

# S+T+ARTS EC(H)O

## Residencies program

# CALL FOR ARTISTS

## GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

DEADLINE:  
30 JUNE 2024

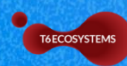
*Version 1.0*



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S+T+ARTS

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## CONTENTS

CALL FOR ARTISTS .....	1
About S+T+ARTS .....	4
About STARTS EC(H)O: fostering Ecologically conscious and human compatible digital technology .....	5
1. Residencies Programme .....	6
2. What do we offer? .....	8
3. Expected Outputs from Artist .....	9
4. Challenges .....	10
5. Admissibility Criteria .....	14
6. Preparation & Submission .....	16
7. Intellectual Property .....	18
8. Evaluation process .....	19
9. Payment Arrangements .....	21
10. Artist Info Sessions .....	22
11. Contact Us .....	23
12. Final Provisions .....	25

### HISTORY OF CHANGES

Version	Publication Date	Change
1.0	14.05.2024	Guide for Applicants' Initial Version (first draft)



STARTS EC(H)O is pleased to announce the *Call for Artists* for the S+T+ARTS EC(H)O Residency Programme, fully dedicated to promoting innovation at the nexus of Science + Technology + Arts.



In the digital age and the decades of societal and environmental emergency states that we live in, science, technology, and industry have hit the innovation ceiling. New approaches, alternative perspectives, and creative solutions to inspire progress and accelerate development are needed.

Artistic thinking can provide the boost we need to tackle the great challenges of our times. Science, Technology and Arts (S+T+ARTS for short) limn a nexus at which insightful observers have identified extraordinarily high innovation potential.

For 13 months, the STARTS EC(H)O project, which aims to foster ecologically conscious and human-compatible digital technology, will promote 10 residencies centered on promoting the **triple transformation** - social, green and digital - with a special emphasis on the digital transition, sustainable and human-centered innovation.

The project presents **10 challenges** (described on page 10) linked to 6 major areas of innovation:

- (1) **Data Simulation & Visualisation** - utilizing advanced algorithms and technologies to simulate and visually represent complex datasets for improved analysis and decision-making.
- (2) **High-Performance Computing** - leveraging powerful computing systems to process vast amounts of data quickly and efficiently, enabling complex calculations and simulations.
- (3) **(Urban) Digital Twins** - creating digital replicas of physical environments or systems, such as cities, to monitor, analyse, and optimize their performance in real time.

(4) **Clean Tech/Circular Economy** - developing innovative solutions and practices to minimize waste, reduce environmental impact, and promote the efficient use of resources.

(5) **Artificial Intelligence** - harnessing algorithms and machine learning techniques to automate tasks, make predictions, and derive insights from data in various domains.

(6) **Bio and Life Sciences & Medical Technologies** - research and technologies in biology, life sciences, and medical fields to understand biological systems, develop medical treatments, and improve human health and well-being.

By providing free access to highly resource-intensive technologies, the residency hosts will empower the residents to develop unique new solutions and maximize their impact.

**Funding per artist:** EUR 40 000

**Number of selected artists:** 10 artists

**Call:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Admissibility and eligibility criteria check:** 1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> July

**Evaluation:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Contracts:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Residency period:** 13 months (1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025)

## About S+T+ARTS

S+T+ARTS is an initiative of the European Commission to foster alliances between science, technology, and the arts.

Science, Technology and Arts (=S+T+ARTS) form a nexus with an extraordinarily high potential for creative innovation. Such innovation is considered to be precisely what is called for if we are to master the social, ecological and economic challenges that Europe and the world will be facing in the near future. Under such a vision, scientists, tech and artists are seen as equally relevant in the innovation process, influencing, opening and enriching each other's views and practices.

