

Évora_____27
capital europeia
da cultura
european capital
of culture

OUR LAB
OPEN CALL
O NOSSO
LABORATÓRIO
Call for Proposals___FAQ

Application

deadline extended

until 31ST January 2026

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1. What is Évora_27 European Capital of Culture?

Évora_27 is an initiative resulting from the city of Évora's application for the title of European Capital of Culture 2027 (ECoC 2027).

Originally created to highlight the richness and diversity of European cultures and their shared characteristics, as well as to promote greater mutual understanding among European citizens, the title of "European Capital of Culture" has gradually also come to represent a driver of sustainable and inclusive development for candidate and designated cities.

The decision to submit Évora's candidacy for European Capital of Culture in 2027 is framed within Decision No. 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 16th of April 2014, which establishes a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture (ECoC) for the years 2020 to 2033, setting out a timetable determining that the title will be awarded to a Portuguese city in 2027, alongside a city in Latvia. In Latvia, the city of Liepāja was designated in May 2022.

On the 7th of December, at a press conference, the international panel of ECoC experts announced the selection of Évora as the European Capital of Culture in 2027, following two selection phases in which 12 Portuguese cities competed.

Submitted for evaluation in October 2022, the Bid Book Évora 2027, presented the transformative concept of Vagar. As a way of being and living rooted in the Alentejo region, refined over millennia, Vagar asserts itself, even more convincingly, as "another art of existence" for Humanity. Évora 2027 aims to make the city and the region a centre of culture and reflection on humanity's actions, based on the holistic culture of the Alentejo. The concept, materialized through the cultural and artistic programme, reflects the consultation process developed in the city and region over about a year and a half.

The application programme was conceived around three pillars: cultural heritage, intangible assets, and biodiversity. Évora 2027 will focus on the challenges that society faces collectively, taking the territory as its starting point to address issues such as climate change, forced migration, global cooperation, and even digital transformation. The Évora 27 application and its artistic programme arise from this concept, extending it in a contemporary interpretation that invites Europe to embrace Vagar as a possible path to overcoming the challenges we face as Europeans.

2. Why this call for proposals?

The “Our Lab” call aims to enrich the artistic and cultural programme of Évora_27 by promoting cultural diversity through the participation of international creators, and by integrating creative fields that are less represented in the Bid Book. With the goal of bringing to the Alentejo region a broad range of artistic languages and creative processes, “Our Lab” contributes to deepening reflection on European challenges, generating opportunities for cooperation, and enhancing the region’s international profile. Within the framework of Évora_27, the Alentejo will become a major laboratory for experimentation and cultural enjoyment.

Innovative projects of international relevance will be selected, encompassing a variety of artistic areas (Architecture, Street Arts, Circus, Interdisciplinary Projects, Dance, Design, Music, New Media, Opera, and Theatre).

Projects should foster synergies and partnerships between international artists, creators, and/or collectives and others based in Portugal, preferably in the Alentejo region.

Projects must ensure physical, social, and intellectual accessibility practices in both the projects and their respective hosting spaces.

3. Who can participate?

Individual or collective artists and legal persons, whether private or public, with proven experience in the fields for which they are applying and who meet the following requirements may participate:

- a. Provide evidence that they are cultural agents, artists, creators, or collectives based in Europe or outside Europe (excluding Portugal) with professional activity of more than 3 years .

4. When?

The application deadline, originally set for the period from 13 November 2025 to 13 January 2026, has been extended until 31 January 2026. Selected projects may begin their creative processes (research, artistic residencies, rehearsals, etc.) from April 2026.

Public presentations of the selected and supported projects must take place between the 6th of February and the 31st of December 2027, as part of the Évora_27 programme.

5. How should the proposals be submitted?

Projects must be submitted within the stipulated deadline by completing the online form at:

Applications must be submitted in Portuguese or English.

6. How many proposals can be submitted?

Each applicant may only submit one project but may also participate as a partner in other projects.

7. Can someone who leads one of the projects registered in the Bid Book apply?

No.

8. What is the mandatory content of the proposals?

The proposals submitted to the competition must include:

A - Identification and tax documentation of the applicant:

- i) For individuals: a copy of the identification document (Identity Card or Passport);
- ii) For individuals belonging to an informal group: identification document (Identity Card or Passport) for all members of the group;
- iii) Legal persons: a copy of the incorporation document and statutes, as well as a copy of the minutes confirming the current governing bodies, or equivalent documentation, depending on the country of origin;
- iv) Proof of residence and compliance with tax obligations, or equivalent documentation, depending on the country of origin;
- v) Proof of compliance with social security obligations in their country, or equivalent documentation, depending on the country of origin.

B - Applicant's artistic curriculum vitae.

