



# COMESA-LLPI NEWSLETTER

Leather for Health, Wealth and Luxury!

**April . June 2017 (Issue No. 10)**

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## COMESA/LLPI in the 2nd East Africa Manufacturing Business Summit



Partial View of LLPI's Stand During the Summit

COMESA/LLPI participated in the 2nd East African Manufacturing Business Summit that was held on 23rd to 25th May 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The objective of participation was to create strategic linkages with East Africa stakeholders by showcasing its Vision, Mission, Programmes and accomplishments. In addition to this LLPI wanted to enhance stakeholders' appreciation of the potential of the leather sector for employment creation, wealth creation, and rural development.

Prof. M. Mwinyihija, Executive Director of LLPI, presented a paper titled: "Leather and Footwear Value Chain an East African Perspective". The presentation stimulated a lot of interest among delegates. Interactions that were made by the delegates during plenary endorsed the Triple Helix as key to the unlocking of value in the leather sector.

The Summit created a very good opportunity for the public, private, academia and



Prof. M. Mwinyihija making Presentation



Continued on Page 3....



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ISO 9001 : 2008, ISO 14001: 2004

**NEXT ISSUE  
SEPTEMBER 2017**



**Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA-LLPI**

Dear readers:

Welcome back to this second quarter edition of COMESA/LLPI Newsletter that gives highlights of activities accomplished during the period April to June 2017. This edition focuses mainly on LLPI's activities regarding trade fair participation, strategy development and launching, training and curriculum development workshops, institutional collaboration, and other regional and international leather and leather products related news.

During the second quarter, the Institute participated in the 2nd East Africa Manufacturing Business Summit and in the 53rd Zambia International Trade Fair that enabled to meet participants from private, public, and academia for better future collaboration and experience sharing. LLPI registered great achievement in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by designing the National Leather Value Chain Strategy, Feasibility Study for establishing incubation center and Business Plan for the Incubation Center. In this quarter just ended, 17 Short Term Training Curricula were designed for the development of the regional leather sector. Thirty (30) leather Artisans were trained in one of the newly designed curricula in Masaka Incubation Center in Rwanda.

We appreciate and value all our partners and stakeholders for their invaluable support and collaboration for all the successes registered during the quarter. We hope this newsletter will keep us connected with respect to information in the region's leather sector development and other activities in the sector within and outside the region.

Kindly accept our appreciation for taking time to read and providing us with your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Prof. (Dr<sup>h</sup>.) Mwinyikione Mwinyihija

Executive Director



#### COMESA/LLPI in the 2nd East Africa .....(page 1)

other development partners to develop an appreciation of the LLPI Mission in the region. In return, the Summit has also opened doors for LLPI to network with different partners working for the development of the African Leather Sector.

The Summit was organized by the East Africa Community (EAC), the East Africa Business Council (EABC) and the Government of Rwanda.

The East African Community is composed of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Except Tanzania, all members of the East Africa Community are also members of COMESA/LLPI. And the East African Business Council is the apex advocacy body of business associations of the private sector Corporates from the East African countries.

The Summit identified strategic areas for industrial development in the region that bear comparative advantages and where significant private sector investment is needed to unlock potential. These strategic sectors include: agro-processing and agri-business, mineral processing, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, fertilizers and agro-chemicals, leather, textile, and automotive sector.

LLPI's participation in the Summit created potential opportunities for opening and strengthening new and existing networks respectively. These are creating and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in fundraising and programs development.

#### LLPI Participates in the Tunisia Meeting Towards Potential Accession to COMESA Membership



Partial View of the Meeting

The COMESA Secretariat and Institutions met with the Tunisian Government and top private sector representatives on the 12th and 13th April 2017. The objective of the Meeting was to deliberate on Tunisia's accession to COMESA. LLPI was represented in two meetings held with the Private Sector and Public-Sector players that were interested to hear more on what the Institute has to offer. Important milestones were discussed with presentations done by Prof. Mekonnen to the Private Sector and Prof. Mwinyihija following up with Public Sector representatives coming from various Ministries and agencies. LLPI offered to support Tunisian leather sector by assisting in Strategy development, SMEs development, and cluster formulation to make the sector productive and competitive.



