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# Open Call for Emerging Artists

## Cluj Cultural Centre Residency

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## 1. Introduction

The second edition of the STUDIOTOPIA Residency Programme aims to stimulate arts and science interaction to the benefit of sustainable development. This edition of the programme has a specific focus on the Symbiocene, through the converging views of art and science.

Through its residencies programme, STUDIOTOPIA wishes to break silos through innovative cross-disciplinary approaches including emerging as well as senior talents both in the arts, but also in science and academic fields. Within the context of this programme two distinct types of residencies will be facilitated by 11 specialized organisations, each time with its own open call:

1. **Open call for Emerging Artists:** The residency programme for Emerging Artists within Studiotopia offers 8 research-driven residencies bringing together 8

emerging artists to work with 8 established scientists for the duration of 12 (twelve) months. The residency program is research-oriented and participants are invited to focus on a local issue related to sustainable development.

- 2. Open call for Young Scientists:** The fellowship programme for Young Scientists of STUDIOTOPIA will offer 10 scientists and 10 acclaimed contemporary artists a unique opportunity to collaborate for a duration of 12 (twelve) months. This fellowship is designed to foster the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and methodologies between early-career scientists and established visual artists. The collaboration will focus on addressing a global challenge, which has already been defined by the artist and the local challenge committee.

Number of selected artists: 8

Number of selected scientists: 10

Open call: 4th September — 31st October 2024 23:59 CET

Admissibility and Eligibility Criteria check: 1st November — 5th November 2024

Evaluation: 6th November - 28th November 2024

Residency period: 12 months (1st December 2024 – 31st December 2025)

Exhibitions: 5 months (September 2025 - March 2027)

The STUDIOTOPIA II programme is a continuation of the successful implementation of its pilot predecessor STUDIOTOPIA I, supported by the European Commission through the Creative Europe Program.

STUDIOTOPIA II has received funding from the European Union from call European Co-operation Projects (CREA-CULT-2023-COOP-3) under grant agreement 101130939. The consortium is formed by 11 partners across 10 EU countries.

## 2. About Studiotopia: enter the Symbiocene with Arts And Science

We need today the radicality, criticality and creativity of artists to create the right conditions for change and effective communication in the field of sustainable

development. With the 'symbiocene' new perspectives are proposed to explore challenges faced by scientists and artists together, and develop interdisciplinary

reflection processes at the crossroad around 'nature' 'men' and 'artifice', including technology.

The Symbiocene is a visionary concept that proposes a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship between humans and the natural world. Coined by Australian philosopher Glenn Albrecht, it represents a paradigm shift from the prevailing anthropocentric worldview towards one centered on symbiosis and interconnectedness.

In the Symbiocene, humans recognize their interdependence with the broader ecological community and acknowledge their role as stewards rather than dominators of earth. This perspective emphasizes cooperation, reciprocity, and respect for all living beings, fostering a sense of kinship with the natural world.

Central to the Symbiocene is the idea of symbiosis, where different organisms coexist in mutually beneficial relationships, promoting the health and resilience of ecosystems. This entails not only conserving biodiversity but also nurturing the intricate web of connections that sustain life on Earth.

Transitioning to the Symbiocene requires profound cultural, social, and economic transformations. It involves reimagining our relationship with nature, embracing sustainability, and prioritizing the well-being of both present and future generations.

Ultimately, the Symbiocene offers a hopeful vision for the future, where humanity lives in harmony with the Earth, honoring its inherent value and preserving its vitality for generations to come.

How can the radicality, criticality and creativity of artists help us to create the right conditions for change and effective communication in the field of sustainable development? How can engagement with the arts support a paradigm shift towards Symbiocene? What would be the signs of that paradigm shift happening? How would governance structures, economic models and social relations look in this new reality?

These questions are at the heart of STUDIOTOPIA II.

Main objectives of this project are:

- *Stimulate knowledge exchanges and encounters between professionals and institutions involved in arts & science interactions;*
- *Stimulate cross-disciplinary and innovative exchanges and capacities of artists and scientists about sustainable development challenges;*
- *Raise awareness and engage with young people audiences about sustainable development through cross-disciplinary artistic practices;*

- *Promote and disseminate to larger audiences and policy-makers the results of arts & science interactions related to sustainable development.*

The outcomes of the collaborative processes could:

- *Innovative and participatory processes to address sustainable development challenges; Contribute to help new beliefs and values to emerge;*
- *Boost the experimentation of new cross-disciplinary practices.*

### 3. The Consortium

#### **Coordinator:**

[MEET Digital Art and Culture Center \(MEET\)](#) - Italy, is a growing platform for digital arts and digital culture in Milano. Through partnerships with local scientific and industrial partners, they have a strong impact in the Northern Italy region on linking arts, science and technology. MEET is a Regional STARTS Center and official partner of the NEB initiative. Its 1,500m<sup>2</sup> have been designed by the architect Carlo Ratti in response to the challenge of creating a home for digital culture.

