

BIP General presentation

General Information
Dates for presentational activities: 2-7 november 2026
Proposed period for virtual component: Participants will use online tools and platforms for project planning, ideation, and sharing progress. Virtual sessions will be organized before and also after the face to face component. This virtual component will enhance the program's reach and flexibility, allowing participants from diverse backgrounds to engage with the content and each other, facilitating a rich and immersive learning experience while addressing themes of identity, less waste, technology, and heritage crafts.
Location of presentational activities: Covilhã, Portugal
Target audience / Participant profile: Arts and Design students
No. of ECTS issued: 3 credits
Language of instruction and requirements: English
Organizing board: University of Beira Interior – Arts Department Partners: P1. Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara, Romania (Andreea Palade Flondor – email: andreea.palade@e-uvv.ro) P2. Haute école des arts du Rhin Mulhouse - Strasbourg - HEAR Strasbourg, France (Mirjam Spooler, mirjam.spooler@hear.fr); P3. Brera Academy of Fine Arts, Italy (Laura Tettamanzi, lauratettamanzi@fadbrera.edu.it); P4. Vinius Academy of Arts, Lithuania (Justina Semčenkaitė, justina.semcenkaite@vda.lt). Local Partners: WOOL - Covilhã Urban Art Festival - https://www.woolfest.org/en/wool/ New Hand Lab - https://www.newhandlab.com/contactos.html Burel Factory - https://burelfactory.com Wool Museum - https://www.museu.ubi.pt
Program
○ Activities during virtual component: ThinkCamp - interdisciplinary collaboration Pre-programme (online) • Introduction to EuroTales methodology • Sharing of visual references and material archives • Group formation and conceptual discussion

Post-programme (online)

- Documentation review
 - Reflective presentations
 - Dissemination of outcomes across partner institutions
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- **Activities during physical component:** Curatorial and Spatial Practices

DAY 1 — MONDAY (02)**Arrival, Context & Urban Textile Memory****10:00 – 13:00**

- Introduction to the BIP programme and participants
- Guided visit to Museu de Lanifícios da Universidade da Beira Interior (textile industrial heritage and historical production systems)
- Urban walk through WOOL interventions in Covilhã focusing on WOOL - Covilhã Urban Art Festival

15:00 – 18:00

- Introduction to New Hand Lab
- Collective reflection session: “City as textile / textile as memory”

DAY 2 — TUESDAY (03)**New Hand Lab – Material Research & Concept Development****10:00 – 13:00**

- Presentation of available reclaimed materials (WOOL banners / textile waste)
- Introduction to upcycling methodologies and installation thinking
- Group formation

14:00 – 18:00

- Concept development for outdoor installation
- Sketching spatial strategies (light / textile / structure)
- Initial material experiments

DAY 3 — WEDNESDAY (04)**Industrial Heritage & Material Transformation****08:00 – 13:00**

- Study visit to Burel Factory | Departure 8am from Rato Roundabout, beside the Church and the University (wool transformation, felting processes, material innovation)

14:30 – 18:30

- Return to New Hand Lab
 - Translation of material insights into artistic prototypes
 - Testing of textile structures and suspension systems
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DAY 4 — THURSDAY (05)

Production & Installation Development

10:00 – 18:00

- Intensive collective production session
- Transformation of WOOL banners into installation components
- Structural assembly and spatial testing in outdoor area
- Integration of lighting strategies (pre-installation testing)
- Curatorial feedback sessions

DAY 5 — FRIDAY (06)

Installation, Presentation & Public Opening

10:00 – 13:00

14:00 – 17:00

- Final assembly of outdoor installation
- Light calibration and spatial adjustments

18:00 – 19:30

- Public opening of installation
- Participant presentations and collective walkthrough
- Documentation of final outcomes
- Final reflection session
- Closing gathering / celebration

DAY 6 — SATURDAY (07)

10:00 – 14:00

- Final exploration of the territory, visits to museums, cultural landscapes, and local businesses.