Since 2016, S+T+ARTS has supported the development or promotion of more than **500 science+tech+arts innovations** through:

### **+150 STARTS Residencies**

Gathering scientists, tech, artists, business and other areas

### **+250 STARTS PRIZE winners, honorary mentions or nominees**

Gaining visibility and raising traction to further develop their projects

## About STARTS EC(H)O: fostering Ecologically conscious and human compatible digital technology

As part of the S+T+ARTS initiative, STARTS EC(H)O was launched in January 2024 and will run through December 2026, with the objective of building towards the triple transformation and developing artist-led approaches through creative experimentation and recognising the most successful ones:

**+ S+T+ARTS Prize** highlights and promotes outstanding technology-driven artistic projects and the achievements of the teams behind them towards the green transition and social sustainability. Two Grand Prizes, for Artistic Exploration and Innovative Collaboration, each with €20,000 prize money, are offered to honor innovative projects at the intersection of science, technology and the arts: the emphasis of both prizes lies on the creative appropriation and employment of technologies as well as the search for unique constellations of collaboration from the STARTS fields.

**+Through S+T+ARTS residencies**, artists are enabled to develop new pilots on human-centered and sustainable technologies in the fields of AI, high-performance computing, simulation & visualisation, digital twins, medical tech or circular economy.

**+ An annual AixMusic program at Sónar** will create an international platform for pushing limits of digital technology and exploring the compatibility of digital with human values and needs through artistic thinking.

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**Grant Agreement number:** 101135691

**Website:** <https://starts.eu/what-we-do/residences/startsecho/>

**Consortium:** Ars Electronica (Coordinator, AT), INOVA+ (PT), La French Tech Grande Provence (FR), Media Solution Center Baden-Württemberg (DE), Salzburg Festival (AT), Sonar (ES), T6 Ecosystems (IT), Dresden University of Technology (DE) and University of Stuttgart - High Performance Computing Center (HLRS).

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# 1. Residencies Programme

STARTS EC(H)O will support selected applicants through a residency programme starting in December 2024, as well as events during the residency period and thereafter until December 2026.

The programme includes:

- **Funding** (40.000€ per challenge).
- **Guidance and support** by the STARTS EC(H)O Residency Host Institutions.
- **Access to experts** provided by the STARTS EC(H)O Consortium.
- **A kick-off meeting on-site** at the Dresden University of Technology in December 2024.
- **An incubation programme (M1-M13)** to support the residency teams in kickstarting the pilots and nurturing them to accelerate their impact. The program will consist of 8-10 shared training & peer exchange sessions throughout the piloting period, about 24 overall hours of individual mentoring (support by email included) according to artists' needs, and a STARTS impact accelerator workshop at the end of the residency cycle.
- **An impact assessment (M4-M13)** to evaluate the potential impact of the new and innovative ideas, scenarios and prototypes developed. For this, an hour-long interview (online, recorded and transcribed) will be run with the selected artists at the beginning and at the end of their residency to discuss their expectations and expected impacts. These interviews will not be made public and will not be used for dissemination or communication purposes.

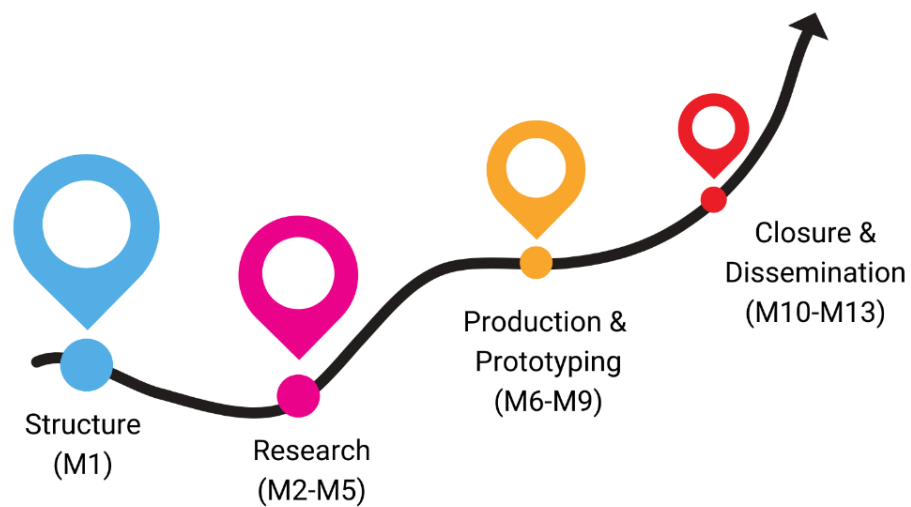
Furthermore, each residency includes 4 phases:

