BIP – BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAM
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MAIN INFORMATION

Title: **"Circular Design: From Silk to Digital Innovation, with Textile Patterns Inspired by Castelo Branco Embroidery."**

BIP ID: to be filled by the International Relations Office

Country of Venue: Portugal   City of Venue: Castelo Branco

ECTS: 3   Main Teaching Language: English

Field of Education (ISCED code): 0212

Maximum number of participants: 30

Prerequisites:

Contact at hosting university: (name & email address) Paula Ribeiro; gri@ipcb.pt

Priorities Addressed: Other

REGISTRATION:

Registration period: to be filled by the International Relations Office

Registration procedure: to be filled by the International Relations Office

PHYSICAL AND ONLINE COMPONENT

Online **start** date: 17/04/2026   Physical **start** date: 11/05/2026

Online **end** date: 17/04/2026   Physical **end** date: 15/05/2026

OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION:
Please provide a brief description of the course's main objectives and characteristics.

General Objective

To promote understanding of circular design applied to the silk life cycle, encouraging the creation of textile patterns inspired by Castelo Branco Embroidery and their adaptation to both artisanal and digital processes.

Specific Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

• Understand the principles of circular design and sustainability in textile and fashion design
• Identify the stages of the silk life cycle, from production to textile application
• Recognize the cultural, formal, and symbolic elements of Castelo Branco Embroidery
• Develop creative skills in textile pattern design
• Apply embroidery techniques in small experimental projects
• Explore digitalization processes and adaptation of textile patterns
• Integrate traditional craftsmanship with technological innovation
• Develop critical thinking about sustainability and cultural heritage

ONLINE COMPONENT DESCRIPTION:

Please provide a brief description of the course's online component

Phase I- Introduction to Circular Design

Contents

• What is Circular Design
• Difference between linear economy and circular economy
• Principles of sustainable design
• The role of the designer in sustainability
• Waste reduction and product life cycle extension

Phase II- Sustainability in the Textile Industry

Contents

• Environmental impact of the fashion industry
• Water and energy consumption
• Textile pollution
• Slow fashion vs fast fashion
• Importance of natural materials

Phase III- Silk as a Sustainable Material

Contents

• History of silk in Castelo Branco
• Silk production (sericulture)
• Properties of silk fiber
• Sustainability potential of silk
• Contemporary applications

Phase IV- Castelo Branco Embroidery – Identity and Heritage

Contents

• Historical origins
• Cultural and artistic importance
• Traditional decorative motifs
• Symbolism and visual language
• Traditional embroidery techniques

Phase V- Traditional Inspiration in Contemporary Design

Contents

• Reinterpretation of heritage in modern design
• Creative process inspired by tradition
• Textile pattern development
• Relationship between tradition and innovation

Phase VI- Final Discussion

METHODS AND OUTCOMES

Please provide a brief description of the course's main methods and expected outcomes.

Methods
The course will be developed through a theoretical-practical approach, combining research, creative experimentation, and technological application, promoting active and interdisciplinary learning.
The following pedagogical methods will be used:

• Lectures supported by visual materials and case study analysis, including study visits to silk production and embroidery workshops
• Guided discussions on sustainability, circular design, and cultural heritage
• Visual and interpretative analysis of Castelo Branco Embroidery patterns
• Practical exercises in developing textile patterns inspired by traditional elements
• Experimentation with natural materials, particularly silk
• Demonstration and exploration of digital tools for pattern creation and adaptation
• Development of individual and/or group projects with pedagogical supervision
• Critical reflection on sustainable practices applied to design

Outcomes
By the end of the course, participants are expected to be able to:

• Understand the principles of circular design applied to design
• Identify and analyze the silk life cycle and its sustainability potential
• Recognize the formal, symbolic, and cultural elements of Castelo Branco Embroidery
• Develop original textile patterns inspired by traditional heritage
• Apply basic embroidery techniques in small creative projects
• Transfer and adapt textile patterns to digital formats
• Integrate sustainable practices into the creative process
• Demonstrate autonomy in developing projects that combine tradition and innovation