



The **UBI DESIS 5th Social Design Days**, held under the theme “**Promoting Social Design**”, brings together researchers, educators, students and practitioners to reflect on the role of design in addressing contemporary social, territorial and environmental challenges. The event provides a platform for critical discussion on socially oriented design practices, highlighting participatory approaches, collaboration and community-centred design processes across research, education and professional contexts.

Originally initiated at the **Escuela Superior de Diseño de Aragón (ESDA)**, Zaragoza, the Social Design Days have become a space for exchange within the DESIS community and its wider network. The 2026 edition marks the first time the event is organised at the **University of Beira Interior (UBI)**, reinforcing the institution’s engagement with socially oriented design research and education.

A central component of this edition is its plenary sessions, which bring together invited international speakers to foster dialogue on the current challenges and perspectives of social design.

Alongside the plenaries, panels and workshops explore situated design approaches and their relation to territory, local knowledge and collective well-being. In this context, the panel “**Social Design and Innovation from the Mountains**” highlights mountain territories as relevant contexts for examining how design can engage with place-based realities and contribute to locally grounded processes of change.

**Thursday / March 19**

**09h00 | REGISTRATION**

MUSLAN - Royal Veiga Factory Nuclei

**10h00 | WELCOMING SESSION**

MUSLAN- Royal Veiga Factory Auditorium

**Ana Paula Duarte**

Rector of the University of Beira Interior

**Francisco Paiva**

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities,  
and Scientific Coordinator of iA\* Arts Research

**Flávio Almeida**

President of the Arts Department

**Rita Salvado**

Director of the Wool Museum of the University of Beira Interior

**Ana Margarida Ferreira**

UBI DESIS V SOCIAL DESIGN DAYS Scientific Committee

**Ezio Manzini**

Honorary Professor at Politecnico di Milano, Chair Professor at University of the Arts London, and Distinguished Professor on Design for Social Innovation at ELISAVA, guest professor at Tongji University and Jiangnan University and founder of DESIS - International Network on Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability

## 11h00 | PLENARY SESSION

MUSLAN - Royal Veiga Factory Auditorium

### Education in Social Design: Hacking from Inside

#### Cecilia Casas Romero

ESDA DESIS LAB Coordinator, former Coordinator of ESDA DESIS SOCIAL DESIGN DAYS, Professor and Researcher / Escuela Superior de Diseño de Aragón

11h45 Coffee Break

## 12h00 | ROUND TABLE

MUSLAN - Royal Veiga Factory Auditorium

### Social Design Education and Activism: Exploring Portuguese Educators' Perspectives

#### Chair: Francesco Mazzarella

Reader in Design for Social Change / London College of Fashion, UAL

#### Panel:

#### Ana Margarida Ferreira

Design Professor, iA\* Arts Research Unit and founder member of DES'SIDE iA\*Lab / University of Beira Interior

#### Graziela Sousa and Inês Veiga

Fashion and Communication Design Professors and Researchers of REDES / University of Lisbon

#### Paula Trigueiros and Alison Burrows

Design Professor, Inclusive Design Researcher and member of LAB2PT; Independent Researcher / University of Minho

#### Teresa Franqueira

Design Professor, Coordinator of the ID+ DESIS Lab and former International Coordinator of the DESIS Network / University of Aveiro

13h00 Lunch

## 14h30 | PLENARY SESSION

MUSLAN - Royal Veiga Factory Auditorium

### Designing from the Margins

#### Francesco Mazzarella

Reader in Design for Social Change / London College of Fashion, UAL

15h15 Coffee Break

## 15h30 | WORKSHOP

### Workshop 01

MUSLAN - Textile Workshop  
(90 minutes)

### Social Design versus Right-Wing Policies

#### Nicos Souleles

Independent researcher and Co-Editor in Chief, DISCERN, the International Journal of Design for Social Change, Sustainable Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, Greece

## 17h30 | UBI DES'SIDE EXHIBITION OPENING

Wool Museum - Royal Veiga Factory nuclei

19h30 Dinner

### Paço 100 Pressa

[registration required / additional fee]

**Friday / March 20**

**10h00 | PLENARY SESSION**

MUSLAN - Royal Veiga Factory Auditorium

**The social design challenges of putting together and editing the online journal 'DISCERN, the International Journal of Design for Social Change, Sustainable Innovation, and Entrepreneurship**

**Nicos Souleles**

Independent researcher and Co-Editor in Chief, DISCERN, the International Journal of Design for Social Change, Sustainable Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, Greece

**Claire Pillar**

Freelance editor and proofreader and DISCERN copy-editor, UK

10h45 Coffee Break

**11h00 | PRESENTATIONS + WORKSHOP**

MUSLAN - Royal Veiga Factory Auditorium

**Social Design and Innovation from the Mountains**

**Futures Cartographies Observatory: Design for Social Innovation in Peripheral Territories**

**Aline Moreira Monçores**

iA\* Arts Research Unit / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**Cláudia Alquezar Facca**

iA\* Arts Research Unit / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**Agroecological Imaginaries: Co-Designing Peasant Technologies and Food Sovereignty through Participatory Research and Alternative Narratives**

**Susana Paixão-Barradas**

Kedge Art School / Kedge Business School, Marseille, France

**Marie Julie Cartoir-Brisson**

Department of Communication, Culture and Language / Audencia Nantes, France

**Human-centered Design Concept: A cultural sustainable strategy in addressing the wide spread redundancy of the 'white wedding gown' in the Ghanaian marriage culture**