- **Phase 1 (M1, 1 month): Structure.** This phase focuses on three kick-off days to bring the new STARTS practitioners together in dedicated introductory sessions for artists and technology partners, and stage parts exclusively for artists to take advantage of synergies and peer learning. During these days, the consortium will introduce the project's methodology and steps of the residencies, sharing experiences from previous STARTS residency methodologies and toolkits.
- **Phase 2 (M2-M5, 4 months): Research.** During this phase, the development of a more concrete project proposal and a concept for the final artistic project is expected. A first mock-up of the output shall be delivered. The interactions between the artists, host institutions and other relevant stakeholders shall intensify. This phase consists of a minimum of 1 on-site meeting of minimum 1 day between artists and host institutions as well as a minimum of 3 online meetings.
- **Phase 3 (M6-M9, 4 months): Production & Prototyping.** With the support of host institutions, which will collaborate with the artists and provide access to their premises and equipment, artists will develop their residencies and, in this phase, shall deliver the final outputs. This phase consists of a minimum of 3 on-site meetings of minimum 3 or 4 days between artists and host institutions as well as a minimum of 6 online meetings.
- **Phase 4 (M10-M13, 3 month): Closure & dissemination.** This will take place after the end of the residencies and will involve the presentation of the residencies' outputs at local, regional, and international events. Artists would have the opportunity to disseminate their projects and outputs and to be available to participate in events organised by STARTS EC(H)O partners (such as Ars

Electronica Festival, Salzburg Festival, Sónar International Festival of Advanced Music and Congress of Technology and Creativity, etc.).


*Artists are required to be present in person at the location of the Residency 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.*


**Note: all travel expenses will be covered by the artist's grants. Please have this in mind when drawing up your budget.**




## 2. What do we offer?


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**Up to EUR 40.000 budget** for artists' residencies.  
The grant must cover the artist's, the organisation and participation at artistic exhibitions/events and other relevant costs to ensure the successful implementation of the project (including but not limited to artwork/prototype production, travel, subsistence and accommodation and other costs);
- 

**Access to the resources/facilities** provided by the Residency Host Institution during the Incubation Programme;
- 

**Participation in an individualised Mentoring Programme** (including business-specific, tech/sci-related sessions and email support - a total of 24 hours per artist);
- 

**Access to the S+T+ARTS network;**
- 

**Possibility of participating in S+T+ARTS EC(H)O Community events, exhibitions or festivals presenting the results of the residencies** (online and on-site - e.g. Ars Electronica Festival, Sónar AI & Music, and other festivals);
- 

**Visibility through high-impact communication activities to promote the artistic output and its innovation spillovers.**

### **Each residency will be facilitated by:**

- **Residency Host Institution:** providing guidance, advice (on concepts, technology and other aspects relevant to the residency), logistic support and access to premises and equipment; and support artists in searching and showcasing residencies results in events/ fairs/ exhibitions in AU and EU.
- **Experts and mentors:** providing relevant expert know-how to the artists and anchoring them firmly within the challenges and triple transition.

*For a detailed description of the parties mentioned above,  
please consult the [STARTS EC\(H\)O – Open Call FAQs](#).*



### 3. Expected Outputs from Artist

We encourage applicants to enhance and maximise their participation and contribution to the Residency Programme, with the understanding that financial support is directly linked with the activities related to the expected outputs listed below:

1 Producing a **presentable and art-driven innovation output** addressing the chosen challenge, in the form of an artwork or a functional or speculative artistic prototype;

2 Providing (at the beginning of the residency) a **descriptive abstract** of the art-driven innovation output and a **development plan** describing the objectives, actions, timetable and setup necessary for implementing it;

3 **Participating in and co-organising online or on-site local/ national events**, masterclasses, and seminars to (i) share the experience in participating in the STARTS EC(H)O Residency program; (ii) ensure the promotion of the residency results. Artists are encouraged to foresee active dissemination activities for their projects, eg. at local masterclasses or international conferences. For this, costs linked to these dissemination activities are eligible and **should be foreseen in the budget**.

