

Working Package 4
INTERNATIONAL WEBINARS ON ARTISTIC RESEARCH
JANUARY -MARCH 2026

**curated by the European Association of Conservatoires - AEC
in the framework of the Iartnet Project
in cooperation with Conservatorio di Musica “L. Marenzio” and
Accademia di Belle Arti, Brera, Milano**

REPORT

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About IartNET

IartNET

An international platform for artistic practice/research and cultural heritage at Italian higher arts education institutions. Coordinated by Accademia delle Belle Arti di Brera, Milano, the IartNET project aims to strengthen the internationalization of Italian Higher Arts and Music Education (AFAM) institutions by fostering transnational cooperation grounded in connectivity, experimentation, innovation, and diversity. IartNET operates through collaborative networks to generate shared benefits across the AFAM sector. Read more about it on the [project page on the AEC website](#).

Project Coordinator Working Package 4 on Artistic Research

Conservatorio “L. Marenzio” di Brescia: Prof. Marcello Mazzetti.

Lead Institution

Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera – Milan

Partner Institutions

Università degli Studi di Milano

Conservatorio di Musica “Luca Marenzio” di Brescia

Accademia di Belle Arti di Carrara

Fondazione Accademia d’Arti e Mestieri dello Spettacolo Teatro alla Scala

Accademia di Belle Arti di Catania

Main Objectives of the Project

1. Enhance Digital Access and Visibility

2. To expand the digital accessibility of artistic practice-led research and cultural heritage within AFAM, enabling:

- broader national and international access to previously limited materials;
- renewed recognition of AFAM institutions within the long tradition of Italian artistic excellence;
- interdisciplinary and cross-sector dialogue linking historical heritage with contemporary artistic production to foster community-building and innovation.

2. Strengthen International Attractiveness

3. To develop an international network of higher arts and music education institutions committed to sharing:

- data and documentation related to artistic research and cultural heritage;
- knowledge, models, and best practices for internationalization aligned with European policy frameworks.

5. Support the Development of Research Structures

6. To establish an international hub for artistic research in Italy capable of:

- forming a community of supervisors and experts;
- designing new third-cycle (doctoral-level) programs consistent with the Bologna Process.

About Iartnet

Key Deliverables

- An Interoperable Database and English-Language Web Portal
- Providing open-access resources on cultural heritage and contemporary artistic and educational projects, developed in accordance with the Italian Digital Library and Europeana standards.
- An International Network for Training and Collaboration
- Supporting professional development, exchanges, and peer-to-peer dialogue to address the current lack of institutional capacity for internationalization in AFAM.
- An International Hub for Artistic Research
- Creating a platform for developing interdisciplinary research projects, postgraduate offerings, and evaluation criteria for artistic research aligned with international standards.

Impact

These actions respond to structural challenges within AFAM institutions—such as the lack of English-language content, limited

English-taught programs, and scarcity of graduate and doctoral offerings. The project will:

- enhance the international visibility of AFAM institutions;
- improve the quality of arts education for domestic and international students;
- strengthen AFAM's role within global academic and cultural networks;
- contribute to the broader digital transition in the cultural and creative sectors.

Work Package 4 – The Role of the AEC

WP4 supports the development of an International Hub for Artistic Research through the implementation of a cycle of five international webinars (January – March 2026), curated by AEC in cooperation with the Conservatorio and Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera

The webinar series follows the AEC EPARM model and thematic framework.

Each webinar includes one international speaker and one discussant appointed by AEC. The contents address:

- models and definitions of artistic research;
- governance of doctoral programs in the arts;
- evaluation and documentation of results;
- interdisciplinarity between the arts, science, and technology;
- international networks and best practices.

The webinars reflect the diversity of contemporary artistic research practices, combining theoretical reflection with practical examples and institutional perspectives. Across the five sessions, speakers explore themes including interdisciplinarity, doctoral education, quality assurance, evaluation, and international networking.

All webinars are published on the [dedicated page of the AEC website](#).

