DECISION

Subject:	**Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the COST Action "European Forum for Advanced Practices" (EFAP) CA18136**

The COST Member Countries and/or the COST Cooperating State will find attached the Memorandum of Understanding for the COST Action European Forum for Advanced Practices approved by the Committee of Senior Officials through written procedure on 13 November 2018.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

For the implementation of a COST Action designated as

COST Action CA18136
EUROPEAN FORUM FOR ADVANCED PRACTICES (EFAP)

The COST Member Countries and/or the COST Cooperating State, accepting the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) wish to undertake joint activities of mutual interest and declare their common intention to participate in the COST Action (the Action), referred to above and described in the Technical Annex of this MoU.

The Action will be carried out in accordance with the set of COST Implementation Rules approved by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), or any new document amending or replacing them:
   a. "Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities" (COST 132/14 REV2);
   b. "COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval" (COST 133/14 REV);
   c. "COST Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment" (COST 134/14 REV2);
   d. "COST International Cooperation and Specific Organisations Participation" (COST 135/14 REV).

The main aim and objective of the Action is to initiate and expand a network of researchers, practitioners, and theorists from across Europe who are actively shaping innovative and transformative forms of practice based research across and among many artistic and academic fields, industry, the private sector, and civil society.. This will be achieved through the specific objectives detailed in the Technical Annex.

The economic dimension of the activities carried out under the Action has been estimated, on the basis of information available during the planning of the Action, at EUR 48 million in 2018.

The MoU will enter into force once at least seven (7) COST Member Countries and/or COST Cooperating State have accepted it, and the corresponding Management Committee Members have been appointed, as described in the CSO Decision COST 134/14 REV2.

The COST Action will start from the date of the first Management Committee meeting and shall be implemented for a period of four (4) years, unless an extension is approved by the CSO following the procedure described in the CSO Decision COST 134/14 REV2.

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OVERVIEW

Summary

Initially, the European Forum for Advanced Practices is an inclusive research network originating from universities, NGOs and community-based organisations, independent research entities, museums, and a wide range of arts academies. *EFAP*'s broad goal is to establish a dialog across the boundaries that often separate these contexts and to promote exchange with a focus on emergent forms of artistic- and practice-based research.

EFAP proposes an open notion of Advanced Practices that deliberately combine methods and practices from numerous disciplines. The goal of *EFAP* is to respond to two sets of urgencies:

1. Ever-more complex societal challenges across Europe demand new forms of knowledge exchange and transfer, as new research forms gain ground and new modes of research output become increasingly prominent.
2. This requires multidisciplinary and comprehensive methods to capture and assess their quality and impact *in advance* rather than retrospectively.

The initial proposers of *EFAP* have actively shaped contemporary research in the fields of visual art, art history, philosophy, music, theatre, dance and performance studies, architecture, design, and engineering.

EFAP's mission is to broaden and deepen the range of settings, forms, and fields that can be identified or understood in terms of Advanced Practices.

Areas of Expertise Relevant for the Action	Keywords
● Arts: Visual arts	● Artistic and practice based research
● Arts: Performing arts	● Cross-disciplinary collaborations
● Media and communications: Museums and exhibitions	● Art and Technology
● Sociology: Social movements	● Evaluating quality and impact
● Sociology: Anthropology, ethnology, cultural studies	● Societal challenges

Specific Objectives
To achieve the main objective described in this MoU, the following specific objectives shall be accomplished:

Research Coordination
● identify and locate emerging resources (including actors and stakeholders) and adjacencies in order to develop typologies for understanding Advanced Practices
● compile practical, provisional references of current terminology used to describe Advanced Practices
● assemble a 'catalogue of strategies' that highlights evolving differences in how practitioners' have sought to explain the advanced character of their projects over time and/or in various contexts
● compile a dossier of organizational materials that document diverse institutional efforts to initiate and evaluate Advanced Practices at various stages of development

Capacity Building
● initiate 'birds of a feather' / special-interest groups that focus on core aspects of Advanced Practices
● connect networks of diverse institutional and non-institutional stakeholders who recognise the value of exchange surrounding Advanced Practices
● establish shared vocabularies and categories to advance debate and dynamic evaluation of non-scientific research activities

● lay key foundations for greater private sector involvement (e.g., corporations and financial institutions)

● formalise frameworks around Advanced Practices as a step toward translating them into curricular development in three cycle education and early stage researcher training

● facilitate the work being done within academic and cultural institutions who have recently founded programs featuring such advanced practices and are in the process of articulation suitable criteria for their implementation

TECHNICAL ANNEX

1. S&T EXCELLENCE

1.1. CHALLENGE

1.1.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE CHALLENGE (MAIN AIM)

The proposed European Forum for Advanced Practices (EFAP) aims to initiate and host a network of researchers, practitioners, and theorists from across Europe who are actively shaping innovative and transformative forms of research across and among many artistic and academic fields, industry, the private sector, and civil society.

Their research activities, which are often hybrid in method, are usually consigned to the categories 'practice-based' or 'artistic research.' While both of these terms can be broadly descriptive, they are too general to keep pace with the inventive experimentalism of practice-oriented research activity. In particular, they fail to capture the extent to which these new and cross-disciplinary collaborative research practices are reshaping the institutions and contexts around them. Rather than adhere to established 'best practices' or seek, as 'advance studies' do, to advance particular disciplinary or institutional contexts, these research practices aim to reconfigure conventional assumptions and approaches. Their strength lies precisely in their ability to radically reformulate problems outside of conventional frames, and to draw on a wide range of epistemologies, protocols, and practices to propose innovative or even transformative forms of impact. In doing so, they redefine assumptions about who the stakeholders are, how they relate to each other and their fields, and, crucially, what the nature of the stakes can be.