#### **Consortium partners:**

[Ars Electronica](#) - Austria is a major cultural institution, an educational facility and an R&D lab based in Linz, Austria. Ars Electronica represents a comprehensive approach in the confrontation with techno- cultural phenomena and enjoys a worldwide reputation for excellence. It comprises four interconnected divisions: the Ars Electronica Festival, the Prix Ars Electronica, the Ars Electronica Center and the Ars Electronica Futurelab. These 4 divisions mutually inspire one another, constituting a circuit of creativity innovative, creative, endowed with strong technical competence and implementation skills, and linked up to a global network of universities & research facilities.

[The Centre for Fine Arts \(Bozar\)](#) - Belgium provides an impactful pluri-disciplinary platform for the project embedded in an emblematic Art Deco building designed in Brussels by Victor Horta. With over one million visitors every year, Bozar organizes exhibitions, concerts, workshops, cinema, debates or participatory experiences with its audiences. Within its Exhibitions and Digital departments, Bozar has developed a growing cross-disciplinary interest in Art & Science programmes the past years, connecting the major arts center of Belgium to key actors in the field of AI or biotechnology developments, but also low-technology and sustainable design.

[LABoral](#) - Spain is a multidisciplinary institution which creates, disseminates and fosters access to new forms of culture rooted in the creative use of new technologies. With a transversal programming targeted at a wide public base, its goal is to share knowledge. The Art Centre acts as a platform to support artists and creators in the development of

ambitious projects in the field of the arts and industrial creation. It also has a renowned expertise in the artistic and educational field of Art & Science in Europe. It has developed for many years a qualitative programme in the field and a growing audience engagement component.

[GLUON](#) - Belgium is a non-profit organisation, that realizes projects on the crossing borders of visual art, research and industry. It has an expertise in cross-disciplinary residency management, and in educative programmes for youngsters in arts, science & technology, in line with the development of STEAM education. Gluon is part of the Vertigo-STARTS project (DG CONNECT) which focuses on technological innovation through the arts.

[LAZNIA Contemporary Arts Center \(CCA\)](#) - Poland is one of the 1st public cultural institutions established in Poland after 1989. Its main aims are to show latest developments in contemporary art, the process of its change, engaging cultural, social phenomena around the world, educating the public about these issues through exhibitions, artistic exchanges, interventions, innovative educational programs, academic conferences, lectures, concerts, film screenings. Its activity is divided into main fields: Art in Public Space, Art & Science, International Exchange (including residency program in and outside Gdansk), Education.

[The Cluj Cultural Centre](#) - Romania is a growing platform in Romania for Arts & Science interaction. They are also a partner specialised in extracurricular educational projects for young audiences. Through its Qub Learning Center, the Cluj Cultural Centre Association builds on its advantage of having access to a very new space that is currently being created for making and tinkering and microscopy, a team of professionals in the field of arts, research and educational facilitation and access to a network of over 25 local schools. CCC activities take into account all these facilities and connect these structures to benefit education and schools.

[Hexagone, Scène Nationale Arts Sciences](#) - France is a multidisciplinary theatre. In addition to its missions of artistic production and presentation, it has also developed since 2002 a research activity. Hexagone has thus created in 2007 the Atelier Arts Sciences, a common research and creativity platform shared with French research centre, CEA Grenoble. It provides a framework for prolific meetings between arts and sciences, allows the benchmarking of experiences and points of view, and encourages questioning and imagination to enrich respective working methods. The Atelier Arts Sciences has pioneered an art and science exhibition, EXPERIMENTA the Fair, which provides insight into on-going projects, in addition to further projects coming from European and International partners.

[Kersnikova Institute](#) - Slovenia produces and incubates contemporary investigative art projects that explore the impact of science and technology on society. It integrates several open platforms: Kapelica Gallery, a world-renowned space for contemporary investigative art; the inspirational laboratories BioTehna and Vivarium, which focus on

artistic research into living systems; and the makerspace and incubator hub, Rampa Lab, where the relationships between society, technology, and art are reconsidered. The Kersnikova Institute encourages, facilitates, and showcases investigative artistic practices and projects, fosters public debate, engages citizens in science, and educates children and young people.

[Digital Hub & Beta Festival](#) - Ireland is a leading cluster of technology and digital media companies and creatives in Ireland. It is managed by the Digital Hub Development Agency, a state agency set up by the Irish government in 2003. The Digital Hub leads a range of initiatives and projects that use digital innovation to help improve the lives of people of all ages in the local community. The Digital Hub has co-founded Beta Festival, a new festival in Ireland critically engaging with technology's impact on society through a combination of creativity, debate and experimentation.

[CYENS CoE](#) - Cyprus is a leading Research Centre of Excellence focused on Interactive media, Smart systems, and Emerging technologies. It serves as a bridge between scientific research and innovation. It is a joint venture between three public universities in Cyprus, the Municipality of Nicosia, and two international partners, the Max Planck Institute for Informatics and University College London. The Centre's three research pillars - Visual Sciences, Human Factors and Design, and Communication and Artificial Intelligence - drive academic research and innovation, supporting sustainable scientific, technological, and economic growth in Cyprus and Europe.

#### 4. Cluj Cultural Centre Residency for Emerging Artist

The STUDIOTOPIA Residency Programme for Emerging Artists facilitates collaboration between 8 duos (composed of 1 established scientist and 1 emerging artist) through a comprehensive 12 month residency beginning in December 2024. Throughout this residency, artists will collaborate closely with scientists to address the challenges formulated by the Local Challenge Committees. The residencies includes multiple in-person encounters, as well as exhibitions and events during the residency period and thereafter until March 2027.