Partial View of the Meeting

#### Workshop for the Validation of the DR Congo Leather Value Chain Strategy, Incubation Centre Feasibility Study and Business Plan Held

COMESA/LLPI was contracted by the DRC Government to Design the National Leather Value Chain Strategy, Feasibility Study & Business Plan for SME Incubation Center for the production of leather products. A Workshop was held on 26-27 May 2017, Kinshasa, DRC, where LLPI Experts presented the three draft reports.

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of SMEs with financial support from COMESA Secretariat and European Union. Other institutions that brought assistance in the organization and publicity of the workshop included RAWBANK, TELE 50, and I MAGIQUE DESIGN.

The occasion was graced by the presence of H.E. Mr. Bienvenu LIYOTA, Ministre des PME, H.E. Mr. Georges KAZADI KABONGO, Ministre de l'Agriculture ; H.E. Mr. Eugene SERUFULI, Ministre des Affaires Sociales; H.E. Mr. Pierrot UWEKA UKABA , Ministre de la Formation Professionnelle, Métiers et Artisanat; and H.E. Mme. Astrid MADIYA, Ministre de la Culture et Arts. A total of more than 100 participants drawn from the different Ministries various public and private sector institutions, representatives from EU Kinshasa office and leather sector associations, SMEs from different segments of the leather value chain.

The workshop was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Bienvenu LIYOTA, (Ministre des PME) who in his welcome address reiterated the importance of SME serving as engine for economic growth and development through their contribution job creation and wealth generation despite the multiple constraints and challenges they are facing. The Honorable Minister, quoted a recent speech

of the head of the State (H.E. President Kabila), also made mention of the unwavering will of the government to promote the Congolese SMEs. The Minister in his concluding remark once again confirmed his Ministry's full support in the implementation of the strategy and establishment of the leather Incubator.

The OPEC Director General Mr. Donatien MUKENDI WAMUKENDI and Mr. Thierry MUTOMBO representing the COMESA Secretary General made also opening remarks. Both speakers pointed out the importance attributed to the leather sector in its development endeavors and the expectations from the workshop.

Mr. Nicholas Mudungwe, Programs Coordinator and Professor Mekonnen Hailemariam, Institutional Capacity Development and Consultancy Expert, both from COMESA/LLPI presented the feasibility study, business plan and leather value chain strategy. The draft documents were then thoroughly discussed and validated with few comments and recommendation.

At the end of the workshop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between COMESA/LLPI and OPEC to strengthen collaboration. Professor MWINYIHIJA MWINYIKIONE, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI and Mr. MUKENDI WAMUKENDI Donatien, Director General of OPEC signed the MoU representing their respective Institutions. The workshop was concluded with a four-point recommendation regarding the implementation of the leather value chain strategy and establishment of the incubation center.



Partial View of the Workshop in DRC



Partial View of the Workshop in DRC



#### COMESA-Leather and Leather Products Institute Conducts Training Course in Leather Footwear Design and Finishing at Masaka Business Incubation Centre



Participants during the Demonstration Session of the Training



Partial View of the Training Session

A training course in Leather Footwear Design and Finishing was held at the Masaka Business Incubation Center, Rwanda from May 14 to 22 2017. The training was organized by COMESA/LLPI in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and East Africa community Affairs (MINEACOM); Workforce Development Authority (WDA) and RAPROLEP which is an Umbrella of leathers practitioners in Rwanda. A total of 30 trainees, drawn from different parts of the country from public and private sectors, took part in the training. The purpose of the training program was to improve the productivity and quality of footwear. Major topics covered during the training encompassed basic leather specifications and their suitability in footwear production; characteristic of bonded leather and real leather; characteristic and classification of lasts for various styles; Principle of Pattern Cutting; Principle of Designing; Development of the parts and techniques to construct basic upper patterns; Techniques to develop bottom and stiffening

patterns; Closing upper; Lasting and quality assurance and Shoe finishing techniques. The training will contribute a lot for the growth of existing SMEs and boosting the number of new-starters in Rwanda.

The results of the evaluation that was undertaken at the end of the training by the trainees as well as trainers showed that the majority of the participants were very satisfied with the training course contents and delivery.