1. Teaching Artistic Research in Cross- and Transdisciplinary Settings - ARE Webinar - An IartNET event

13th January 2026

SUMMARY:

The series opened on 13 January with Teaching Artistic Research in Cross- and Transdisciplinary Settings, led by Gilvano Dalagna — invited Assistant Professor at the University of Aveiro, invited lecturer at the Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio, and integrated researcher at the Institute of Ethnomusicology – Centre of Studies in Music and Dance (INET-md) — together with Jorge Salgado Correia from the University of Aveiro and INET-md. The session examined how artistic research operates when disciplinary boundaries are crossed or challenged, discussing methodological approaches, knowledge creation, and the balance between artistic and academic values. Questions surrounding collaboration and assessment in interdisciplinary environments generated particularly rich discussion among participants.

By Gilvano Dalagna,

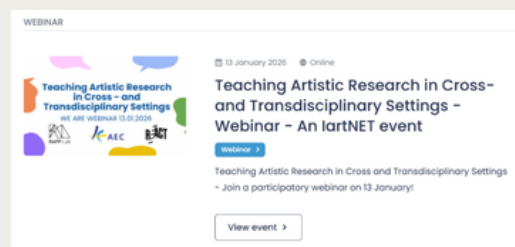
Invited Assistant Professor at the University of Aveiro (Portugal), invited lecturer at the Alfonso X El Sabio University (Spain) and integrated researcher at the Institute of Ethnomusicology/Center of Studies in Music and Dance (Portugal). His current research focuses on the links between performance (as creative practice) and music education.

JORGE SALGADO CORREIA,
(University of Aveiro / INET-md).

Topics addressed:

- Epistemological perspectives and methodological strategies that underpin artistic research within cross- and transdisciplinary contexts
- How knowledge is created, articulated, and validated when disciplinary boundaries are deliberately challenged or transcended
- Challenges related to assessment, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the balancing of artistic and academic values.

The webinar recording is downloadable [here](#) (on AEC YouTube channel).



2.Evaluation and Assessment of Artistic Research

12 February 2026

SUMMARY:

The second webinar, Evaluation and Assessment of Artistic Research (12 February), focused on quality assurance and evaluation practices in higher music education. The work and activities of the agencies MusiQuE and EQ-Arts were presented and reflections on institutional evaluation processes in the arts sector were shared by their representatives. Anna Scott, Assistant Professor at Leiden University's Academy of Creative and Performing Arts (ACPA), addressed the evaluation and assessment of artistic research at doctoral level, discussing criteria for supervision as well as the institutional support structures and soft skills needed for effective doctoral guidance.



TOPICS ADDRESSED:

- EQ-Arts and MusiQuE: what they are and what they do? What do they provide in addition to what national evaluation agencies already do?
- Evaluation at an institutional level: what is it? Why is it important, for an Italian institution, to engage with institutional and programme reviews on an European level? What are the main quality indicators to consider when developing a new study programme?
- Evaluation and assessment of artistic research: what are the main criteria for doctoral supervision of artistic research? How can doctoral supervision be institutionally facilitated and supported? Soft skills for supervision in the arts

Presentations:

MusiQuE, its evaluation activities and institutional evaluation, by Linda Messas & Jacques Moreau

EQ-Arts, institutional evaluation and evaluation & assessment of artistic research, by John Butler

Evaluation and assessment of artistic research, by Anna Scott.

The webinar recording is downloadable [here](#) (on AEC YouTube channel).

3. Governance of Doctoral Programs in the Arts

Friday 20 March

SUMMARY:

The webinar Governance of Doctoral Programs in the Arts (20 March) turned the spotlight to doctoral education and sustainability. The session featured Helena Marinho, Associate Professor at the Department of Communication and Art of the University of Aveiro, coordinator of the University of Aveiro branch of INET-md, and member of the scientific committee of the PhD in Music programme, together with Benjamin Helmer, composer, lecturer in music theory and aural training, and research assistant at the Hamburg University of Music and Drama. Helmer coordinates the ARTILACS graduate programme and works at the Ligeti Center's Artistic Research Lab, supporting doctoral project funding in artistic research. The webinar addressed supervision practices, financing and sustainability of PhD programmes, career opportunities after doctoral studies, and the integration of artistic research perspectives into bachelor's and master's curricula.