The Residency Programme is organized by the Cluj Cultural Centre Association, with its headquarters in Cluj-Napoca, Fluieraşului street no. 3, registered in the Register of Associations and Foundations no. 166/2010, fiscal registration code RO 31451515, having the account RO11 BTRL 0130 1205 3311 69XX, opened at Banca Transilvania, legally represented by Stefan Teişanu, having the function of Executive Director.

The Residency Programme is carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Rules and Regulations, of the Adjacent Policies (for example, the [Policy on the processing of personal data](#)), of the incident legislation and of the

principles of transparency and equal treatment that promote the achievement of the project objectives.

This document presents the method of application and participation in the Residency Programme, the details regarding the production process and the exhibition, the calendar of the entire Residency Programme and other relevant information for the persons interested in applying.

Participation in the selection process of the Residency Programme Open Call is subject to the prior acceptance of the Rules and Regulations.

The Rules and Regulations of the Residency Programme is considered to be accepted by applying to the Open Call, after having read the whole Document, before submitting the Application on the Platform, in order to participate in the Open Call.

The Residency Programme is aimed at 'visual artists' and 'performing artists', including disciplines such as media, video and digital art, sculpture, performance art, drawing, dance, theatre and interdisciplinary approaches.

The programme provides funding, access to the scientists' labs and guidance and support by the STUDIOTOPIA residency host institution. Additionally, participants will have access to experts and the public within the STUDIOTOPIA network. During the residency, artists are expected to participate in meetings consisting of a minimum of two (2) joint visits to the scientist's lab, two (2) in the artist's space, and two (2) visits in another space (from hospitals, universities to online spaces, etc.). At least 6 meetings. The exact timing and duration of these visits will be determined through mutual agreement with the host, based on the residency and project requirements.

The residency will be divided in 4+1 phases:

The duration of each residency is 12 months and includes 5 phases:

- Phase 1 (M1-M3, 3 months): Reflection
- Phase 2 (M3-M6, 3 months): Concept development
- Phase 3 (M7-M8, 2 months): Evaluation
- Phase 4 (M8-M12, 5 months): Production
- Phase 5 (M12-M40, 28 months): Exhibiting

## **Phase 1: Reflection**

### **December 2024 - February 2025**

This phase focuses on the exchange of knowledge and the outlining of shared goals for the collaboration. The goal of this phase is not to find solutions for existing questions, but to raise new radical questions related to the local challenges (Art Thinking). During this phase the initial questions are re-defined and new contexts for experiments and solution-finding are being created.

#### **Semi-Public discussion with the Local Challenge Committee (December 2024):**

During this phase meetings happen between the artist, scientist and local challenge committee. A semi-public introduction discussion takes place at the start of the process with the Challenge Committee.

**Collective event in Milan (February 2025):** One meeting will happen in Milan, Italy, in February 2025 giving the artists and scientists from all residencies the opportunity to meet in-person and exchange ideas and discuss different perspectives on the Studiotopia subjects.

#### **Meeting with the Local Challenge Committee: December 2024**

#### **Collective event in Milan: February 2025**

## **Phase 2: Concept development**

March 2025 - May 2025

During this phase, the development of a more concrete project proposal and plan for the final artistic production is expected. A first mock-up of the output shall be delivered. The interactions between the artists, host institutions and other relevant stakeholders shall intensify.

## **Phase 3: Evaluation**

June - July 2025

This phase intends to assess the potential impact of the new and innovative ideas, scenarios and activities developed. For this, the artist shall collect feedback across different relevant stakeholders, governments, and businesses. The artists might also be asked to take a decisive role in organising no more than 1 educational activity or debate/ presentation open to the public.

## **Phase 4: Production**

August - December 2025

The artist will develop the artwork/prototype and have regular consultation meetings with the scientist and Local Challenge Committee and/or research institutions. With the support of host institutions, which will collaborate with the scientist and provide access to their premises and equipment, artists will develop their projects and, in this phase,

shall deliver the final outputs.

**Collective event in Linz, Austria (September 2025):** Experts, partners, artists and scientists will gather for a unique programme in Linz, Austria to share and exchange insights on the intermediary outcomes of the collaboration.

### **Phase 5: Exhibiting**

September 2025 - March 2027

The final artwork/prototype will be showcased in local exhibitions organised by the consortium partners. A selection of works will be curated as a travel exhibition.

**Local artistic events and showcasing (September 2025 - March 2027)**

**Travelling exhibition, Brussels, Belgium (November 2025)**

**Travelling exhibition, Gdansk, Poland (January, 2026)**

**Travelling exhibition, Milan, Italy (June, 2026)**

**Travelling exhibition, Linz, Austria (September 2026)**

**Travelling exhibition, Grenoble, France (February, 2027)**

## 4.1 Residency offer, theme and characteristics

Successful applicants receive:

1. A fee in gross amount of 4.000 Euros to ensure the successful implementation of the collaboration.
2. A production fee that varies according to the specifics of their residency and project. This budget can reach up to 6.000 Euros and it depends on the artist's proposal and chosen medium.
3. Travel and subsistence costs to meet with your collaborative partner at least six (6) times in person. The exact number of visits will be determined through mutual agreement between the hosting institution and artist, based on the residency and project requirements.
4. Access to the Europe-wide STUDIOTOPIA network.
5. Support in disseminating scientific & artistic concepts, working models and methodologies across Europe to (young) audiences, policy makers and art professionals.
6. Possibility of participating in STUDIOTOPIA II Community events, exhibitions or festival presenting the results of the residencies (online and on-site e.g. Ars Electronica Festival, New European Bauhaus Festival, Cultural Mediation Forum in Cluj-Napoca, etc) participation.
7. Visibility through high impact communication activities to promote the artistic output and its innovation spillovers.

