

Description

The Design for Sustainability (Dfs) checklists were applied to the design of a multifunctional piece of garment: a jacket that works also as a tent. This was a project of a high school graduation student (12th grade) of the VET course on fashion design of CENATEX vocational School in Portugal. The idea was to understand if students’ learning had raised their awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainable fashion projects.



Results

The Dfs Checklists were used to evaluate the We-A-Refuge concept, and the most significant areas for improvement were:

- Sustainability performance of raw-materials and components (principle 1): using renewable raw materials, with the adequate technical performance and promoting recycling;
- Reducing materials use (principle 2): using recycled materials;
- Sustainability performance of production (principle 3);
- Sustainability performance of packaging and logistics (principle 4): developing a reusable packaging and optimizing the transport;
- Sustainability performance in the use phase (principle 5): inclusive design had not been considered, so there is room for improvement here; and
- End-of-life system (principle 7): marking materials for recycling and easy dismantling.

From a VET training standpoint, the checklists were evaluated by the trainer as clear and understandable by the students of the 12th grade, although some criteria where technical language is used require the trainer to assist them. This tool was considered as valuable in VET training in design, in order to bring subjects that are more and more important in global trends, i.e., sustainable design. This tool should be part of the VET curriculum, through theoretical classes and practical implementation.

This project was developed by José Sousa, supervised by trainer Sónia Seixas.

School information:

CENATEX Vocational School is located in Guimarães. Initially it targeted the training of people on the textile and garment sectors, but it has broadened its scope to electric and electronic industry as well as trade and services. It has trained some 1400 technicians, working mostly in companies of Vale do Ave region.
<http://epcenatex.weebly.com/>



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The SInnDesign project is conducted by a consortium from Portugal, Spain, Austria and Denmark.

