

NEXT GEN LEATHER DESIGNERS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: “NEXT GEN LEATHER DESIGNERS”

A contest promoted by **LINEAPELLE** and **Piattaforma Sistema Formativo Moda ETS**.
1st Edition – October 2025 / September 2026

Art. 0 — PREMISES

- Since 2008, **Piattaforma Sistema Formativo Moda Ente del Terzo Settore (Piattaforma ETS, <https://piattaformamoda.it>)** has been the hub bringing together the most prestigious Italian institutions and academies that offer post-diploma and master’s degree programs in the fashion sector. The member schools have always been closely connected to Italy’s cultural, historical, and industrial heritage. Among the objectives of Piattaforma ETS is the support and promotion of the talent of students from Italian fashion schools in connection with the fashion industry, fostering a continuous exchange of knowledge between schools and businesses. For the Association, synergies with trade associations and industry fairs represent a strategic priority.
- **LINEAPELLE** has historically maintained a strong commitment to its educational and cultural responsibility towards younger generations. This is reflected in the presence, within LINEAPELLE trade fairs, of fashion schools and internationally recognized training experiences, showcasing the results of their didactic collaborations with LINEAPELLE and with several exhibiting companies.
- Fashion is currently experiencing a generational transition and faces the urgent need for responsible innovation alongside the traditional arts of *Made in Italy*. This represents a unique opportunity to transmit knowledge, highlight the territories of Italian production districts, and renew and strengthen Italian identity within the global Fashion System.
- **Piattaforma Sistema Formativo Moda ETS** and **LINEAPELLE – UNIC Concerie Italiane** have long carried out a collaboration aimed at creating a bridge between the students of Italian fashion schools associated with Piattaforma ETS and Italian companies producing leather and innovative materials. The goal is to transmit to young designers the industrial and sustainability culture linked to these materials, and to showcase their talent to professionals and stakeholders within the prestigious context of Lineapelle fairs.

LINEAPELLE

- Through the **“NEXT GEN LEATHER DESIGNERS” Contest**, the promoters aim to integrate the training provided in fashion schools with the real-world challenges that young designers will concretely face, with particular attention to ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) issues. The initiative seeks to stimulate a creative and responsible use of the materials available today to the new generation of creatives and designers. The goal is to involve future fashion professionals in understanding that strategic and design choices in terms of design, innovation, and values have a significant ethical, social, and environmental impact.
 - The partnership between Italian companies producing leather and innovative materials, and Italian fashion schools, can generate opportunities for both parties: on one hand, enhancing the creative use of leather and materials through the talent and imagination of young designers; on the other, offering the new generation of creatives and designers a valuable opportunity for training, growth, and visibility.
-

Art. 1 — ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT

LINEAPELLE, in collaboration with **Piattaforma Sistema Formativo Moda ETS**, launches the contest **"Next Gen Leather Designers"**, an initiative dedicated to graduating students from schools associated with Piattaforma ETS. The aim is to promote the **creative and responsible use of leather and innovative materials** in the design of garments, accessories, and footwear.

The contest is part of a broader synergy that seeks to bring together the world of education and the world of production, with a specific focus on **ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) issues**, the **culture of Made in Italy**, and **sustainability** in processes and materials.

Art. 2 — ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the contest is **free of charge**. No registration fee is required.

The contest is open to **emerging young designers** who stand out for their talent, vision, and academic excellence.

Specifically, applications are open to students enrolled in courses at schools associated with **Piattaforma Sistema Formativo Moda ETS**, who normally:

- are aged between **22 and 30 years**
- expect to complete a **three-year Fashion Design program** in the academic year 2025/2026
- expect to complete a **three-year Shoes & Accessories Design program** in the academic year 2025/2026

LINEAPELLE

- expect to complete a **post-diploma, specialization, or master's program in Fashion Design** in the academic year 2025/2026
- expect to complete a **post-diploma, specialization, or master's program in Shoes & Accessories Design** in the academic year 2025/2026

Team applications are allowed, with a maximum of **two participants per team**. For associative purposes, and at its sole discretion, the Association reserves the right to derogate from these requirements.

