

### Our idea for a new network

The master's degree in Design for Social Innovation of ESA Saint Luc Arts College in Brussels is about designing solutions for tomorrow's world – a world undergoing profound changes, where economic, sociological, and democratic models must be reinvented. Faced with this growing consciousness and urgency, new solutions must be imagined, promoting togetherness, shared values, resilience and the respect of environmental and social boundaries to ensure a "safe and just space for humanity".

Artistic and creative disciplines play a critical role in achieving this, by considering human behaviours as a cornerstone of the transition. Complementary to economic viability and technical feasibility, artistic and creative disciplines have a unique capacity to address human desirability through deep empathy, touching people's emotions (in addition to their rationale) human-centred design, and ergonomics. Without being humanly desirable no resilience or transition effort can survive over time.

Our academic and research programme is about building multidisciplinary sustainable innovation journeys for learners and practitioners, based on real-life projects, about bringing together relevant stakeholders and expertise around wicked systemic problems. This is the basis of our teaching and research, enabling us to engage with and for communities and organisations. In less than 3 years, we have engaged in a wide variety of social and environmental projects in and around Brussels, building partnerships on a case-by-case basis with academic institutions, public and private organisations. Themes include sustainable renovation of schools, harassment in Brussels city-centre, exploring new markets for wood from the Sonian Forest surrounding Brussels, reinventing the XXI Century library, redesigning services for the elderly in immigrant communities... Each project is run with local partners who bring complementary expertise, technical knowhow, networks, and other relevant resources.

Our desire is the emergence of an action-learning network which could ongoingly identify opportunities, broker relations, connect expertise, learn, and showcase innovation. A network where creatives from visual arts, design and spatial arts, could connect with all other disciplines, to co-create learning journeys and field-based action research projects. As an artistic institution we have many of the required creative skills, but we seek social and hard scientists, engineers, policy makers, experts in education, in mobility, nutrition, migration etc. to fully address systemic challenges.

### Reasons why we would like to gather at the Higher Education Summit

We believe the HES is a unique place for us to identify like-minded academic and other institutions, engaged in addressing global challenges, from any perspective. The idea at this stage is to map out areas of interest, competencies, opportunities for connections. Through collective intelligence and able facilitation during the HES event, we hope to get to know each other, identify what each has to offer, and what are the needs of each of us, whatever they may be.

And from there, build foundations for a knowledge and action network around design for social and environmental innovation, with all actors who may benefit from collaborating with other engaged creative and artistic disciplines. This could lead to designing joint academic and research projects.

### Open to all

We would like to meet and connect with those who, like us, are engaged in field-based learning, in experimental pedagogical approaches, in providing new skills to future generations to seize the opportunity of the 85% of jobs of 2030 which don't exist (2018 study by Dell / Institute for the Future), who see the urgent transition as an opportunity to innovate.

But we also want to build this network with those who are not yet engaged in such approaches, but who wish to learn, to connect, to join a movement which will counter the late Sir Ken Robinson's premise that schools kill creativity.

### Our website

Please visit our website [www.masterdesign.social](http://www.masterdesign.social) for more information (currently only in French).