopele to meet contemporary life demands, Çeramica is a fabric that is easily manageable and resistant to wrinkles, maintaining its appearance and performance, even after many washes. Its ultraviolet radiation protection capabilities provide a feeling of total comfort and help the body maintain an ideal temperature.



Çeramica Clean is an environmentally friendly fabric that is soft and breathable, designed to repel substances that may stain such as wine, ketchup, olive oil and coffee. The Çeramica Clean brand has emerged from a research project focused on the development of smart textile structures and functional nanoscale coatings.

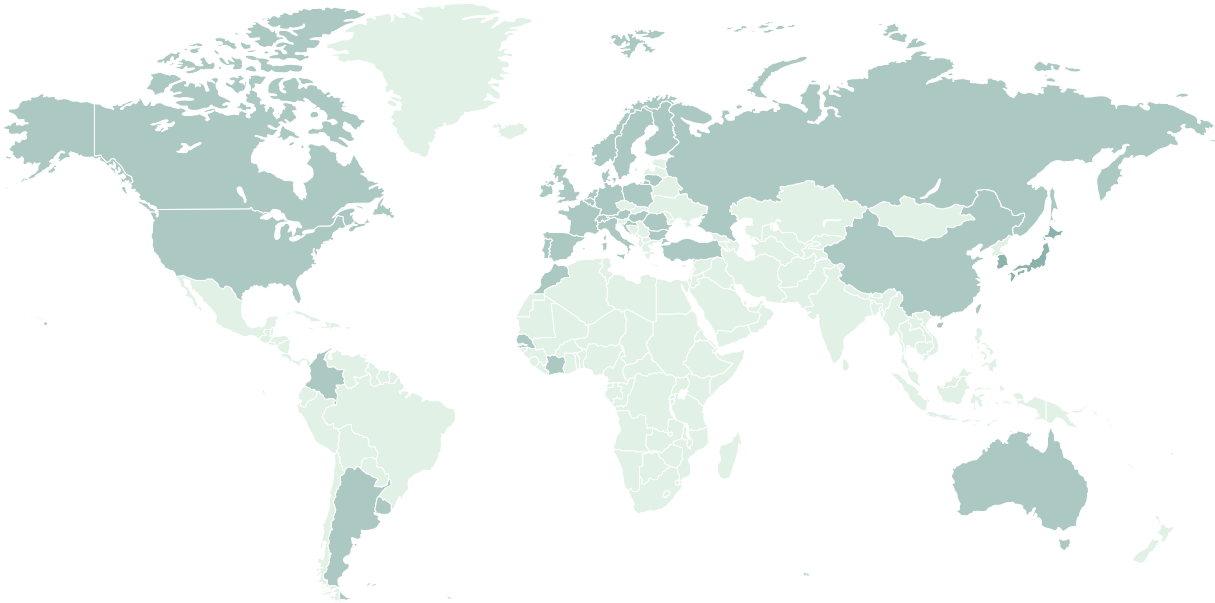


Tecnosilk is a fabric that is characterized by fluidity, softness and total comfort. It is based on Riopele's sustainable production concept, which is certified by the STeP by OEKO-TEX standard. This concept covers the selection of raw materials, the design of the fabric and finishing processes.



# Markets

We strive to inspire the creativity of the world’s leading fashion houses and brands. Our dedication to influencing trends and shaping the fashion of the present and the future is felt across the entire organization.



By targeting the international market, we service the global supply chain for the fashion industry, fostering close relationships with traditional companies as well as with up-and-coming fashion designers.



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# Research and Development



With a long history and unique know-how, we continue investing in creativity, innovation and differentiation to strengthen our competitive position, ensuring a high-quality, reliable service.

We strive to create partnerships with research centres, universities and other organizations, as we believe that fostering research, innovation and continuous improvement are key drivers for competitive advantages.

Among the main research and development projects, here are some highlights:

## Nano.Smart 2013 – 2015

R&D project focused on the development of smart textile structures and functional nanoscale coatings, with the involvement of CeNTI, CITEVE and the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto. This partnership resulted in the registration of the Çeramica Clean trademark.

