



Horizon Europe project HEPHAESTUS Newsletter

In this edition of the HEPHAESTUS newsletter, we highlight recent activities exploring the evolving relationship between craft, innovation, sustainability, and learning across Europe. From the HEPHAESTUS Symposium 2026 in Bassano del Grappa to hands-on workshops, residencies, and public discussions on digital fabrication, intellectual property, and craft education, this issue reflects the project's ongoing commitment to connecting research, practice, and creative communities.

This edition also introduces the HEPHAESTUS Lifelong Learning Platform — a space bringing together curated learning materials, practical tools, videos, podcasts, and research insights designed to support craft practitioners, creatives, and lifelong learners in developing new skills and knowledge.



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HEPHAESTUS Symposium 2026: Exploring the Future of Craft Through Collaboration and Practice

Held in Bassano del Grappa from April 8–11, the HEPHAESTUS Symposium 2026 brought together researchers, craft practitioners, artists, and cultural institutions to reflect on the evolving role of craft in contemporary Europe. Through talks, workshops, discussions, and hands-on activities, the four-day programme explored themes such as repair, sustainability, collective creativity, knowledge exchange, and innovation within the craft ecosystem. Participants engaged in conversations on intellectual property, lifelong learning opportunities for craft makers, artistic collaboration, and the relationship between craft, tourism, and local identity. Interactive workshops and collective making sessions — including a shared ceramic experience in Nove — highlighted the importance of embodied knowledge, experimentation, and community-building in creative practice.

The symposium fostered meaningful dialogue between theory and practice, while also strengthening connections across disciplines and cultures. More than just an event, it became a platform for future collaborations, shared learning, and the continued development of accessible and inclusive craft networks across Europe.



[Read the recap from Symposium 2026](#)

Latest HEPHAESTUS project activities & results

Learning Through Making: **The First** “Materie di Studio” Workshop Cycle with Lara Perbellini

As part of the HEPHAESTUS project, the “Materie di Studio” initiative at the Venice School of Management offers students a hands-on learning experience that connects theory with making practices. The first workshop cycle, focused on textile practices and led by bespoke tailor Lara Perbellini, took place on 13, 20, and 27 March 2026.

Across three connected sessions, students explored textile materials, tools, and techniques through direct experimentation and collaborative learning. The workshops encouraged participants to better understand production processes, material knowledge, and the value of learning through practice.

The initiative continues with upcoming ceramics and glass workshop cycles, further expanding the dialogue between craft, knowledge, and management education.



[Read more about the “Materie di Studio” workshop](#)

Learning Through Making: **The Second** “Materie di Studio” Workshop Cycle with Elena Rausse

In April 2026, the second “Materie di Studio” workshop cycle took place at the Venice School of Management as part of the HEPHAESTUS project. Led by ceramicist and designer Elena Rausse, the three-session ceramics workshop introduced students to hands-on learning through clay, tools, and ceramic-making processes.

Across the cycle, students explored the full process of creating ceramic objects — from technical drawing and mould-making to sculpting and decoration — gaining insight into how knowledge emerges through practice, experimentation, and material engagement.



[Read more about the ceramics workshop cycle](#)

