

## PORTUGUESE FOOTWEAR IS COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

Focusing on the durability and quality of the garments they manufacture, footwear companies focus on innovation and the selection of sustainable raw materials to enhance their commitment to the environment.

The footwear industry stands out for its dynamism and for emphasising its historical heritage, but it has also transformed itself into a modern, forward-looking industry. It has pursued a strategy of continuous international expansion and is committed to building a collective image that is globally renowned as a symbol of quality, design and innovation.

There are many examples of footwear companies that are 100% "MADE IN PORTUGAL".

**8000 Kicks** is devoted to manufacturing footwear made from the fibre of the cannabis plant and has launched the world's first waterproof hemp shoes. Hemp is the most resistant natural fibre compared to other options. In terms of water consumption, it consumes five times less water than cotton, does not require pesticides, and is an antibacterial and a natural insulator, just like cork, making it ideal for manufacturing footwear.

**Ambitious** is a brand based on the principles of quality and tradition, coupled with innovation in industrial processes and techniques. It stands out for its ethical production and use of local raw materials. It currently aims for 50 per cent of its collection to be sustainable by 2025. To achieve this, it relies on using recycled materials, ensuring that the entire manufacturing process is environmentally friendly through water- and energy-saving methods and the conscious packaging of the final product.

With over 50 years of history, **Arcopedico** has maintained a legacy that has been handed down from generation to generation. Its respect for the environment and nature, with all its resources, shapes and textures, is the brand's driving force. In collaboration with Texlimca, an expert in textile circularity, the brand has a footwear collection initiative. For every used pair handed in (of any brand), the customer gets a 10% discount on purchasing a new pair. In 2022, 2,705 pairs of shoes were collected.

Founded in 1963 by Joaquim José Heitor, [JJ Heitor Shoes](#) exports almost all of its production. The brand uses local suppliers wherever possible, thus minimising the carbon footprint associated with transporting the raw materials needed to produce sustainable footwear. The shoes stand out for their high quality and durability, and are equipped with maintenance instructions designed to extend the item's lifespan.

[Felmini](#) is present in 35 countries and has more than 2,000 points of sale worldwide. The brand opts to use leather tanned with natural tannins, thus eliminating the use of heavy metals. It also uses water-based glues, prefabricated rice husk soles (produced locally), and linings made from 50% organic cotton and 50% recycled polyester.

[NOKOMENTS](#) was born in Santa Maria da Feira, one of Portugal's most renowned footwear production clusters. The brand is based on a philosophy of vegan and environmentally friendly products, in line with growing global sustainability awareness. The inspiring spirit of the new generations in favour of a more sustainable world and their awareness of the need to protect the environment set the tone for the company's launch of this new footwear concept.

Providing an animal-friendly and ecological alternative to human exploitation is the motto of [nae Vegan Shoes](#). The brand's name is taken from the acronym "NAE", which stands for "No Animal Exploitation". The brand's shoes and accessories are produced in Portugal in certified, high-ethical factories.

These and other companies can be found in the directory available at [portugalglobal.pt/portugalnaturally](http://portugalglobal.pt/portugalnaturally)

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