



Horizon Europe project HEPHAESTUS Newsletter

The HEPHAESTUS project continues to explore craftsmanship as a living, collaborative practice through research, dialogue, and experimentation across Europe. An upcoming highlight is the Symposium on Craft as Practice, taking place 8–11 April 2026 at Villa Angaran in Bassano del Grappa, Italy, which will bring together scholars, artisans, and practitioners to reflect on craftsmanship rooted in place, materials, and shared experience.

Recent activities also included participation in the CRAFTOUR Scientific and General Conference (29–30 January 2026) in Antwerp and Brussels, where HEPHAESTUS partners joined researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss the structural future of European craftsmanship. In Bornholm, Denmark, Living Lab activities continue to explore sustainable craft practices, including the Adaptive Waste-Fired Kiln studied by engineering students from the Technical University of Denmark, and initiatives such as Ødeland, which experiments with transforming waste materials into new ceramic resources. In parallel, the Craft Histories initiative documents local craft traditions and circular practices, highlighting the strong connections between materials, place, and community.



Funded by
the European Union

HEPHAESTUS project ID 101095123 is funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Symposium on Craft as Practice

Villa Angaran, Bassano del Grappa, Italy

8-11 April 2026

The Symposium on Craft as Practice, organised within the HEPHAESTUS project consortium partners, will take place from 8 to 11 April 2026 at Villa Angaran in Bassano del Grappa, Italy. The event will bring together scholars, artisans, and practitioners to explore craftsmanship as a living, situated, and collaborative practice, deeply rooted in place, materials, and shared experience.

Over four days, participants will engage in a variety of activities designed to foster dialogue and experimentation, including guest lectures, workshops, hands-on craft sessions with craft makers, and collaborative discussions. The programme also includes site visits and excursions to local craft and ceramic centres, offering participants the opportunity to experience the rich craft traditions of the region and reflect on their role in contemporary practice and research.

The symposium will serve as a platform for exchange between academic research and craft practice, encouraging participants to reflect on how craftsmanship can contribute to sustainable, place-based, and community-oriented futures. As this is a draft programme, activities may evolve through ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the participating craft makers.



Craft histories

Bornholm, Denmark

The collection of craft histories in Bornholm is the result of a collaboration between HEPHAESTUS and its partners: Copenhagen Business School and BOFA, with contributions from students in the master's program in Business Administration and Philosophy.

During a two-day study trip to Bornholm, the students investigated local craft makers and other operating businesses related to the craft sector. Through imagination, speculation, and exploration, they documented their research process through photographs and videos. Their work narrates the story of the craft, the story of waste, its historical relevance, the artifacts, and the materials, while highlighting the traditional techniques, sustainable practices, and its connection to the unique Danish island Bornholm.

[Learn more](#)



CRAFTOUR

Scientific Conference & General Conference

29–30 January, 2026

Antwerp & Brussels, Belgium

Over two days, CRAFTOUR convened a rich exchange on the structural future of European craftsmanship, bringing together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and a strong cluster of EU-funded projects working at the intersection of culture, economy, and territory. HEPHAESTUS was represented by Fabrizio Panozzo (Ca Forscari, Italy), Vishv Priya Kohli (Copenhagen Business School), Theodore Harper-Davis (University of Gothenburg, Sweden), and Margherita de Luca (Ca Forscari, Italy).

The CRAFTOUR initiative brings together four pioneering EU Horizon Europe projects: Craeft Project, Hephaestuscraft.eu, Tracks4Crafts, and COLOUR4CRAFTS alongside the EU-funded projects MOSAIC and CULTURALITY.



[Learn more](#)



Living Lab activities in Bornholm

Living Lab #2 Adaptive Waste-Fired Kiln

Living Lab #2 Adaptive Waste-Fired Kiln has been selected as a case study for the course Innovative Energy Solutions, involving six engineering students from the Technical University of Denmark. The course runs over a seven-week period and focuses on developing sustainable energy solutions in real-world contexts.

BOFA, the municipal waste authority of Bornholm, is leading the island's transition toward the vision "Bornholm shows the way – without waste 2032." This vision aims to eliminate incineration and instead treat all discarded materials as valuable resources, aligning waste management with circular economy principles.

[Discover Now](#)



Living Lab #6 Transformation Workshop – “Forvandling af tekstiler”

“Brave New World Sketches” brings together artisans who imagine a world beyond mass production. Building on the project Postcards from a BNW, this edition features speculative sketches, material-reuse ideas, and personal reflections from craft makers whose daily work with materials offers tangible insight and hope for a more sustainable, craft-driven future.

[Discover Now](#)





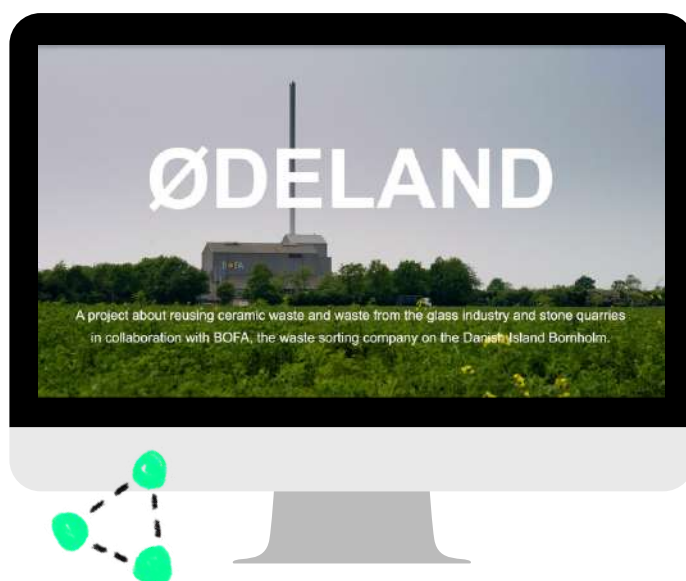
Rethinking ceramics through the Ødeland project - where waste becomes the material of the future

Ødeland is a research and artistic project exploring how waste materials — such as toilets, sinks, ampoules — can be transformed into new clay bodies and glazes. By testing recycled materials in their studios and collaborating with local waste management in Bornholm - BOFA, the artists aim to develop sustainable ceramic practices and circular systems that make waste a viable resource for future production.

For thousands of years, we have taken raw materials from the Earth to produce ceramics. But clay and minerals are non-renewable resources — and some are already becoming scarce.

Every year, huge amounts of ceramic waste end up in landfills: toilets, tiles, tableware and glass. What if this waste could become the raw material of the future?

In the Ødeland project, ceramicists Signe Fensholt, Thora Finnsdottir, and Christina Schou Christensen investigate exactly that. In their studios, they collect discarded materials, crush them, sieve them, and experiment with new recipes for clay bodies and glazes.



[Watch the film](#)



HEPHAESTUS consortium



[Learn more](#)

Do not hesitate!

If you have any questions or suggestions to our team,
do not hesitate to contact us hephaestus@unive.it!



**Follow HEPHAESTUS on your
favourite social media**



**Funded by
the European Union**

HEPHAESTUS project ID 101095123 is funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

