

Open Call



mediterranean

Mediterranean as
the Climate Hotspot

A transnational programme bringing together artists and cultural professionals with community gardens to reflect on the relations between climate change, culture and the arts.



Mediterranean as
the Climate Hotspot

The Mediterranean as the Climate Hotspot: MATCH

OPEN CALL for Artists

Project Duration: October 2025 – May 2027
Artist Fee: €6.000,00
Production budget: €600,00
Artform: Participatory and socially-engaged visual arts or live art Practice (including but not limited to: photography, film, digital, sound, installation, live art, performance and dance)



ABOUT THE MATCH PROGRAMME

MATCH is a transnational arts project that connects artists to community gardens as a response to the climate crisis in 5 Mediterranean Cities: Athens, Nicosia, Marseille, Barcelona and Izmir.

The Mediterranean is a climate hotspot. This is a statement that, today, no one challenges. It is a complex issue that, with its political, social and environmental components, does not allow for one single solution. We believe that, alongside other actions that must be undertaken to mitigate the climate crisis, community engagement and regenerative practices are vital to enable the necessary societal change to address this “hot” issue.

MATCH: Mediterranean as the Climate Hotspot brings together artists, cultural organisations and community gardens to build awareness and engagement around regenerative, self-sufficient, and community-based ways of life through arts practice, through the development of a new set of ethics, and by sharing knowledge specific to the Mediterranean climate and cultures.

MATCH will support 10 artists to develop, co-create and present new artworks to empower community action on climate change, through transnational artistic residencies and exhibitions. The selected artists will also take part in an integrated linked capacity building programme, which offers opportunities for shared learning on cultural and grassroots work that responds proactively to the climate emergency. A feedback learning process will lead to the design of a (policy) framework focusing on climate change, culture and the arts.



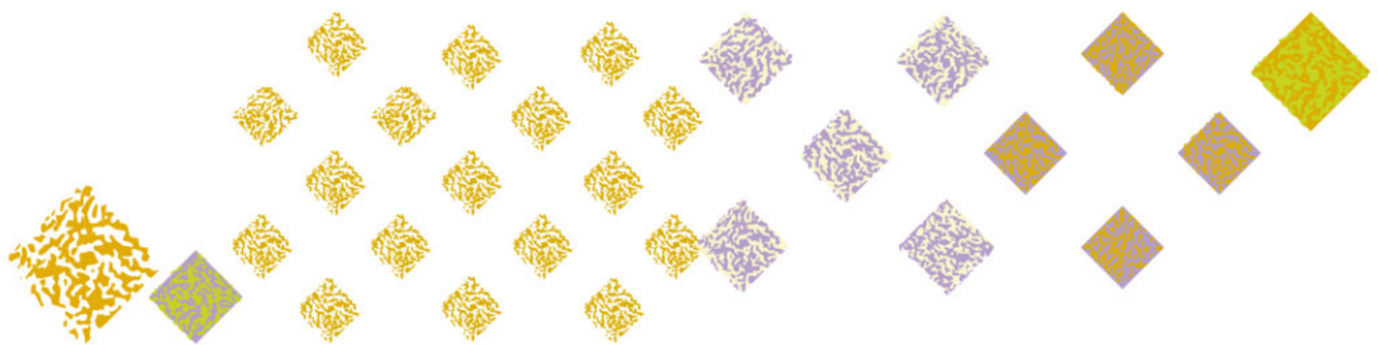
Co-funded by
the European Union



Over 18 months, MATCH will unfold across Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey, but will benefit the wider Mediterranean enabling a transnational network of artists, cultural and creative professionals to reflect on the relations between climate change, culture and the arts.

WHO IS INVOLVED

MATCH connects 5 cultural organisations based in the Mediterranean: Mapa das Ideias (PT), D6:EU (CY), La Friche la Belle de Mai (FR), BJCEM (BE) and the National Technical University of Athens (GR), each working with a local arts and community garden partners (Please see Annex: partner organisations and residency hosts).



ARTIST BRIEF

This is a call for 10 artists based in the following Mediterranean countries: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain or Tunisia** to participate in an international programme of learning, residencies and exhibition.