C - Project Dossier, including the following elements:

- i) Applicant's name;
- ii) Project title;
- iii) City and country of residence;
- iv) Identification of artistic field, according to the established artistic fields;
- v) Preferred type of presentation space (in line with point 3 of Section III);
- vi) Funding level the project is applying for (in line with point I of Section VI);
- vii) Artistic team (biographical notes);
- viii) Project synopsis, describing its general characteristics and key activities;
- ix) Target audience;
- x. Descriptive report of the project, outlining its activities, justifying artistic choices, and explaining its implementation and partnerships;
- xi. Artistic objectives, articulated with the context of Évora_27;
- xii. Proposed overall schedule for all project activities;
- xiii. Digital communication plan;
- xiv. Detailed budget (expenses and revenues), namely in line with point 5 of Section III and Section VI of these regulations;
- xv. Estimated expenses for project circulation, in line with point 6 of Section III of these regulations;
- xvi. If available, images or other visual/audiovisual materials (including open access links) to support the proposal's assessment;

8. What is the mandatory content of the proposals? (continued)

- xvii. Technical rider;
- xviii. Proof of partnerships, and co-financing.

The Project Dossier must include all the above elements and be submitted as a single PDF document (maximum size: 200 MB) in the designated field of the application form.

9. What types of projects will be accepted in this call?

Projects in the following artistic fields may be submitted: Architecture, Street Arts, Circus, Interdisciplinary Projects, Dance, Design, Music, New Media, Opera, and Theatre.

Proposals must ensure physical, social, and intellectual accessibility in both the projects and their hosting spaces.

10. What will not be supported?

Current expenses of the applicant or its partners are not eligible.
Additional financial support is valued, such as patronage or co-producers (public or private).

11. What are the evaluation criteria?

Admitted application will be assessed by the jury according to the following criteria:

- Artistic relevance, originality and impact of the proposal (30%);
- Alignment with the Vagar concept (20%);
- Demonstrated capacity for implementation in terms of budget, sustainability and accessibility (20%);
- Suitability of the team(s) for the project's characteristics, in terms of their CVs (10%);
- Presentation of a new work in world premiere (10%);
- Proof of partnerships, in terms of co-financing, artistic residencies and/or circulation, both Portuguese and international (10%).

Financial support will be granted to the projects receiving the highest total score, as determined by the Jury, applying all criteria and considering the maximum number of projects to be supported at each funding level, as well as the total amount available for each level.

Once deliberations are concluded, the jury will issue a report. All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

12. How will the projects be selected?

Proposals are received and evaluated, according to the criteria stated in the regulations, by a Jury composed of five (5) individuals of recognized merit and multidisciplinary experience:

- John Romão, President of the Jury (Artistic Director of Évora_27);
- Chloé Siganos (Director of Performing Arts at the Centre Pompidou);
- Javier Peña Ibáñez (Curator, cultural programmer, director of the Concêntrico Festival);
- Joana Henriques (Director of Public Programs at MAAT - Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology / EDP Foundation);
- Rui Horta (Choreographer, dancer and cultural programmer, founder and former director of O Espaço do Tempo).

Substitute members:

- Lorenzo Pappagallo (Curator, cultural manager and artistic director of the Escena Patrimonio Dance Festival, UNESCO Spain);
- Lucía García (Director of IMAL - Interactive Media Art Laboratory, Brussels).

If any circumstance arises that prevents a member of the selection committee from evaluating a particular application, that member will be replaced, for the analysis of the proposal in question, by a substitute member of the selection committee.

13. What amounts will be granted?

This call for proposals has a total budget of €2,000,000 (two million euros).

Each project may apply for one of the following funding levels:

Funding levels				
100.000€	80.000€	60.000€	40.000€	20.000€

The jury reserves the right not to allocate the full amount available in this call if the submitted projects do not demonstrate sufficient merit or quality to justify selection.

14. When and how will the results be announced?

The evaluation results will be published on the website _____, listing projects as “Supported” or “Not Supported”, according to funding level. Each applicant will also be informed of their result via email (to the email address provided in the application form).

15. What if my project is selected?

Following the publication of results, a Contract will be signed between Évora 2027 Association and the applicants whose projects have been selected for financial support.

16. What other issues should I consider when preparing the proposal?

At Évora_27 we value collaboratively developed projects. Proposals must therefore identify the project partners in detail. It is not sufficient to indicate only the type of partners; they must be identified by their name, and the applicant must ensure that these partners have been contacted and have confirmed their intention to participate in the project at the time of submission under this call.

All projects included in the Évora_27 artistic programme will have their authors and promoting organization(s) duly acknowledged.

17. Do you have any questions?

Questions may be submitted until the 20th of December 2025 through the Évora_27 Applicant Support Office, via email at: ourlab@evora2027.com

Any situations not covered by this notice will be decided by the jury in accordance with the applicable legislation.

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