The LLPI Team led by the Executive Director Prof. Mwinyihja also made visits to two SMEs Production Units and one small training center run by a Church in Kigali.

The COMESA/LLPI Expert Team, also met and discussed with the WDA Experts, on the tailor- making of the COMESA/LLPI earlier submitted Vocational and Diploma level Curricula in leather Technology to the Workforce Development Authority format.



Leather Products Designed and Produced by Trainees



#### COMESA/LLPI Gears Up its Capacity to Deliver Value to Its Stakeholders



Participants During Curriculum Design Workshop

COMESA/LLPI in its effort to become a premier Institute in the global environment, is putting in place frameworks to strengthen its delivery model. LLPI's work is aimed at transforming the leather value chain in the COMESA region, to migrate from production and marketing of raw materials and semi processed commodities to finished leather, footwear and leather goods. LLPI, as an institution, in order to deliver on this, should be well oiled to perform systematically to allow it to deliver efficiently and effectively. Secondly, the region has serious deficit with regard to technical and entrepreneurial skills at various levels of the value chain and also among support institutions. In response to this LLPI, held a four-day workshop (from 22nd to 25th April 2017) to unpack its strategy in order to enhance its capacity to deliver on its 10-year strategic plan (2016-2025) and also to craft curriculum outlines covering 29 short term training programs focusing on SMEs.

The workshop was held at Pyramid Hotel Resort, Debre Ziet, Ethiopia, was attended by 15 experts drawn from COMESA/LLPI, Sudan, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The external participants were drawn from Universities and vocational training institutions, in line with LLPI's Mission of promoting academic collaboration with the Industry.

The COMESA/LLPI Executive Director, Prof M. Mwinyihija opened the workshop by welcoming all participants and presenting the objectives of the workshop. He said, the Unpacking Process is Aimed at breaking implementation barriers, building responsibility accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in Strategy Implementation, commitment and M & E. The Course Outlines and Curricula Design will

also help the Institute to further strengthen and refine its 2017 planned training programs at COMESA/LLPI headquarters (internal training) and at member States level (External training).

The workshop was successfully completed by identifying responsible units and departments of COMESA/LLPI for the implementation of its 118 different activities identified under 43 sub objectives and 7 main objectives of LLPI Strategy, as well as by developing course outlines and curricula to 29 short-term training programs and assigning course coordinators for each training program. This has set a solid base for a systematic implementation of the strategy, which will be backed by a special software package to enhance monitoring and evaluation activities. This process contributed to enhancing role clarity among the experts in LLPI and also to promote the bottom up approach, consequently contributing to improved productivity and innovation. The development of standard course outlines, will contribute immensely to improve capacity building within LLPI and across the region.

At the end of the workshop certificates were given to the participants; Mrs Ronnet Attakunda (one of the participants) delivered the vote of thanks. Prof. Mwinyihija before officially closing the workshop once again expressed his outmost appreciation for all the commitment and hard work of the participants and excellent results achieved at the end of the workshop. All participants to the workshop, appreciated the approach, which COMESA/LLPI was following in improving its systems and external capacity building programs.



Group Picture of Workshop Participants



## COMESA-LLPI Signed MoU with Bahir Dar University Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology



Prof. M. Mwinyihija (Left) and Mr. Addisu Ferede (Right) handing over of the agreement

COMESA/LLPI Signed MoU with Bahir Dar University - Ethiopian Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology (BDU-EiTEX) on 12th May 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The objective of the MoU is to create and maintain their mutual interest in technology transfer, training and research, and as a contribution to increased international co-operation.

The signing was made by Mr. Addisu Ferede, Scientific Director of EiTEX and Prof. Mwinyikione Mwinyihija, Executive Director of COMESA/LLPI.

## COMESA/LLPI at the 53rd Zambia International Trade Fair



Partial View of LLPI Stand During the Trade Fair



Partial View of Leather SMEs Stand During the Trade Fair

As part of its Strategic objective of promoting the leather value chain in the COMESA Region, LLPI participated in the 53rd Zambia International Trade Fair which was held during 28th June – 4th July 2017 in Ndola, Zambia.