By Helena Marinho,

Associate Professor at the Department of Communication and Art of the University of Aveiro (Portugal), and coordinator of the Institute of Ethnomusicology – Centre of Studies in Music and Dance branch at the University of Aveiro and member of the scientific committee of the PhD in Music programme

Benjamin Helmer,

A composer, lecturer in music theory and aural training, and research assistant at the Hamburg University of Music and Drama (HfMT). He coordinates the ARTILACS graduate program and works at the Ligeti center in the Artistic Research Lab, where he oversees project funding for doctoral students in the field of artistic research. He is currently completing his dissertation at the HfMT in the Dr. sc. mus. doctoral program.

Topics addressed:

- Supervision of PhD projects
- Financing PhD projects and sustainability of the PhD program
- Career opportunities after graduating with a PhD
- Implementing contents in B.A. and M.A. in order to prepare young students for the possibilities of artistic research

The webinar recording is downloadable [here](#) (on AEC YouTube channel).

4. Interdisciplinarity Between Arts, Science and Technology

Saturday 21 March

SUMMARY:

The topic of Interdisciplinarity between Arts, Science and Technology was then explored (21 March) by composer and researcher Emily Doolittle, whose work focuses on zoomusicology and the music-like aspects of animal songs, and musician and researcher Alex South, whose work explores animal musicking, bioacoustics, and human-animal relations mediated through sound - both from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Through the presentation *Cetacean citations: an interdisciplinary artistic research PhD on humpback whale song*, the speakers offered participants a compelling example of interdisciplinary artistic research in practice. The session reflected on both the opportunities and challenges of working across artistic and scientific domains, including questions of supervision, institutional structures, and assessment.



By Emily Doolittle,

Composer and researcher with a longstanding musical and research interest in zoomusicology (the study of music-like aspects of animal songs)

Alex South,

musician and researcher working in the areas of animal musicking, bioacoustics, and human-animal relations mediated through sound.

Topics addressed:

- Presentation of an example of interdisciplinary artistic research projects
- Explanation of the interdisciplinary character of the work - what does interdisciplinary artistic research mean? How is it embodied in the context of the presented work?
- Reflections on opportunities as well as challenges of interdisciplinary artistic research, also thinking about structural or organisational elements, such as supervision and assessment.

The webinar recording is downloadable [here](#) (on AEC YouTube channel).

5. International Networks and Best Practices

Tuesday 31. March

Summary:

The series concluded with Local Networks as Drivers in the Development of Artistic Research (31 March), presented by Kevin Voets, Head of Research at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp. Kevin reflected on the development of artistic research culture in Flanders and the transformation of conservatoires into Schools of Arts. His presentation explored the interconnected research networks supporting artistic research in Antwerp, including the Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts (ARIA), the doctoral network docARTES, and the transnational platform FORUM+. The session illustrated how local, national, and international collaborations contribute to strengthening artistic research ecosystems across Europe.

By Kevin Voets,

head of research of the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp. He is trained as a historian and arts manager. He has conducted research on a range of topics in art and cultural history, with a particular focus on music and conservatoire history. He published on the emergence of artistic research in Flanders and the transformation of conservatoires into Schools of Arts. As a member of HERMESensemble, he was for 25 years a privileged witness to ongoing developments in contemporary music. At the moment he is working on a PhD on the legacy of composer Wim Henderickx.



Topics addressed:

- Presentation of the triple network in which the artistic research culture in Antwerp is embedded:
- Local urban network (artistic research): Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts (ARIA), a research group we situated in the Antwerp University involving all Antwerp Schools of Arts (2 on Fine Arts, 1 on Muzic & Performing Arts) and the university
- Doctoral network (music): docARTES (involving Antwerp conservatoire and university, Leuven university and LUCA school of arts, Orpheus Institute Ghent, Leiden University, The Hague conservatoire, Amsterdam conservatoire)
- Transnational network (artistic research) via FORUM+, journal for research and arts.
- Q&A

The webinar recording is downloadable [here](#) (on AEC YouTube channel).