

Évora 27
capital europeia
da cultura
european capital
of culture

**Application
deadline extended**

until 31ST January 2026

OUR TURN OPEN CALL A NOSSA VEZ Regulation

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Évora_27

Open Call Regulations Our Turn

Preamble

The **Évora_27 European Capital of Culture** open calls, as outlined in the Bid Book, provide opportunities for artists, associations, institutions, and communities from both the Alentejo region and abroad, to take part in the Évora_27 artistic programme. Their purpose is to foster dialogue, collaboration, and inclusion, contributing to a positive cultural and social transformation in the Alentejo region.

Four open calls will therefore be launched during the preparation phase of the European Capital of Culture, aiming to update and consolidate the artistic programme, as stated in the Bid Book. In dialogue with the concept of Vagar, these open calls invite creative projects that deepen and enrich the practices of artists, collectives, associations and institutions; expand the relationships between tradition and experimentation; promote diversity and inclusion; stimulate citizen participation; and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future, encouraging cooperation, interdisciplinarity, and an intersectoral approach.

Évora_27 recognizes that the Alentejo region and Europe share challenges that shape our artistic vision and guide this initiative. The Alentejo, rich in history and culture, faces pressing issues such as desertification, depopulation, population aging, migration, the loss of traditions, and the need for sustainable development that values its human and natural resources. Meanwhile, Europe faces global challenges including climate change, migration, war, social inequalities, the rise of populism and polarization, and the search for models that respect the planet's limits.

The open call “Our Turn” targets the cultural and artistic sector of the Alentejo region, aiming to enrich the Évora_27 artistic programme with proposals for collaborative creation and programming across all artistic fields, as well as initiatives focused on the safeguarding, recognition, and promotion of artisanal production in the Alentejo (arts and crafts). These projects will be presented throughout 2027 across the Alentejo region.

This call also seeks to help the Alentejo creative sector engage with European challenges, strengthen interdisciplinary and networked collaborations, and encourage the circulation of its work throughout the territory. Within the framework of Évora_27, the Alentejo will become a major laboratory for experimentation and cultural cooperation.

The Concept of Vagar

The concept of Vagar, which guides Évora_27, is rooted in Alentejo's identity. It invites awareness and connection between human beings, nature, and the universe, promoting balance between past and future, individual and collective, tradition and innovation.

In a region marked by a gentle pace of life and strong ties to the land and community, Vagar proposes a more harmonious and sustainable model of coexistence. It is an invitation to slow down, to listen, and to reflect – in contrast to the excessive speed of contemporary life.

The open call “Our Turn” aims to receive and select proposals for artistic creation and programming projects to be developed and implemented in the context of Évora_27. We invite cultural agents, artists, creators and collective – native to, residing in, or working in the Alentejo region – to submit projects that embody and promote European values.

Regulations

I. Context

1. These regulations establish the procedures for the open call through which the Associação Évora 2027 intends to select national cultural and artistic projects within the framework of Évora_27 - European Capital of Culture, as outlined in the Bid Book (<https://tinyurl.com/5yyvcbd8>). Selected projects will receive financial support for their implementation as part of the Évora_27 programme.
2. The main objective of this open call is to enrich the artistic programme of Évora_27 - European Capital of Culture through the selection of proposals for collaborative artistic creation and programming projects across all artistic fields, as well as proposals focused on the safeguarding, recognition and promotion of artisanal production in the Alentejo region (arts and crafts). These projects will be presented throughout 2027 in various spaces and locations across the Alentejo.
3. All relevant information, documents and results related to this call will be published on the website:
4. The selected projects will receive financial support for their implementation within the framework of the Évora_27 programme.
5. The total amount of financial support for the open call “Our Turn” is €1,000,000 (one million euros).
6. The Associação Évora 2027 may increase the budget allocation associated with this call if deemed appropriate and duly justified, provided sufficient funds are available in the current budget.
7. Applications must demonstrate:
 - i) Artistic relevance, originality, and impact on the territory in relation to the concept of Vagar;
 - ii) Collaboration between artists, creators or collectives in the Alentejo and others at national and/or international level;
 - iii) Appropriate technical and human resources aligned with the project’s objectives, guided by budgetary reasonableness;
 - iv) Regional, national and/or international institutional partnerships.