Each artist will participate in:

Artistic Production and Presentation:

- **1 x month-long international research and production residency** alongside one other international artist. There are five residency options that you can choose from in Cyprus, Greece, Spain, France or Turkey (please see 'RESIDENCY OPTIONS' below), and each participating artist will be selected for one residency. Here, artists will undertake research and begin to produce new artworks in response to their experiences.
- **Post-production of final artwork(s).** After the residency, each artist will have 4 months to work on the ideas and artworks created during their residency and complete their work for public presentation.
- **1 x Digital Reflection.** Also in the period after the residency, with the support from the D6:EU team and a Digital Curator, the artists will develop an online presentation of their artworks and ideas. D6:EU will support each artist to identify a local creative to work with them to develop their digital reflection. This could be a critical writer, a

digital artist, a researcher, a videographer, a photographer or an editor. Curatorial support will be offered through group sessions and one-to-one meetings.

- **1 x Exposition.** Following the period of post-production, the artists will return to the country where they had their residency for one week to prepare an exposition of their finished work in a community garden setting.

Capacity Building:

- **5 x International Capacity Building Workshops** for all artists and partners. Each 2-day workshop will offer talks, interactive workshops and site visits exploring the themes of MATCH from different perspectives:

Athens, Greece (3-5 October 2025): Tools to measure and evaluate the environmental impact of art and culture

Nicosia, Cyprus (2-4 November 2025): Legal frameworks governing climate action at local and international levels

Marseille, France (21-23 January 2026): Community gardens and urban greening: community responses as a new paradigm of citizen involvement

Barcelona, Spain (4-5 March 2026): Climate migration, social inclusion and equity in the Mediterranean

Turin, Italy (14-15 April 2027): Communication and advocacy: raising environmental awareness with stakeholders through culture. The workshop will conclude with a final public conference presenting the results of the project.

- **1 x study visit in Izmir, Turkey (7-8 May 2026):** a 2-day study visit to the K2 Urla Breathing Zone, Izmir



RESIDENCY OPTIONS

Artists will be asked to identify their preferred residency option and explain their choice in the application. Artists can choose up to 2 options, and will be selected for one opportunity:

1 Duncan Dance Research Centre (DDRC), Athens, Greece

Residency Dates: 6 October - 1 November 2025

Time for post production and production of digital reflection: November 2025-March 2026

Exposition Dates: April 2026

Built in 1903 as a utopian eco-community, DDRC embraces both contextual craft and art practice (weaving, sandal making, typography, painting or poetry) united in an ongoing dialogue with everyday life and the art of dance. Melding dance practice with theory and research, DDRC provides space for inspiration, experimentation and creativity. Based in Athens, it connects with both the professional dance scene and the local community through research projects and residencies, informal showings, lectures and reflection platforms, afternoon classes and workshops for professional dancers. DDRC has a long history in dance education, research and creation infused with issues of ecology and collective intelligence within research and artistic practice, including their interdisciplinary Moving Ground project. DDRC is a founding member of EDN (European DanceHouse Network), a network of 48 European dance houses sharing a common vision regarding the development of dance art across borders.

Find out more about the residency in Athens here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GNQJZEsWNOFwnN_myTrPoCHqG6L81s7o/view?usp=sharing

2 Gardens of the Future, Nicosia, Cyprus - <https://gardensofthefuture.com/>

Residency Dates: 5 November - 4 December 2025

Time for post production and production of digital reflection: December 2025 - April 2026

Exposition Dates: May 2026

The residency and exhibition in Cyprus will be hosted with Gardens of the Future, a community garden and environmental and creative hub near the UN Buffer Zone dividing the North and South sides of Cyprus. International Winners of the Global Climathon Competition, and the NEB public award, Gardens of the Future is made up of architects, cultural producers, social entrepreneurs, activists and environmental experts, working with a team of volunteers to develop community-led responses to the climate emergency. The residency will be produced by D6:EU, an international visual arts organisation developing new opportunities for artists and cultural collaborations in Cyprus, Europe and the Middle East. D6:EU collaborates with artists, cultural producers, heritage professionals, policy makers and communities to develop international programmes and equitable European collaborations that encourage equity and social and environmental justice.

