



CoDesign4Transitions

Spring School 2026 Programme

Level of study	Name of the program
PhD	Sustainable Transitions through Democratic Design (CoDesign4Transitions)

Purpose and key learning objectives

Title		Hosting Institution and location	
APPLYING		Politecnico di Milano	
Type	Year	Mode	Total number of hours
Spring school training week	2026	Online	Approx 30

Purpose of the training week in the CoD4Transitions program

This is the second of the annual training units within CoDesign4Transitions. It's an intensive, one-week, online event where all doctoral candidates gather and connect with supervisors and partners across the network. All doctoral candidates are required to attend.

Key learning objectives			Verification
1.	Sustainability transitions research	Understands the principles, concepts and approaches of transition design research in addressing societal and environmental challenges and the relevance to their own research project	Self-assessment
2.	Design research	Assess research progress through expert and peer feedback to further advance individual work	
3.	Research practice	Understand evaluation practices in research and define how to adopt it in own research topic/work	
4.	Researcher development	Encourages further knowledge sharing and skills in giving and receiving feedback across the cohort and supports skills development in sense-making and insight generation	

Courses

0.5 day Researcher Development: Sense making and insight generation workshop and peer learning delivered by Climate-KIC

1.5 day Research Practice: Impact evaluation delivered by SWPS

1.5 day Research Practice: Self-organised peer learning

1.5 day Design Research: Facilitation and co-design delivered by all beneficiaries – feedback on work in progress



Approach

- Co-delivery with beneficiaries and Associated Partners
- Morning sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday structured presentations of DC work in progress and feedback from multiple supervisors
- Afternoon seminars on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday self-managed by DCs to share the literature/resources they are drawing on in relation to WP themes
- Includes breaks to allow stepping away from screens

Summary

Dates: Monday 13 April–Friday 17 April 2026

Time: 1000-1600 CET plus additional self-organised reading

Location: Online on Teams: [CoD4T | Milan Spring school](#) (General session)

Chair of the Training Week: Professor [Marzia Mortati](#), Department of Design, Politecnico di Milano, Italy with the support of Professor [Lucy Kimbell](#), Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, UK

Project manager: Michele Taschini, Politecnico di Milano

Location of online sessions: MS Teams (link sent by email)

Miro board including PhD canvas https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVLmSoSFs=

Sessions

Monday 13 April

1000-1030 CET

Welcome and Q&A (30 mins)

Professor [Marzia Mortati](#), Department of Design, Politecnico di Milano, Italy (Co-Director of CoDesign4Transitions)

Strand: **Researcher development**

This session will set the scene for the training week and look ahead to the network's public symposium in Milan in June and preparation required by DCs for their public session as part of the symposium.

Monday 13 April

1030-1430 CET

Welcome (15 mins)

Professor [Karol Murlak](#) and Professor [Mariusz Wszolek](#), SWPS

Strand: **Researcher development**

This session will introduce topics of evaluation and key concepts including “impact” and “outcomes”. How will you know when your intended designs or results have achieved what you intended? What framings and concepts are useful in doing evaluation? What approaches to gathering and analysis of data are available? Combining a format of readings, a mini lecture and discussion, this seminar will allow DCs to explore the topic of evaluation and its relevance to their own research project, in particular those using practice research.

Materials

Miro Board https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVLmSoSFs=

Tuesday 14 April



1000-1300 CET

Presentations of research in progress by DCs in WP2 – Materialisation/Visualisation

Chair: Prof. Lucy Kimbell, University of the Arts London

Strand: **Researcher development**

Format: For each DC, x30 minutes followed by group discussion

10 minutes	Reading of the PhD Canvas
5 minutes	Post feedback directly on to the Canvas
5 minutes	Q&A to the DC about the Canvas
10 minutes	Feedback on aspects of the DC's Canvas

1400-1600 CET

Self organised session discussing approaches to WP2 – Materialisation/Visualisation

DCs (in particular those in WP2) propose literature for all to read, and then they meet and discuss how each one of them is framing materialisation and visualisation in their research and what the literature says.

Chair: DCs in WP2

Strand: **Design research**

Materials

Miro Board (<https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVLmSoSFs=/>)

Wednesday 15 April

1000-1300 CET

Presentations of research in progress by DCs in WP1 – Prototyping

Chair: prof. Nicola Morelli, AAU

Strand: **Researcher development**

Format: For each DC, x30 minutes followed by group discussion

10 minutes	Reading of the PhD Canvas
5 minutes	Post feedback directly on to the Canvas
5 minutes	Q&A to the DC about the Canvas
10 minutes	Feedback on aspects of the DC's Canvas

1400-1600 CET

Self organised session discussing approaches to WP1 – Prototyping

DCs (in particular those in WP1) propose literature to read, and then they meet and discuss how each one of them is framing prototyping in their research and what the literature says.

Chair: DCs in WP1

Strand: **Design research**

Materials

Miro Board (<https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVLmSoSFs=/>)

Thursday 16 April

1000-1300 CET

Presentations of research in progress by DCs in WP3 – Facilitation

Chair: Prof. Marzia Mortati, Politecnico di Milano

Strand: **Researcher development**

Format: For each DC, x30 minutes followed by group discussion

10 minutes	Reading of the PhD Canvas
5 minutes	Post feedback directly on to the Canvas



5 minutes Q&A to the DC about the Canvas
10 minutes Feedback on aspects of the DC's Canvas

1400-1600 CET

Self organised session discussing approaches to WP3 – Facilitation

DCs (in particular those in WP3) propose literature for all to read, and then they meet and discuss how each one of them is framing facilitation in their research and what the literature says.

Chair: DCs in WP3

Strand: **Design research**

Materials

Miro Board (<https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVLmSoSFs=/>)

Friday 17 April

1000-1200 CET

Sensemaking and insight generation of feedback on research in progress

Chair: Dr Carolina Giraldo and Dr Aleksandra (Olka) Goldys, Climate KIC

Strand: **Researcher development**

This session will allow the DCs to articulate and make sense of the feedback they received on their work in progress presentations.

1300-1400 CET

Preparing for Milan symposium – presenting your research

Chair: Professor Karol Murlak, SWPS.

Strand: **Researcher development**

This session will brief and support the DCs to prepare for the network's Milan symposium in June, when they will share their work in progress in public (Monday 15 June), followed by a workshop to make sense of feedback (Tuesday 16 June).

1400-1500 CET

Wrap up, closing circle and next steps

Chair: Professor [Marzia Mortati](#), Politecnico di Milano and Lucy Kimbell, University of the Arts London

Strand: **Researcher development**

1500 CET Close of spring school