II. Application Requirements and Financial Support Options

1. This competition is open to artists – individually, collectively in informal groups, or as legal entities – who are native to, residing in, or have been professionally active in the Alentejo region for more than 3 years.
2. Individual applicants must be of legal age and not legally prohibited from engaging in the professional activity to which the project refers.
3. Individual applicants working together with others will form an Informal Group, in which all members must be of legal age and not legally prohibited from exercising the activity to which the project refers.
4. Legal entities must have held legal status for at least 36 months prior to the application date.
5. Each applicant may submit only one project to “Our Turn”.
6. The following individuals or entities are not eligible to apply:
 - i) Those who lead projects already registered in the Évora_27 Bid Book;
 - ii) Those who are insolvent by court order, in the process of liquidation, dissolution, or cessation of activity; those subject to any preventive asset liquidation or any similar situation, or with proceedings pending – except in cases covered by, or pending, a business recovery plan (judicial or extrajudicial) as provided by law;
 - iii) Those convicted by a final judgment of a crime affecting professional integrity; or, in the case of legal entities, when the legal entity itself or the members of its management or governing bodies have been convicted of such crimes and remain in active service, without rehabilitation having occurred;
 - iv) Those who have been subject to administrative sanctions for serious professional misconduct, where rehabilitation has not yet taken place; or, in the case of legal entities, where members of their management or governing bodies have been subject to such sanctions and remain in active service;
 - v) Those without a regularized status regarding their social security contributions in Portugal;
 - vi) Those without a regularized tax situation;
 - vii) Those who have directly or indirectly provided advice or technical assistance in preparing this call, in a way that gives them an advantage that could distort normal evaluation conditions;

II. Application Requirements and Financial Support Options (continued)

viii) Those who have attempted to unduly influence the Jury's decision, obtain confidential information likely to confer undue advantage, or provided false information likely to materially affect exclusion, qualification or selection decisions;

ix) Those involved in conflicts of interest that cannot be effectively resolved by less restrictive measures than exclusion.

7. Only applications that fully comply with the above conditions will be admitted to the evaluation and selection phase.

III. Projects

1. This competition accepts projects of collaborative artistic creation and programming across all artistic fields, as well as projects aimed at the safeguarding, recognition and promotion of artisanal production in the Alentejo region (arts and crafts).
2. Projects should preferably include one or more of the following dimensions:
 - i) Participation of communities and associations in co-creation, placemaking and/or presentation processes (e.g. adolescents and young people, multicultural communities, cultural or sports associations, residents' associations, social centres, etc.);
 - ii) Intersectoral dialogue (art and science, sustainability, health, agriculture, economy, urbanism, technology, etc.);
 - iii) Nature-based creative solutions, aligned with the New European Bauhaus, promoting sustainability, inclusion, beauty, and harmony in architecture and design;
 - iv) Human-nature relationships, environmental sustainability, and the responsible use of natural resources.
3. Each project must indicate two preferred types of presentation spaces, in order of priority:
 - i) cultural venues (theatres, museums, cultural centres, libraries, etc.);
 - ii) heritage buildings (classified or unclassified, such as churches, chapels, palaces, etc.);
 - iii) urban public spaces;
 - iv) natural spaces.
4. Projects must demonstrate suitability for the chosen presentation spaces. The final validation of the space(s) and presentation date(s) for selected projects rests with the Évora 2027 Association.
5. Projects must include public presentations, following these guidelines:
 - i) Shows and performances (circus, interdisciplinary events, dance, music and theatre, etc.): three (3) presentations;
 - ii) Exhibitions and installations (visual arts, architecture, design, etc.): preference for medium or long-term interventions;
 - iii) Programming projects: must specify the total number of programming days.

III. Projects (continued)

6. To promote the circulation of creative projects selected through this open call, each application must also include the following:

- i) For shows and performances (circus, interdisciplinary works, dance, music and theatre, etc.): a budget for one (1) additional presentation in another municipality;
- ii) For exhibitions and installations (visual arts, architecture, design, etc.): a budget for an additional presentation in another municipality, indicating the minimum and maximum exhibition period.

7. Projects that cannot reasonably provide for circulation must justify this limitation with a clear explanation in the application form.

IV. Application

1. The application process for “Our Turn” must be completed by filling out and submitting the online application form, which must include the following information and documents:

A - Identification and tax documentation of the applicant:

- i) Individuals: a copy of an identification document (Citizen Card, Identity Card or Passport);
- ii) Individuals in a collective: identification documents (Citizen Card, Identity Card or Passport) for all members of the collective;
- iii) Legal entities: a copy of the incorporation document and statutes, as well as a copy of the minutes confirming the current governing bodies or a valid permanent certificate;
- iv) Proof of compliance with tax and social security obligations.

B - Applicant’s artistic curriculum vitae.

C - Project Dossier, including the following elements:

- i. Applicant’s name;
- ii. Address;
- iii. Project title;
- iv. Identification of the artistic field(s);
- v. Preferred presentation space(s), in line with point 3 of Section III of these regulations;
- vi. Amount of financial support requested, in accordance with the established funding levels;
- vii. Artistic team (biographical notes);
- viii. Project synopsis, describing its main characteristics and key activities;
- ix. Target audiences;
- 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 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 Sections 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;
- xvii. Technical rider;
- xviii. Proof of regional, national and/or international artistic and institutional partnerships, and co-financing.

2. The Project Dossier must include all the above fields and be submitted as a single PDF document (maximum size: 100 MB) in the designated field of the application form.

V. Project Development and Presentation Dates

1. Selected and supported projects may begin their creative processes (research, artistic residencies, rehearsals, etc.) from April 2026.
2. Public presentations of selected and supported projects will take place between the 6th of February and the 31th of December 2027, as part of the Évora_27 programme.
3. The Évora 2027 Association will determine the exact number of project presentations according to the program's needs.
4. Applicants must ensure their availability for public presentations during the above period. The Évora 2027 Association will confirm the final dates, locations, and times for each project's presentation by the end of July 2026.