LLPI also sponsored six export oriented SMEs from the leather sector Zambia to participate in the fair so as to showcase their products, assess their level of competitiveness in the market, share better experiences, and network with possible buyers and input suppliers. Zimbabwean leather SMEs also participated in the fair so as to showcase their products and create better business opportunities in the future.

COMESA/LLPI was represented by two of its experts, Mr. Awlachew Sintie (Information Systems Expert, M&E) and Mrs. Birkinesh Gonfa (Investment, Trade & Marketing Expert).

During the event, SMEs had the opportunity to meet different Government organizations' representatives to obtain the possible support they can get from them. Prestige Tannery was one of the participants from Zimbabwe. The Trade Fair opened opportunities for them to export leather to Zambia.

Furthermore, the team of experts from COMESA/LLPI visited the Kitwe and Chingola Leather Clusters, and Copperstone University. The Chingola leather cluster is supported by the Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) company as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility. The company has supported about 28 SMEs by providing basic machineries and tools, basic leather goods training, about 240 sq. meters fully equipped structure. COMESA/LLPI appreciated the initiative that KCM is taking and is ready to partner KCM in further

strengthening the Cluster. It was also observed that Copperstone University was marking strides to offer courses in leather technology. Prof. Stiwala Mundai, while explaining the University's activities, stressed that the MoU signed with COMESA/LLPI should be implemented in phases. The University is planning to draw lessons from Ethiopia which are offering leather technology courses.

SMEs, who were supported to participate the Zambia International Trade Fair, appreciated COMESA/LLPI's effort to develop the Zambian Leather Sector in particular and the COMESA regional leather sector in general.



LLPI Team Visit to Leather SMEs in Chingola which are supported by Konkola Copper Mine (KCM)



06/30/2017

### World Bank Funding Will Help Ethiopia's Leather Sector Improve Quality

The World Bank has approved new credit of \$50 million for a project that will help Ethiopia improve the competitiveness of its industries. The money will support wider efforts that the government in Addis Ababa is making to improve aspects such as inspection, testing, standards, certification and accreditation among manufacturers in Ethiopia.

There will be a specific focus on three value chains that are, according to the World Bank, key to the government's industrial policy to increase its export base. The three sectors are: leather and leather products; textiles and garments; and processed agricultural products.

On announcing the funding, the World Bank said the project will help manufacturers in Ethiopia expand into new markets because they will be able to give higher levels of assurance about the quality of the products and services they offer.

It should also encourage investors to upgrade their operations in Ethiopia to be able to meet market requirements imposed by trading partners, consumers, and regulatory authorities, the World Bank said.

The organisation added: "This is particularly important for Ethiopian manufacturers who are currently facing a number of challenges in meeting quality requirements



Image shows the Pittards Products Manufacturing finished leather products factory in Addis Ababa.

needed to access developed markets such as the United States, European Union, and Asia, which require stricter quality checks and standards than the prevailing domestic ones." Its country manager in Ethiopia, Carolyn Turk, commented that a lack of quality checks has become a bottle-neck for the manufacturing sector "to grow to its full potential".

Source: <http://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=144753>



#### 2 High-Tech Innovations That Will Change the Footwear Industry

3D printing and Virtual reality are innovative technologies that companies are using to change the way consumers experience footwear

Intensive innovation has been changing the status-quo of many existing industries. The footwear industry is not an exception. From better and automated production processes to new product design techniques, footwear companies are more and more aware of the importance of implementing innovation across their business model.

Recently there has been some buzz around two technological trends that promise to shake this industry: 3D printing and Virtual Reality.

#### 3D printing

In Rio's Olympic Games New Balance used this technology to create personalized shoe spikes, which allowed runners to increase performance.

3D printers are becoming more precise and efficient, especially regarding the costs of production. Recently, adidas announced the mass production of 3D-printed shoes, as the brand plans to manufacture 100 000 pairs under this process until 2018.

While 3D printers have still a long way to go when it comes to efficiency and costs, especially in mass production, there are already some benefits companies can gain from using them. For instance, allowing younger generations, who value individualization, to design and produce their own shoes.

#### Augmented and Virtual Reality

Using a VR helmet or augmented technology are great ways to involve consumers in different and immerse experiences. It can be used to promote brand events. For instance, Tommy Hilfiger used Samsung's VR technology to connect consumers that were inside a store, to a brand event about one of their shows.