**Haruna Ibrahim**

Department of Fashion Design and Textiles Education / University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development, Ghana

**Emergency Design in Low Density Territories**

**Mónica Romãozinho**

iA\* Arts Research Unit and DES'SIDE Coordinator / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**Joana Casteleiro-Pitrez**

iA\* Arts Research Unit and DES'SIDE member / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**The 'Future of our Villages' Project. Participatory speculative co-design with communities**

**Hernâni Alves**

iA\* Arts Research Unit and DES'SIDE collaborator / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**Eduardo Gonçalves**

iA\* Arts Research Unit and DES'SIDE member / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**Ana Margarida Ferreira**

iA\* Arts Research Unit and DES'SIDE member / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**Designing Responsible Consumption: From Everyday Practice to Social Innovation**

**Rafaela Norogrande**

CIAUD-UBI / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**Caroline Loss**

CIAUD-UBI / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

**Miriam Reis**

ID+ / University of Aveiro, Portugal

## Weaving Memories: A Methodology for a Participatory Iterative project

Soraia Maduro

iA\* Arts Research Unit and DES'SIDE collaborator / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

Mónica Romãozinho

iA\* Arts Research Unit and DES'SIDE Coordinator / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

## The 'Nós Vamos' Project

Laura Reis

Industrial Design Master / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

Inês Gonçalves

Industrial Design Master / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

Paulo Freire

Industrial Design Master / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

## Workshop 02

MUSLAN - Cafeteria Space

(120 minutes)

## Reading the Place: Graphic-Semantic Map as a Tool for Social Design Intervention

Cátia Rijo

iA\* Arts Research Unit / Escola Superior de Educação de Lisboa do IPL, Portugal

Helena Grácio

iA\* Arts Research Unit / Escola Superior de Educação de Lisboa do IPL, Portugal

13h00 Lunch

## 14h30 | WORKSHOPS

### Workshop 03

MUSLAN - Textile Workshop

(60 minutes)

### Filo: Tool for Social Resilience in Aging Rural Communities

Cátia Ascensão

University of Coimbra, Portugal

### Workshop 04

MUSLAN – Cafeteria Space

(90 minutes)

### Shaping Heritage, Planting the Future – Regenerative Design based on the Bisalhães Pottery

Raul Pinto

University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal

## 16h00 | CLOSING SESSION

MUSLAN -Royal Veiga Factory Auditorium

### Ralitsa Diana Debrah

Coordinator of Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability Network (DESI), Design Professor and Researcher / Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, and Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa

### Ana Margarida Ferreira

Design Professor, iA\* Arts Research Unit and founder member of DES'SIDE iA\*Lab / University of Beira Interior, Portugal

16h15 Coffee Break

## 16h30 | GUIDED VISIT TO WOOL MUSEUM

MUSLAN - Royal Veiga Factory

## Committees

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Ana Margarida Ferreira  
Cecília Casas Romero  
Cláudia Facca  
Eduardo Gonçalves  
Francesco Mazzarella  
Joana Casteleiro  
Júlio Londrim  
Mónica Romãozinho  
Nicos Souleles  
Ralitsa Debrah  
Teresa Franqueira

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

Ana Margarida Ferreira  
Cecília Casas Romero  
Joana Casteleiro  
Mónica Romãozinho

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ana Farias  
Cláudia Facca  
Eduardo Gonçalves  
Estrela Nunes  
Fátima Veríssimo  
Hernâni Alves  
Inês Camaño Garcia  
Natacha Pinto  
Pedro Fernandes Oliveira  
Soraia Maduro  
Tabata Aviles Parra

### EXHIBITION CURATORSHIP

Ana Margarida Ferreira  
Joana Casteleiro  
Mónica Romãozinho

### GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fátima Veríssimo  
Natacha Pinto

### INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

iA\* - Arts Research Unit  
MUSLAN - Wool Museum  
Department of Arts  
PhD Program in Design

Social Design | Participatory Design | Co-design  
| Community Engagement | Social Innovation |  
Territorial Resilience |  
Place-based Design | Social Impact  
| Sustainability | Collective Well-being  
| Community-centred Design | Collaborative Design |  
Co-creation | Design for Sustainability  
| Design for Social Innovation | Local Knowledge |  
Territorial Development | Inclusive Design | Civic  
Engagement | Cultural Sustainability | Mountain  
Territories | Design and Communities | Social  
Transformation | Design Research | Design Activism  
| Commons | Grassroots Innovation | Community  
Empowerment | Design for the Public Good | Social  
Responsibility | Ethical Design | Regenerative Design  
| Community-based Innovation | Collaborative  
Practices | Social Change | Local Communities |  
Territorial Identity | Sustainable Territories |  
Participatory Processes | Design and Territory Care  
| Solidarity | Social Justice | Inclusion |  
Accessibility | Diversity | Empowerment |  
Commons-based Design | Public Interest Design |  
Civic Innovation | Grassroots Practices |  
Mutual Aid | Community Networks |  
Social Ecology | Environmental Responsibility |  
Regeneration | Adaptive Communities | Resilient  
Communities | Rural Innovation |  
Peripheral Territories | Community Learning |  
Knowledge Exchange | Collective Intelligence  
| Interdisciplinary Collaboration |  
Open Design | Knowledge Co-production | Design  
Mediation | Community-led Initiatives  
| Social Prototyping  
| Everyday Innovation | Living Communities | Local  
Ecosystems | Shared Futures |  
Participatory Governance | Civic Participation  
Design |



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