

## CASE STUDY

# FÁBRICA

# SANTO TIRSO

A cultural & creative hotspot shaping industrial renaissance in the city



### Background

The former textile factory, Fábrica Santo Tirso, founded in 1898, has undergone redevelopment into a multifunctional space, revitalizing the city's cultural and creative quarter. This transformation is part of a broader regeneration effort and economic development strategy aimed at leveraging the opportunities of the green industrial transition. Despite ceasing activity in 1990, the factory remains a significant landmark in Santo Tirso's history, symbolising the region's industrial development.

While the textile industry brought economic prosperity, it also caused environmental degradation, particularly to the Rio Ave (river). The renovated factory symbolizes a new industrial vision focused not only on economic gain but also on social and environmental benefits. Collaboration and innovation are central to its success, with Fábrica Santo Tirso serving as a multi-functional hub supporting creativity and collaboration across various sectors.

Managed by the municipality through INVEST Santo Tirso, the factory offers workspaces, educational facilities, and cultural and leisure amenities including:

- Fashion and Design Incubator (IMoD)
- Business & Innovation Centre synergising with IMoD
- Cultural & Art Centre & event space
- Textile, fashion and civil construction professional training centres
- Higher Technical Professional Courses with Polytechnic of Porto
- Textile Industry Interpretive Centre
- Centre for the Development of Digital Skills
- Communal services and amenities
- Urban Gardens.

# The EcoCore Project

Green Transition in Small Cities along Transport Corridors

THIS PHASED RENOVATION OF THE 43,000 M2 INDUSTRIAL SPACE REFLECTS A COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN THE MUNICIPALITY



## Timeline & Funding

- 2008 - Santo Thyrsos Foundation establishes the Business and Innovation Centre. Funding for rehabilitation of €1,755,000 was received from the Regional Operational Programme (ERDF).
- 2012 - Cultural Hall & Interpretive Centre opened thanks to an investment of €2.2 million, co-financed by the National Strategic Reference Framework.
- 2013 - Opening of Fashion and Design Incubator (IMOD) with an investment of around €4 million co-finance from the Regional Operational Programme (ERDF).
- 2024 - Refurbishment of the spaces dedicated to CESAE Centre for Development of Digital Skills will begin.

## Results to date

- 150 events per year between January 2023 and December 2023 (an average of 150 events per year).
- 200 students per year enrolled in educational courses since 2017.
- More than 30 businesses incubated.

## Future Plans

10,000 metres<sup>2</sup> of the factory has yet to be rehabilitated. The final design plan is yet to be determined. It is envisaged that training spaces equipped with workshops (both theoretical and practical training) will be created in order to contribute to the local and regional industry.

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