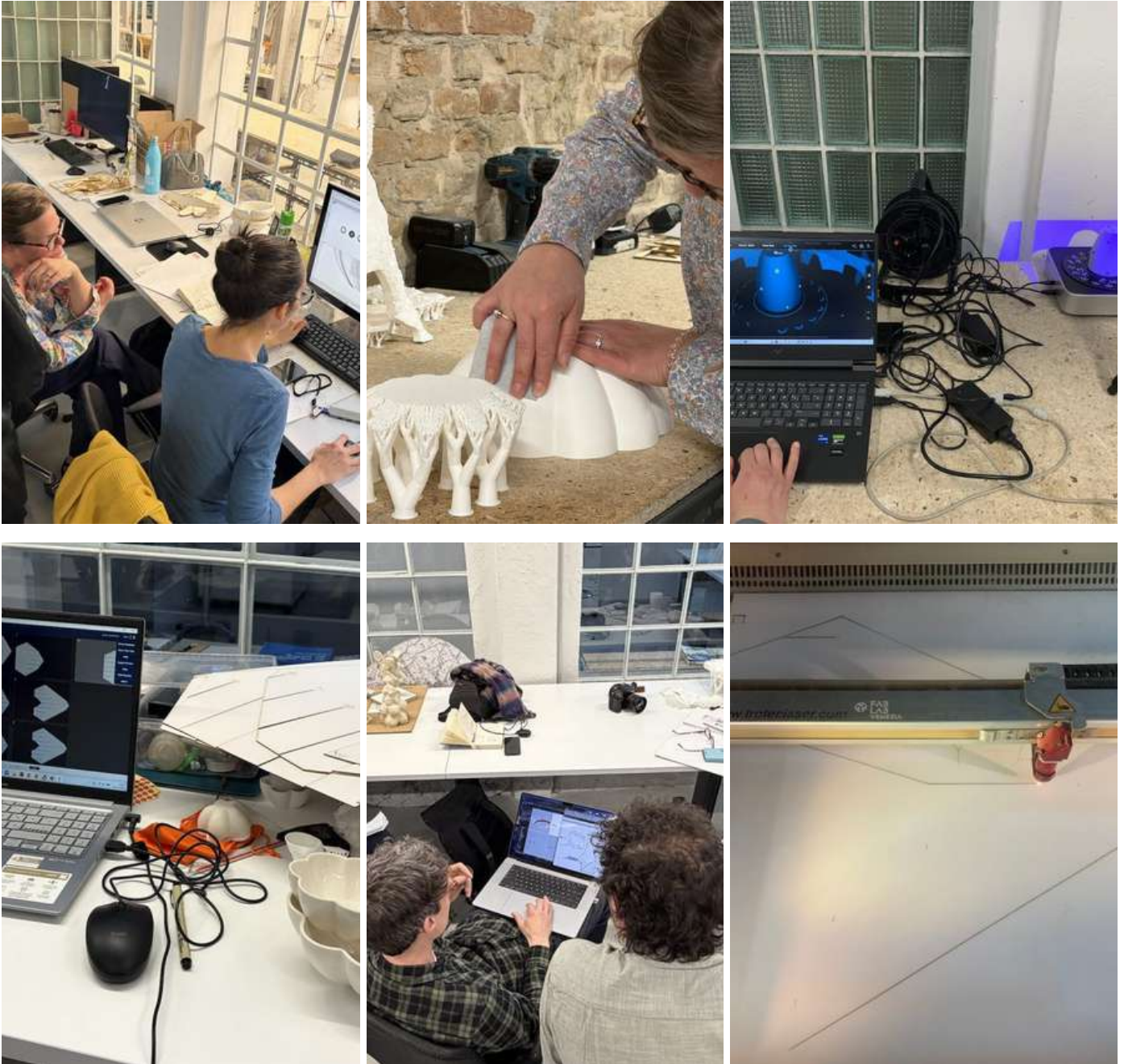
HEPHAESTUS Team Member Andrea Beye Successfully Defends PhD Thesis on Circular Economy

On 7 May 2026, HEPHAESTUS team member Andrea Beye successfully defended his PhD thesis at Copenhagen Business School. Titled “Circular economies as lived experiences of organizing sustainability: Towards an ethnographic sensibility in Circular Economy research,” the research explored how circular economy is understood and enacted through everyday organizational practices, offering new perspectives on sustainability and circular economy transitions



Where Craft Meets Code: Inside the HEPHAESTUS Residencies at Fablab Venezia

In April 2026, the second round of HEPHAESTUS Tech&Craft residencies took place at Fablab Venezia, offering craft makers an open space to experiment with digital fabrication technologies. Through hands-on exploration with tools such as 3D printing, scanning, and parametric design, participants investigated new approaches to contemporary craft practice and innovation.