Collections and works submitted to the **NEXT GEN LEATHER DESIGNERS Contest** may also have been presented and/or awarded in other Italian or international competitions, and do not need to be produced exclusively for this contest.

Selected candidates must be able to **complete the production of garments, accessories, and footwear**, and — barring force majeure — must deliver them **physically in Milan** in time to exhibit them by the Lineapelle Fair in 15 – 17 September 2026, Fiera Milano RHO.

Art. 3 — PROJECT AND COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Each student is invited to submit a **Project Proposal** consisting of a **mini capsule collection** of at least **5 outfits and/or accessories**, selected from the categories indicated in this call.

Within the project, students must clearly indicate which item(s) they intend to **submit to the Contest**, providing their **project development** (sketches, technical details, materials, etc.).

It is possible to submit more than one item included in the project. The Organization reserves the right to select **only one garment or accessory**, which the student will commit to producing for the final exhibition.

Categories:

- **FASHION DESIGN:** Womenswear | Menswear | Agender
- **ACCESSORIES:** Shoes | Bags (each pair of shoes/bag counts as 1 item) | Accessories and leather goods

Materials:

The garment or accessory submitted must necessarily include **leather as the main material**, possibly combined with other materials from the product categories exhibited at Lineapelle.

If requested, **LINEAPELLE** may provide support to students in sourcing materials. It may also evaluate the possibility of involving one or more companies from its network in the project development phase.

Theme:

The 2025/2026 edition of the Contest takes inspiration from the theme of the annual **Fashion Graduate Italia 2025** promoted by Piattaforma ETS: **“Bridging Tribes. Building Dreams.”**

LINEAPELLE

Contest participants are invited to draw inspiration from this theme in defining their proposed projects. They are encouraged to explore the encounter of identities, cultures, and visions, highlighting fashion's ability to create connections and new opportunities, seeking a universal language capable of breaking down barriers, blending traditions, and giving voice to new perspectives.

Bridging Tribes, Building Dreams is a call to overcome the boundaries between different generations and backgrounds, fostering open dialogue between innovation and craftsmanship, digital and analog, local and global.

Training:

Participants will have access to a training session organized by **LINEAPELLE**, offering technical and cultural insights into the use of leather and sustainable materials. The methods of delivery will be communicated by the Contest Promoters to the schools associated with Piattaforma ETS via e-mail.

Art. 4 — JURY AND PRIZES

Each school associated with **Piattaforma ETS** will take care of an **internal pre-selection** of the Projects from their students to be presented for the Contest and it can submit a minimum of **1 Project** and a maximum of **5 Projects**.

The selected Projects will be submitted to a **technical jury** composed of qualified experts, who will evaluate the Projects presented by the schools associated with Piattaforma ETS and will identify:

- the garments/accessories to be exhibited at the stand dedicated to Piattaforma ETS and to the Contest, within the **Lineapelle Fair 15 -17 September 2026**
- the **winning Project**, to which LINEAPELLE will award a prize of **€ 1.500,00**.

The garments/accessories submitted will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Creativity**
- **Technical quality and accuracy of execution**
- **Innovation in the use of materials**
- **Relevance to the Theme.**

Art. 5 — SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND TIMELINE

Applications must be submitted **by the schools associated with Piattaforma ETS** by sending the documentation required under **Art. 6** of this Call for Applications to the following e-mail address: info@piattaformamoda.it.

LINEAPELLE

The application period is as follows:

- Launch of the call: **6 October 2025**
- Applications open: **27 February 2026**
- Deadline for applications: **31 March 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CEST**

Applications received after the deadline will **not** be considered under any circumstances.

