

Additionally, in FY 2022/23 we donated 118,900 metres of fabric to Progetto Quid, a not-for-profit cooperative, which upcycles excess materials into clothes and accessories and employs people from vulnerable backgrounds. We also donated 7,600 metres of fabric to the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti fashion school in Milan and Rome, benefiting 650 students.

We invest in the development of revaluing solutions for challenging materials, such as leather. Since 2018, we have donated leather hides and skins to the Alta Scuola di Pelletteria in Florence to be used as part of the school's training activities. This school offers professional leather training courses to young people who want to learn a specific skill. Through this partnership, we aim to help to bridge a skills gap faced by the leather manufacturing companies in Tuscany and connect them to young people, many of whom are categorised as not in employment, education or training (NEET). In FY 2022/23, the school offered 10 leather work and leather craft courses, and 109 students benefited from our donation of hides and skins.

We also funded a two-year research project, which concluded this financial year, with the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles & Apparel (HKRITA) to develop a system for post-consumer leather products recycling. To date, the project has successfully developed a recycled leather, which tested positively in terms of strength, abrasion resistance and thickness. Additionally, our partnership with HKRITA has resulted in the development of a prototype for an artificial intelligence (AI) garment-sorting algorithm, which speeds up the process of identifying garment type, material, fabric construction and colour, so increasing yield and accuracy for recycling.