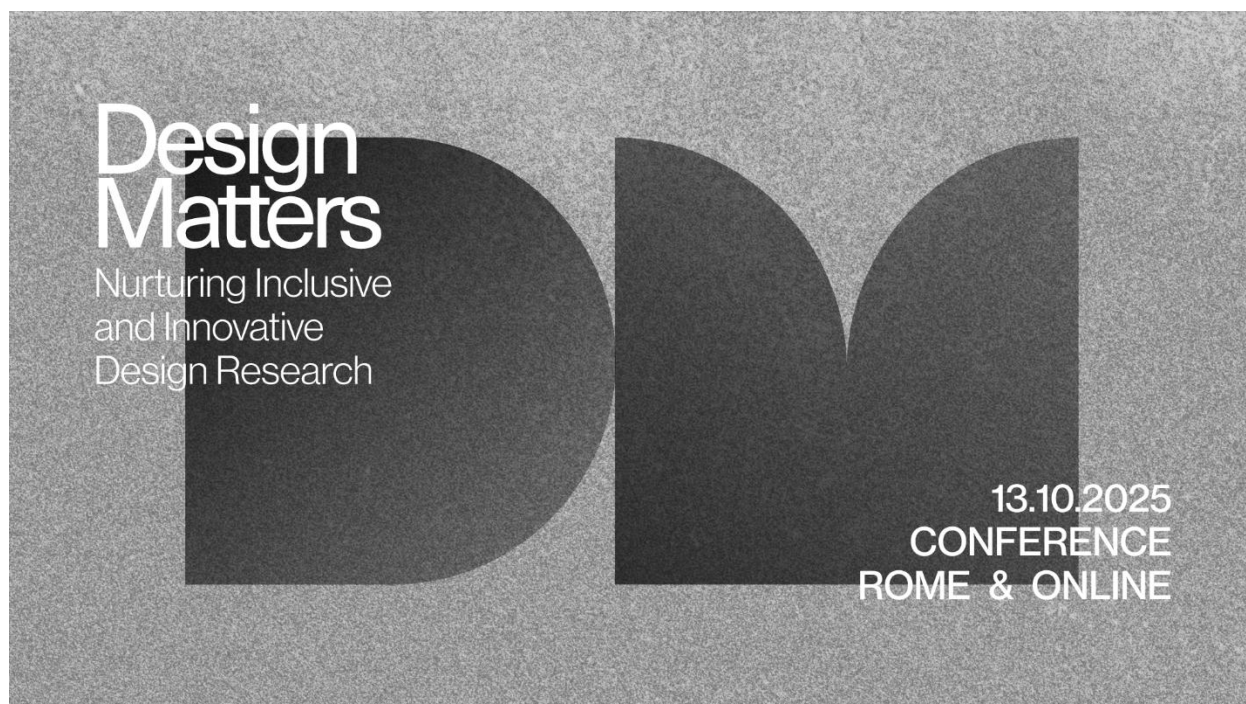




The conference is an early dissemination event to discuss issues related to an **Erasmus+** project “**DesignMatters: Nurturing Inclusive and Innovative Design Research**”, which has the goal of promoting inclusion and diversity in doctoral education in design. By developing **shared methods** and standards for PhD programs across Europe, it aims to tackle the challenges of inequality in higher education. Through fostering collaboration among academia, civil society, and local communities, the initiative seeks to **bridge academic research with real-world needs**. DesignMatters specifically focuses on PhD programs, aiming to establish innovative **training formats that incorporate critical reflections** on inclusion and diversity. This effort seeks to enhance design research within the EU and strengthen institutional cooperation. The event will feature four expert **keynote** speakers and a **roundtable** with civil society actors, as well as a presentation of the Erasmus+ project itself. Please find the detailed programme on the next page. You may join the event online or in Rome.

Venue: Sapienza University of Rome, PDTA Department, 2nd Floor, Aula Piccinato
Via Flaminia, 72, 00196 Roma RM, Italy (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Jgty9ozvHj6xfMkU7>)

Online: <https://meet.google.com/dcn-ciev-prq>

Project website: <https://www.designmattersproject.eu/>

Conference registration: <https://forms.gle/S9ZhZ7RkFcwwuqdG8>

CENTRO INTERDIPARTIMENTALE
SAPIENZA DESIGN RESEARCH



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

DIPARTIMENTO DI PIANIFICAZIONE DESIGN
TECNOLOGIA DELL'ARCHITETTURA



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Cumulus
Association



UNIVERSIDADE
LUSÓFONA



Co-funded by
the European Union

9:30 Welcome and registration

10:00 – 10:30 Institutional greetings

Opening by conference co-chairs Viktor Malakuczi, Lorenzo Imbesi

Maria Chiara Romano, Director, Department of Planning, Design, Technology of Architecture, Sapienza University of Rome

Loredana Di Lucchio, Director, Interdepartmental Centre Sapienza Design Research, Sapienza University of Rome

Lorenzo Imbesi, Coordinator, PhD in Service Design for Public Sector, Sapienza University of Rome; President, Cumulus Association

10:30 – 11:10 The DesignMatters Erasmus+ project

Mariona Moncunill, BAU College of Arts and Design of Barcelona, Spain

Francisco Laranjo, Lusofona University, Portugal

Laurene Vaughan, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Spain

Teresa Franqueira, Cumulus Association

Valentina Dalla Torre, Itinerari Paralleli

Viktor Malakuczi, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

[coffee break at the venue]

11:30 – 12:30 Keynotes session

Teal Triggs, Royal College of Art

moderated by Laurene Vaughan

Thomas Stempka, BAU College of Arts and Design of Barcelona.

moderated by Mariona Moncunill

[lunch break at the venue]

14:30 – 16:10 Keynotes session

Antonio Grillo, Tangity, Executive Design Director

moderated by Angela Giambattista

Margherita Pillan, Politecnico di Milano

moderated by Luca D'Eliaz

[coffee break at the venue]

16:30 – 18:30 Roundtable discussion with civil society actors

moderated by Viktor Malakuczi

Emilia Astore, Human Rights Education Head of Unit, Amnesty International Italia

Melting Pro, speaker to be confirmed

Charlie Robertson, Co-founder of Make it Werk

Gian Pietro Leonardi, Author, curator of Queerographies

Simone Riflesso, Graphic Designer, Disability and Intersectional Activist