Art. 6 — MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION

The documentation relating to the application of each student, as listed below, must be submitted in digital format by each school associated with Piattaforma ETS that adheres to the initiative.

The deadline for submission, under penalty of exclusion from the contest, is **31 March 2026**.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS:

- Digital files must be sent via **Swisstransfer** (<https://www.swisstransfer.com/it-it>) to the e-mail address **info@piattaformamoda.it**
- Please **do not use other applications** to send digital materials
- The portfolio must be sent in a **single PDF file**
- All files must be placed inside a folder named as follows: **"SURNAME_NAME_INSTITUTION"**

Failure to submit one or more of the required documents will result in exclusion from the Contest.

Mandatory documentation to be submitted (in Italian or English):

1. **Student Information Form**, containing personal data and details of the study program (use the format in **Annex A**)
 - File name: surname_name_PersonalData.pdf – Max 3 MB
2. **Curriculum Vitae and Motivation Letter** (Max 1 page)
 - File names: name_surname_CV.pdf, surname_name_MotivationLetter.pdf – Max 3 MB each
3. **Project Concept Folder**, including:
 - Sketches, mood boards, color palettes, and materials used in the proposed project
 - Conceptual description of the project
 - High-definition photographs (HD) of the garments. In case of unfinished garments, photographs of the work in progress are required
 - File name: surname_name_Project.pdf – Max 3 MB
4. **Copy of these Contest Rules**, duly signed by the student for acceptance

Optional documentation:

LINEAPELLE

- **Portfolio of Previous Works** (Optional) – up to 10 pages
 - File name: surname_name_Portfolio.pdf – Max 15 MB

The material submitted during the application process will be used by the Contest Promoters for promotional purposes related to the Contest on their owned channels, without limitation, as well as for promoting the candidate to fashion houses and other sponsors interested in scouting new professionals.

For this reason, candidates are invited to submit only **professional and high-definition material** (recommended image formats: .png/.tiff, minimum width 3000 px).

The Organization reserves the right not to publish material deemed inappropriate or not delivered in accordance with the required deadlines and modalities.

Art. 7 — SELECTIONS

The selection process will take place during **April 2026**.

By **5 May 2026**, the schools of the selected candidates, as well as the selected candidates themselves, will receive direct notification via e-mail at the address provided during registration.

The Promoters also reserve the right to publish the official list of selected candidates on their website and social media channels.

Participants are therefore strongly advised to ensure the accuracy and validity of the e-mail address provided at the time of registration, as all official communications will be sent exclusively via that channel.

In the days following the shortlist announcement, the finalists will receive further details and operational instructions regarding participation in the final event.

Final Evaluation

All garments and works produced will be assessed by the jury, both in terms of consistency with the materials submitted during the application phase, and in terms of quality, execution, and adherence to the objectives of the Contest.

Art. 8 — OWNERSHIP OF GARMENTS AND WORKS

All garments and works registered and submitted for the Contest will remain the **property of the candidates**.

LINEAPELLE

LINEAPELLE and **Piattaforma ETS** reserve all rights of publication and use of the submitted materials, without territorial or time limitations, exclusively for promotional and institutional purposes connected to the Contest and to the activities of the two Promoters.

By signing these rules, candidates declare that the projects and collections presented are **original, of their own design and creation**, and that they hold the full rights. Any cases of plagiarism will result in immediate exclusion from the Contest.

LINEAPELLE and Piattaforma ETS decline all responsibility in the event of disputes by third parties.

Archiving and use of materials

The works submitted in digital format will become part of the **official archive of the Contest Promoters**.

The Organization reserves the right to request from the finalists the realized garments for the final phase of the Contest, to be used for:

- Exhibitions and showcases
- Photographic and television features
- Fashion shows and institutional events
- Promotion to fashion houses, sponsors, and partners

Art. 9 — RESPONSIBILITIES

LINEAPELLE and **Piattaforma Sistema Formativo Moda ETS** shall not be held responsible for any damages or thefts occurring during the selections, transport, throughout the various phases of the Contest, or during the period in which the garments/works are held for exhibition at the **Lineapelle Fair 15 - 17 September 2026**.