Each residency will be facilitated by:

- An innovation catalyst: serving as an intermediary between the artist, the researcher and all the parties of the residency (host institutions and LCC members). They will follow the collaboration between the artist and the researcher throughout the whole duration of the residency;
- A residency host institution: providing guidance, advice (on concepts, technology / scientific and other aspects relevant to the residency), logistic support and access to premises and equipment; and support artists in searching and showcasing residencies results in events/ fairs/ exhibitions.
- A Local Challenge Committee: providing relevant expert know-how to the duo's (artist + researcher) and anchoring them firmly within the relevant regional contexts as well as national and global sustainability frameworks.

For a detailed description of the parties mentioned above, please consult the [STUDIOTOPIA – Open Call FAQs](#).

**The Residency Theme** is “If we opened people up, we’d find landscapes.”

We are looking at the access to waterways and green spaces as a social and political priority in the Cluj area. We have high discrepancies in our services/privileges and access to fundamental environmental rights: with peripheric neighborhoods facing challenges of clean water and access to green spaces, as opposed to central areas with sandy beaches and newly designed parks.

As climate change intensifies, green spaces become crucial for urban well-being. Urban trees enhance intellectual capacities, creativity, learning, and mood, while also helping navigate mental health challenges and speeding up recovery in hospitalized people. Walking in urban parks and forests promotes social health and green spaces (trees and urban forests) reduce urban heat islands and associated mortality. **The first challenge** is related to the significant **inequalities** in access to green spaces. Cluj-Napoca exhibits extreme heat islands and lacks sufficient green spaces to buffer these temperatures. Cluj-Napoca is developing a culture at the level of the society that increasingly values the recreational benefits of urban and peri-urban green spaces. Civil society initiatives like Someș Delivery and Clujul Sustenabil aim to reconnect people with urban nature. **The second challenge** is related to the **enormous gap between the aspirations and visions at the level of the city governance and the increasing social demand for green spaces** in Cluj-Napoca. Citizens' participation in city planning through public consultation is increasingly needed and expected. This dissonance presents an opportunity for co-creative and deliberative activities among stakeholders in order to form a shared vision for positive human-nature futures in the city.

## Residency characteristics

The organiser will mediate the collaboration between scientist and the artist in residence. Starting from the scientist's extensive scientific knowledge and insights into the local landscape, the artist will be able to immerse themselves into an interdisciplinary dialogue about the importance of urban green spaces. The residency duo will be part of at least 2-3 in-person meetings next to the online meetings and will benefit from the LCC's mentoring and support during the entire residency. The working flow includes flexibility and attention to both artist and scientist needs. The artist will benefit from the Studiotopia's network of partners, knowledge, communication and practice sharing events.

In the first half of 2025, the duo will also be invited to be part of Pop-Up Labs for young people to discuss the awareness of nature through art. The residency will culminate with a local exhibition/ event in October 2025 in Cluj-Napoca focusing on either the artistic processes or an artistic piece.

## 4.2 Financial Conditions

A fee in the gross amount of 4.000 Euros to ensure the successful implementation of the collaboration.

### **Withholding tax on artists fees.**

The percentage may vary depending on the Applicant/Participant's citizenship / financial residence. Maximum percentage is 16% withholding tax on artists fees.

Cluj Cultural Centre will provide a production fee that varies according to the specifics of their residency and project. This budget can reach up to 6.000 Euros and it depends on the artist's proposal and chosen medium.

### **Travel and transportation costs:**

The Organizer will cover travel and subsistence costs to meet with the collaborative partner at least six (6) times in person. These costs will not surpass 6.000 Euros.

### **Installments:**

After signing the contract with the Organizer, the selected artist will receive 70% of the total sum in the reflection Phase, but no longer than the end of

February.

The final installment of 30% will be paid after the delivery of the artwork (no later than the end of September), and after the Organizer's confirmation of its accordance with the application, the contract and the present regulations. The payment will be made by bank transfer within 15 days after the signing the contract, respectively the Organizer's confirmation of the art project's/artwork's accordance with the application, the contract and the present regulations.

In order to process the payment, the Participant must have an EURO bank account open in an EU country or a RON bank account open in Romania, on the date of signing the contract.

**Taxation:**

The artist's fee is subject to withholding tax on royalties from artistic work earned outside the residence country of the Applicant, being deducted at source. The tax rate is of maximum 16%, but it may vary according to the convention for the avoidance of double taxation between Romania and Applicants residency country. For calculating the withholding tax and applying the benefits of the convention for the avoidance of double taxation between Romania and Applicant residency country, the Applicant must put at the disposal of the Organizer the tax residence certificate latest on the date of signing the contract.