## R4Textiles 2015 – 2017

R&D project, with the collaboration of CeNTI, CITEVE and the Faculty of Biotechnology of the Catholic University of Portugal, aimed at producing sustainable textiles – reused and functional – based on the upcycling of textile and agrifood residues. This project gave rise to Tenowa – The Rebirth of Textiles registered trademark.

## TexBoost 2017 – 2020

A project that mobilized the Portuguese textile industry, with Riopelle as a sponsoring entity, involving 27 companies and 15 entities from the scientific and technological fields, including CITEVE. It aims to achieve a high number of new R&D solutions in five areas: industry 4.0; new materials and use of natural fibres; new smart technical structures; electronic textiles; circular economy and sustainability.

# Investment and Innovation

## Investment Project 2012 - 2016

Investment of nearly 15 million euros in new equipment, focused on the upgrade of manufacturing units and process innovation.

## RiopeleTech - Fabrics4Future 2017 - 2019

A 10 million euros investment project. Its main drivers are the Industry 4.0 / Digitization and Circular Economy / Sustainability, aiming to achieve a flexible, fast and sustainable industrial production, by creating the necessary conditions to increase added value and enhance the diversity of our collections.

## Textiles4Life 2019 - 2021

A 10 million euros investment project. It is focused on the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment for the various production sectors and production support services, aimed to deepen the drivers of Industry 4.0 and Sustainability.

Other  
ongoing  
projects →



Implementation of department strategic maps, which are defined and based on the global strategy, to give greater dynamism and responsibilities, by mobilizing our teams towards the goal of achieving our company's 100th-anniversary.



A tool to enhance people management, namely through performance assessment, career management and talent retention.



A project focused on the implementation of innovative techniques in the processing and analysis of huge data volumes from our central system, namely aimed at the creation of predictive algorithms that enhance information about the business and decision-making.

