

Transdisciplinary collaboration: Proposal for Collaboration Ethos

RASL and Social Partners



Intellectual Output 2 of the Erasmus+ research project *Exploring Transdisciplinary Education combining Arts & Sciences*

Written by Lucas Vermeer and Arlon Luijten under guidance of Marco Aperti and Liesbeth Noordegraaf-Eelens.
Design by Maaïke van Papeveld.

This document is the result of a collaboration between RASL, the Rotterdam Arts and Sciences Lab (Willem de Kooning Academy University of Applied Sciences, Codarts, Erasmus University) and Roskilde University

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This document is the result of a research-collaboration in the context of an Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnership project, named 'Exploring Transdisciplinary Education combining Arts & Sciences'. This specific document was produced by RASL, the Rotterdam Arts and Sciences Lab (Willem de Kooning Academy University of Applied Sciences, Codarts, Erasmus University) and Roskilde University; within the framework of the group 2.

This is a conversation piece about **why** and **how** we would like to collaborate, create and learn **with** you. We promote societal transformation through the arts and sciences, in the form of education, research and experiment. To be able to respond to complex societal concerns, we bring together knowledge, method, skill and experience from different disciplines, aiming to explore multiple ways of knowing, doing, sensing, imagining and creating.

You, the societal partner

With education, research and practice, we work with artistic, scientific and situated perspectives. Therefore, we not only connect scientists, artists and creative thinkers in the process, but also collaborate with Social Partners who have experience, knowledge and interest in the relevant topics and concerns.

In this document we would like to suggest what it could mean for you, the social partner, to team up with us. We will elaborate on expectations during the process, explain the different players (including your potential role), and provide possible outcomes. This is, however, not a static work, but the starting point of an ongoing conversation on short and long term expectations and work ethos. With ethos, we mean a group of set and shared ideas, values, or attitudes. We hope to retrieve your thoughts on collaborating with us too, so that together we can create a (fluid) agreement on this, to be updated and kept at hand during our conjunction.

What's in it for you?

You can expect new projects, tools, methods, art(s) and knowledge(s) concerning the topic you bring in. This is the result of teamwork, in the form of various manners of research, workshops and work forms, design and creative sessions, tests and feedback.

Involved are students, teachers and you. The students have a broad, multidisciplinary interest. With their different backgrounds, they are trained to address current complex and multidimensional challenges with progressiveness and are happy to direct these lenses on your questions. Tutors guide the students with method, knowledge, skill and experience. They are equally part of the process: by give and take, everyone involved learns from each other.

Your contribution

Kick Off-presentation

As a start of the project we ask you to share information with us about your mission, concerns and strategies in your work. This can be in the form of a presentation, excursion, performance, conversation, etcetera. Your topic initiates the rest of the project. Expect critical, creative responses from several disciplines, ranging from abstract to concrete. If needed, we can help you prepare and articulate your topic-presentation.