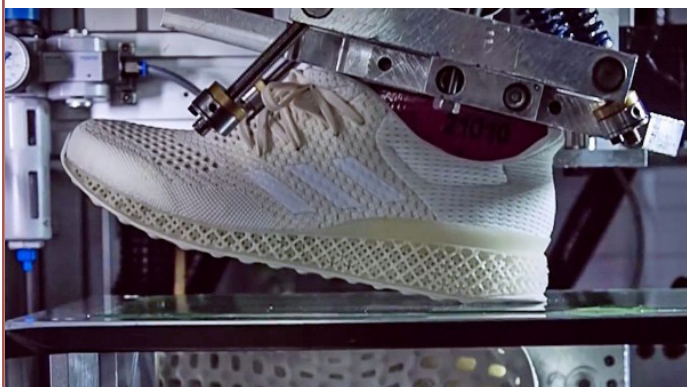
On the other hand, VR and AR can definitely boost footwear shopping experience for consumers, as they will see, try and feel products in a very fulfilling and immerse way. And brands won't even have to increase the physical store size for this.

Although, we are still witnessing the early days of the practical use of these new technologies, one thing seems



to be certain, they will impact the footwear industry. The extent of its impact is still to be determined.

Source: <https://www.worldfootwear.com/news/2-high-tech-innovations-that-will-change-the-footwear-industry/2454.html>



#### IULTCS Raises Age Limit for Young Leather Scientist Grant

The International Union of Leather Technologists' and Chemists' Societies (IULTCS) has announced the launch of the 2018 Young Leather Scientist Grant, an initiative that invests in the next generation of leather research.

It the fourth year that IULTCS will deliver the grant. As for the 2017 edition, monetary sponsorship of the award will again be provided by automotive seating supplier Lear Corporation. The young scientist that submits the winning proposal receives €1,500 to be put towards a leather research project in 2018.

The project can be related to the following areas: innovative leather processing, new chemicals for leather processing, analytical method development, hide/

skin preservation, environmental studies applied to the tanneries, tannery waste treatment, and basic research in collagen and/or leather.

In previous years the competition was open to applicants under the age of 30, but the limit has been raised to 35. IULTCS has said this is designed to give those starting a career with PhDs and Post Doctorate qualifications the opportunity to apply.

The deadline for submission is October 31, 2017 and the winner will be announced on November 25.

Source: <http://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=145278>

#### Stahl's Latest Centre of Excellence Focuses on Furniture and Apparel

Leather chemicals manufacturer Stahl has opened a Centre of Excellence on the site of its Parets del Vallès manufacturing site, about 20 kilometres from Barcelona.

Huib van Beijeren, Stahl's CEO, said: "The opening of this Centre of Excellence is an excellent example of how we use knowledge and expertise to develop tailor-made, future-proof solutions."

Stahl's customers, OEMs and furniture and clothing brands attended the opening ceremony on June 1.

Stahl has a range of sustainable beamhouse and tanning systems, such as Proviera - Probiotics for Leather and EasyWhite Tan, as well as high performance dyes and its Neo portfolio for finishing, which conforms to the ZDHC goals.



Source: <http://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=145027>

#### Vietnamese Province Expresses Interest in New Tanning Cluster

Provincial authorities in Vietnam have spoken of future plans for the development of leather and footwear production.

In recent comments, senior representatives of the provinces of Ha Tinh and Thai Binh have said plans are in place to increase production of leather shoes and of the leather and other materials required to make them in their parts of the country.

Vietnam's government has said the footwear and leather sectors a combined target of \$18 billion in export revenues this year. In the first three months of 2017,

exporters from these sectors brought in \$3.1 billion. Industry observers have said gaps in the supply chain locally and a resulting shortfall in raw material are among the principal reasons for manufacturers being behind the target.

Specifically, Hoang Van Quang, director of commerce and industry for the province of Ha Tinh, in the North Central Coast region, has said that "several overseas companies" have expressed their intention to make



leather shoes there. To help them, Mr Hoang also said he has asked the government to plan a new leather manufacturing cluster there. He said: "This province is ready to help investors in this sector in terms of infrastructure, but they must show a high level of interest

in technology for waste management and for protecting the environment."

