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Japanese delegation's visit to greenLIFE partner companies

The recovery of proteins and their enhancement in other industrial chains are among topics of particular interest

(Arzignano, VI). November 19 was an intense Monday, where a delegation of Japanese leather industry researchers visited greenLIFE's partner companies – Conceria Dani, Gruppo Mastrotto, Ikem, Ilsa and Acque del Chiampo. This visit was dictated by aroused Japanese academic interest toward the results of the three-year greenLIFE project, where companies from the leather district of Arzignano collaborated on innovative research to improve the sustainability of tanning.

Academics, entrepreneurs, and representatives of the Kawamura Tsusho Corporation, of the Hyogo Prefectural Institute of Technology headed by the Chairman of the Japan Association of Leather Technology, Dr. Yoshihiro Nomura (a professor at the Leather Research Institute of the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology) followed with great interest the reports presented by technicians involved in the project.

Aspects that aroused particular interest in the delegation have been the recovery from hair and trimmings of proteins and their valorisation in other industrial chains such as agriculture, the LCA Life Cycle Assessment analysis at the leather district level, decrease of water used in processes and tanning without metals. "The creation of stable relations with the Japanese researchers to develop together the aspect of protein recovery, for example, could be interesting for the greenLIFE companies, as well as for the professional representatives of Italian tanning", believes Guido Zilli, project coordinator. "We hope that linguistic barriers and distance will not be obstacles to a successful collaboration", Zilli stated at the close of the visit.