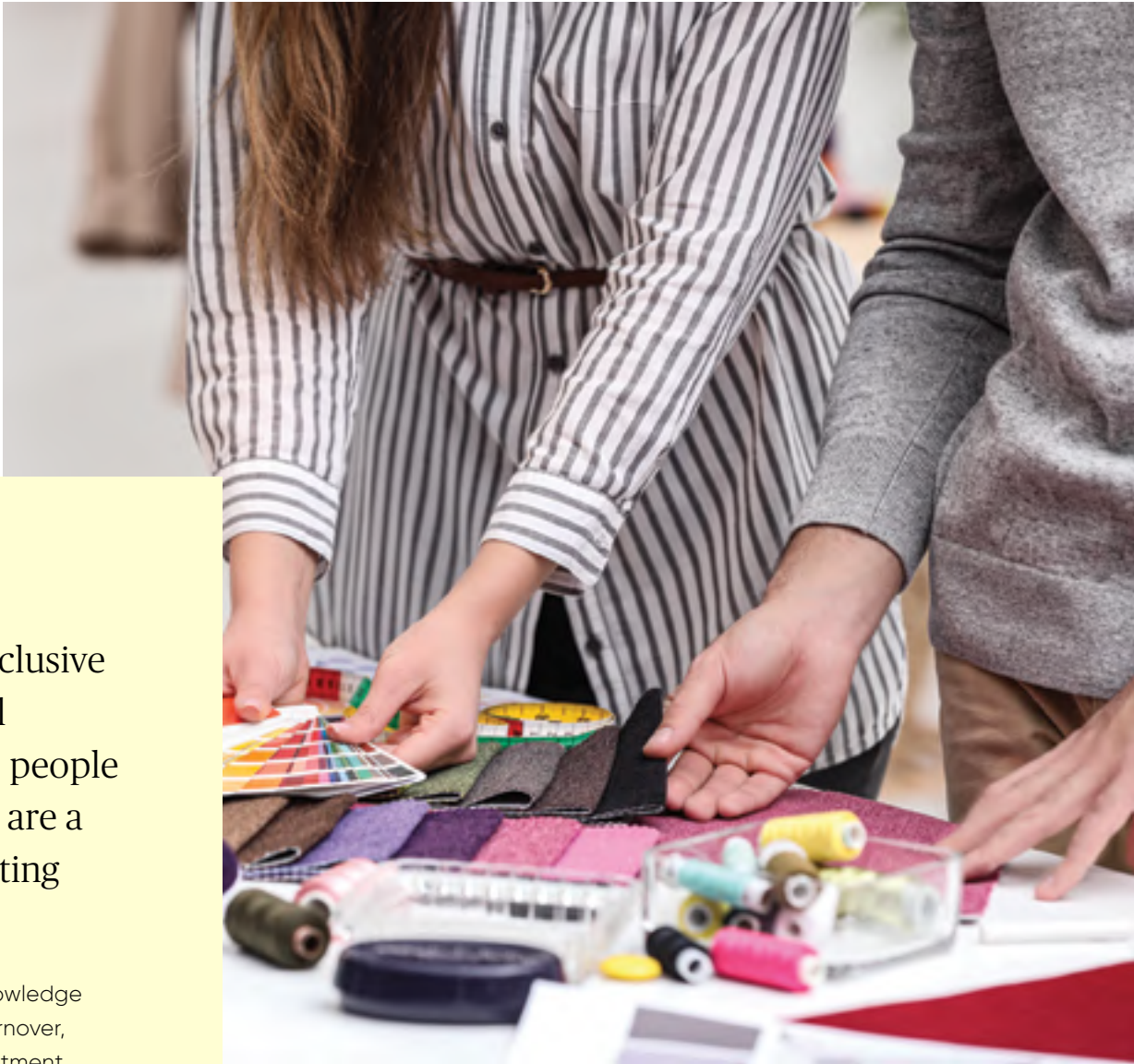


A project comprising the entire structure of the company, oriented to the development of new procedures and tools that enhance the monitoring of operations, through suitable as well as more objective and clear management indicators.





# People



At Riopelle we promote an inclusive and horizontal culture, where people come first and are a key differentiating factor.

Apart from robust knowledge and low employee turnover, we invest in the recruitment, selection and retention of young talent as a staff rejuvenation strategy.

## Horizontes Program

We make sure our employees attend training courses and programs continuously, regardless of their position. Hence, we have invested in the creation of a human resources development program, the Horizontes Program, which is aimed at honing the professional skills of each employee.

We believe that by stimulating the individual interests of each staff member and training them with a comprehensive knowledge of the business, we can attain better results.

Thus, the Horizontes Program consists of the following set of activities, namely:

- Product, Process and Control Workshop – training centred on Riopelle’s activity that is addressed to all our employees;
- Executive / Management Training Programmes;
- Personal and Team Development Programmes;
- Recognition Sessions, highlighting the annual edition of the “Riopelle Innovation Award”.

## Internship Programme

At Riopelle we value internship programmes. We are aware that they play a key role in the integration of young people into the labour market and in the creation of job opportunities.

Therefore, we have established protocols with educational institutions and participated in government programs, by offering internship projects in all business areas.

2019

Average age of employees

**41 years old**

Employees under the age of 30

**227 / 20%**

Years of seniority (average)

**15 years**

# Environmental Responsibility



2019

By adopting new technologies, developing more innovative processes and increasing the use of recycled and sustainable raw materials, we can create innovative and sustainable products and ensure that our fabrics are safe for people and the planet.

All our production is certified by the STeP by OEKO-TEX® - Sustainable Textile Production standard, in the highest level regarding this standard, which corroborates the permanent implementation of environmentally friendly production processes as well as safe, healthy and socially acceptable working conditions.

All our products are certified by the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, Product Class II and GRS - Global Recycled Standard and we have an Integrated Management System in the Quality (ISO 9001), Environment (ISO 14001), Health and Safety (OHSAS 18001) areas.

We abide by the rules set out by the national and EU legislation regarding the use of chemical substances, complying with the strict requirements of the REACH Regulation - Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals.



## 2 million

euros have been invested in sustainability projects

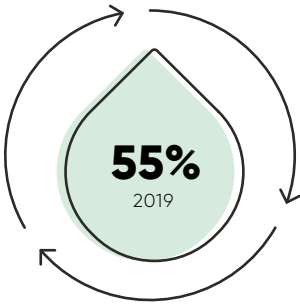


Water Conservation

Water is the most valuable resource for life on our planet. Given the impact of our business activity, we believe that good water resource management is part of our commitment towards sustainable development.