4 Actively participate in the **dissemination and communication efforts** of the Residency, sharing posts on social media, producing articles to be shared on websites (such as starts.eu), participating in written/audio/video interviews;

5 **Contributing to the Impact Assessment Analysis** undertaken by STARTS EC(H)O Consortium and the Residency Host Institutions. An hour-long interview (online, recorded and transcribed) will be run with the selected artists at the beginning and at the end of their residency to discuss their expectations and expected impacts. These **interviews will not be made public and will not be used for dissemination or communication purposes**.

Submit 4 mandatory deliverables, 1 interim and 1 final Financial report.

**Deliverables:**

D1. Individual research & innovation plan (detailing the expectations, milestones, timing, resources & know-how required as well as preliminary output plans) (M3);

D2. Communication plan<sup>1</sup> (M4);

D3. Sustainability plan<sup>2</sup> (M10);

D4. Publishable summary<sup>3</sup> of the project's outcomes (incl. photo(s), bio info, collaboration details, credits) (M13).

**Project reports:** 1 interim report (M7+30 days) and 1 final report (M13+30 days) detailing all the costs associated with each activity carried out.

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1 **Communication plan** – A brief document explaining how the project will be disseminated in social media, website, physical events, etc...

2 **Sustainability plan** – A brief document explaining how the continuation of project results will be ensured.

3 **Publishable summary** – The content will be shared on the STARTS website and social media channels.

## 4. Challenges

This open call offers 10 residency opportunities hosted in three countries (Germany, Austria and France). Each Residency Host Institution defined its challenges in close collaboration with the STARTS EC(H)O Consortium. Artists are required to submit project proposals that respond to these challenges.

More details on the challenges, the specific opportunities, support and infrastructure, expectations, and requirements of each organisation can be found in the Challenges Catalogue.

### CHALLENGES CATALOGUE

***Note:** although the host institution may only be one, we encourage inter-institutional exchange if the resident artist considers that this will benefit the main contact.*

A summary of each challenge is presented below:

#### **CHALLENGE #1** Modelling the Mind

Understanding the human mind, how we perceive, think, feel and act, has implications extending from treatment of cognitive disorders to aspects of education, democracy, economics and many other facets of society. It may also lead to the development of intelligent machines with more human-like behaviour. At TU Dresden, scientists strive to construct models of the mind, by combining empirical psychology and phenomenology with immersive simulation, brain scanning and computational modelling.

**Country:** Germany

**Residency Hosting Institution:** TUD - Dresden University of Technology

**Innovation areas:**

- Data Visualisation & Simulation.
- Bio and Life Science & Medical Technologies;
- Urban Digital Twins;

#### **CHALLENGE #2** Exploring Human – AI Relationships

The emergence of artificial intelligence and autonomous robots has profound implications in many dimensions of society.

The emergence of artificial intelligence raises many questions about the manner in which we perceive and understand “other minds”. With what kinds of artificial systems can we enjoy inter-subjective relationships? What are the necessary and sufficient ingredients for something to appear alive, intelligent or sentient? What kinds of relationships will be possible with intelligences entirely alien to our own? To what degree must artificial beings and minds be made “in our likeness” if we are to enjoy meaningful relationships with them? Is inter-subjective understanding predicated on anthropomorphization?

**Country:** Germany

**Residency Hosting Institution:** TUD Dresden University of Technology

**Innovation areas:**

- Artificial Intelligence;
- Data Visualisation & Simulation;

- Bio and Life Science & Medical Technologies.