FINAL PROJECT OUTPUT

Collective Installation:

“Rewoven Territories – Light Installation”

Located in the exterior space of New Hand Lab, the installation transforms reclaimed WOOL festival materials into a spatial textile environment activated by light, responding to the industrial memory of Covilhã.

Title:

EuroTales: *Rewoven Territories*.

A EUROFABRIQUE Blended Intensive Programme

Short description:**Objectives and Description:**

The programme fosters multicultural and interdisciplinary collaboration, with a focus on European identity, sustainable practices, and creative approaches to heritage, materials, and waste reduction. It promotes experimental learning within the field of art and design, encouraging critical engagement with textile culture and contemporary material practices.

The programme is open to students from partner institutions with backgrounds in art and design, including textile and surface design, product design, and fashion design. Teaching staff may also participate as lecturers, mentors, or guest speakers. The programme adopts a blended learning approach, combining face-to-face and virtual collaboration in a multidisciplinary environment.

Learning Objectives:

1. To explore the relationship between traditional craftsmanship and contemporary technologies in textile-based art and design practices.
2. To integrate cultural narratives into design processes, fostering meaningful and context-aware creative outcomes.
3. To develop the ability to work collaboratively in interdisciplinary and international teams.

Methods and outcomes:**Interdisciplinary Approach:**

The programme encourages collaboration between students from different creative disciplines such as art, design, fashion, textile, and media practices. This fosters innovative thinking and diverse perspectives in artistic production.

Sustainability and Waste Reduction:

Students are encouraged to explore circular design strategies, reuse of materials, and responsible production processes. In this context, collaboration with the WOOL Urban Art Festival enables the reuse of printed communication materials for the development of an outdoor installation.

Cultural and Identity Exploration:

The programme promotes engagement with cultural and personal narratives, encouraging participants to draw from diverse references, traditions, and collective memory in order to develop meaningful artistic outcomes.

Creativity and Innovation:

The programme emphasises experimental and critical approaches to installation-making. Participants are challenged to develop original, site-specific works, culminating in a collective installation presented at the New Hand Lab, which may remain as part of its exhibition programme.

Participants will:

- Develop site-specific installation practices using reclaimed textile materials
- Understand industrial textile processes and their cultural implications
- Apply circular design strategies in artistic production
- Work collaboratively in interdisciplinary and international teams
- Integrate light as a spatial and narrative device in installation work
- Engage critically with textile heritage and post-industrial landscapes

Guests/speakers/experts (if any): Hosts of the Wool Museum, WOOL Festival, New Hand Lab and Bureau Factory

Application procedure: directly with the responsible teachers at the partner institutions.

Requirements:

Priority will be given to applications submitted by students enrolled in partner institutions selected by participating professors, in the areas of design, arts, and architecture at the first, second, and third cycle levels.

How to apply: The candidates contact the responsible professor until 30/08/2026.

Practical Information for International Participants

GETTING TO COVILHÃ

Covilhã is located in central Portugal, on the slopes of the Serra da Estrela mountain range, and is easily accessible from both Lisbon and Porto.

From Lisbon

By Train - <https://www.cp.pt/en/>

The most comfortable option is travelling by train from Lisbon (Oriente or Santa Apolónia stations) to Covilhã. Depending on connections, the journey takes approximately 3.5 to 4 hours.

Recent storms caused damage to part of the railway infrastructure connecting Covilhã. Maintenance works are currently underway, and some train services may be temporarily affected. We are optimistic that the line will be fully operational again by November. In the meantime, convenient bus connections remain available from both Lisbon and Porto. We will keep participants informed of any updates as the event approaches.

By Bus

Several daily coach services connect Lisbon to Covilhã, with a travel time of approximately 3.5 hours.

<https://rede-expressos.pt>

<https://www.flixbus.pt/>

From Porto

By Train - <https://www.cp.pt/en/>

Train connections from Porto (Campanhã Station) to Covilhã usually take between 4 and 5 hours, depending on transfers.

By Bus

Direct coach services connect Porto to Covilhã in approximately 3 to 4 hours.