[Read more about the HEPHAESTUS residencies](#)

Lunch Conversation: Craft and Data – From Object to Movement

HEPHAESTUS consortium partner Elena Raviola, artist and researcher Theodore Harper-Davis, and Fredrik Garneij from Studio Alight led a thought-provoking conversation exploring the relationship between craft, data, movement, and digital fabrication. The discussion reflected on how craft practices are translated between physical and digital forms, raising questions about making, representation, and the visibility of craft labour in contemporary creative processes.



Craft in a Time of Change: Intellectual Property, Form and AI

Vishv Priya Kohli led a seminar and workshop exploring how craftspeople and designers can navigate intellectual property in an era shaped by digital tools and AI.

The event also introduced the upcoming IP Booklet for designers, artists, and craft makers, encouraging discussion around creative rights, protection, and the future of independent creative practice.



9th POD-CRAFT:

Craft, Code and Technology with Xenophon Zabulis

In the latest episode of POD-CRAFT, we sit down with Xenophon Zabulis, Research Director at the Institute of Computer Science – Foundation for Research and Technology in Greece and member of the European Horizon CRAFT project, to explore the evolving relationship between craft and technology. The conversation reflects on how robotics, computer vision, and digital tools can support, document, and even help teach craft practices, while raising broader questions about making, perception, and the role of human knowledge in creative processes.

[Listent to Pod-Craft](#)

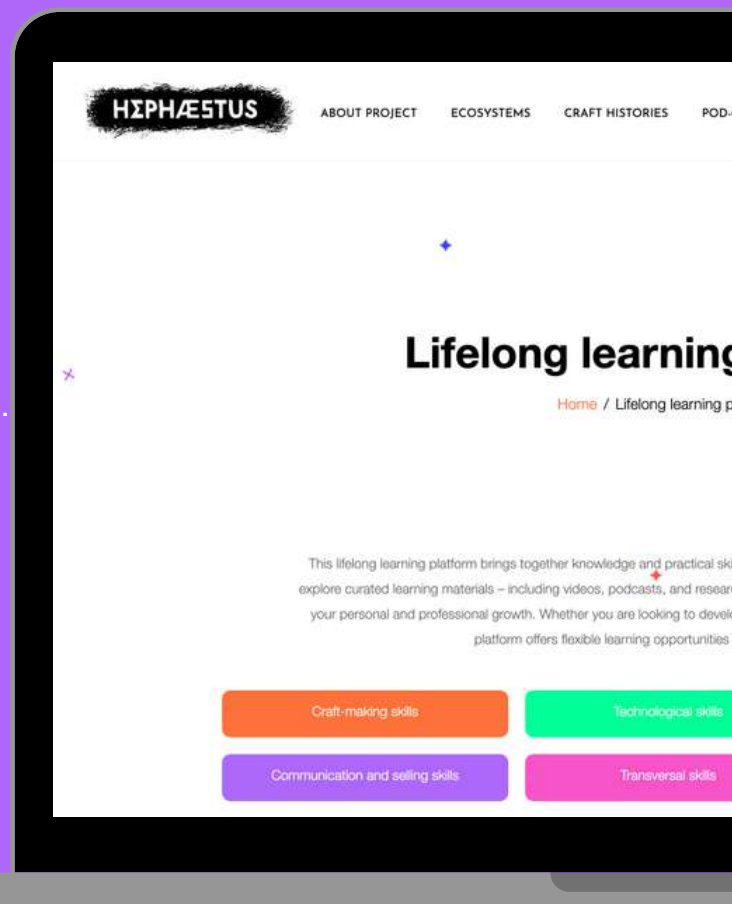


Discover the HEPHAESTUS Lifelong Learning Platform

The HEPHAESTUS Lifelong Learning Platform brings together curated knowledge, practical tools, and learning resources designed to support craft practitioners, creatives, and lifelong learners. Through videos, podcasts, research insights, and skill-based materials, the platform offers flexible opportunities for personal and professional development across craft-making, technology, business, communication, and transversal skills.

Explore the platform and discover learning pathways tailored to your interests and needs.

[Explore](#)



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!



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