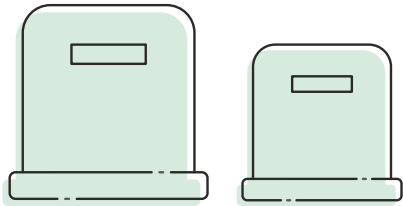
Our facilities are equipped with a water treatment and pre-treatment plant, ensuring that all the process water is appropriately processed and routed to a proper destination, while promoting its safe return to the water cycle.

Recycled Water



Waste Management

We want to reduce the amount of waste we generate and we strive to make sure that all that waste is reused, recycled or recovered. Our waste management policy is based on the 4 Rs: recover, reduce, reuse and recycle.



**Ecocentre (Recycling Centre)**  
– Ecocentre with an advanced waste sorting system, which ensured the recycling of 99.7% of the waste generated in 2019.

Energy Efficiency

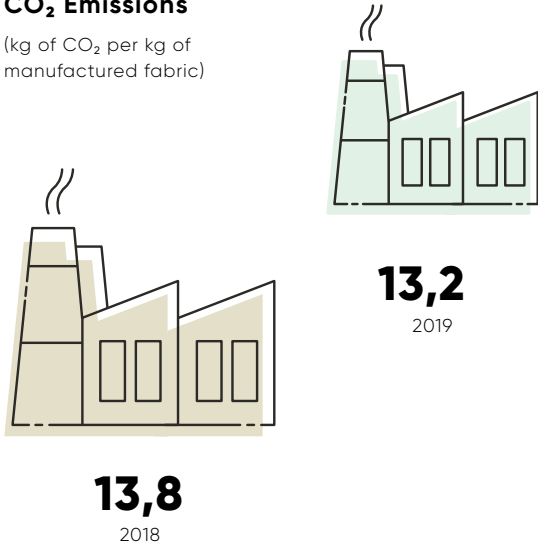
Energy efficiency and reducing our energy consumption are top priorities. We invest in a rational and sustainable energy model and develop actions aimed at reducing our carbon footprint.

We have a fully operational photovoltaic power station, located in the Olifil-Riopele manufacturing centre, with an installed capacity of 1MW, consisting of 2,940 solar panels, mounted on fixed structures, in an area of approx. 1.5 hectares.

We have also made several investments to increase energy efficiency, namely through the installation of new compressor management systems, the replacement of HVAC systems with upgraded and efficient systems, the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and the gradual replacement of our fleet and other means of transportation for electric vehicles.

