

Évora_____27
capital europeia
da cultura
european capital
of culture

OUR LAB OPEN CALL O NOSSO LABORATÓRIO Regulation

Application

deadline extended

until 31ST January 2026

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Évora_27

Open Call Regulations **Our Lab**

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 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 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 “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.

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.

In the call for “Our Lab,” we invite international artists and cultural organisations to explore this concept by presenting projects that reinforce the human essence and envision a different future, in alignment with European values.

Regulations

I. Framework

1. These regulations establish the procedures for the open call through which the Évora 2027 Association will select international cultural and artistic projects within the framework of Évora_27 - European Capital of Culture, as outlined in the Bid Book (<https://tinyurl.com/5yy-vcbd8>).
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 innovative and internationally relevant projects across a range of artistic fields (Architecture, Street Arts, Circus, Interdisciplinary Projects, Dance, Design, Music, New Media, Opera, and Theatre).
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 Lab” is €2,000,000 (two million euros).
6. The Évora 2027 Association 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) Appropriate technical and human resources aligned with the project’s objectives, guided by budgetary reasonableness;
 - iii) Regional, national, and international institutional partnerships.

II. Application Requirements

1. This open call is open to artists, whether individually or collectively, and to collective entities of a private or public nature, residing or headquartered in Europe (excluding Portugal) or in non-European countries, with proven experience in the fields for which they are applying.
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. If the applicant is a legal person, it must have had juridical personality in its country of origin for at least 36 months prior to the application date, be duly registered for tax purposes, and have carried out international projects during its period of activity, duly documented in the application.
5. Each applicant may submit only one project to “Our Lab”.
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 a legal person, when the juridical 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 persons, 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, or in the state of which they are nationals, or the country where their headquarters are located;
 - vi) Those who do not have their tax situation regularised in the state of origin or in the country where their headquarters are located;

II. Application Requirements (continued)

- 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;
- 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. The Projects

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

2. Projects should preferably include one 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, urbanism, technology, 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. Each project must include public presentations, as indicated below:

- i) Shows and performances (Circus, Interdisciplinary Projects, Dance, Music, Opera and Theatre): three (3) presentations;
- ii) Installations and artistic interventions (Architecture, Design, New Media): short- or medium-term stays, according to the nature of the project.

III. The Projects (continued)

6. Considering the possible circulation of the selected projects within the Alentejo region, each application must also include the following information:

- i) Shows and performances (Circus, Interdisciplinary Projects, Dance, Music, Opera, and Theatre): budget for one (1) additional presentation in another municipality in the Alentejo region;
- ii) Installations and artistic interventions (Architecture, Design, New Media): budget for presenting the project in another municipality in the Alentejo region, indicating the minimum and maximum presentation 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 Lab” 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 the identification document (Identity Card, or Passport);
- ii) Individuals in a collective: identification documents (Identity Card, or Passport) for all members of the collective;
- 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 3);
- 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 main 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;

IV. Application (continued)

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

2. 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.

V. Project Development and Presentation Dates

1. Selected 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 programme'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 the following funding levels:

Funding levels	Maximum number of projects supported	Funds available per level
100.000€	5	500.000€
80.000€	6	480.000€
60.000€	7	420.000€
40.000€	10	400.000€
20.000€	10	200.000€
Total	38	2.000.000€

2. Eligible costs for funding:

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

3. The Évora 2027 Association will fulfil the technical requirements for the performances of projects in the performing arts and music (Dance, Theatre, Opera, Interdisciplinary Projects, etc.) within reasonable means, offering — when necessary — stages, sound, lighting and video equipment, up to a maximum limit of 50% of the total project value.

4. Exhibition and installation projects (Architecture, Street Arts, Design, New Media, etc.) must ensure the necessary technical components for their own production and installation.

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

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

VII. Submission of applications and evaluation criteria

1. The application deadline, originally set for the period from 13 November 2025 to 13 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 _____, 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 submitted proposal (30%);
- 2.2. Alignment with the Vagar concept (20%);
- 2.3. Demonstrated capacity for implementation in terms of budget, 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 a new work in world premiere (10%);
- 2.6. Proof of partnerships, in terms of co-financing, artistic residencies and/or circulation, Portuguese and/or international (10%).

3. 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.

VIII. Assessment 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);
- 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).

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 _____, 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:

- 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 Lab” must be submitted via email to ourlab@evora2027.com, which is the exclusive communication channel for this procedure.

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