If the Applicant does not submit the tax residence certificate, the Organizer shall apply the maximum rate of withholding tax, according to the national law, namely 16% on artists fees. In this case, the total value of the grant (including taxes) shall not be amended.

The Organizer shall pay to the competent authorities the withholding tax on artistic work. Except for when imposed by the law, all the sums paid to the Organizer on the basis of this Regulations, other than the sums related to artistic fees, are not subject to withholding tax on artistic royalties or other similar taxes in Romania.

If an applicant is accepted into the Residency Programme, he/she/they is/are aware of the fact that the opportunity and the grant provided must be used in an appropriate and responsible manner, according to the Residency Programme's Regulation, the proposed art project/artwork and the contract

with the organizer.

In case of not complying with the Rules and Regulations of the Residency Programme, or in case of (but not limited to) fraud, fraudulent maneuvers, false in statements, misuse, deception, the selected participants will have to reimburse the costs that the Organizer covered regarding their work or activity.

### 4.3 Expected Outputs from Artists

We urge the artists to actively engage and fully contribute to the residency programme. It is important to note that financial support is contingent upon their involvement in the activities that lead to the specified outputs outlined below.

- At least 6 (six) meetings with the scientist, of which at least one meeting should be in-person. The exact timing and duration of these visits will be determined through mutual agreement with the host, based on the residency and project requirements.
- Conducting research and/or experiments in collaboration with the Established Scientist and the Local Challenge Committee towards the realisation of a tangible, presentable artistic output, in the form of an artwork or a functional art-driven prototype.
- Active participation (at the beginning of the residency) to a (1) semi-public discussion with the Local Challenge Committee.
- Active participation in a series of online or on-site events, workshops, and seminars organized around the residency programme: at least 2 per residency), educational workshops, etc.: at least one (1) dialogue with young people as part of the Pop-Up Labs, at least two (2) collective events to contribute/participate in dialogues with Fellowship participants organized by the STUDIOTOPIA members.

#### **Collective event in Milan (February 2025)**

#### **Collective event in Linz, Austria (September 2025)**

- Actively engaging in the dissemination and communication efforts of the residency, sharing posts on social media, producing articles to be shared on websites (such as [studiotopia.eu](http://studiotopia.eu)), participating in written/audio/video interviews: at least 2 interactions should be either public, filmed or recorded by a professional.

### 4.4 Admissibility criteria

After the deadline, the consortium partners will check the admissibility and eligibility of all proposals submitted via the online application form. All the admissibility and

eligibility criteria are listed in this section. The applications that do not comply with those criteria will be marked as ineligible and excluded from the selection process. Throughout the evaluation process, the admissibility and eligibility criteria will be checked based on the information provided in your application.

**To be an eligible applicant, proposals must be presented by:**

- an artist who is active ‘visual arts’ and ‘performing arts, including disciplines such as media, video and digital art, sculpture, performance art, drawing, dance, theatre and interdisciplinary approaches
- an artist that has produced less than 5 individual solo shows and/or less than 15 collective shows
- an artist that does not come from the same country as the established scientist

**Applicants need to meet the following rules:**

- The applicants can be of all nationalities, but must be EU residents or taxpayers in any of the 27 EU Member States.
- The applicant can come from any “visual arts and “performing” arts including disciplines such as media, video and digital art, sculpture, performing, drawing, dance, theatre and interdisciplinary approaches.
- The applicant should have produced enough documented work to allow the assessment of their artistic portfolio. They must have had a career age for, at a minimum, the previous 5 years. They should be able to demonstrate a minimum of art works, art research practices, and/or collective or individual shows.

**The artist profile best suited for this residency programme:**

- Early career artists with a passion for exploring the field of art research and art production in collaboration with a scientist.
- Ideal candidates are focusing on career development opportunities.
- The project helps artists benefit from and develop new cross-disciplinary skills (incl. scientific knowledge, technical skills, pedagogical skills and so on) as well as new professional networks that are key for career development at local and international levels.
- Artists will be curious and open-minded. Their interests and the focus of their artistic practice should align with the profile/expertise that was defined in the challenge of the scientist.
- Willingness to expand perspective and embrace new interdisciplinary approaches.
- Willingness to travel abroad.

- The ideal candidate will show a deep interest in collaborating with the scientist and being part of a team that will jointly work and embody the co-production of a

new artistic output in the form of an artwork, artistic research process or functional prototype.

*Different or additional specifications can be asked relating to individual challenges. Please read the challenges description attentively, to be well-informed on the specifications regarding requirements.*

## 4.5 Preparation and submission

Artists are invited to apply by completing an online application form which can be found [here](#). In the application, applicants will include administrative information, motivation to collaborate on the topic with the scientist and in-depth reflection on the selected challenge.

Additionally, the artist needs to upload to the form - a PDF file not exceeding 5 MB:

- A short individual CV as a PDF file, not exceeding 1 DINA4 page font size min. 11pt
- A short portfolio as a PDF file
- Filled in proposal TEMPLATE in response to a specific challenge (1 individual and distinct proposal per challenge, in application for a maximum of 1 challenges in total) - not exceeding 4 DINA4 pages, font size min. 11 pt.

