

THE LEATHER INSTITUTE

SSIP (Italian National Leather Research Institute) — a limited liability company set up by the Chambers of Commerce of Naples, North West Tuscany and Vicenza — is a national research body recognised pursuant to EU Regulation No. 651/2014, in the field of Chemistry and Tanning Technology and enrolled in the MIUR National Research Register, to which the national legislator has recently acknowledged a role of public interest with Italian Legislative Decree 68/2020.

SSIP works to support the Italian tanning industry with basic research, experimental development, industrial innovation, standardisation, training, product and process certification, analysis, controls and innovative services to consolidate competitive capacity, production quality, technological development and environmental sustainability to the benefit of the entire supply chain and the main target markets: furniture, automotive, footwear, interiors, fashion, leather goods.

ITALIAN LEATHER
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Research Body of the Chambers of Commerce of Naples, North-West Tuscany and Vicenza

STAZIONE SPERIMENTALE
PER L'INDUSTRIA DELLE PELLI
E DELLE MATERIE CONCIANTI

STAZIONE SPERIMENTALE PER L'INDUSTRIA DELLE PELLI E DELLE MATERIE CONCIANTI Srl

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LABORATORIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Technological laboratories, research infrastructure and state-of-the-art equipment in line with the key technologies of Industry 4.0 make it possible to develop a testing environment that is a true technology demonstrator of a sustainable tanning factory in which testing and certification, training and industrial innovation can take place.

Adriano Olivetti Technology Park in Pozzuoli (NA)

Testing and validation laboratories

- Microscopy
- Chemical testing for processes and sustainability
- Physical testing for product performance
- Surface measurement

Advanced Testing Laboratory for Research and Innovation

Library and Documentation Centre

Certified training rooms

Research Departments

- Product development and additive technologies
- Process Technologies
- Technologies for the environment
- Tanning biotechnology and enabling technologies

District of Arzignano (VI)

Experimental tannery and workshops

Research laboratory

District of Santa Croce (PI)

Experimental tannery and advanced laboratory

Chemistry Innovation Lab (CIL)

RESEARCH, EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

SSIP carries out research and experimental development of technologies essentially related to Chemistry and Tanning Technology, as well as the various environmental aspects inherent to the production and processing of leather.

The planning ability developed has an application context in Basic Research — focused on Chemistry and Tanning Technology and aimed at the study of the transformations taking place during the tanning process and the understanding of the mechanisms of interaction of the leather with the surrounding environment — and Applied and Experimental Research regarding production systems with lower environmental impact and that are more responsive to market needs, including consumer protection issues, the study of emission control systems (water recycling, solvent abatement, etc.), and the utilisation of solid waste (sludge, leather cuttings) resulting from tanning.

SSIP also operates through scientific collaborations and partnerships with universities, ENEA, CNR and within the framework of the activities carried out by the National Technology Clusters of which it is a member: The Spring Cluster - Green Chemistry and Sustainability Cluster and the Made in Italy Cluster.

POLITECNICO DEL CUIOIO: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Politecnico del Cuoio (Polytechnic of Leather) implements initiatives to consolidate, develop and spread the technical culture of leather, in a structured and coordinated manner with companies. As it has developed over the last few years, the Polytechnic of Leather has distinguished itself as a true Academy, a physical and virtual place aimed at production and continuous sharing of knowledge.

Supporting the development of human capital to foster the competitiveness of the Italian tanning production system and spreading the technical and scientific culture of leather and new materials is the Polytechnic of Leather main mission, but not its only mission. This area focuses on the project management of projects co-financed with public resources, not only for training purposes but also for research and development and support for the leather industry and, more generally, the fashion industry.

ANALYSIS, CERTIFICATION, TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANCY AND STANDARDISATION

The services provided by SSIP are of a diverse nature, ranging from Testing and Analysis and Legal Metrology, aimed at verifying the characteristics of leathers, to Technical Consultancy to support the identification and prevention of production defects, and Advanced Consultancy, which encompasses all Technology Transfer services aimed at product and process innovation. SSIP has a laboratory with equipment capable of measuring the surfaces of hides in any state of processing. It participates in Institutional Standardisation Commissions (UNI, CEN-ISO) and Commissions set up by private organisations (ZDHC, LWG, Clear). The Testing and Validation laboratories are ACCREDIA certified according to ISO 17025, with particular reference to the tests required for the verification of products labelled as leather under Article 7 of Italian Legislative Decree 68/2020, for which SSIP operates as a State-recognised Laboratory.

According to International Contract No. 7 between ICT and ICHSLTA, SSIP is the only recognised national laboratory for the verification of surface measurement in case of dispute. As a Public Research Organisation that adopts accredited Management Systems and Testing Methods, SSIP has established and intends to enhance collaborations for the execution of Research, Training and Services with Public or similar Laboratories throughout the country.

MICS - CIRCULAR AND SUSTAINABLE MADE IN ITALY

SSIP is one of the proposing entities of the MICS Extended Partnership - Circular and Sustainable Made in Italy, financed by the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research under the NRRP, which aims to activate research programmes carried out by extended networks of public and private entities that contribute to promoting the sustainable and circular development of the supply chains of greatest strategic interest for Made in Italy.

LEATHER INNOVATION CHALLENGES 2025

Open Innovation Programme dedicated to promoting the development of the tanning industry, as well as the entire leather supply chain, in the areas of main strategic interest, with evident positive effects for the reference markets, in sectors particularly representative of the national economy, such as fashion, automotive, furniture and design.



Product innovation

Development of new materials, molecules and technologies and for the production of new families of innovative leathers in relation to manufacturing processes used and the ability to contextually meet a series of needs for innovation and sustainability.



Circular Economy and Sustainability

Development of innovative solutions enabling the design of strategies for utilising waste from the tanning industry, as well as waste from the leather processing chain.



Industry 4.0 and Leather Smart Factory

Development of solutions introducing new processes and method of Industry 4.0 for leather processing.

The main assets of the Polytechnic of Leather:

- Professional training for companies, with highly specialised technical and scientific educational programmes.
- ITS training courses for specialised figures for tanning, leather supply chain and leather user companies able to carry out Research & Development, Product management and Green Leather Manager operations.
- Scientific publication through the magazine CPMC — Cuoio Pelli Materie Concianti (Leather and Tanning Materials) — and the creation of training workshops with the aim of transferring technical and scientific solutions that favour the sustainability of production processes, product innovation and reducing environmental impact to companies and other players in the supply chain.