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European Solidarity Residency

Open Call 2026 – Terms and Conditions

OVERVIEW

European Solidarity Residency (ESR) is a 24-month EU-funded small-scale cooperative project that empowers emerging cultural professionals—especially those from underprivileged backgrounds—by using art as a tool for societal transformation. Coordinated by the Lidice Art Collection – Lidice Memorial (Czech Republic) in partnership with Pro Progressione (Hungary) and Art radionica Lazareti (Croatia). European Solidarity Residency focuses on inclusivity, environmental responsibility, and solidarity.

ESR aims to **employ solidarity in art** for societal transformation and to promote diversity, the green agenda, equality and inclusivity. ESR first establishes a knowledge-exchange process between partners, then implements a fully funded residency program for CPs at each institution, and finally disseminates the outcomes. It acknowledges the cultural and linguistic diversity between partners, their unique approaches to the innovation objective, and their specific strategies in addressing the priority of social inclusion.

With the launch of the ESR residency, we invite **early-career curators and CPs**—especially those from underprivileged backgrounds—residing in any Creative Europe country to participate in this exciting opportunity. ESR enhances the professional development of both the partners and the target audiences. Through knowledge exchange, networking, mentoring, and hands-on experiences, it addresses the need for innovation in the European CCS. It supports underprivileged CPs, enhancing their articulation, collaboration and leadership skills.

ESR includes participants with children and disabilities. Through an open call, selected CPs benefit from fully funded residencies, including accommodation and appropriate daily allowances, and can access coworking spaces, research facilities, and (online cross-border) mentoring. The selection process is fair, merit-based, and fosters diversity and professional growth. It promotes active cross-border cooperation, emphasising solidarity, sustainability and (environmental) consciousness.



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ESR actively works towards creating a more interconnected and environmentally responsible artistic community across Europe. It fosters multinational cooperation and interaction among three partners active in European CCS, aiming to grow, design, and disseminate European creative capacity and to inspire innovative and untried approaches. The emphasis on inclusivity, diversity, gender balance, and environmental issues ensures that ESR benefits all stakeholders and contributes positively to broader EU objectives.

ESR will take place in three locations – Budapest, Dubrovnik & Lidice – from Monday, 14 September to Tuesday, 13 October 2026. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Residency Activities

Participants in the residency will benefit from the following activities:

- Regular workshops and talks with local artists and professionals foster collaboration and engagement with the local community.
- Mentoring sessions with experienced curators, 1-on-1, and peer discussions to enhance professional development.
- Special 1-on-1 online mentoring sessions with experts from the partners in other locations.

Special activities in Budapest

- Residents will gain insight into Pro Progressione's day-to-day work and explore its approach to socially engaged and community-based artistic practices.
- Field trips to cultural institutions and grassroots initiatives will deepen understanding of the local context and offer opportunities to connect with professionals active in the Budapest art scene.
- Residents will be supported in developing and presenting their project ideas, contributing to the local community and the residency's closing event.

Special activities in Dubrovnik

- **Learning by doing:** Active involvement in the production and organisation of events happening during the residency period (exhibitions, performances, workshops, etc.), guided by ARL's working methods



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- **Site visits** to neighbouring cultural institutions, cultural initiatives, artists' studios, and independent spaces to broaden the understanding of the local and regional cultural ecosystem
- **Opportunities for public presentation** (e.g. artist talks, pop-up exhibitions, discussions) to share work-in-progress with local audiences and the ARL community

Special activities in Lidice

- Residents will explore the Lidice Art Collection and research themes such as memory, solidarity, and cultural preservation.
- Field trips to local institutions and opportunities to network with professionals across the Czech Republic.
- Residents are encouraged to hold public workshops and talks to interact with the local community and enrich the cultural discourse.

SUPPORT

Selected participants will receive a fully funded Residency for 30 days:

- **Coworking space**/office facilities (with dedicated desks with access to internet & printer)
- **Accommodation** for the duration of the Residency
- **A fee of 1,500.00 EUR** (paid in instalments during the residency period)
- Full research **access to partner organisations** and their mentors
- **Regular meetings** to check on progress and provide feedback
- Opportunity to fully **develop ideas** in unique environments
- **Online mentoring** with anyone involved in ESR

ELIGIBILITY

We encourage applications from all backgrounds, especially those from underprivileged communities and industries. We are committed to a residency programme that reflects diverse skills, experiences, and abilities. We also encourage those with children and those affected by any war to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, applicants shall be:

- Early career curators and CPs from a wide range of backgrounds, especially those from underprivileged communities;



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- Resident in any Creative Europe country. For the list of CE countries, please see https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/crea/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_crea_en.pdf;
- proficient in English, as all workshops, discussions, and mentoring sessions will be conducted in English;
- available for the whole duration of the residency. (A **minimum of 85% attendance** and participation is required to provide funding.)

Application Form

To apply, you shall:

- Become an ESR Commons Member (free) at <https://solidarityresidency.eu/>
- Complete the application form there
- Submit CV/resume highlighting your experience and a personal statement (max. 500 words) outlining your interest in the residency and how it will benefit your professional practice.
- *Optionally, you may provide us with a portfolio of past (curatorial) projects.*

Note: You can submit an equivalent of the application form and your CV/resume in audio or video format.

Optionally, you may provide us with:

- portfolio of past (curatorial) projects

Application Timeline

- Open Call Opens: Wednesday 15 April 2026
- **Open Call Closes: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 at 1 pm CEST.**
- Second Round Selection Announcement: by Monday, 3 June 2026 (Selected participants for the 2nd round interviews will be notified via email)
- Second Round Interviews: Mon 15 – Fri 19 June 2026
- **Final Decision: Friday 30 June 2026** (All participants will be notified via email with the outcome)

NB: All applicants, regardless of whether they are selected or not, will automatically have exclusive access to all residency online materials, including online ESR Mentor's Talks.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can duos or collectives apply?

Collectives or duos may apply, but only one representative from the collective will be accommodated in the residency space.

2. Can partners or dependents accompany the residents?

The residency can accommodate a dependent. Unfortunately, the residency does not accommodate partners or pets.

3. How is the selection process conducted?

Applications will be reviewed by a diverse committee of curators and professionals based on merit, relevance to the residency's themes, and potential for professional growth.

INFORMATION ABOUT ESR PARTNERS

Lazareti Art Workshop (ARL) is an independent arts organisation based in Dubrovnik, Croatia. It operates a small but vibrant independent cultural centre within the historic Lazareti complex, originally built as a quarantine station.

With a strong, context-based approach, ARL promotes the development of arts and culture as means and fields for participation, dialogue, activism, and positive social change. The organisation upholds values such as creativity, freedom, solidarity, participation, diversity, responsibility, inclusiveness, and openness. ARL's curatorial vision is rooted in critical engagement with contemporary art and its intersections with political, social, economic, and global-local issues. The organisation is also active in research and advocacy, particularly in the fields of cultural policy, civil society, participatory governance, and sustainable use of heritage spaces such as Lazareti.

Pro Progressione, based in Budapest, is an artistic hub that connects people, professions, and ambitions by designing international collaborations in the field of culture. It encourages communities across the cultural and creative sectors to emerge as stewards of social change. Its activities are structured around six thematic pillars, covering socially engaged arts, sustainability, heritage, performance, and



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interdisciplinary development. As a partner of the New European Bauhaus, Pro Progressione is committed to inclusive, forward-looking cultural work. Within ESR, residents of Budapest engage in context-driven, community-oriented artistic practices.

Lidice Memorial in the Czech Republic is a public memory museum dedicated to preserving the memory of the 1942 Lidice Massacre. The **Lidice Art Collection (LAC)**, part of the Lidice Memorial, is a public solidarity collection established in the 1960s by British physician Sir Barnett Stross MP (1899-1967). The collection comprises artworks donated by artists from around the world. LAC is home to pieces by Gerhard Richter, Mona Hatoum, Joseph Beuys, VALIE EXPORT, Alfredo Jaar, the Vlávky sisters, and Eva Kmentová, among others. The Lidice Art Collection is.

Disclaimer

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