Find out more about the residency in Cyprus here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GNBW3-3hIciKuk_LisltamiyAGKJRAK/view?usp=sharing

3 La Friche, Marseille, France - <https://www.lafriche.org/la-friche/lieux/>

Residency Dates: 24 January - 21 February 2026

Time for post production and production of digital reflection: February- June 2026

Exhibition Dates: July 2026

La Friche la Belle de Mai is a cultural hotspot in Marseille, housed in a former tobacco factory. Spanning 45,000 square meters, it is home to over 70 resident organisations with a year-round programme of exhibitions, performances, workshops and festivals. Its rooftop offers lively open-air events, while its skate park, playgrounds and gardens are a welcoming place for all ages. Since 2010 the Friche impulsed a new direction including the creation of a "living space refuge" as part of a process of reconciliation between

humans and their environment. The space, from ground to roof, aimed to be a sanctuary, a place where biodiversity can flourish freely, far from human disturbance. The residency will take place in a new green space located on the rooftop of the Mediterranean Institute of Performing Arts based at the Friche la Belle de Mai. This garden is included in a wider reflection of the “living space refuge” and has not yet been invested by artists or through participative workshops with inhabitants.

Find out more about the residency in France here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GNFk9XV37Si9ZVUIgHFajou2rJqHBEoT/view?usp=sharing>

4. La Escocesa, Barcelona, Spain - <https://laescocesa.org/en>

Residency Dates: 1 - 31 March 2026

Time for post production and production of digital reflection: April - August 2026

Exposition Dates: September 2026

La Escocesa is an artist-led contemporary visual arts organisation and residency space that supports artists and cultural agents by offering them workspace and resources for the development of their projects. It has studios and workshops for over 30 resident artists, alongside a free public programme of events, open calls and training opportunities. As a space inhabited by the artistic community, La Escocesa focuses not only on the production and creation of artworks, but also on a shared generation of knowledge, networks of care and new ways of building and practising cultural institutions. The associative nature of the centre enables the active participation of the artists, generating a horizontal collective structure through which the centre is managed.

Find out more about the residency in Barcelona here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GNstGTinsTUii6bAaKoGEmrs3rjcahN1/view?usp=sharing>

5 K2, Izmir, Turkey - <https://k2.org.tr/?lang=en>

Residency Dates: 9 May - 6 June 2026

Time for post production and production of digital reflection: June - October 2026

Exposition Dates: November 2026

K2 Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit organization in Izmir, Turkey. It provides a sustainable space for contemporary art, supporting both emerging and established artists through exhibitions, discussions, and public programs. K2 also organizes PORTIZMIR, the Izmir International Contemporary Art Triennial, fostering local and international cultural exchange. Their K2 Urla Breathing Zone artist residency space is set on a 45-acre forested site in Urla, Izmir. Designed for artists to live and create in harmony with nature, the residency features eight handcrafted wooden bungalows serving as both living and working spaces alongside communal working, performance, cooking and gathering spaces. A central area at the heart of the site is surrounded by pine forest and has hosted numerous artistic activities. A small pond is also available for biological research, emphasising the connection between art, nature, and science.

Find out more about the residency in Turkey here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GOXw5dUeFDd5t4WYSE3afjGpjENqd5QW/view?usp=sharing>

WHAT WE OFFER

- Artist Fee: €6.000,00
- Production budget: €600,00 (including expenses for workshops, research and materials)
- Travel, Accommodation and Subsistence for 1 month in a selected residency space and 1 week for the exhibition. The travel will be booked from the city of residence identified in your application form.
- Access to working spaces for preparation of the project
- Free attendance at 5 Capacity Building Workshops and a Study Visit, including travel, accommodation and subsistence
- Logistical, curatorial and networking support during your residency and exhibition
- Curatorial support to develop a digital reflection on your artwork, and up to 5 days of time for a local creative to support you to develop this digital project
- Promotion on MATCH social media, website and newsletter channels



