



Austria

Topic:
Creative Skills

Achievement:
Sustainable
Practices Learning
Together Local Sector
Cooperation

Sector:
Design & Fashion

Tight-Knit: Create a Sustainable Fashion Future

In the Learning Lab Tight-Knit: Create a Sustainable Fashion Future, students from Vienna explored knitting technologies, sustainability, and regional craftsmanship. Collaborating with Clean Clothes Campaign Austria and Vienna Textile Lab, they learned about ethical production, biotech dyeing, and fashion careers.

Challenge

Students at the Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Kunst und Gestaltung in Vienna had limited exposure to real-world sustainability practices and fashion industry innovation. Teaching complex topics like ethical production, biotech dyeing, and the environmental impact of fast fashion to 15–16-year-olds required a hands-on, engaging approach that bridged technical skill-building with creative exploration, while also addressing the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application in textile education.

Solution

The Tight-Knit Learning Lab engaged students in an immersive experience combining traditional techniques with advanced textile technologies. Through workshops and studio visits, students explored digital pattern design, machine knitting, biotech dyeing, and embroidery. They co-created textile samples reflecting personal expression and sustainability values. Industry partnerships with Clean Clothes Campaign Austria and Vienna Textile Lab deepened their understanding of ethical fashion, while the final exhibition gave them a platform to showcase their skills and insights.

Impact

The Learning Lab transformed student perspectives on fashion, encouraging them to consider the environmental and ethical implications of their choices. Students gained technical skills, creative confidence, and deeper awareness of sustainability in fashion. Their creations and insights were publicly showcased, inspiring conversations across the school and community. The project bridged education with professional practice, positioning students as informed creators and consumers in the future of ethical and innovative fashion.

Milestones & Learnings

Studio visits connected students to local professionals and real-world sustainable practices.

Hands-on machine knitting proved highly engaging, allowing students to realise their own designs and build confidence.

Biotech dyeing at Vienna Textile Lab introduced innovative, eco-friendly alternatives to conventional textile production.

Final exhibition showcased students' work publicly and allowed them to communicate their understanding of sustainable fashion.

Key Takeaways

- Blending craft with innovation helps students grasp sustainability in fashion through active, real-world learning.
- Industry partnerships enrich education, grounding classroom concepts in current, practical contexts.
- Student-led creation fosters ownership, boosts engagement, and supports lasting connections between ethics, creativity, and career awareness.

Learn more about the Tight-Knit Learning Lab [here](#).