For participants arriving by air, Lisbon Airport and Porto Airport are the main international gateways to Portugal and both offer convenient connections to Covilhã by train or bus.

<https://rede-expressos.pt>

<https://www.flixbus.pt/>

ACCOMMODATION

We are currently in contact with the university accommodation services and local partners to facilitate lodging options for participants.

University Residence Services

Website: <https://www.sas.ubi.pt>

Micasa Student Residence

Website: <https://www.micasacovilha.pt>

Additional information regarding accommodation availability and booking procedures will be shared directly with participants.

Participants are, of course, free to explore alternative accommodation options. Covilhã offers a variety of welcoming hotels, guesthouses, and local accommodation in the historic city centre and surrounding areas, many within walking distance of the main programme venues. There are also excellent accommodation options throughout the Serra da Estrela region, offering unique mountain and nature experiences. However, these locations are generally farther from the city and may require private transportation and longer commuting times to attend programme activities.

MAIN ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

The programme activities will primarily take place at the **University of Beira Interior (UBI)**, in the central campus area, close to the Central Library.

Main Venue

Faculty of Arts and Letters (UBI)

Rua Marquês d'Ávila e Bolama

6201-001 Covilhã

Portugal

The historical city centre is located around the **Pelourinho Square** and the **Covilhã City Hall (Câmara Municipal da Covilhã)**, within walking distance from most university facilities.

Key Locations

- University of Beira Interior (Faculty of Arts and Letters)
- New Hand Lab
- Pelourinho / Covilhã City Hall
- Covilhã Railway Station
- Covilhã Bus Terminal

For orientation purposes, participants are encouraged to consult Google Maps before arrival and save these locations.

GETTING AROUND COVILHÃ

Covilhã is a compact city and most destinations can be reached on foot.

Taxi services are reliable and affordable, while Uber and other ride-hailing services operate efficiently throughout the city. However, Covilhã is known as a mountain city, and walking between locations often involves some uphill and downhill routes. While this may initially surprise visitors, it is part of the local experience and undoubtedly contributes to what we like to call the "Covilhã longevity programme"!

Walking is often the best way to discover the city's unique combination of industrial heritage, urban art, historic streets, and panoramic viewpoints.

FOOD AND LIVING COSTS

Portugal remains one of the most affordable destinations in Western Europe.

Average prices in Covilhã:

- Coffee (espresso): €0.80–1.20
- Pastry and coffee: €2–4
- University Canteen lunch/dinner: €3-5
- Light lunch: €8–12
- Full restaurant meal: €15–25
- Three-course dinner with drinks: €20–35

Local Gastronomy Recommendation

Taberna A Laranjinha is one of the most appreciated restaurants in Covilhã.

The restaurant is known for:

- Contemporary reinterpretations of traditional recipes;
- Use of seasonal and locally sourced ingredients;
- Strong connection to the culinary heritage of the Beira Interior region;
- Carefully curated selection of regional wines.

It represents an excellent example of how local traditions can be reimagined through creativity and innovation, much like the transformation of Covilhã's textile heritage itself.

Other amazing possibilities:

https://www.tripadvisor.pt/Restaurants-g189145-Covilha_Castelo_Branco_District_Central_Portugal.html

https://www.thefork.pt/restaurantes/covilha-c669044?cc=81995-31a&gclsrc=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=20481043800&gbraid=0AAAAADhQetEEWBqcV9xKuJkUm6XciBMqb&gclid=CjwKCA-jwgO7RBhBKEiwAZNP85tg4Av9l_1gV-kvR-lZlZ9c-lQqgK8_1c9m83UBllCOXhmsacuQx5BoCyBwQAvD_BwE

WELCOME TO COVILHÃ

We hope you enjoy your stay in Covilhã, a city where mountains,
heritage, creativity, design, and innovation come together
to create a truly unique learning environment.

We look forward to welcoming you to the
University of Beira Interior and sharing with you the
rich cultural and creative ecosystem of the region.