### **CHALLENGE #3 Exploring the Physics of Life**

Can we understand the biological processes underlying living systems? Can we build computational models of living biological matter? Can we identify the laws that underlie the spatiotemporal organization of life into molecules, cells and tissues? In other words, can we build a physics of life?

This is the grand challenge occupying the many scientists that make up the TU Dresden Physics of Life excellence cluster. <https://physics-of-life.tu-dresden.de/> This domain presents a captivating and interdisciplinary research landscape, spanning biological and life sciences, medical technology, data visualisation and simulation, and high-performance computing.

**Country:** Germany

**Residency Hosting Institution:** TUD - Dresden University of Technology

**Innovation areas:**

- Life Science & Medical Technologies;
- Data Visualization & Simulation;
- High-Performance Computing.

### **CHALLENGE #4 European Space Policy in the Age of Sustainability**

The era of the ISS as the only permanent inhabited orbital outpost is coming to an end and competition, between states and private entities, is on the rise. If Europe is to increase its existing exploration program including the areas of Low Earth Orbit space stations, human presence on the Moon and Mars or even the search for life in the universe, how does it differentiate itself from other global space powers?

This residency aims to explore opportunities to harness the technologies developed for these space activities and apply them for the benefit of people and planet Earth itself.

**Country:** Austria

**Residency Hosting Institution:** ESPI

**Innovation areas:**

- Bio & Life Sciences & Medical Technologies;

### **CHALLENGE #5 Virtual Représentations of Users**

Metaverse and spatial computing are other words for collaborative virtual environments enriched with data from the real world or the internet, simulations or experiments. But how are we represented there? What are the biases and challenges users faced by using the technologies to build their identity in virtual environments? Using the opportunity to work with the visualization software COVISE that allows users to explore three-dimensional scientific datasets in VR and AR with other users who can join the session remotely, the residency artist is invited to examine creative potential of technologies and reflect on those pressing questions. **Country:** Germany

**Residency Hosting Institution:** MSC & HLRS

**Innovation areas:**

- Data Visualization & Simulation;

### **CHALLENGE #6 Technical / technological solutions inspired by nature**

How can technical solutions be inspired by nature and benefit from biological systems? How much abstraction is needed for biological imitation?

Using the advantages of high-performance computing and its ability to simulate those processes in the digital environment, the artist is invited to explore phenomena of nature and their uptake to technological challenges in other fields of application. Technological solutions e.g. in aerodynamics might be inspired by investigation of biology. In this sense, the shape and movement of leaves or seeds being distributed by wind could be taken as a basis for novel approaches in aviation or wind turbines.

**Country:** Germany

**Residency Hosting Institution:** MSC & HLRS

**Innovation areas:**

- High-Performance Computing ;
- Data Visualization & Simulation.

### **CHALLENGE #7 Transforming Logs into Visual Narratives**

How can the artistic thinking contribute to bridging the human-AI divide and driving progress towards beneficial and trustworthy AI? We seek creative contributions that redefine our interaction with and understanding of HPC system logs, focusing on anomalies, energy consumption, and cybersecurity incidents. Contributions could aim to refine real-time visualizations on metric monitoring dashboards and employ VR/AR to represent live metrics in more insightful and user-friendly ways.

High-Performance Computing (HPC) systems, at the forefront of computational advancements, are now critical for diverse communities in artificial intelligence and quantum computing. However, the complexity and immense volume of data generated by HPC systems, such as system logs, present unique operational challenges in areas like anomaly detection, energy consumption, and cybersecurity incidents. What insights could we gain by reimagining our interaction with data from these complex systems through an artistic lens? How might creativity help bridge the divide between humans and AI, moving us toward more beneficial and trustworthy artificial intelligence? How can one enhance real-time visualizations for metric monitoring dashboards by using virtual and augmented reality to create engaging and accessible experiences for users in an insightful manner?

**Country:** Germany

**Residency Hosting Institution:** MSC & HLRS

**Innovation areas:**

- Artificial Intelligence;
- High-Performance Computing;
- Data Visualization & Simulation.