Source: <http://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=144938>

### Why Footwear Companies Should Listen to Their Customers

Innovation is key for players in the footwear industry that want to have a competitive advantage. But they should innovate in a way the consumer values

It's not new that consumer preferences have widely changed from what they were decades ago. With a wide range of offers and competitive prices, consumers



started to look for innovative features in their footwear that would make them feel different and satisfied.

Of course aesthetics, durability and price are still fundamental in this industry, but other features are increasingly important:

- » Possibility of customization
- » Innovative and relevant functions (ex: gps tracking)
- » Ethical and environmentally-safe materials
- » Healthy and comfortable design

As the competitive scenario in the footwear industry gets more intense, companies also feel a need to differentiate themselves. Innovation plays a key role here, and the

direction the company chooses to take, is critical for success.

Companies can innovate in several ways. It's not only about adding tech-functions to a shoe. They can innovate in the way they distribute, communicate and even in how they manufacturing process works. Some companies are having great results by the simple fact they use eco-friendly materials.

Others, for instance, know that consumers value transparent and fair working methods. As a consequence they found a way to have an ethical working process, in which they pay fairly to workers and use certified materials. These brands create a high impact among consumers and differentiate from general producers.

Before investing in innovation, it's of utmost importance that footwear companies research and study what consumers want. Many times, companies spend their resources on developing and adding new features to their products that consumers don't actual value. Then, the company finds itself in a situation where it has already invested money, time and many resources, and has a new product which doesn't sells.

It doesn't matter how impressive and "cool" a new shoe is. For innovation to work, there has to be a real benefit to the consumer. Any change that happens in a company should be customer-centric, otherwise, to ensure it pays-off.

Source: [https://www.worldfootwear.com/news/why-footwear-companies-should-listen-to-their-customers/2474.html?utm\\_source=sendinblue&utm\\_campaign=Why\\_footwear\\_companies\\_should\\_listen\\_to\\_their\\_customers&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.worldfootwear.com/news/why-footwear-companies-should-listen-to-their-customers/2474.html?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=Why_footwear_companies_should_listen_to_their_customers&utm_medium=email)

#### The Difference Between Bonded Leather vs Genuine Leather

So you found a leather product that you really like and cannot believe the price! You don't understand how leather be so cheap! Don't be fooled, not all leather is equal!

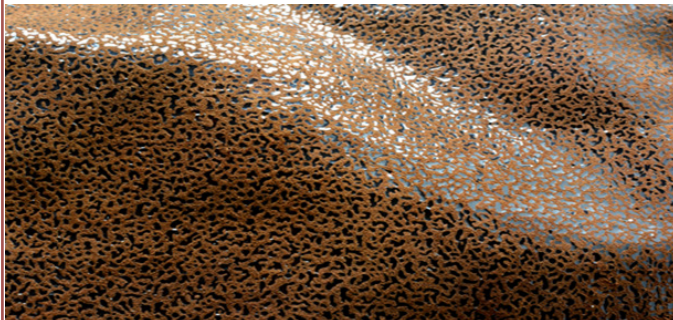
One of the many terms that cause confusion in leather products is the use of terms such as "bonded leather". What exactly does it mean? In this article we will examine the differences between bonded leather and real genuine leather.

Bonded leather can at times legally be called genuine leather, real leather, Vero cuoio, etc. This is because, scientifically speaking, it is real leather; however, the quality of the material is not even close to the real thing as we understand it.

Bonded leather is partially leather; however, by law it only has to be around twenty (20%) percent leather.

#### How Is Bonded Leather Made?

Leather does not come in long industrial sheets like man-made materials do. Factories that work with leather have to work with the natural shapes and sizes of animal hides and skins. As you can imagine, this causes a lot of waste with cut-offs and small unusable pieces of leather.



An Example of Bonded Leathers

Bonded leather or reconstituted leather is an economical material that uses leftover organic leather (from tanneries or workshops) that are shredded and bonded together with polyurethane or latex on to a fiber sheet. The varying degree of organic leather in the mix (10% to 90%) affects the smell and texture. Its reduced cost makes it popular for furniture upholstery, especially for commercial furniture that requires durability—though durability can vary widely depending on the formulation.

