



Prepared on 21/03/2017 by Liz Cooper.

# Living Lab project summary – social responsibility in university garment supply chains

## Description of the paper

This paper summarises a project undertaken by MSc student Eilidh Morrison in summer 2015 in collaboration with SRS, on challenges and opportunities regarding embedding social responsibility in university garment procurement.

## Research question

**How can consideration of working conditions in manufacturing be better embedded in university procurement of garments?**

## Objectives

- Identify where and how garments are purchased across the University
- Review processes currently underway to embed social responsibility in garment supply chains
- Identify cases of best practice from public procurement of garments across Europe
- Make recommendations for next steps regarding garment procurement by the University and sector

## Findings and recommendations

Eilidh provides an overview of the different ways garments are procured for different purposes across the University (uniforms/workwear, lab coats, promotional garments, sports garments etc.) and of the complexity of garment supply chains globally. She assesses how public procurement works, and the opportunities and limitations of buying through public procurement consortia. She makes recommendations for further engagement with the Worker Rights Consortium, which the University affiliated to in 2012 and which works to monitor working conditions in some garment factories worldwide, and for further collaboration with the wider public procurement sector – identifying some examples of best practice we could learn from. The full report is not currently publicly available as it may contain commercially sensitive information, but the University is in the process of reviewing some of the recommendations with a view to further developing its approach in this area.