Research -, concept design- , tests, production/creation

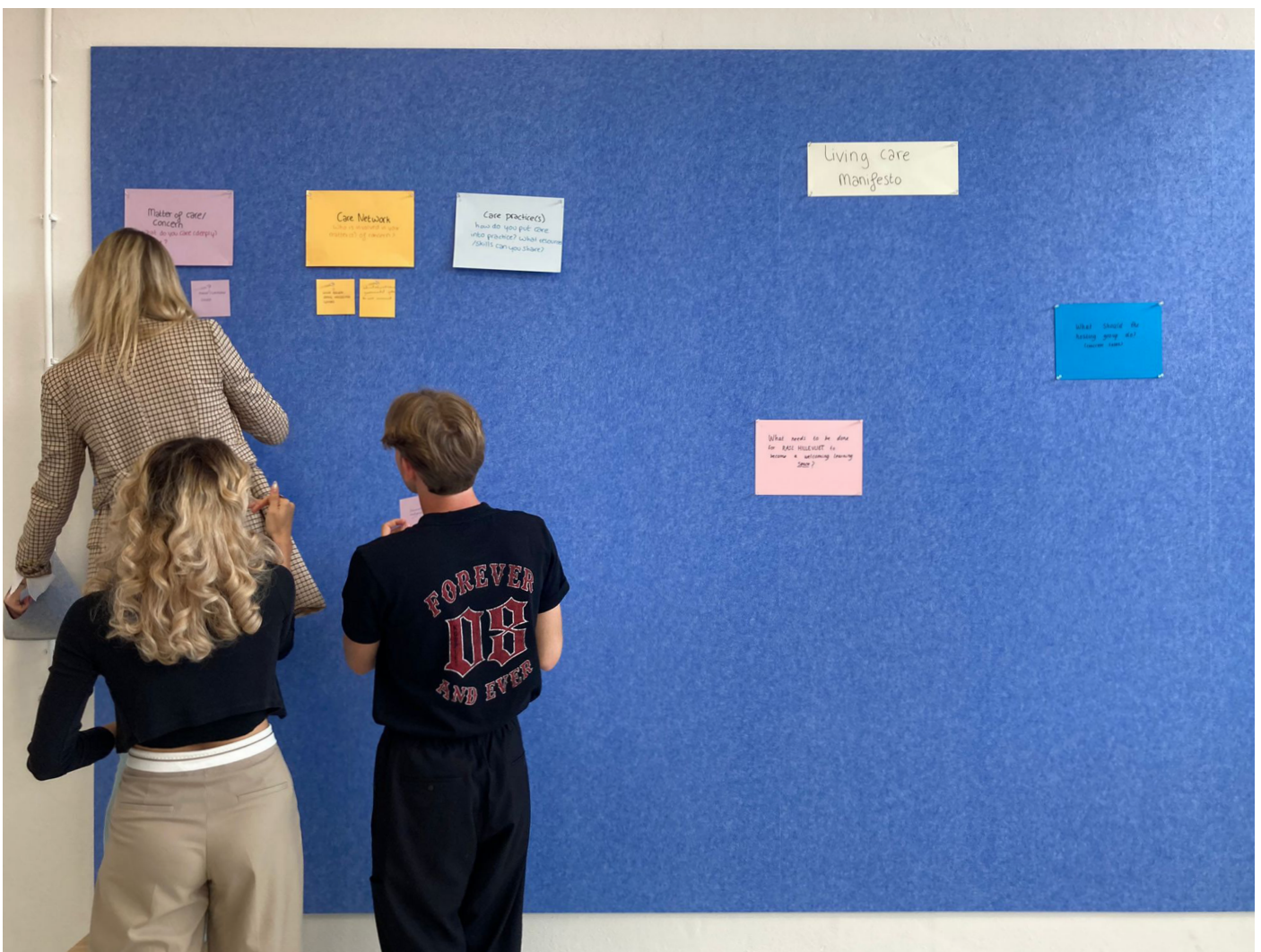
In this phase, the students, together with the tutors, bundle their ideas and skills to work towards an output. They choose what their approach and research is, and with what scientific and/or artistic medium they will express this. We ask you (where possible) to commit to brainstorming, experiments, excursions and feedback-sessions. During the phase, we hope you can make available extra information and/or research-material if needed.

Presentation, reflection

At the end of the process, the students show their output. This can be a project, tool, method, art, knowledge or a combination of the before mentioned. It can be a dialogue, installation, pitch, product, game, a question. It can be practical, abstract, poetic, technical, sketchy, detailed and/or critical. How they present this is up to them, focussing on adding something valuable. We ask you to join in and engage with reflection on their output.

Evaluation

In the final phase, all together we evaluate the process, the key moments, possible future plans and (commercial and legal) agreements. Finally, together we consider the possible continuation of our collaboration, to deepen the research, test and finetune the output or take on a new project.



(Some) Propositions and Play-rules

In our education, research and projects, we work according to several propositions that enable transdisciplinary work to blossom. We hope they work inspiringly.

- Welcome to the table! The seats at the table are of equal size. There is no customer provider relationship and no hierarchy across different perspectives and knowledges. Equality is key and power is not equally divided. Consider the amount of space you (can/ should or can't/ shouldn't) take in;
- The table is big. So, make the unheard, the seatless, heard: don't talk over others, but interact with them. Try to provide them a seat at the table.
- If the unheard cannot stand up for themselves (climate, water, animals, technologies, infrastructures, etc.), search for facts or representation/ representors that could speak for them;
- At this table, we tend to talk about matters of concern instead of problems, to give it a more longitudinal approach and not direct to temporary problem solving. Some "problems" namely cannot be fixed, or ask for continuous work to reach improvements;
- To table or not to table: besides analysing and asking 'What is?', we utilise the question 'What if?'. We re-imagine to explore possible futures.

With this document, we offer a starting point for the way we could collaborate. This should not be taken as a fixed body of work, but needs your input, your response, so that together we create a reciprocal understanding of the terms we work together. Besides, the content and its understanding can change over time.

Thank you for co-creating together.