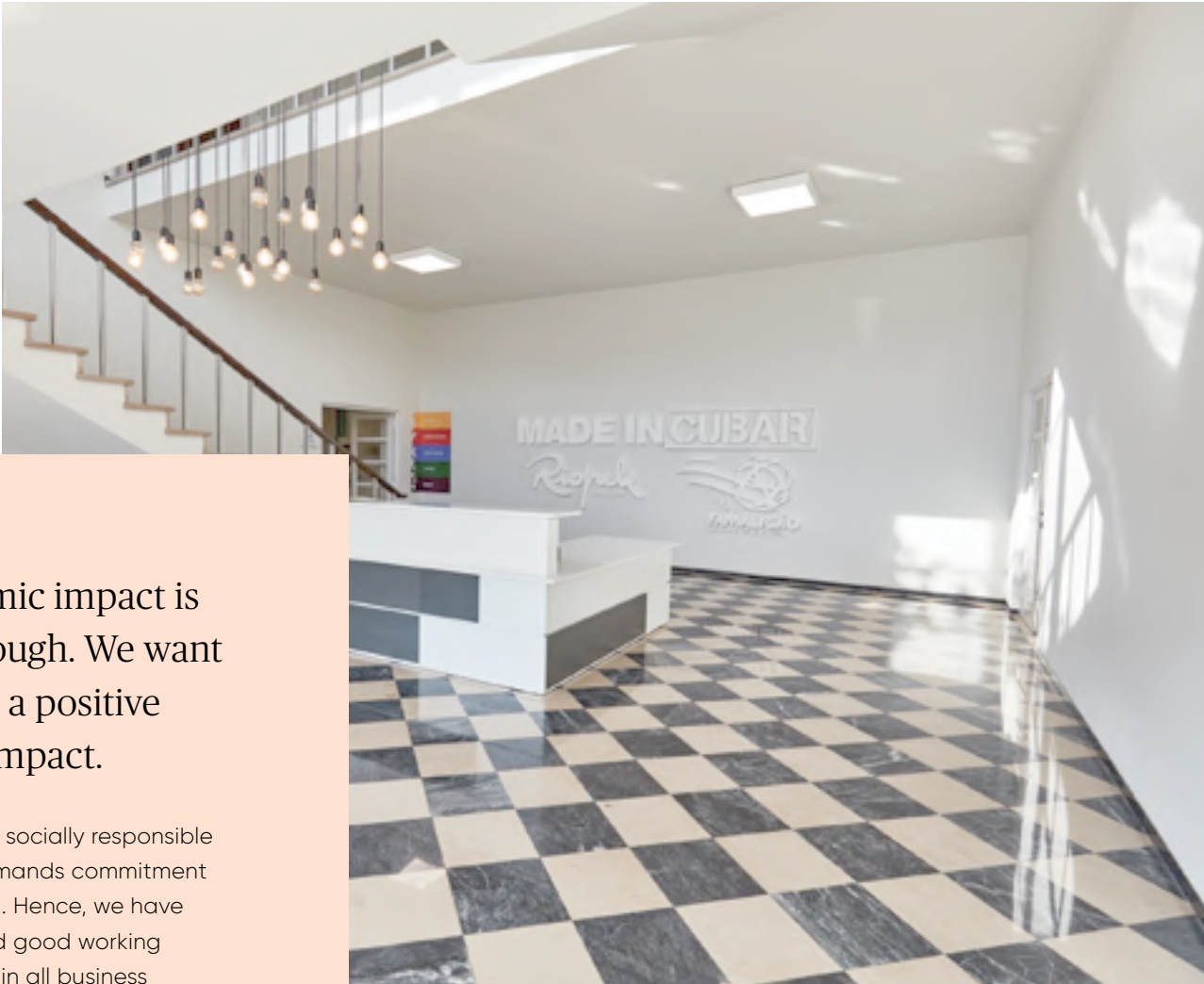


**CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions**  
(kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of manufactured fabric)





# Social Responsibility



Economic impact is not enough. We want to have a positive social impact.

Creating a socially responsible culture demands commitment and action. Hence, we have established good working conditions in all business areas and are fully committed towards the social and cultural development of the region where we operate and the country as a whole.



We are maximizing our positive impact through the following initiatives →

### Employees' Life Insurance

All our employees are covered by life insurance policies in cases of death or total and/or permanent disability.

### Motivation / Productivity Award

We have awarded all our members of staff with the 2013-2019 Motivation / Productivity Award as a way of fostering motivation and recognizing everyone's contribution to the company's good results in this period.

### Healthcare Services

All our employees have free access to a medical and nursing team that provides the necessary health care permanently, regarding occupational medicine and curative care.

2019

1136	Occupational medicine consultation
5062	Nursing consultations
1302	Curative care consultations

### Extended Non-Smoking Policy

Our non-smoking policy has now been extended to all our premises, whether indoors or outdoors. This decision was mainly based on health concerns regarding our members of staff, as well as for public health and industrial safety reasons.

### Christmas Party and Christmas Hampers

We gather together over 1,500 people, staff and family members, at our annual Christmas party. We also give Christmas hampers to all our employees, regardless of their contractual status.

### Protocol agreements with different entities

We have entered into protocol agreements with companies and other institutions, providing our employees with advantageous conditions in accessing different products and services.

### School visits

We receive students from national and international fashion and textile design schools. Thus, we contribute to their development as students and future professionals in the fashion industry.

### Installation of a business incubator

We have accepted the challenge given by the Vila Nova de Famalicão City Council to develop the "Famalicão Made Incubar" incubator in our facilities and foster entrepreneurship. We believe that the entire community will benefit from this initiative.

### Sponsorship of several institutions and partnerships with Universities

We are aware of the importance and mission that many organizations have in terms of social and community intervention. Therefore, we sponsor several institutions such as the Portuguese League Against Cancer and the Portuguese Blood Institute. We have also entered into partnerships with Porto Business School, University of Minho, University of Porto, the Catholic University of Portugal and Lusíada University of Porto.

### Ceding of Riopole's Sports Complex

We have ceded our sports complex to Grupo Desportivo de Joane, enabling over 200 training athletes, as well as school and other local associations, to enjoy excellent conditions.