Please note that any additional material, not specifically requested in the online application form, will not be considered in the evaluation. Neither will applications be considered which are not submitted through the designated online form and template.

Applications must be submitted via the online registration form, no later than the 31st of October 2024 23:59 CET. Any application received after the deadline will be automatically excluded from the selection process.

To respond to the call, it is required to follow the process outlined below:

Step 1: Identify Challenges: Consult the Artist Challenges Booklet and identify one challenge to which you wish to apply.

Step 2: Complete and submit the application: Fill in the form, download and fill in the template, upload template, CV and portfolio in pdf format.

[See here the challenges booklet.](#)

- All mandatory sections must be **written in English** for the proposals to be eligible. Only parts written in English will be evaluated.
- All mandatory sections of the proposal must be **completed**. The data provided must be up-to-date, true, complete and should enable the assessment of the proposal.
- Applications **cannot be edited once they have been submitted**. It is not possible to add any further information after the deadline. The only exception for editing the application after the deadline is if a mistake has been made in the key personal data (e.g. contact mail or phone, name of the company, etc.). In this case, the applicants must contact us at [irina@cccluj.ro](mailto:irina@cccluj.ro) indicating the proposal ID, their username and the data that needs to be corrected.
- Applicants are allowed to submit proposals for a **maximum 1 challenge**. Proposals need to respond to the specific challenge at hand, clearly and distinctly.
- Applicants should always consider the **evaluation criteria** and the **specificities of each residency challenge and residency host**.

**Results and intellectual property rights** are owned STUDIOTOPIA II Residency shall remain with their generators.

Unless agreed otherwise, the **ownership and copyright** of the artwork or prototype developed during the STUDIOTOPIAII residency shall remain the property of the artist, who has the exclusive right to reproduce, distribute, and commercially exploit the generated artwork/ prototype.

All specifications concerning **copyright and IPR** shall be discussed during the residency and included in a written agreement to be signed by all the Residency parties.

### **Processing of Personal Data**

The reply to any call for projects involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, e-mail, and address). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the consortium.

## 4.6 Selection process

Our **evaluation process is transparent, fair and equal to all participants**. For this call, we are looking for the best fit for our programme and the challenges defined within it. Please make sure you provide as many details as you can, emphasising the key

points of your proposal and their links to the overall aim of STUDIOTOPIAII and the specific challenge.

***The evaluation of the proposals consists of the following steps:***

1. Eligibility check
2. Internal / external evaluation of applications
3. Matchmaking phase
4. Announcement of results

### **1. Eligibility check**

Once the open call is closed, we will check whether your application meets the admissibility and eligibility conditions as described in the eligibility section. The applications that do not comply with these criteria will be excluded.

### **2. Internal/External evaluation**

Each application that has reached this stage, will be evaluated by the evaluation committee of each challenge (one internal consortium staff member, the established scientist and the experts of the Local Challenge Committee). These are the criteria they will consider in order to evaluate your proposal:

#### **EXCELLENCE**

- **Portfolio and CV:** The artist's portfolio and CV should reflect their interest in trans-disciplinarity and art & science, but also an interest in sustainable development and sustainability as part of their practices. It should include all their solo and collective exhibitions.
- The applicant should have produced enough documented work to allow the assessment of their scientific track record. They must have had a career age for, at a minimum, the previous 5 years. They should be able to demonstrate a track record of publications, awards, and/or grants.

#### **MOTIVATION**

- **Collaboration:** The artist demonstrates a clear motivation to engage in collaborative efforts with the scientist and partners throughout the project period.

- **STUDIOTOPIA goals:** The artist must show a deep understanding of the goals of STUDIOTOPIA, particularly in fostering art-science collaborations. They should articulate how their artistic work aligns with these goals and how they plan to contribute to and benefit from the program.

## FIT

- **Challenge understanding:** The artist demonstrates a deep understanding and sound vision on how they could contribute to the challenge of choice in their reflection.
- **Relevance to field:** The artist's practice and interests are particularly suited to addressing the challenge. This can include discussing specific disciplines, practices, technologies, research or theoretical frameworks that are directly applicable. This alignment ensures that the artist has the necessary background skills and knowledge to contribute effectively to the project. The residencies are research-oriented and participants are invited to focus on a local issue related to sustainable development.

All applications will be scored according to these criteria and ranked. Proposals having passed the threshold in the second step will be ranked according to their overall score and passed on to the matchmaking phase (Step 3).

### 3. Matchmaking

Based on the pool of ranked proposals, the top 3 applicants for each residency will be invited to pass to the matchmaking phase of the call process. The artist should come from another country than that of the Established Scientist. During the matchmaking phase the evaluation committee will conduct online interviews with the shortlisted applicants to decide on the final selection.

The consortium partners organise individually whether these online interviews will happen. At the end of the phase, the evaluation committee will decide on the final selection. The committee will further decide on a number of ranked proposals, in case the selected artist is not able to commit to the program.

### 4. Winners announcement & contract signing

The results will be communicated to all the applicants (rejected and selected) by email, by the 28th of November. Once formal checks and validations have been completed, the winning artists will sign a bilateral sub-grant agreement (between artist and Residency Host Institution).