For these reasons, EFAP proposes a new umbrella term, Advanced Practices, to describe this widespread 'research turn' composed of cross-disciplinary practices and hybridized methods across disparate contexts. EFAP believes that recognizing (1) the fundamentally advanced nature of these activities, (2) surveying and studying specific examples and programmatic contexts in order to understand how they can be nurtured at all levels, and (3) developing vocabularies and frameworks as dynamic and generative as the practices themselves to articulate and assess them are essential steps in realizing their potential for European society.

This initiative comes in response to widespread need among academic and civic institutions, as well as the private sector, to clarify the protocols, means, and potentials of practice-oriented research activity.

EFAP sets out to:

- survey the range of emerging practice-driven research modes;
- develop new vocabularies and typologies for describing and assessing the operations and methodologies of these emergent research forms;
- develop provisional criteria and flexible procedures for valuing and evaluating them; and
- propose flexible principles, structures, and procedures, for the fostering of new practice-driven research for institutions, funding agencies, and the private sector.

EFAP's aim is to promote both the development of advanced forms of research and advanced ways of translating their practices and findings into teaching curricula, incentive frameworks, innovation projects, and multi-layered, matrixed responses to complex societal challenges.

1.1.2. RELEVANCE AND TIMELINESS

There are widespread, international signs of a paradigm shift in research models. Many examples of this new research are united in their embrace of creative impulses and interest in the impact of artistic, practice-based, and arts-oriented research. However, because they are proliferating across scientific fields, usually in the form of cross- and multi-disciplinary collaborations, these projects can sometimes seem ad-hoc or miscellaneous. The challenge EFAP proposes is to develop an articulate, flexible understanding of these projects and initiatives under the banner of Advanced Practices.

EFAP addresses the gap between the proliferation of such practices and the lack of tools and criteria to establish, implement, and adjudicate them. The considerable expansion of practice-based or practice-driven programs across academic and cultural institutions, across public and civic culture, across industry and management structures, has made addressing the terms of their emergence all the more urgent.

In particular, the idea of 'research' itself is being stretched through many practices that are no longer the exclusive remit of academic research institutions. Programs that link scholarly research with exhibition and performative formats are becoming common, while experiments with new models of 'knowledge transfer' are now a frequent feature in many layers of civil society and the private sector. Turns like these — there are many more — are driving dramatic changes in the practices of public cultural institutions, cultural events, NGOs and private corporations, as much in higher education and research-intensive environments.

The present proposal — for a network to investigate, analyse, develop, and disseminate new creative practices of knowledge across the arts, technological research, and the natural and social sciences — has increasing purchase at a time when institutions across the world are grappling with issues such as:

- ever-more complex societal challenges across Europe that demand constant new forms of knowledge exchange and transfer, as new research forms gain ground and become increasingly prominent modes of research output and public engagement; and
- unparalleled levels of intellectual, scientific, and artistic entanglements to delineate new areas and understandings of stake holding across Europe's diverse landscape.

These emergent forms require novel, multi-disciplinary, and comprehensive methods for capturing and assessing both their quality and their impact. They demand new values, evaluation criteria, new strategies for dissemination and representation, new funding paths, and new vocabularies and typologies to ensure that the innovation involved is fully recognised, circulates and creates sustainable change.

These innovations must be equally grounded in nuanced understandings of current practices as well as broadly informed historical research to grasp their origins, precedents, and dynamics.

1.2. OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. RESEARCH COORDINATION OBJECTIVES

EFAP's broad objectives are twofold:

1. to translate this 'research turn,' which spans a stunningly diverse range of contexts at every level, into a set of clearly delineated and coordinated projects; and
2. to define mechanisms for sharing provisional findings in a range of formats that add tangible value and are actionable for practitioners and diverse stakeholders across European societies.

EFAP's overall objective is to foster dialog and exchange between emerging stakeholders on a

European level, involving academic institutions, private sector, and temporary initiatives. However, the proximate, achievable aim of this proposal is to implement a functional structure for assembling the resources needed to facilitate such a dialog. By investigating and analysing existing and potential collaborations between science-based and artistic research environments, a rich, varied, and multi-

perspectival body of primary and secondary materials will be developed. These materials will support higher-level discussion and action that responds to societal challenges at European level.

Broadly speaking, EFAP will:

- identify and locate emerging resources (including actors and stakeholders) and adjacencies in order to develop typologies for understanding Advanced Practices;
- compile practical, provisional references of current terminology used to describe Advanced Practices;
- assemble a 'catalogue of strategies' that highlights evolving differences in how practitioners' have sought to explain the advanced character of their projects over time and/or in various contexts; and
- compile a dossier of organizational materials that document diverse institutional efforts to initiate and evaluate Advanced Practices at various stages of development.

Above all, EFAP's proposal (in particular its working groups) is structured to meet three criteria:

1. to break down this challenge into a series of clearly defined areas of research and stakeholder perspectives;
2. promote coordination, exchange, and timely accountability; and
3. preserve the historical and contextual singularity of the materials under study.

1.2.2. CAPACITY-BUILDING OBJECTIVES

The target groups of EFAP are necessarily wide-ranging: from art academies to technology transfer centres, from visual anthropology to research by design, from contemporary choreography to science festivals, from museums to rapid prototyping, from self-run artistic initiatives to corporate and industrial residencies.

EFAP's process of gathering, connecting, and analysing this corpus will have substantial capacity-building impact. It will:

- initiate 'birds of a feather' / special-interest groups that focus on core aspects of Advanced Practices;
- connect networks of diverse institutional and non-institutional stakeholders who recognise the value of exchange surrounding Advanced Practices;
- establish shared vocabularies and categories to advance debate and dynamic evaluation of non-scientific research activities;
- lay key foundations for greater private sector involvement (e.g., corporations and financial institutions);
- formalise frameworks around Advanced Practices as a step toward translating them into curricular development in three cycle education and early stage researcher training; and
- facilitate the work being done within academic and cultural institutions who have recently founded programs featuring such advanced practices and are in the process of articulation suitable criteria for their implementation.

1.3. PROGRESS BEYOND THE STATE-OF-THE-ART AND INNOVATION POTENTIAL

1.3.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART

The last century has seen several waves of interest and investment in various models of hybrid 'laboratories' that sought to integrate the arts and sciences, from the Bauhaus to Xerox Parc. We are in the midst of another such wave now, but it is unprecedented in scale, breadth and scope. Paradoxically, though, many of these efforts remain local, isolated, eroticised or 'siloed'. The seminal value of these efforts is broadly recognised across the private and public sectors, yet there is little synthetic discussion.

As a result, there is a woeful absence of *frameworks* needed to initiate, formalise, support, evaluate, and leverage their processes and results.

The huge expansion in programs that award practice-based degrees makes it clear that there is a quickly growing need to coordinate and articulate these frameworks. However, the state of the art is surprisingly fragmented. The field is emergent and is being forged both institutionally and across a range of non-institutional settings and milieus. At present there are a number of academic societies, institutional networks, publications and dissemination projects carried out by a range of educational and exhibitionary institutions that have been central to these developments, but mainly within their specific origins and purviews.

1.3.2.   PROGRESS BEYOND THE STATE-OF-THE-ART

There have been important methodological developments that are specific to the materials and protocols of particular fields, but there is a larger need to highlight and articulate the diversity of this research across Europe — including areas where Advanced Practices may receive little support or acknowledgement, for example due to political legacies. It is these wide-ranging *differences* — between disparate modes of working and the burgeoning relations between them, encompassing both local and migratory knowledges, methodologies and narrative structures — that defines and shapes the complexity of Advanced Practices.

More broadly, there is a notable turn toward the arts by NGOs, local and regional authorities, major scientific research facilities, and private foundations, all of which recognise — albeit in very different ways — the potential of Advanced Practices to spur alternative or unconventional solutions to current and emerging societal challenges. This turn is also reflected in encouraging signs of large-scale institutional interest in and support for Advanced Practices. For instance, the Horizon 2020 framework programme seems to recognise the potential of contemporary artistic practices in response to societal challenges and to integrate the perspective of the arts in social, political and research agendas. Similarly, private foundations, funding bodies, and new types of interlocutors and stakeholders have begun to enter the field now; but they are in need of conceptual frameworks and practical networks that respond to and articulate the range and subtlety of the activities and projects they are supposed to support.

1.3.3.   INNOVATION IN TACKLING THE CHALLENGE

Cross-disciplinary research does not merely borrow protocols. Instead, it signals that previously unimagined modes of research indicate possible new pathways. This explains why areas of research and practice that share neither materials nor protocols nevertheless increasingly find themselves in intense conversation with one another.

EFAP's core innovations are:

1. articulating the concept of Advanced Practices as such;
2. demonstrating that Advanced Practices generate a wide variety of real values that elude conventional measures;
3. developing novel, dynamic, and even transformative frameworks for capturing, assessing, and harnessing the impacts of Advanced Practices; and
4. laying the foundations for training a new generation of researchers, artists, and practitioners who work across sectors.

1.4.   ADDED VALUE OF NETWORKING

1.4.1. IN RELATION TO THE CHALLENGE

At present, most of the art academies and universities in Europe have established practice-driven research programs, so EFAP's most immediate constituency numbers in the thousands and spans the continent. Numerous visual or media artists, architects, composers and performers, musicologists, anthropologists and others identify themselves as inventive researchers and their work as practice-driven.

Identifying and networking the emergent actors and agents that commission, fund, display, and use advanced practices across disciplines and connecting them to the degree-awarding institutions in higher education will create a huge potential for added value

- by enhancing the participants' ability to recognise new values in unconventional and yet-unexplored configurations of initiatives and alliances;
- by developing frameworks that enable disparate stakeholders to convene and cooperate and, in doing so, to realise added value; and
- by enabling change agents within participating organisations to support and promote Advanced Practices.

Such new actors include NGOs, scientific research environment, libraries and archives, theatre companies, orchestras, museums, maker spaces, as well as private and public funding bodies.

1.4.2. IN RELATION TO EXISTING EFFORTS AT EUROPEAN AND/OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Currently, the field is shaped by regional and often exclusive alliances that focus on particular 'flavours' of artistic, practice- or arts-based research, or are limited to particular academic disciplines or specific interdisciplinary exchange between fields. This 'siloing' according to disparate factors limits and even pre-empt the potentials of these activities and initiatives. By conceiving them as a large- scale cultural turn and developing theoretical and practical mechanisms for communicating the meanings and potential values of Advanced Practices to wider range of stakeholders, EFAP will enhance and amplify existing initiatives and build a rational basis for developing next-generation models. This will include, but is not limited to,

- identifying the extent to which EU, national, regional, and/or local policies and funding have been instrumental in supporting artistic practices, research, and networks; and
- contributing to the development of techniques needed to indicate, evaluate, and promote the added value of strategic collaborations across disciplines, and between the arts, science, and technology.

This will be instrumental to the ongoing evaluation of the relevance and impact of artistic, arts-based and practice-based research in the context of the European Commission's future framework programme for research and innovation and its missions. In doing so, it will materially contribute to the integration and advancement of the arts as a crucial component and strategy in the long-term goals of the European project.

2. IMPACT

2.1. EXPECTED IMPACT

2.1.1. SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND/OR SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

EFAP's essentially cross-disciplinary orientation and approach (theoretically, practically, and institutionally) bridges social, institutional, sectoral, and regional categories. By definition, then, EFAP's impact will necessarily be felt in multiple spheres and at many levels. The challenge, then, is to *harmonise* that impact — not by standardizing it but, rather, by developing dynamic mechanisms that enable disparate stakeholders and initiatives to align, coordinate, and enhance their respective efforts. EFAP will pursue this by

- gathering conceptual approaches to, and practical formats for, collaborative experiments across disciplines;
- broadening and enriching techniques for communicating the outcomes of Advanced Practices beyond their anticipated scope in compelling and enlightening ways;
- fostering new relations between communities of knowledge and practice; and

- articulating dynamic methods for capturing, assessing, and harnessing quality and impact that take into account the needs of established and potential stakeholders.

2.2. MEASURES TO MAXIMISE IMPACT

2.2.1. PLAN FOR INVOLVING THE MOST RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

To ensure the involvement and active participation of both emergent and relevant stakeholders is crucial for a successful development of EFAP.

The plan consists of a systematic expansion of the network according to the following steps:

Open call and request for comments to the first draft of the White Paper on Advanced Practices: Distributing a first draft as well as the MOU among institutions of higher art education, practice-based research programs, regional institutional networks, and academic associations

1. initiating a transparent process that documents the challenge, the main objectives, and the working group structure on a website that is regularly updated and provides information about the progress of the project and its constitutive elements;
2. expanding the network from arts and practice-based institutional initiatives in the Arts and in the Humanities towards interested parties in neighbouring but so far institutionally disconnected fields, most importantly: social sciences, information technology, engineering, health, etc.;
3. integrating the specific interests and backgrounds of public and private institutions in the fields of art, culture, and technology;
4. contacting stakeholders in the private sector, such as private foundations, private research centres, corporate residency programs, initiatives for technology transfer and inviting them to join the process; and
5. consulting governmental and transnational organisations.

2.2.2. DISSEMINATION AND/OR EXPLOITATION PLAN

The challenge of connecting established and emerging stakeholders will require the support of existing dissemination platforms as well as the creation of new mechanisms for promoting EFAP's various findings and outcomes.

EFAP will involve a wide range of disseminators (e.g., journals, publishers, libraries, archives, and online networks and platforms) at the earliest possible opportunity. Initially, EFAP sees their role as twofold, both aspects of which are strongly aligned with these institutions' own missions:

1. as pivotal resources in and for ongoing research processes, often with a deep knowledge of the history and landscape of Advanced Practices; and
2. as crucial stakeholders in disseminating provisional results of EFAP's activities (mainly through its working groups).

Alignment of missions *is a core principle in EFAP's approach.*

More specifically, EFAP's dissemination plan has two basic elements. Both will be presented as 'works in progress' over the course of the entire project, in large part as a strategy for eliciting ongoing feedback and involvement.

● **White Paper on Advanced Practices**

EFAP's first work product will be a 'white paper.' A white paper process provides a flexible mechanism for tracking, discussing, and developing principles and issues that highlight how research practices advance. All of EFAP's Working Groups (see below, Section 3) will contribute to the White Paper based on a first draft that will be distributed after the launch of the networking process. Its status will remain provisional throughout the duration of the EFAP process, that is, subject to ongoing development, updates, and editing. EFAP's Core Group (CG) will organise this process, and the Management Committee will supervise it (e.g., to ensure that relevant issues are highlighted for specific WGs and around particular issues).

The goal of this white paper process is to launch EFAP's networking activities and bring together diverse views from the working groups *without imposing a premature need for broad consensus*. This approach balances two conflicting demands: on the one hand, the need to collect diverse descriptive approaches, perspectives, and resources from peers working across and between disciplinary, institutional, and cultural contexts; on the other, to publish them in a form that is both timely and widely useful to others not directly included in this proposal and the early-stage networking process.

● **New Vocabularies of Advanced Practices**

Advanced Practices, in general and in the specific, frequently confront the limitations of existing terminologies for contextualising, describing, and evaluating projects and outcomes. The impact of these limitations affects Advanced Practices from cradle to grave: they materially shape — often in negative ways — who is seen as a potential stakeholder, how projects are placed institutionally, whether and how they are funded, and where and how their outcomes are disseminated and evaluated.

One of EFAP's working groups (WG2) is charged with researching, developing, and proposing a 'lexicon' of new vocabularies that will enable stakeholders working within and across related fields to both describe these projects and to evaluate, assess, and measure their contributions. However, EFAP believes that jump-starting this articulation of new vocabularies will be critical to launching the larger EFAP process in three basic ways. It will:

1. promote EFAP and the notion of Advanced Practices;
2. provide a basis for outreach to actors outside the initial EFAP process; and
3. seed EFAP's other four WGs' activities.

2.3. POTENTIAL FOR INNOVATION VERSUS RISK LEVEL

2.3.1. POTENTIAL FOR SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND/OR SOCIOECONOMIC INNOVATION BREAKTHROUGHS

The proposal for the networking action EFAP is characterised by a very low level of risk and, in return, a huge potential for innovation breakthroughs.

Over the past two decades the potential of Advanced Practices has expanded dramatically — for example, in support for and recognition of their potential across a remarkably broad range of public and private institutions. Given this support, the systematic analysis and widespread dissemination of Advanced Practices' value and outcomes is poised to gain significant momentum in many contexts — scientific and technological, political, and socio-economic. Given the remarkable diversity of this organizational support, there is every reason to believe that this amplification of Advanced Practices — from specific projects to broad awareness of new, inclusive modes of research — would have profound and widespread effects. Specific impacts are unforeseeable, of course, but the effects will take two main forms:

1. Stakeholders will gain conceptual and organizational flexibility to address societal problems at every scale, enabling them to interact, network, and collaborate more systematically across genres, institutional contexts, professional affinities, and geographic locations. And
2. The ability to recognise and communicate new modes, aspects, and meanings of cross-disciplinary research and practice will enrich, expand, and deepen knowledge communities — particularly in contexts widely seen as incompatible or unrelated.

In doing so, Advanced Practices will contribute rapidly, broadly, and openly to innovative approaches to European and even global societal challenges.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK PLAN

3.1.1. DESCRIPTION OF WORKING GROUPS

EFAP's primary mechanisms for meeting this challenge will take the form of five parallel Working Groups (WGs), each of which is charged with investigating Advanced Practices from a specific perspective. While quantitative study will be an ever-present factor in their work, their main mode of research will be *qualitative*. The WGs' respective research agendas have been formulated with substantially different focuses (e.g., practitioners' vs organizational perspectives) in complementary ways (e.g., interviews vs document-based programs), and their outputs will take strikingly different forms (e.g., analytical 'lexicons' of operant terminology vs dossiers of documentary materials). This heterogeneous approach will:

- encourage broadly diverse outreach in identifying Advanced Practices;
- discourage redundancy and 'groupthink' tendencies in parallel research efforts;
- give researchers a rich toolset for identifying and describing Advanced Practices;
- preserve the peculiar refractory qualities of specific projects and initiatives under study;
- capture key aspects of how Advanced Practices have evolved in the short and long term;
- reinforce the diversity of Advanced Practices in mode, context, substance, and form;
- promote synthetic analysis of organizational perspectives on Advanced Practices;
- foster much-needed meta-analysis of Advanced Practices (e.g., by identifying frameworks shared in seemingly disparate stakeholders and contexts); and
- instil experimentation in presentation format, inviting interest from a wide range of stakeholders.

Moreover, WGs will be required to:

1. maintain open, publicly accessible digital archives of their output;
2. treat findings as provisional (e.g., summarised as brief 'requests for comments');
3. circulate summary findings on a quarterly basis; and
4. confirm that they have reviewed each other's summary materials.

These four basic principles will:

1. discourage problems that WG structures frequently face (e.g., dependency bottlenecks and cascading delays);
2. enrich the scope, form, substance, and presentation of their findings; and
3. provide a regular, ongoing point of entry for interested parties and potential contributors.

Most of all, given that each WG will inevitably discover material that directly informs the other WGs' work, they will foster *a culture of sharing* — and ensure that parallel research efforts inform and complement each other on an ongoing basis.

All five WGs will share common basic activities (A) and deliverables (D);

- schedule regular meetings (A);
- reviewing material to comply with all applicable data-privacy regulations (A);
- publicly archiving research findings (e.g., as wikis — see below) (D);
- documenting research activities and strategies (D);
- maintaining publicly accessible mailing-list discussions (A);
- collating and summarizing provisional findings for distribution and presentation (D); and
- sharing the findings and knowledge in Training Schools.

These activities, and the research mandates detailed below, involve substantial workloads. EFAP believes that, taken as a whole, this program will provide numerous and diverse opportunities for:

- all network participants to enhance networking and exchange specific knowledges in Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)
- established researchers to receive formal institutional credit for academic and professional-service obligations;
- independent funding of specific research activities;
- younger scholars and practitioners to develop their practice, technical skills, and build their careers; and
- promotions and presentations of ongoing research in professional and public settings.

EFAP expects and encourages contributors to publish their findings in relevant professional and academic publications (e.g., peer-reviewed academic journals, proceedings, and books), but mandating this lies beyond the scope of this proposal.

Specific descriptions of the five WGs follow.

Working Group 1: Contexts

The expansion of research across a civil society and the proliferation of practice-based research across academic landscapes have brought about new stakeholder alliances, modes of research, and applications. These are the contexts from which many Advanced Practices emerge. However, many of these initiatives are idiosyncratic (e.g., ad-hoc funding initiatives and/or efforts to think 'outside the box'); others are deeply embedded in institutions whose cultural roles are evolving (e.g., archives' efforts to leverage collections in response to shifts in popular interest or intellectual property potentials). WG1 will survey these shifting contexts in order to 'map' *currently emerging* resources and adjacencies. Its goal is to develop a provisional set of typologies that are: (1) descriptive not prescriptive, (2) overlapping and non-exclusive, and (3) responsive to the needs of different actors/entrants. These typologies will *not* serve, even informally, as certification process or 'registry' of Advanced Practices; and while WG1's mandate is to conduct diligent broad-based research, these typologies, by definition, cannot be exhaustive. Possible typologies might include: areas of interest (e.g., oceans, logistics, national security), practical methods (e.g., rules/guidelines for collaboration), participant needs (e.g., individual or institutional aspiration), and/or formats/techniques of dissemination.

WG1 objective: 'Map' emerging resources and adjacencies in order to develop typologies for understanding Advanced Practices.

WG1-specific activities: Identify a wide range visual/textual models for mapping findings; develop flexible/extensible system for annotating typologies and other useful annotations and indexing techniques.

WG1-specific tasks: (1) Develop a shared, rich-media user-writable resource (e.g., a wiki) to maintain *provisional typologies* linked to examples and supporting resources; (2) identify relevant typologies; and (3) populate and annotate the mapping platform.

WG1 milestones: (1) Setup of online working environments, and (2) publishing a dynamic map of Advanced Practices.

WG1-specific deliverables: Visual maps of annotated typologies of Advanced Practices

Working Group 2: New vocabularies

The emergence of Advanced Practices is often inhibited by normative terminology (e.g., of specific disciplines and institutions). This affects them at every stage, from initial insight, to the willingness of potential contributors, to final evaluation. Solutions are often ad-hoc (e.g., individual diplomacy or budget workarounds). However, for Advanced Practices to become systemic will require a formal approach to addressing conflicting needs: articulating legitimate concerns that drive resistance, developing practical templates that realise potential at each stage, and promoting awareness of the broadly productive aspects of APs. WG2 will conduct field research — for example, interviews with people known for playing pivotal roles in significant collaborations, organizational 'look-arounds' to identify exemplary contexts,

reviews of non-obvious materials (e.g., email discussions or MOUs). Its goal is to move beyond clichéd precedents (e.g., 'Xerox Parc') and genres (e.g., case studies) and to develop practical, provisional reference documents that describe *current* usages — for example, 'open' genres such as a lexicon of significant concepts, and a library of techniques for mediating conflicting concerns. In every case, materials should emphasise multiple perspectives; this will ensure both that research solicits input from different stakeholders and that the resulting work product is balanced and broadly useful.

WG2 objective: Compile practical, provisional references of current terminology used to describe candidate Advanced Practices.

WG2-specific activities: Develop a shared, rich-media, user-writable resource (e.g., a wiki) for maintaining *provisional vocabularies* linked to examples and resources.

WG2-specific tasks: (1) Identify vocabulary terms to be developed; (2) edit, source, annotate, and link entries; (3) distribute research to participants on an ongoing basis; and (4) provide clear mechanisms for incorporating internal and external feedback.

WG2 milestones: (1) Setup of online working environments; (2) establish criteria for and populate initial entries; and (3) launch of the 'new vocabularies' platform.

WG2-specific deliverables: Online vocabulary of Advanced Practices

Working Group 3: Evolving strategies

Advanced Practices are often *relational*. Rather than exemplifying and advancing established paradigms, they introduce unfamiliar perspectives, challenge conventional hierarchies, and/or shift social 'imaginaries' of what seems admissible, relevant, or possible. As such, they tend to elude neat descriptions — the very same descriptions that participants often need to shepherd a promising initiative. WG3 will investigate this tension. Its goal is to conduct research (mainly archival and historical) to document the ideas and rhetoric used to describe precursors of what we now call Advanced Practices evolved, with an emphasis on discontinuity. Research efforts will focus on collaborative practitioners and how their presentations of projects and initiatives changed across time and context. The result will be a partial catalogue of strategies for explaining 'the same' core ideas over time and/or in ways that are meaningful or intriguing for diverse institutional and epistemological norms. The aim is *not* to seek out successful 'case studies' and extrapolate 'best practices' but, instead, to preserve the tensions and potentials of evolving efforts to explain potential values to disparate audiences.

WG3 objective: Assemble a 'catalogue of strategies' that demonstrate differences in how practitioners' have sought to explain Advanced Practices over time and/or in various contexts.

WG3-specific activities: Develop a rich-media user-writable resource (e.g., a wiki) for maintaining *iterative documentary archives* linked to supporting resources, with particular emphasis on 'locating' materials (by institution, region, issue/subject, etc.).

WG3-specific tasks: (1) Identify relevant strategies; (2) execute basic research; (3) compile results into a 'catalogue of strategies'; and (4) developing a public event and/or exhibition of the results.

WG3 milestones: (1) Setup of online working environments; (2) initiate research activities; (3) conclusion of research; and (4) publication of 'catalogue of strategies' (v 1).

WG3-specific deliverables: Catalogue of strategies of Advanced Practices

Working Group 4: Implementation: support, adoption, exploitation

WG4's focus is institutional: its research will focus on the structures and techniques that *institutions* have implemented in order (1) to nurture the precursors of Advanced Practices *in general*, and/or (2) to 'learn' from specific Advanced Practices — for example, through adapting organisational structures or procedures, developing new capacities, and/or pursuing new fields and forms of activity. Its goal is to compile a dossier of 'native' materials that *show* how diverse organizations have deliberately and explicitly sought to institutionalise Advanced Practices: org charts, announcements of initiatives or

alliances, policies and procedures, staffing plans and job descriptions, MOUs and contracts, promotional materials, ephemera, etc. These materials will likely be arbitrary and incomplete on a per- institution basis, but disparities between institutions will enable critical analyses — on a primary level of diverse organizational strategies, and on a secondary level of ways to assess findings and prognostic avenues for further research.

WG4 objective: Compile a dossier of organizational materials that document diverse institutional efforts to address any stage of Advanced Practices.

WG4-specific activities: Develop a shared, rich-media user-writable resource (e.g., a wiki) to maintain typologies linked to supporting resources, with particular emphasis on metadata (e.g., source, media type, infra-, and/or inter-organizational context).

WG4-specific tasks: (1) Document source materials, and (2) analyse and prepare them for publication.

WG4 milestones: (1) Setup of online working environments; (2) kick-off research activities; (3) conclusion of research; and (4) publication of the dossier.

WG4-specific deliverables: Annotated dossier of primary documents related to Advanced Practices.

Working Group 5: Evaluation: values, criteria, procedures

WG5's mandate and work product is the most unabashedly philosophical of the working groups. Drawing on its own members' research as well as the ongoing, pre-processed research of the other four groups, it looks for precedents, models, and/or theories for the problem of *evaluating* Advanced Practices at any stage. In particular, it will seek out examples of speculative models of impact, dynamic evaluations measured not in terms of expected audiences/outcomes but in terms of *unanticipated* audiences/outcomes, and/or efforts to understand potential values outside of measurable application or exploitation. WG5's purview is not limited to issues that comply with institutional norms or even laws (e.g., it can include informal phenomena such as the rise of 'shadow libraries' as a corollary to profit-driven academic publishing). Its emphasis is neither individual nor institutional but *collective*. Its goal is to develop historically informed, high-level observations about effective, actionable theories and practices of Advanced Practices — 'notes toward' how they become meaningful to emerging audiences and alliances.

WG5 objective: Develop historically informed, high-level observations about effective, actionable approaches to Advanced Practices.

WG5-specific activities: Collect an open, dynamic set of criteria that recognise and value the advanced character of research practices.

WG5-specific tasks: (1) Compile initial ideas into the first draft of the White Paper; (2) gather existing evaluation models; and (3) introduce findings of WGs 1–4.

WG5 milestones: Distribution of the first draft White Paper, and annual updates of the White Paper.

WG5-specific deliverables: (1) White Paper: 'Advanced Practices,' and (2) publish proceedings.

3.1.2. GANTT DIAGRAM

Group		2019				2020				2021				2022			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Working Groups	**WG 1:** Contexts																
	Workshop																
	T1.1: Develop rich-media user-writable resource																
	T1.2: Identifying relevant typologies																
	T1.3: Populate the mapping platform																
	M1.1: Setup of online working environments																
	M1.2: Publication map of Advanced Practices																
	WG 2: New vocabularies																
	Workshop																
	T2.1: Identify vocabulary terms																
	T2.2: Edit vocabularies																
	T2.3: Distribute research across all WG																
	T2.4: Develop mechanisms for feedback																
	M2.1: Setup of online working environments																
	M2.2: Establish criteria for and populate entries																
	M2.3: Launch of the 'new vocabularies' platform																
	WG 3: Evolving strategies																
	Workshop																
	T3.1: Identify relevant strategies																
	T3.2: Execute basic research																
	T3.3: Compile results																
	T3.4: Developing a public event and/or exhibition																
	M3.1: Setup of online working environments																
	M3.2: Initiate research activities																
	M3.3: Conclusion of research																
	M3.4: Publication of 'catalog of strategies'																
	WG 4: Implementation																
	Workshop																
	T4.1: Document source materials																
	T4.2: Analyse and prepare them for publication																
	M4.1: Setup of online working environments																
	M4.2: Kick-off research activities																
	M4.3: Conclusion of research																
	M4.5: Publication of the dossier																
	WG 5: Evaluation																
	Workshop																
	T5.1: Compile initial ideas of the White Paper																
	T5.2: Gather existing evaluation models																
	T5.3: Introduce findings of WGs 1–4																
	M5.1: Distribution of the first-draft White Paper																
	M5.2: Annual updates of the White Paper																
General Activities	Kick off meeting																
	MC Meetings																
	SC Meetings																
	Cross WG workshop																
	Annual drafting of the White paper																
	Conference																
	Reporting to Cost Office																

3.1.3. PERT CHART (OPTIONAL)

n/a

3.1.4. RISK AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

The open nature of the research enterprise involves relatively low risk levels. Although EFAP's research has enormous economic potential. these activities involve no commercial use or exploitation. No major regulatory, health, or safety risks are foreseeable.

Risk or possible issues	Chance	Impact	Action to be undertaken
Intellectual property issues	Low	High	Promote open access and focus on practices that comply with open access policies; affirm COST code of conduct
Ambiguous outcomes and/or unclear results	Medium	Medium	Quality assurance by WGLs; strengthen editorial support/coordination
Lack of participation and engagement with the overall process	High	Medium	Increase commitment and communication by MC and SC; further training of WGL
Low attendance at networking meetings	Medium	High	Increase involvement of early-stage researchers
Low participation with WG process	Low	High	Highlight incentives (e.g., coordinating options to publish of interim reports)
Deliverables delayed	Medium	Medium	Increase the frequency of WGL meetings; delegate responsibilities
Misunderstandings due to translation and/or context	Low	Medium	Insisting on maximum clarity in the use of language; reducing ambiguities
Resistance to open access policies	Low	High	Communicate benefits of open access for wider public; investigate alternative sources
Data privacy issues	Medium	Medium	Reinforce standards of privacy protection

3.2. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

EFAP's management structure and procedures were developed as a bottom-up process in accordance with COST rules. COST has been deliberately chosen to involve a variety of emerging stakeholders whose interests are difficult to represent in traditional academic organisational forms. At the same time, open and inclusive structures will ensure a maximum of participation in the different processes.

The Management Committee (MC) consists of experts nominated by the COST Countries. The MC will elect a Chair and a Vice Chair in accordance with generally accepted practices. Within the MC, a Core Group (CG) will be established to provide support for the Chair. The SC consists of the Chair and Vice Chair as well as the Leaders and Vice-Leaders of each Working Group and of any other management task that will be set up. The CG will support the MC to coordinate, implement, and manage EFAP's activities and to supervise the allocation and use of funding. In addition, the CG will focus on feedback from of relevant, established stakeholders, assess the performance of the network, and ensure the quality and the dissemination of all outcomes. Both entities, MC and CG, will play an important role in moderating, streamlining, and guiding the Working Groups and their work.

EFAP's Working Groups are the core of its activity. The project is structured into five Working Groups (WGs) that will meet EFAP's broad objectives, coordinate various networking activities, and build capacity. Working groups meet on a regular basis, ideally 4 times per year.

At the kick-off meeting, each Working Group will appoint a Working group Leader and a Vice-Leader (both WGLs). WGLs are responsible for the quality and coherence of all research and the completion of milestones and deliverables within the allocated time frames. They are also responsible for regular, timely communication with the MC regarding the progress of all WG work and other issues.

In coordination with the MC and the CG, WGLs can create special task forces within and/or between WGs to address specific challenges and ensure that milestones are met. WGLs will ensure an appropriate composition of the WGs, according to gender balance, geographical origin, areas of academic expertise, institutional backgrounds, and specific interests. Ad-hoc participants in WGs will play a crucial role as expert witnesses (e.g., to provide and recruit knowledge and expertise from emerging fields and specific contexts).

3.3.   NETWORK AS A WHOLE

The proposed EFAP network is the first to address the epistemological consequences of such a sea change in how practice-oriented research, organization, operations, funding, evaluation. EFAP is a geographically, culturally, and epistemologically broad coalition, and as such it is well-qualified to investigate the implications of this 'research turn' across the relevant fields.

This Action has been drafted and submitted by a core group of proposers who are deeply committed to these developments. Ultimately, though, it draws on contributions from much larger, more diverse communities of researchers, practitioners, and institutional representatives, many of whom will join the network action to shape the concept of Advanced Practices and develop EFAP's objectives.

At the moment of the submission of the proposal, the network of proposers consists of artists, practitioners and theorists who are shaping current forms of research across the fields of visual art, art history, philosophy, music, theatre, dance and performance studies, architecture, new media, anthropology, cultural and social studies, design and engineering. They bring in the expertise, experiences and visions that is needed to address the challenge and objectives.

At this stage, the current composition of the network is heavily grounded in a focus on artistic, art-, and practice-based research. This focus is a necessary starting point, but the success of the network action will depend on recognizing this initial limitation. Once the Action is operational it will be expanded through diligent, step-by-step measures (as outlined in 2.2.1.) to actively involve the most relevant actors from the fields of science collaborations and technology transfer. This will ensure that the network gains the cross- and multi-disciplinary strength and depth necessary to achieve its goals and execute its ambitious agenda with verve. Many of the contacts and collaborations this expansion requires are established or underway, although the support of a COST network action would dramatically amplify and extend their potential.

Signs that Advanced Practices have become the norm are everywhere. Formerly obscure terms like 'practice-based research' or 'advanced studies' have become a standard feature in higher education across Europe and, indeed, globally. Graduate degrees and academic positions based on these credentials are commonplace. Similarly, partnerships, initiatives, programs, residencies, and projects that include artists, designers, and other 'makers' in decisive roles are becoming the rule, rather than the exception, in public and private spheres. Yet, as we have discussed, because the language and framing used to describe them is generic or even backward-glancing, it fails to capture the inventive energy and transformative potential of these practices.

EFAP's network is comprised of researchers with wide and deep knowledge of these areas of practice. Their broad and specific experience, which in many cases spans decades, more than qualifies them to conduct this research and establish a continuously expanding network, to analyse it in ways that will add value, and to develop theoretical and practical frameworks that are responsive to a wide range of stakeholder needs and aspirations.