

## Launch of EU project SMOTIES (Creative works with small and remote places)

***"I consider this project important because when institutions partner up with the community welfare in mind, the outcome can only be good",*** said Rui de Sousa, a Catholic priest who lives and works in the parish church of the small village Estreito da Calheta in Madeira. Estreito da Calheta is one of 10 small and remote places in 10 different EU countries that want to be made more livable through cultural and creative activities by participating in the EU project SMOTIES. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2022, the launch event of SMOTIES will take place within the framework of the Biennale Internationale Design Saint-Etienne.

Behind the EU project SMOTIES stands the platform of an interdisciplinary exchange called Human Cities, founded in 2006. The network consists of universities, research centers in the field of design and architecture, design centers and creative agencies in 10 European cities. The new Human Cities project SMOTIES, carried out over 4 years, aims to launch creative projects with small and remote places. In practice, this means working with residents to develop ideas and prototypes, co-design workshops, traveling exhibitions, lectures, master classes and schools, as well as publications.

SMOTIES partner France is the Cité du Design with the College of Art and Design Saint-Etienne. The remote place worked with is the Dorlay Valley 40 minutes from Saint Etienne. The Dorlay Valley has developed know-how around the textile industry since the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

*"What attracted me to this place and why I love working here is that it is about preserving, promoting, sharing and passing on a tangible and intangible heritage,"* says Luce Chazalon, president of the association that runs the House of Braids and Lace in La Terrasse-sur-Dorlay. In the Dorlay Valley, there are some villages that still preserve the remains of this former textile industry and try to enhance this heritage. The idea at the heart of the SMOTIES project is that all SMOTIES partners want to contribute to bringing (back) attention to certain places.

**The Cité du Design - École Supérieure d'Art et de Design cordially invites you to the press conference!**

### **10:00 Human Cities-SMOTIES Press conference**

Théâtre, Cité du design (3 rue Javelin Pagnon, 42000 Saint-Étienne)

10:00 Welcome by Marc Chassaubéné, President of the Cité du design

10:05 Thierry Mandon or Isabelle Vérilhac: Human Cities and the Cité du design

10:10 Presentation of the SMOTIES project by Davide Fassi, Coordinator of the SMOTIES project, Associate Professor, Design Department, Politecnico of Milan

10:20 Presentation of La Terrasse-sur-Dorlay, remote place selected by St-Etienne, by Emmanuelle Gaide, Nouveaux Ateliers du Dorlay

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<https://humancities.eu/smoties/>