The scores and the results of the selection are final and they cannot be contested. All

Applicants will be notified personally via email of the selection results. Also, the final result of the selection will be published on the website of the Residency Programme.

Selected participants must confirm in writing, by e-mail, within a maximum of 3 days since their selection has been communicated, their firm intention to enter the Residency Programme, otherwise they are subject to exclusion from it.

If selected Applicants do not confirm their participation in due time from the notification of the acceptance of their application, the organizer may choose to select the next Applicants in the final ranking.

Upon confirmation, the selected applicants will be scheduled for a short discussion with the Organizer over the terms and conditions, project implementation and other administrative aspects of the Residency Programme.

After this discussion, the applicants will sign a contract with the Organizer, through which the parties will express their commitments within the Residency Programme. Furthermore, in the contract, the parties will set out all the details that shall govern their collaboration within the Residency Programme.

## 5. Info sessions

To help applicants get a better understanding of the open call we plan two live-streamed info sessions on:

- 18th of September, 10:00 AM time CEST
- 9th of October, 10:00 AM time CEST

During these sessions, the partners of STUDIOTOPIA II will present the open calls, the challenges, the expectations from applicants, the foreseen outcomes and the application process, requirements, budget questions and submission.

The sessions will be recorded and available on Studiotopia website.

## 4.6 Production and Exhibitions

An exhibition in Cluj-Napoca will take place during October-November (the exact period and duration will be established together with the selected artist).

In case the art project/artwork is a physical object/installation it is desirable to have it exhibited in full during the exhibition. In some cases, it may be possible to have another relevant form of presentation, if the original object is impossible to present (for transportation or other reasons), if explicitly agreed with the curators.

Artists will either send the art project (or its relevant presentation form) to be exhibited or bring it to the exhibition space, in person.

The artwork must arrive at the exhibition location (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) until 30.09.2024, the latest. The exact address will be communicated to the artist in due time.

Though the presence of the artist during the exhibition's opening is desired, it is not compulsory. Details on the travel and transport expenses covered by the Residency Programme, apart from the grant are found in the FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

The artist may contribute to the exhibition set-up, if this is requested by the curators and in the manner requested by them.

At the end of the exhibition, it is the participant's responsibility to recover the art project/artwork, supporting the transportation costs.

Within the larger exhibition programme within the StudiotopiaII Consortium, a selection of works will be curated as a travel exhibition. If the artist's work is selected, the costs for the participation in the travelling exhibition will be covered by Consortium Partners.

## Exclusion

At any point during the Residency Programme if the artist:

- fails, for any reason, to fulfill the contract obligations (such as, but not limited to: producing the submitted art project/artwork according to the specifications, timeline and budget)
- provides incorrect, partially incorrect or even false information to the organizer
  - violates this Regulation and / or the applicable law
  - shows immoral behavior

their contract will be terminated and the received grant must be returned to the Organizer.

## Confidentiality

By completing and submitting the Application for participation in the Residency Programme, the Applicants/ Participants grant the Organizer (free of charge, irrevocably, for an unlimited term and applicable in any territory)

the right to use the data provided for promoting the Residency Programme and / or promoting the Organizer and / or other events that will be held by them.

The Applicant is solely responsible for the accuracy and the rightness of the data provided through the online form. By submitting the form, he or she is aware of the fact that if the data provided is forged or false, he / she will suffer the legal consequences to all their extent.

Data provided in the Residency Programme include information related to artistic creation, images and videos of the Participants or their representatives and the name, e-mail, phone number of the Participants and / or their Projects.

In this regard, the Organizer will be able - without however being limited to: making the public aware free of charge, by using any form - video recording of the participants' interventions and their promotion, any other images or recordings with the representations of the Participants during the Residency Programme; to write and publish any article regarding the Residency Programme's progress and the Participants' Application / Implementation process.

The Organizer may also make public the list of Participants selected to be part of the Residency Programme, and the content of their application, with respect to the personal data provided in the forms (See the [Privacy Policy](#)); to use the name and image of the Participants. These rights will be exercised by the Organizer and its partners in good faith and within reasonable limits, in compliance with the legal provisions applicable in this matter.

By completing and submitting the Application, as well as by participating in the Residency Programme, the Participants understand and accept that any

ideas, comments or suggestions included in the application form are not confidential information.

Under no circumstances may the Organizer be held liable if the information contained in the Participant's Application or in the implementation phase is used by a third party, including for the purpose of developing similar businesses.

## Intellectual Property Rights

The participants declare on their own responsibility that they have the rights for the art projects submitted in the application process and that they are the authors and owners of the copyrights of the respective artistic projects.

For the selected applications, the organizer reserves the right to:

- present the respective art projects / artworks without any financial obligation within the residency Programme exhibition in Cluj-Napoca, between October - November 2025, in their physical form or in a relevant form agreed upon between the applicant and the curators/Organizer
- if the artwork is selected for the travelling exhibition within the StudiotoPIA Consortium, the organizer can present the respective art projects / artworks without any financial obligation within the residency Programme until March 2027, in their physical form or in a relevant form agreed upon between the applicant and the curators/Organizer
- use the digital version of the art project/artwork and any image, video, recording or written description in any other type of public presentation, promotional material, press or media, in non-commercial purposes and in connection with the organizer's activity, for unlimited time.