Given that the selected garments will be displayed at a dedicated stand within the Lineapelle Fair in September 2026, an international event attended by buyers and numerous industry professionals, participants are strongly recommended to exercise maximum caution in safeguarding their personal and professional belongings, particularly in backstage areas, which are not equipped with active surveillance.

LINEAPELLE and Piattaforma ETS decline all responsibility for any damage, loss, or theft of garments, works, or any other material sent or used throughout the Contest, including transport operations and the final exhibition.

The Contest Promoters cannot, under any circumstances, be held liable for the loss, theft, or damage of personal belongings belonging to participants.

LINEAPELLE

For any disputes arising in connection with this Contest, the parties agree to refer the matter to an arbitration board composed of:

- one arbitrator appointed by each party
- a third arbitrator, acting as president, appointed by the President of the Court of Milan

Art. 10 — EXHIBITION AT LINEAPELLE FAIR AND FINAL PHASE

The final phase of the **NEXT GEN LEATHER DESIGNERS Contest** will take place during **Lineapelle 15 - 17 September 2026** in Milan (MI), at **RHO Fiera Milano**.

The selected projects will be showcased in a dedicated exhibition during the Lineapelle Fair, with the aim of highlighting the encounter between **education, research, sustainability, and innovation** through the voice of the new creative generation in the fashion system.

During the event, the **final winner** of the Contest will be announced, following procedures that will be communicated to the selected students by **August 2026**.

The exhibition stand dedicated to Piattaforma ETS and the Contest will be fully organized by **LINEAPELLE and Piattaforma ETS**. The graphics and display methods of the garments will be defined by the Organization at its sole discretion.

In case of **force majeure events** (such as health emergencies, conflicts, or other extraordinary causes), the Organization reserves the right to cancel or postpone the event. In such cases, finalists will be promptly informed. Cancellation or postponement will not entitle candidates to any compensation or claims if they are unable to participate in the final phase.

Students whose projects are selected for exhibition during the LINEAPELLE Fair (September 2026) must agree to deliver their selected garments to a representative of **LINEAPELLE or Piattaforma ETS**, either personally or through their school, within the day prior to the opening of the Fair (date and time will be communicated by the promoter to the schools and the students) during the setup.

Students must also collect their garments at the end of the Fair, on the date and at the time that will be communicated by the Organization in **July 2026**.

Art. 11 — ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGULATIONS

Signing these Contest Rules and the related annexes implies **full and unconditional acceptance** of all provisions contained in Articles 1 to 11.

By signing, the candidate:

LINEAPELLE

- declares the truthfulness of all the data provided in the personal data form and in the other submitted materials;
- acknowledges that any false statements will result in exclusion from the Contest and may be prosecuted under applicable law.

Furthermore, the candidate authorizes **LINEAPELLE** and **Piattaforma Sistema Formativo Moda** — as data controllers — to process their personal data pursuant to **EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR)** and **Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003**, as amended (Personal Data Protection Code), exclusively for purposes connected to the management and organization of the Contest.

Date and Place

Legible signature of the candidate

ANNEX A — Personal Information Form (contacts and study path)

Personal details

- First name:
- Last name:
- Date of birth:
- Place of birth:
- Nationality:
- Residential address:
- City of residence:

Contact details

The candidate must provide preferred contact details. All Contest information will be sent to the contacts indicated here.

- E-mail:

LINEAPELLE

- Mobile phone (with international prefix):
- Instagram profile:
- Facebook profile:
- LinkedIn profile:

Study details

- Institution attended:
- Address of the institution:
- Study program:
- Graduation year (if undergraduate, indicate expected graduation month/year):
- Institution's phone number:
- Name of academic supervisor:
- Supervisor's e-mail: