

EUROPEAN DIGITAL DEAL

Guide for Applicants

Open Call for Artist Residencies



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General Information

Applicants to the **European Digital Deal** Open Call for Residency Artists are required to go through all the call documentation to understand the project's focus, the call and the application process.

CALL OPENS: 28. September 2023, 10 AM CET

CALL CLOSES: 30. November 2023, 23:59 CET

Applicants can submit a proposal [here](#).

- Funding per residency: up to **25 000 EUR**
- Duration of the residency: up to **9 months between April and December 2024**
- Number of offered residencies: **12 residencies**

Both individual artists and artist duos/groups/collectives are eligible. Applicants can submit up to 3 different proposals for 3 different topics defined by the consortium institutions and published [here](#).

This Guide for Applicants details the eligibility criteria for applicants, the project's scope and objectives, the application and evaluation processes, the application form requirements and where to apply.

Other documents essential to the application process for this open call:

- [Challenges Booklet](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions section on [the website](#) (updated regularly)

About European Digital Deal

Our Mission

As the digital realm weaves itself into the fabric of our societies, we are compelled to reflect on what this means for our democracies.

European Digital Deal is a three-year investigation, **co-funded by Creative Europe**, into how the accelerated, yet at times unconsidered, adoption of new technologies – such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain and algorithmic processing – can alter or undermine democratic processes.

Through a myriad of programmes running from January 2023 to December 2025, we want to set up **a new kind of public forum** where cultural institutions, artists, researchers, educators gather to reflect on what a deal that safeguards democratic values in the digital realm might look like, and the role they can play in shaping it.

Our Focus

As new technologies become part and parcel of the ways in which we disseminate and consume information or interact with public administration, they mould our view of the world and our relationship with governments.

Our project focuses on exposing the present-day risks new technologies pose to our societies, at the same time as questioning the current architecture of innovation processes to make a case for the assessment of long-term environmental and societal impacts.

We zoom into three areas essential to safeguarding democratic values within societies:

- **Tech and media**
- **Tech and public administration**
- **Fair, ethical and sustainable technologies**

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The project consortium is coordinated by Ars Electronica (AT) and includes Gluon (BE), iMAL (BE), Kersnikova Institute (SI), LABoral (ES), Onassis Stegi (EL), Pro Progressione (HU), Sineglossa (IT), Braga Media Arts /gnration (PT), Center for the Promotion of Science (CPN)(RS), The Culture Yard (DK), Waag (NL) and Zaragoza City of Knowledge Foundation (FZC) / Etopia (ES).

What we offer

This open call for Artist Residencies offers **12 residency opportunities across Europe.**

The call is open to individual artists or artist duos/groups/collectives.

Each of the **12 residencies is linked to one consortium partner.** The following partners will be hosting residencies:

- Ars Electronica (AT)
- Gluon (BE)
- Kersnikova Institute (SI)
- LABoral (ES)
- Onassis Stegi (EL)
- Pro Progressione (HU)
- Sineglossa (IT)
- Center for the Promotion of Science (CPN)(RS)
- The Culture Yard (DK)
- Waag (NL) is offering 2 residencies
- Zaragoza City of Knowledge Foundation (FZC) / Etopia (ES)

Each consortium partner has defined a concrete challenge for their residency. Artists are required to submit project proposals that respond to one of these challenges. More details on the challenges, the specific opportunities, support and infrastructure, expectations, and requirements of each organization can be found in the [Challenges Booklet](#).

The residencies will take place **between April and December 2024, for a period of 9 months.** Artists are required to be present in person at the location of the host institution, at least for part of their residency. The timing and duration of their onsite presence will be discussed and agreed upon with the host depending on the requirements of the residency and the project.

Beneficiaries of this open call will receive:

- Up to **25 000 EUR** as a lump sum per residency.

This covers the artist fee and other residency-related costs (including but not limited to artwork/prototype production, artist travel and accommodation expenses)

- **Guidance and support** provided by the hosts and their local expert group, as described in the [Challenges Booklet](#)

- **Access to facilities, tools and expertise** at the host's location (or in some cases the locations of their local partners), as described in the Challenges Booklet
- **Network and exchange opportunities** with other residency artists (meeting foreseen to take place in April 2024)
- The **opportunity to showcase** the work at least at one location (usually of the residency host, but not necessarily).

Further opportunities might be agreed upon on a case-by-case basis.

The artists selected in the European Digital Open Call for Residency Artists will enter a 9-months residency, for an opportunity to incubate their project idea in three distinct stages:

Stage 1 – Initial Research: Discovery and Interpretation

For the first 1-3 months of the residency, the artist will undertake preliminary research for their project, guided by their host institution.

Stage 2 – Advanced Research: Experimentation

In the next part of the residency, artists will experiment, using the learnings from the first stage to further develop and validate their project.

Stage 3 – Prototyping

In the last months of the residency, artists will create an artistic presentation of their research, receiving the support and access to the facilities of their residency hosts.

Artists will agree on the duration of the stages with their host.

Selected artists commit to following these three phases of the programme and **showcasing the results** in at least one exhibition (usually of the location of the residency host, but not necessarily). The costs of showcasing at the first location must be covered by the residency budget of 25 000 EUR. Should there be opportunities for additional presentations of the artwork, these costs will be covered by the consortium partner(s) presenting the work.

The call is open from **28. September 2023 at 10:00 (CET) until 30. November 2023 at 23:59 (CET)**. The application must be done online through the [website](#).

Admissibility and Eligibility 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 of the Guide for Applicants. The projects 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.

Who can apply?

- Individual artists or duos/groups/collectives.
- Artists that have produced enough artworks for the jury to assess their artistic experience. Previous experience collaborating with companies and/or research institutions will be valued but is not a condition for participation.
- Citizens or permanent residents of all EU and non-EU countries.

The **European Digital Deal** consortium partners, their affiliates, employees or permanent collaborators are not eligible for funding within this open call.

How to apply?

Applications must be submitted via the online registration form, no later than the 30. November, 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 challenges booklet and identify max. 3 challenges to which you wish to apply.

Step 2 | Complete and submit the application: Once you have created a profile on the online submission platform, the following information and documents will be required as part of the online application form:

- General personal information
- Proposal and relevant experience
 - a. Proposal (incl. project description and concept, response to challenge, use of facilities, relevant expertise). All details must be entered on the application platform as text.
 - b. Production plan with proposed timeline and budget (as text or uploaded as a PDF). For further information, please check the *What we offer* section.
 - c. Portfolio with links to videos or pictures of past works relevant for the application (as text or uploaded as a PDF)
 - d. Short biography with max. 500 characters (incl. Spaces) and a portrait photo.

- e. A short video (not necessarily professional) presenting the idea and the motivation for the application (max. 2 minutes, submitted as a Vimeo or YouTube link)
2. Consent: a tick box for the applicants to confirm they have read and agree and comply with the conditions outlined in this Guide for Applicants.

When applying to the European Digital Deal open call, please also note that:

- We will evaluate only proposals submitted through the online platform before the 30. November 2023, 23:59 CET. Upon submission, you will receive a confirmation email. You must verify the completeness of the form before submission. We will not evaluate any proposal submitted after the deadline, outside the dedicated form, or incomplete.
- All mandatory sections must be written in English for the proposals to be eligible. Only parts written in English will be evaluated. If the mandatory parts of the proposal are in any other language, the entire proposal will be disqualified.
- All mandatory sections of your proposal must be completed. The data provided must be up-to-date, true, complete and should enable the assessment of the proposal. Additional material, not specifically requested in the online application form, will not be considered in the evaluation.
- 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 eudigitaldeal@ars.electronica.art indicating the proposal ID, their username and the data that needs to be corrected.
- Applicants are allowed to submit proposals for multiple challenges (max. 3). However, individual artists, members of duos/groups/collectives or legal entities cannot be funded more than once. Individuals who submit multiple proposals as members of different collectives can only receive funding for one proposal.
- The same proposal can be submitted to up to 3 different challenges; however, artists should consider the evaluation criteria and the specificities of each residency challenge and residency host.
- All the information provided in your application will be checked during the evaluation phase.

- The existence of potential conflicts of interest between you and any of the consortium partners will be taken into consideration Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees and permanent collaborators cannot take part in the European Digital Deal open call for artist residencies. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- We don't accept entities that are under liquidation or are an enterprise under difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18, or that are excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of either national or EU authority. Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain.
- Your project should be based on your original work or your IPR ownership must be given. Going forward, any foreseen developments must be free from third party rights, or those third-party rights must be clearly stated.

Selection Criteria and Evaluation Process

Our evaluation process is transparent, fair and equal to all participants. For this call, we are looking for the best fit for our project and the challenges defined within it. Please make sure you provide as many details as you can, emphasizing the key points of your proposal and their links to the overall aim of European Digital Deal and the specific challenge.

The evaluation of the proposals consists of the following steps:

1. Proposal submission.
2. Eligibility checks. Proposals that do not comply with the eligibility criteria (mentioned above) will be excluded.
3. Individual evaluations of submitted proposals.
4. Jury Meeting. The Consortium partners of the European Digital Deal will meet and select their finalists.
5. Following the Jury Meeting, once formal checks and validations have been completed selected artists will be informed of their selection and will be expected to sign a Residency Agreement with their residency host.

Following the eligibility checks (see eligibility criteria listed above in this Guide for Applicants), all eligible proposals will be evaluated according to (but not limited to) the following aspects:

- Artistic experience & excellence, based on previous work and the portfolio submitted
- The current proposal & the vision outlined in it.

Proposal evaluation criteria

Relevance and feasibility. An evaluation of the proposal's

- response to the challenge
- feasibility within the given time and budget
- alignment with the mission of the residency host
- alignment with ethos of the European Digital Deal

Innovation potential. An evaluation of the proposal in terms of

- its potential to challenge or propose new innovation processes and/or
- its potential to produce research that contributes to a better understanding of technologies' development, their use and wider implications
- its commitment to visualizing/presenting research results in a compelling and accessible way
- its potential to engage with local communities and the citizenship

Jury Meeting

All jury members will come together for a group discussion to ensure consistency and transparency of the scoring and the evaluation process.

Results will be published on the EUDigitalDeal website and announced to winning applicants by the end of February. Due to a high number of applications, we will not be able to send out individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Residency Agreement Preparation and Signature

Before the start of the residency project, beneficiaries will have to sign the Residency Agreement with the residency host.

Support Programme and Payment Arrangements

Selected beneficiaries will receive a fixed **lump sum of up to €25 000**. The lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed from EU funds. It means that the beneficiary is not required to present strictly defined accounting documents to prove the cost incurred (e.g. invoices) but they are obliged to demonstrate the implementation of the project in line with the milestones set for it. Simply speaking, it means that we will assess your progress and the quality of your work during interim reviews, not your accountancy. The milestones (deliverables and KPIs) will be fixed in the individual residency plans elaborated at the beginning of the residency program. The lump-sum does not release the beneficiary from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under national and European fiscal regulations, in the event of an audit.

For ease and transparency, the Financial Support will be paid against specific deliverables (which will be included in the individual residency plans). The grant will be paid as lump-sums, as follows:

- M1. Signing of agreement 40%
- M2. Artwork/outcome description and interim tech rider (October 2024) 30%
- M3. Final editorial requirements (December 2024) 30%

The exact dates of the payments will be detailed in the individual agreements with the residency host.

Contact us!

How can we help you?

If you still have any questions about Open Call process, feel free to get in touch with us at eudigitaldeal@ars.electronica.art

In case of any technical issues or problems, make sure you include the following information in your message:

- Your username, telephone number and your email address.
- A brief description and screenshots of the problem (e.g. error messages that appeared, i.e. if a dropdown list isn't working, etc.)

For more information about European Digital Deal, please check the open call page on our [website](#).

Complaints

If, after receiving the results of one of the evaluation phases (when foreseen), you think a mistake has been made, you can send your complaint in English by email to eudigitaldeal@ars.electronica.art including the following information:

- Your contact details (including email address).
- The subject of the complaint.
- Information and evidence regarding the alleged mistake.

Important note regarding the timeline:

You have 3 calendar days to submit your complaint from the day after the communication was sent. We will review your complaint within 7 calendar days of its reception. If we need more time to assess your complaint, we will inform you by email about the extension. We will not review anonymous complaints or complaints with incomplete information. Please consider that the evaluation is run by experts of the European Digital Deal consortium. We do not interfere with their assessment, and therefore, we will not evaluate complaints related to the results of the evaluation other than those related to mistakes in the evaluation of the eligibility criteria.

Final Provisions

Any matters not covered by this Guide for Applicants will be governed by Austrian law and rules related to EU grants.

Please note that we make efforts to keep all provided data confidential. However, you are solely responsible for indicating your confidential information as such.