These scraps are collected together and sent to a specialized factory to be made into bonded leather. The pieces are all ground together in a special machine in order to make a kind of mulch. These small pieces of leather are then glued together with polyurethane and

"bonded leather" is born.

The look and sometimes the smell can be very convincing. A bonded leather product that is put together well can be hard for the average person to tell apart from real cut pieces of leather. Unfortunately, as previously mentioned, these products can legally be labeled as real leather.

You may be asking, however, what difference it really makes if something is made from or covered with bonded leather versus a true cut piece of leather. As long as it looks real and costs a lot less what is the harm in it?

The answer depends on the product that you are buying. This article will continue by examining the pros and cons of three of the most common products that are made using bonded leather.



Example of genuine leathers

The most common use of bonded leather is in belts. In the store, a belt made from bonded leather is very difficult to tell apart from one that is made out of solid pieces of genuine leather.

The difference, however, will quickly be seen when you use the belt. A true genuine leather belt may last twenty years or more. A true leather belt will never split in half from normal use.

A bonded leather belt, however, may split completely in half within months if it is worn tightly. The best case scenario is that it will last a few months before starting to split where you wear your buckle. Even if it does not completely split in half, it will get cracked and look ugly in no time.

#### Leather Jackets – Bonded vs Genuine Leathers

If you are looking for a riding jacket, beware of bonded leather! While the price is tempting and the jackets are usually very nice looking, the strength just is not there.

It is important that your riding jacket be strong enough to provide protection in case of an accident. Real leather riding jackets are far more resistant to damage than bonded leather could ever be.



If you are looking for quick fashion items, a bonded leather jacket is great. However, if you are looking for safety and long lasting durability, real genuine leather is the only way to go.

#### Genuine Vs Bonded Leather in Furniture



Real genuine sofas are really incredible pieces of furniture. If you have ever owned one you probably really appreciated its qualities.

Real leather sofas acclimate to your body's temperature whether it is hot or cold out; bonded leather does not. In fact, it is colder in the winter and hotter in the summer, just the opposite of real leather.

Real leather ages very nicely and lasts a long time; bonded leather does not. It wears very quickly and does not get better looking with time.

By definition the International Council of Tanners (ICT) defines leather as the "Original fibrous Structure of a hide or skin that once "tanned to be imputrescible", characterizes the product "leathe".

#### Final Thoughts

If you want something quick and fashionable and if you can afford to keep replacing it, you may prefer bonded leather. However, if you want a good quality product that will look and feel great for a long time, real genuine leather is the only way to go.

<http://www.worldofleathers.com/leather-guide-and-info/the-difference-between-bonded-leather-vs-genuine-leather/>

LLPI to Host IULTCS Congress 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



**IULTCS Congress**  
**XXXVI**  
**Ethiopia**  
**2021 - Africa**



Leather for Health, Wealth and Luxury!

LLPI highly accessible and convenient for our regional and international partners and clients.

### **LLPI Vision:**

To be Africa's premier leather sector centre of excellence in the global arena.

### **ABOUT COMESA-LLPI**

COMESA – Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI) was chartered in 1990, with the endorsement of 17 COMESA Heads of State. COMESA/LLPI's main Mandate is to support the development of the leather sector in the COMESA Region. Over the years the Institute has created strong strategic linkages with Public and Private Sector Institutions in member countries. In addition to this, COMESA/LLPI has signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with global institutions, in its pursuit to improve competitiveness of the leather sector in Africa in line with global dynamics.

COMESA/LLPI is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and currently its membership encompasses ten COMESA countries, namely Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Institute has short term plans to expand its operations to Swaziland, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Madagascar.

The location of its office is strategic, as Addis Ababa is the capital city of Africa, where the African Union and other International Development Partners are located. Furthermore, Addis Ababa is the African gateway to any global destination, which makes COMESA/

### **LLPI Mission:**

To facilitate MSs and connect partners, enterprises and institutions for value addition and competitiveness in the leather sector through Sharing of Knowledge, Adaption and Adoption of innovations at various value chain levels.

## Address

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