Dear DESIS members,

I hope this mail find you well in this maelstrom that we are living in that period.

I am coming back to you about 2020 World Design Capital: as you may know, Lille Metropole, north of France, has been awarded 2020’s World Design Capital. As you may also imagine, the whole event, along with the Collaborative City exhibition, which I am curating, are postponed to the beginning of September 2020.

It may seem inappropriate to continue our project at a time when the world is facing a major crisis, when health staff are on the verge, when millions of citizens are unemployed and many don’t have a social security coverage, when thousands of families are mourning their loved ones... But it is because there will be something after this crisis and, as Bruno Latour and many others invite us to do, “if we don’t take advantage of this incredible situation to change, we are losing a big opportunity”, that we modestly believe that we must continue...

Since one year we designed the Collaborative City exhibition echoing DESIS DxCC program and our intention was already to invite and exhibit design-lead projects from all over the world – URBACT, EuroCities, UIA and of course DESIS - that would reason with the selection of more than 100 projects from Lille territory that we plan to exhibit. The world sanitary crisis leads us to rethink the curation of our exhibition:
- The pandemic crisis shaded a new light on many scenarios of the collaborative city that were already calling for more resilience and sustainability and we will show it.
- The current situation of emergency generated an entire new context to rethink the collaboration in the city and a new range of related initiatives that we want to invite in the exhibition.

The pandemic also forced us to reorganize our program and schedule:
- We have launched the Collaborative City Exhibition Online and we have prepared a program, which will be progressively published starting from mid-April, and will continue until the opening of the exhibition in Lille in September. Each week we will promote local projects and projects coming from other cities in the world.
- We have designed an on-site exhibition or more precisely a “non-exhibition” that intends to show design for social and public innovation through storytelling, testimonies, narratives, etc. (see press from January 2020 attached). The Collaborative City non-exhibition will take place in a theatre in Lille from September to November 2020 and will be based on a series of life show and video installations.

Both these 2 online and on-site exhibition solutions are compatible with the period of confinement and distant collaboration.

So, we propose to host a joint LILLE 2020 WORLD DESIGN CAPITAL, COLLABORATIVE CITY and DESIS INTERNATIONAL selection of projects in the exhibition based on:
- A publication-in-progress of selected projects from now on until November 2020
- An exhibition of projects in Lille from Sept to November 2020

We draft on the following page how this joint initiative could unroll in concrete terms.

I hope that this proposal will be one more occasion to demonstrate and showcase the many design-based initiatives and projects in the DESIS network and for myself the pleasure to collaborate with all of you!

François Jégou,  
curator of the Collaborative City exhibition within Lille 2020, World Design Capital.
PROPOSALS FOR A JOINT LILLE 2020 WORLD DESIGN CAPITAL, COLLABORATIVE CITY AND DESIS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

WHAT?
The 5 sections of the Collaborative City Exhibition will showcase projects coming from member of the DESIS international network.

It will consist both in:
- A publication-in-progress from now on until November 2020
- An exhibition of projects in Lille from Sept to November 2020

Selection of projects:
Joint Committee Collaborative City curation team and DESIS International

Selection criteria:
- Proposals should rethink the theme of the Collaborative City within the pandemic crisis
- They should relate to emergency during the crisis, transition from the crisis or new normality after the crisis.
- They should showcase:
  - Either already ongoing initiatives, projects, scenarios… aiming at more resilient and sustainable collaborative cities and that the crisis reinforce the pertinence and probability of occurrence,
  - Or initiatives, projects, scenarios… generated by the current situation of emergency and that will reshape perspective on what a more resilient and sustainable collaborative city may look like.
- Balanced overview of proposals representing the different DESIS labs and design-lead initiatives, projects, scenarios… all over the world.

Colophon of the section:
Joint initiative from Lille 2020, World Design Capital Collaborative City and DESIS International + participating DESIS Labs + participating students and professors

HOW?
15 initiatives, projects, scenarios… from the DESIS network will be invited by the joint selection committee.

The Collaborative City is a non-exhibition that will take place in a theatre and will be based mostly on a series of life show and video installations presenting projects through storytelling, testimonies, narratives, etc.

Ideally, we intend to have short 1-2 min. video presentations with a DESIS lab coordinator explaining the overall concept of the contribution, explaining and showing one of two projects as examples.

For instance:
- In the case of a design exercise with a group of students, we could have a short video interview online with the DESIS lab coordinator and a focus on 2 emblematic projects s.he selected from the students.
- In case of a scenario building exercise, we could have a short video interview online with the DESIS lab member in charge of the research supported by some visual material presenting the scenarios.
Therefore, the **timetable for collecting and preparing the material** proposed is:

**8/5/20** _DESIS labs send their selection of 2-3 projects with the material they have already prepared._ It should include at least a short text of presentation in English and some visuals/photos. On top, short videos or other visual material are welcome.

**15/5/20** _confirmation of selection for participation by the joint committee Collaborative City curation team and DESIS International_

**22/5/20** _DESIS labs send the following material:_
- A short article of **300 words** in English describing the overall presentation for each of the 1-2 example of projects/scenarios targeted to the large public exhibition audience... A template and examples will be sent for more homogeneity.
- A series of **5-8 visual material** (high resolution photos) showcasing the initiatives, projects, scenarios...
- Existing **short video (optional)** on the overall concepts or on the projects/scenarios if any

**Between 15/5/20 and 29/5/20**
- Short 5 min. interview online of the related DESIS lab coordinator. Collaborative City team will schedule an appointment on Zoom platform during the period and record the interview.

**15/6/20** _Video interview and visual material will be edited by the Collaborative City team and shared with respective DESIS labs._
300 words **article will be reviewed** and shared also.

**Final videos and articles will be published on the Collaborative City Online.**

**1/9/20** _Final videos and articles will be integrated in the Collaborative City in Lille._

Progress and final material should be sent by mail to:
- fiora@strategicdesignscenarios.net
- fiora@strategicdesignscenarios.net
- francois@strategicdesignscenarios.net