After the exhibition, the artists may use and exhibit the art project/artwork produced during the Residency Programme as they consider fit, in the following term and conditions:

- the organizer must receive notice of the exhibition/use of the artwork and relevant promotional materials or information, in 5 days before it takes place.
- the exhibition/ use cannot be done for commercial purposes

The organizer guarantees by this regulation that the non-winning projects will not be exhibited, used or published without the consent of the participants,

except for mentioning the name of the project and its summary on its own communication channels.

The organizer does not assume any responsibility for the originality of the participating art projects/ artworks, including the selected ones, this obligation being exclusively to the care of participants.

The organizer reserves the right to televise, broadcast, photograph, film and record on audio-video media installations exhibited during the event. Photo and audio-video recordings may be the subject of promotional materials of the organizer.

The organizer reserves the exclusive right to photo-video images from the entire exhibition. Participants understand and agree that the Organizer, Business Partners, authorized suppliers of the Organizer, members of the media and other Third Parties authorized by the Organizers may make audio, video and photo recordings of the art projects/ artworks exhibited during the exhibition.

## Personal Data

By submitting the Application for participation in the Competition, the Applicants grant the Organizer a series of personal data, such as: name, first name, role / function, expertise, contact details (such as: e-mail address, phone number).

The Organizer is entitled to process this data for the purpose of evaluating the Applications and for any other purposes related to the implementation of the Competition. The data will be stored in compliance with the legal provisions, for the entire duration of the Competition, as well as for a subsequent period of 5 years (given that the Organizer has legal and contractual obligations to keep in its records data on the way the Competition is conducted). At the end of this period, the data will be deleted or returned to the Applicants, according to their request.

11.3 Some personal data may be disclosed to the members of the jury as well as to other persons from the organizing team of the Competition. The

persons who will have access to such data also have the contractual obligation to keep their secret and not to disclose it to any other third party.

11.4 The Organizer shall respect the rights of the data subjects in the activity of processing personal data, in accordance with the legal obligations in this regard.

11.5. The organiser will publish the names and results of the successful applicants in various publications, such as on their websites, newsletters and in annual reports. I hereby consent to give the organisers the rights to publicly present the resulting artwork in events and publications.

11.6 This section is supplemented by the legal provisions in the field of data processing, as well as with the [Policy on the Processing of Personal Data – Privacy Policy](#).

## Limitation of liability

12.1 The participants understand and accept that they participate in the Residency Programme on their own responsibility. The Organizer and its partners are not responsible for the Participants' decision to participate in the Residency Programme nor for the possible consequences of such participation (nor for damages, personal injury or death that may occur as a result of participating in the Residency Programme). The Organizer will not oblige any of the Participants to do anything particular, in consequence, all the actions that the Participants will perform are at their own risk and the consequences of their actions will be supported only by them, as the Organizer has no control over their decisions and actions.

12.2 The Organizer and its partners are not accountable for any situation which is caused by unrealized benefit of the Participants, loss of profits, clients and other such situations.

## Amendment of the Residency Programme regulations.

### Cancellation of the Residency Programme

13.1 The modification of the Residency Programme Rules will be carried out only under exceptional conditions, and the Organizer will inform the Applicants / Participants of the changes before the changes take effect, in the terms stated in this document. Any modification of this Regulation will be

published on the Platform.

13.2 In the case that there will be delays in logistics and artistic creation process of the Participants within the Residency Programme, delays caused by external factors and which cannot be controlled by the Organizer, the latter will not be held liable in the case that the timing of the event or certain parts of this Regulation will be modified. The term *external factors* refers to

any event or situation over which the Organizer could not control or could not foresee (for example: delays from the persons responsible for the delivery of materials). The modification of the Regulations or the schedule of the Competition will operate in the manner presented in this document.

13.3 The Organizer reserves the right to cancel the Residency Programme for good reasons, and in such a situation to notify the Applicants / Participants within a reasonable time, according to the reason for the cancellation. In the case that the Competition is canceled, the Organizer will not be obliged to pay the Applicants and / or the Participants any compensation for any reason and in any situation, if the reasons for canceling the Competition are well founded.

## Applicable law and competent court

14.1 This document is written in English and will be interpreted according to the meaning of its terms in accordance with the Romanian applicable legal provisions.

14.2 This document is governed by the incidental Romanian legislation. Any dispute arising from the Competition's performance will be resolved either by requests addressed to the competent courts, or by the arbitration of the Arbitration Court of the Cluj Chamber of Commerce and Industry in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the Court, the latter's decision being mandatory for the parties.

## Other provisions

15.1 This document was approved on September 2nd, 2024 and will become effective on September 4th, 2024.

15.2 For any clarity regarding the content and interpretation of this Regulation, please contact the Organizer, using the email address: [irina@cccluj.ro](mailto:irina@cccluj.ro).

For the selected grantees, the agreement will include the set of obligations towards the European Commission (for example: promoting the project and giving visibility to the EU

funding, maintaining confidentiality, understanding potential controls by the EC/ECA and OLAF).

The STUDIOTOPIA II consortium might cancel the call at any time, change its provisions or extend it. In such a case, we will inform all applicants about the change. The signature of the agreement is an initial condition to establish any obligations among applicants (concerning the obligation of confidentiality of the application).