

# RESEARCH THEME

XXXIX cycle – a.y. 2023/2024

**Title of the doctoral research** Re-coding traditional craft knowledge through material speculation

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## Abstract

Nowadays one of the main focuses of the European Union is to strengthen traditional craft knowledge and avoid the disappearance of material and intellectual knowledge which for a long time has been transmitted tacitly.

The research proposal aims to gather, investigate, and structure artisanal tacit culture, or ‘intangible cultural heritage’ (ICH), to transform the methodologies of knowledge-making and transmission from the basin of the European world of traditional crafts, towards pathways of cultural construction for future heritage of making, and coherently translate this diverse know-how into more contemporary, sustainable, technical, and experiential design material artefacts.

The proposal's ambition is to protect the knowledge linked to craftsmanship to build new innovative ways of fabrication, to recognize, explore, and elaborate on the fundamental role of materials in all the stages of craftsmanship and *physicalisation*.

Traditional Craft Knowledge involves the understanding of materials and processes of specific contextual human practices of making.

Inspired by the above-mentioned statement and the DIY-Materials approach – a dynamic process of learning with materials (through the self-production of materials) – the research project will experiment with diverse matters to explore how traditional crafts knowledge and skills can be applied to *new materialities*.

The research will investigate how it is possible to empower tacit artisanal culture and intangible cultural heritage to encode new ways of more-than-human materialisation.

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**Keywords** DIY-Materials, craft materials, Materials Design Knowledge