HOW TO APPLY

This is an Open Call to select 10 artists based in the Eligible Mediterranean countries of the Creative Europe programme (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain or Tunisia). Selection will be based on:

- Quality of artistic practice
- Quality of response to the questions in the application form
- Experience of participatory and socially-engaged practice
- Experience of collaboration with other artists and across sectors
- Demonstrable interest in the role of contemporary arts in heritage contexts, with particular reference to the themes of the programme

In addition, all applicants must be:

- Proficient in English language
- Aged 18 or older
- Based in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain or Tunisia
- Submit all application documents requested on the application form
- Commitment to participate in all activities and evaluation processes

Key considerations:

- This is a transnational project. Selected artists will be encouraged to create **mobile works** that are **environmentally conscious**
- MATCH promotes **participatory methodologies**. Artists will be expected to engage with local communities in ethical ways that feel appropriate to the research and are not extractive
- **English is the primary language** across MATCH. Artists will be supported to communicate effectively with speakers of other languages as part of the development, production and presentation of their work
- Artists can **either produce solo projects or may wish to collaborate** with the other MATCH artist they are in residence with

The MATCH residencies are kindly supported by a range of national and European funders. In addition to the considerations above, of the 10 selected artists, we will select at least:

- 2 artists from Cyprus (including one artist from the Turkish Cypriot community)
- 1 artist from France
- 1 artist from Greece
- 1 artist from Spain
- As well as 5 artists based in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain or Tunisia

The application process involves:

Stage 1: A short application form

Stage 2: An interview with up to 3 shortlisted artists per residency opportunity. This will take place with D6:EU and the residency host for the opportunity you apply for. All selection decisions are final.

Click here to complete the application form: <https://forms.gle/4SdKJWgGY7zjEaXaA>

You can download a copy of the questions to help prepare your answers here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FFz3jF7c_zyXUPfSyqhE-EftUPX2bU_NF7s_BWlHXfE/edit?usp=sharing

TIMELINE

Call Opens:	4 April 2025
Deadline for Applications:	18 May 2025 (23:59 CEST)
Shortlisted applicants will be notified by:	3 June 2025
Interviews with shortlisted artists:	10 - 20 June 2025
Selected artists informed by:	8 July 2025

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

We seek to ensure that no present or potential member of staff, artist or project participant is treated less favourably than another on grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, age, social class or offending background.

While our ambition is to shape an open, accessible project, we also acknowledge that the nature of this project involves extended periods of travel, which may present barriers to participation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

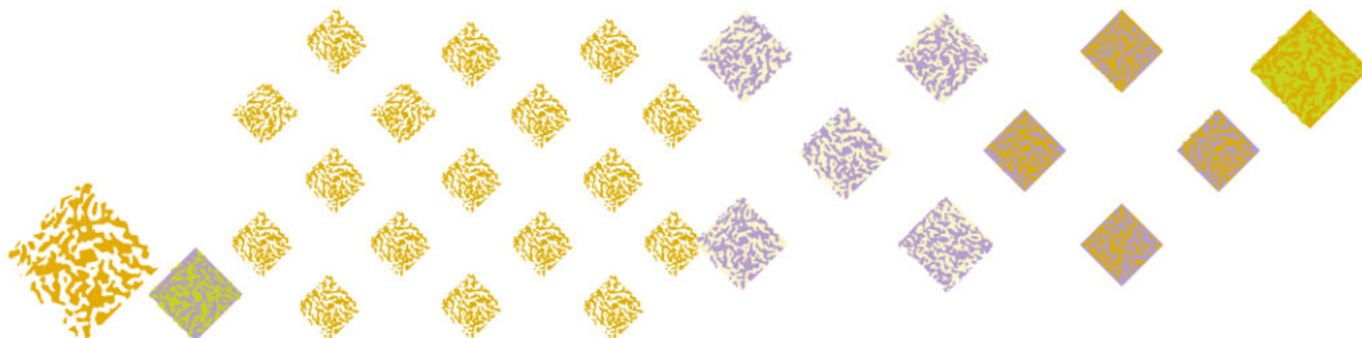
The MATCH project prioritizes environmental sustainability through a holistic approach that integrates ethical, educational, scientific and community-driven strategies. Recognising the interconnectedness of cultural activities with broader sustainability goals, the project embeds responsible environmental practices across its initiatives.

