

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN “SUSFUTURE DESIGN WEEK 2026”

We invite you to participate in the Global Sustainable Fashion Week, a creative innovation event that will be held for the first time in Serbia from April 20 to 23, 2026. “SUSFUTURE DESIGN WEEK 2026” is traditionally organized by the World Association of more than 45 textile universities. This year, the University of Novi Sad is hosting the event.

In addition to the participation of world-renowned names from the fashion industry representing leading global universities, we hope that local creative participants will also respond to our call from Serbia and neighboring countries: from our faculties, academies, secondary textile and art schools, individual fashion designers, and especially TEXTILE PROFESSIONALS FROM PUPIN - our graduated students.

The event aims to strengthen the regional leadership of Serbia’s fashion sector. We invite you to submit your works, either individually or as group submissions (e.g., one secondary school with one joint project): written papers, fashion sketches, garments for the fashion show, fashion accessories, and other works for participation in the conference, exhibition, and fashion show.

All information can be found on our website: <http://www.tfzr.uns.ac.rs/tnp/> or you may contact us directly.

The basic information about the event is as follows:

1. Global Vision: A New Creative Connectivity in Europe

SUSFUTURE DESIGN WEEK 2026 proposes establishing the University of Novi Sad and Serbia as a key axis where Central and Eastern Europe converge with global creative innovation. Under the transcendent theme “SYMBIONT,” this initiative bringing together SUSFUTURE, the University of Novi Sad, the World Alliance of Textile Universities, and the Global Sustainable Fashion Week will create a platform that elevates Serbia’s regional leadership while radiating influence across continents through a synthesis of heritage and avant-garde, East and West, fashion and intangible cultural heritage.

2. The “SYMBIONT” Concept: A Framework for Global Relevance

SYMBIONT embodies interconnected growth. For 2026, it manifests as a strategic framework for:

- Strengthening Serbia’s regional position: Positioning the University of Novi Sad as the primary academic and creative hub in Central and Eastern Europe for sustainable design discourse.
- Bridging civilizations: Facilitating tangible dialogue between Eastern philosophies and Western methodologies, with Serbia serving as a geographic and cultural mediator.



- Aligning timelines: Creating a living laboratory in which Serbian and regional unique artisanal and industrial traditions evolve through collaboration with digital innovations and global design **practices**.

3. ORGANIZERS AND PARTNERS

Organizer:

SUSFUTURE (www.susfuture.org); University of Novi Sad (<http://www.uns.ac.rs/>); World Textile Universities Alliance (WTUA) (<http://wtua.dhu.edu.cn/>); Global Sustainable Fashion Week (GSFW) (<http://gsfashionweek.com/>); Serbian Belt and Road Institute

Executive Organizer:

Technical Faculty “Mihajlo Pupin,” University of Novi Sad

Academic Partners:

Hungarian Fashion League Association; Shanghai International College of Fashion and Innovation, Donghua University; School of Design, University of Leeds; Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University; University of Donja Gorica (UDG); Department of Fashion Industry Management, Hsing Wu University BODYNews; Department of Fashion Management or Business Administration, Takming University of Science and Technology; Association for the Promotion of Fashion, Culture, and Arts Development of Shenzhen Futian District

Academic Supporters:

Aalto University; Amirkabir University of Technology; Bahir Dar University; Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology; Beijing Normal University; BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology; Cambodia Garment Training Institute; Dalian Polytechnic University; ENSAIT – National Higher School for Arts and Textile Industries; Fiji National University; Guangdong Polytechnic University; Hebei University of Science and Technology; Jiangnan University; Kulob Institute of Technology and Innovation Management; Mongolian University of Science and Technology; Moi University; National Textile University; Quanzhou Normal University; Qingdao University; Reutlingen University of Applied Sciences; Soochow University; Sudan University of Science and Technology; Suez Canal University; Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry; Royal University of Fine Arts; Tibet University; Polytechnic University of Madrid; University of Edinburgh; University of Gezira; University of Westminster; Uzbekistan Research Institute of Natural Fibers; Wuhan Textile University; Xi'an Polytechnic University; Xinjiang University; Zhejiang Sci-Tech University; Zhongyuan University of Technology.



4. Design Week Activities

SUSFUTURE DESIGN WEEK 2026 will present three distinct yet interconnected program formats, each designed to embody the philosophy of “SYMBIONT” while addressing specific audiences and objectives. This multi-format approach ensures a dynamic and comprehensive experience that engages the international design community, academia, industry professionals, and the general public.

A. | Exhibition |

SYMBIONT – SUSFUTURE 2026 International Sustainable Design Exhibition

Dates: April 21 – May 21, 2026 (minimum one month; longer duration is also acceptable and appreciated, if permitted)

Venue: University of Novi Sad Gallery

Artworks: Approximately 100 pieces (to be printed in A1 or A2 formats, with submissions from around 20 countries/regions);

Design artworks are primarily invited by SUSFUTURE and relevant institutions.

B. | Fashion Show |

SYMBIONT – 2026 SUSFUTURE International Fashion Show

Date: April 23, 2026

Venue: Proposed – Serbian Belt and Road Institute or the Cultural Center of the People’s Republic of China in Belgrade (to be specified later)

Garments for the fashion show will primarily be selected by invitation to participants from the Technical Faculty “Mihajlo Pupin,” University of Novi Sad, and relevant institutions.

C. | TNP2026, Workshop/Lecture |

Dates: April 20 and 21, 2026

Duration: TNP2026 (<http://www.tfzr.uns.ac.rs/tnp/>) – full day on April 20, 2026

Workshops (Lectures) - half day on April 21, 2026

Venue: TNP2026 - Technical Faculty “Mihajlo Pupin”

Workshops (Lectures) - University of Novi Sad - Program: 4 - 6 fashion-specialized speakers will present and conduct individual lectures or workshops.

Lecturer 1: Dr. Guoxiang Yuan, World Textile Universities Alliance; Associate Professor, Shanghai International College of Fashion and Innovation, Donghua University; Researcher, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Lecturers 2, 3, 4, 5 ...