VI. Financial Support

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

Funding levels	Maximum number of projects supported	Funds available per level
50.000€	4	200.000€
40.000€	5	200.000€
30.000€	10	300.000€
20.000€	10	200.000€
10.000€	10	100.000€
Total	39	1.000.000€

2. Eligible Costs for Funding:

- i) Remuneration of artistic teams (including copyright and related rights, if applicable, for presentations within the scope of Évora_27), as well as production and technical teams;
- ii) Production and project management expenses (including team insurance);
- iii) Transportation, travel, accommodation and meal expenses for team members;
- iv) Digital communication plan.

3. The Évora 2027 Association will fulfil the technical requirements for presentations in the performing arts and music fields (dance, theatre, opera, interdisciplinary projects, etc.) within reasonable means, offering – when necessary – stages, sound, lighting, and video equipment, up to a maximum of 50% of the total project value.

4. Exhibition and installation projects (visual arts, architecture, design, etc.) must ensure the necessary technical components for their own production and installation.

5. Programming projects must ensure all production, logistical, technical, and communication components for their execution.

6. Exhibition and installation projects must include the production of a catalogue, with its cost reflected in the project budget. Catalogue production will depend on coordination with the Évora 2027 Association.

7. No other costs or expenses beyond those included in the submitted budget will be considered eligible.

8. By reasoned decision of the Jury, the number of projects supported at each funding level may be adjusted, and/or funds may be reallocated between levels.

VII. Submission of applications and evaluation criteria

1. The application deadline, originally set for the period from 10 November 2025 to 10 January 2026, has been extended until 31 January 2026. Applications must be submitted by 23:59 (GMT) on the 31st January 2026, using the online form available at www.evora2026.pt, and must be written in Portuguese or English.
2. Admitted applications will be evaluated based on the total score assigned by the Jury members. Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:
 - 2.1. Artistic relevance, originality, and impact of the proposal (30%);
 - 2.2. Alignment with the Vagar concept (20%);
 - 2.3. Demonstrated capacity for implementation in terms of budget, including co-financing, sustainability, and accessibility (20%);
 - 2.4. Suitability of the team(s) for the project's characteristics, in terms of their CVs (10%);
 - 2.5. Presentation of new works(s) in premiere (10%);
 - 2.6. Proof of regional and national artistic and institutional partnerships (5%);
 - 2.7. Proof of international artistic and institutional partnerships (5%).
3. Financial support will be granted to the projects receiving the highest total score, as determined by the Jury, applying all criteria and taking into account the maximum number of projects to be supported at each funding level, as well as the total amount available for each level.

VIII. Appreciation and Evaluation

1. Project evaluation will be carried out by an Evaluation Committee, hereafter referred as the Jury, composed of five (5) individuals of recognized merit and multidisciplinary experience:

- John Romão, President of the Jury (Artistic Director of Évora_27);
- Celina da Piedade (Accordionist, singer, composer and researcher);
- Jesse James (Curator, cultural programmer and artistic director of the Walk&Talk Biennial);
- Rita Fabiana (Curator and coordinator of Live Arts at the Modern Art Centre of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation);
- Tiago Navarro (Director of the School of Arts of the University of Évora).

Substitute members:

- Ana Borrelho (Artist and cultural programmer);
- Luís Sousa Ferreira (Designer, cultural programmer, and assistant to the Artistic Director of Teatro Nacional D. Maria II).

2. The Jury will have a rapporteur and a secretary, and minutes will be taken for all evaluation meetings.

3. The Jury will decide by simple majority. Abstention is not permitted.

4. Applicants may be asked to provide clarifications or additional documentation, without prejudice to any necessary adjustments, and/or to be available for an interview.

5. The evaluation results will be published on the website www.evora27.pt, listing projects as “Supported” or “Not Supported,” according to funding level. Each applicant will also be informed of the result via email.

6. The Jury’s decision is final and not subject to appeal.

IX. Contract

1. Following the publication of the results, a Contract will be signed between the Évora 2027 Association and the applicants whose projects have been selected for financial support.
2. The Contract will define each party's obligations and include, in particular:
 - i. The amount of financial support and the payment schedule;
 - ii. The dates for submitting interim report(s) detailing the project's activities and the use of the granted funds, supported by appropriate accounting documents;
 - iii. The final report, providing a comprehensive evaluation of the project, a record of activities carried out, and appropriate documentation of the use of funds received.
 - iv. The rules and penalties applicable in cases of non-compliance with the Contract, which may include the mandatory return of funds – whether in full or in part – if they are not used for the intended purposes.

X. Final Considerations

1. A support document containing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is available on the website of the Évora 2027 Association and Évora_27,
2. Any questions or clarifications regarding the open call “Our Turn” must be submitted via email to anossavez@evora2027.com, which is the exclusive communication channel for this procedure.

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