Artists will actively engage with three core sustainability principles:

- **Ethical frameworks:** The project will establish and continuously monitor ethical guidelines that shape environmental codes of conduct. This will support sustainable cultural practices, including slow travel, waste reduction, energy efficiency and responsible sourcing of materials.
- **Capacity building:** Through 5 international workshops and study visits, artists will deepen their understanding of sustainability efforts through different lenses. The project will also incorporate sustainability training for artists and cultural practitioners, fostering a community of environmentally responsible creators.
- **Community awareness and engagement:** MATCH will emphasize the role of cultural institutions in promoting environmental consciousness among audiences and local communities. This will be achieved through the artistic programme itself, partnerships with environmental organisations and active audience participation.

A key innovation within MATCH is the development of a Cultural Climate Change Response Impact Assessment Tool (CRIA), a dedicated sustainability framework that will provide concrete guidelines and assessment tools for cultural institutions and artists.

If you have access requirements to enable you to participate in the MATCH programme you will be able to identify this in the application form.



APPENDIX (Creative Europe partners and roles)

Mapa das Ideias has over 20 years of experience in Portugal's cultural sector, excelling in museum mediation, training, and cross-sector collaboration. Mapa das Ideias offers consulting services in audience engagement, communication strategy, and educational program development. It has led EU-funded projects supporting diverse groups, fostering inclusion and empowerment. With expertise in uniting cultural and educational stakeholders, Mapa advocates for culture, public spaces, and environmental action as tools for social cohesion. Building on past projects with artists and cultural practitioners, it brings valuable insights to the MATCH project, which it coordinates. <https://mapadasideias.pt/en/>

D6:EU is a visual arts organisation based in Cyprus, developing new opportunities for artists and cultural collaborations in Cyprus, Europe and the Middle East. Together with an exceptional team and board, we collaborate with artists, cultural producers, heritage professionals, policy makers and communities to develop international programmes that encourage equity and social and environmental justice. Our values of equity, sustainability, curiosity and generosity underpin a programme which encompasses capacity building and equitable European collaborations which are deeply connected to social and environmental justice. D6:EU leads on the arts programme for MATCH. <https://d6.eu>

La Friche la Belle de Mai is a creative and cultural hotspot in Marseille, housed in a former tobacco factory. Spanning 45,000 square meters, it's a space where art, music, theater, and community projects come together. Home to over 70 resident organizations, La Friche hosts exhibitions, performances, workshops, and festivals all year round. Its rooftop offers stunning city views and lively open-air events, while its skate park, playgrounds, and gardens make it a welcoming place for all ages. More than just an arts venue, La Friche is a space for experimentation, collaboration, and urban renewal. With a strong focus on accessibility and cultural diversity, it plays a key role in Marseille's creative scene, attracting both locals and visitors. La Friche lead MATCH's Capacity Building programme. <https://www.lafriche.org>

The National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). MATCH's Research Lead, the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), is the oldest and most prestigious educational institution of Greece, founded in 1836. Undertaking an average of 500 funded research projects per year, NTUA is engaged in several pioneering projects concerning the cultural sector in the EU and the current multifaceted crises and responses through alliances between academia, community and practice. This includes the Architecture School of Commons, academic collaborations in South America and Ghana and extensive experience in research addressing cultural development. A recent survey classifies NTUA in second place among all European Universities and fourth among all European organisations in EU-funded research projects. <https://www.ntua.gr/en/>

BJCEM is a Euro-Mediterranean network that believes that art and culture play a fundamental role in our societies by fostering respect and understanding through cultural exchange. Through its projects, BJCEM supports artists' mobility, training, and exchange, enriching creative processes. Alongside Mediterranean Young Artists' Biennale, it organizes residencies, workshops, and exhibitions, engaging international artists and experts to share knowledge and foster environmental responsibility. For MATCH, BJCEM leads communication and dissemination and will coordinate the final conference in Turin. <https://www.bjcem.org/>