Your IPR will remain your property.

Grant beneficiaries will agree that information regarding the projects selected for funding can be used by the European Digital Deal consortium for communication purposes. 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 European Digital Deal consortium reserves the right to 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).

Rights

The party responsible for processing data is Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG, Ars-Electronica-Straße 1, 4040 Linz, Austria; telephone: +43 732 7272 0; e-mail: dsk@ars.electronica.art

Rights on documentation

All property rights as well as all other rights, not specifically covered below, remain with the artist.

Documentation and Promotion of the Competition and the Results thereof: The organizer Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & CO KG, the European Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture, alternatively the European Commission, the project partners (LABoral, FZC, Onassis Stegi, Kersnikova, Culture Yard, CPN, GLUON, Waag, Pro Progressione, Sineglossa, iMAL, BMA/gnration) as well as sponsors of the European Digital Deal desire to make the results of the competition accessible to an audience as large as possible. To this end, a public relations campaign aimed at media outlets (press, radio, TV and Internet) will be conducted.

The works singled out for recognition by the juries will be documented (as a whole or in part) in the following media:

- Ars Electronica website (ars.electronica.art) and Ars Electronica archive (archive.aec.at)
- Project website (European Digital Deal)
- Website, and online and offline channels of all project partners and sponsors
- Website, online and offline channels and storage of the European executive agency for education, audiovisual and culture alternatively the European Commission
- European Digital Deal publications, the Digital Deal catalogue and other brochures and publications of the Consortium members

The material will be used in the catalogue, in brochures and publications, the European Digital Deal website as well as on the websites of the project partners. The participants will prepare text and material accordingly, entrants are respectfully requested to prepare graphics and texts meticulously and to submit them in the best possible quality.

Due to technical and organizational constraints, Ars Electronica and the project partners reserve the right to determine the actual extent, timing and layout/editing of the above-mentioned publications and documentation. However, no obligation to publish the material is to be derived from this right on the part of Ars Electronica, the European Union, or the project partners.

Ars Electronica as well as the European Commission alternatively the European Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture has an online archive to collect digital media arts. Therefore, Ars Electronica intends to make the European Digital Deal accessible to interested members of the public both on site and on the Internet. To that end, Ars Electronica reserves a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free, objective, time and place independent right to publish all submitted material in its online archive.

Entrants hereby consent to the submitted material, as a whole or in part, being used, stored to a data storage medium, and/or made public on the internet or via some other digital medium by Ars Electronica or by a third party authorized by the Ars Electronica for purposes of public relations, advertising & promotion, documentation, archiving or scientific research. In using such materials, Ars Electronica will respect the legitimate interests of the entrant but assumes no statutory duty in connection to it. The rights conveyed to Ars Electronica are unlimited with respect to their subject matter, their timeframe and their geographical location, but are limited to the purpose of the conveyance of rights.

The participants assign Ars Electronica, the European Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture alternatively the European Commission and the project partners the non-exclusive, factually, temporally, and spatially unrestricted right to use the submitted works on existing and future video-streaming platforms (such as YouTube or Flickr) in connection with the European Digital Deal, the exhibition of Ars Electronica and the exhibitions of the consortium partners. No publication requirement on video-streaming platforms is imputed.

The entrant hereby declares that they are legally authorized to convey such rights to the extent stipulated above, that they have obtained any and all necessary consent from third parties as called for by regulations governing copyright, personal property rights or other such legal provisions, and that they are prepared to provide proof of such at any time if called upon by Ars Electronica and/or the consortium partners or the European Commission.

The entrant will not take any action (especially the conveyance of rights to third parties), which are likely to affect the rights granted to Ars Electronica and/or the consortium partners or the European Commission.

Data privacy

Protecting your personal data is a top priority for us. Accordingly, we process your data in strict compliance with legal regulations (DSGVO, DSG, TKG 2003). You can find the Data Protection Declaration of Ars Electronica here: <https://ars.electronica.art/about/en/datenschutz/>

You have the following basic rights: information, correction, deletion, restriction, data portability, revocation, and objection. To exercise these rights, please contact dsk@ars.electronica.art.

If you believe that processing your data violates your right to data protection, or that your entitlement to data protection has been violated in some other way, you can contact the appropriate federal regulatory agency. In Austria, this is the [Datenschutzbehörde](#) [Data Protection Authority].

Consortium Partners