### **CHALLENGE #8 Urban Digital Twins for the Salzburg Festival**

During the last decades, a variety of digital tools have been developed to support both the planning and management of cities, as well as the inclusion of civic society. Stakeholders, planners and citizens each have their own, often diverging needs and expectations. Digital Twins serve as a bridge between these interest groups since they, along with being a powerful tool for designing and prototyping, are useful for conveying information and thus creating a mutual understanding. For this challenge, the residency artist is invited to experiment with approaches for Digital Twins for buildings and their visualization. The Salzburg Festival use



case is a unique opportunity to develop a prototype and novel vision for the utilization a Digital Twin to support improved planning processes and collaboration.

**Country:** Germany & Austria

**Residency Hosting Institution:** MSC & HLRS & SFS

**Innovation areas:**

- Urban Digital Twins;
- Data Visualization & Simulation;
- High-Performance Computing.

### **CHALLENGE #9 Cultural Heritage through New Technologies**

The Salzburg Festival has a long-standing tradition. Over the past 100 years, the organisation has amassed a treasure trove of event related materials, making it one of the most interesting theatre archives in Austria. Now it presents a new arena for further experimentation with emerging technologies. What novel and intriguing opportunities arise from the diverse applications of digital technologies in working with cultural heritage? How can data visualization and AI tools be used in innovative ways to enhance our understanding of historically relevant scenarios? Additionally, how can archives serve as a source for new creative endeavours?

**Country:** Austria

**Residency Hosting Institution:** SFS & AE

**Innovation areas:**

- Data Visualisation & Simulation;
- Artificial Intelligence.

### **CHALLENGE #10 Reconnecting to the territory**

The United Nations' Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development sets out the local and global challenges facing humanity in a perspective of necessary transformation towards sustainable development. It is in line with the philosophy of the "commons" and supports the collective management of landscapes and natural resources.

The residency will therefor engage in a reflection on the notions of socio-ecosystem and landscape, in a logic of reappropriation of (or reconnection to) natural and cultural spaces, by encouraging and nurturing connections with the living and its dynamics and processes (soils regeneration, wind, temperature, luminosity...). Combining the fields of bio-construction, digital technology, art and heritage (cultural and natural).

**Country:** France

**Residency Hosting Institution:** FTGP & AU

**Innovation areas:**

- Clean Tech/Circular Economy;
- Bio and Life Science & Medical Technologies;
- Artificial Intelligence.

## 5. Admissibility Criteria

To be an eligible applicant, proposals must be presented **by**:

- an individual artist or a collective of artists *or*
- *a self-employed individual (freelancer) that undertakes **artistic activities** as a profession/job occupation, such as creative technologists, media artists, creative coders, artistic front & back-end designers & hackers, digital artists, etc.)*

### Applicants need to meet the following rules:

- The natural persons who act as artists must be citizens or permanent residents in any of the eligible countries listed below:
  - The Member States of the European Union and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) or
  - Associated Countries to Horizon Europe ([+info](#)).
- The project and applicant cannot have conflicts of interest with the consortium or its partners and their ethical standards. The artist must not be affiliated with any of the STARTS EC(H)O Consortium partners and Associated Partners, their affiliated entities, employees and permanent collaborators. If you have any questions or doubts you can send an email to [startsecho@starts.eu](mailto:startsecho@starts.eu).
- The applicant must have produced enough artwork (at least one) to have their artistic experience assessed. The artist must share evidence for artwork reference as part of their portfolio. Previous experience with art-tech experimentation projects will be valued but does not represent a condition for participation.
- **The applicant cannot receive more than one S+T+ARTS residency grant in 2024 or 2025<sup>4</sup>** (but can have both STARTS Prize and STARTS residency, but no more than one running STARTS residency).
- The applicant must not be under liquidation or are an enterprise under difficulty according to the [Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.185](#), 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.

**We encourage artists being in the process of obtaining their PhD to submit a proposal related to their research topic and consider the residency project as a part of the wider research context. Please, if applicable, reflect on it and provide some**

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<sup>4</sup> As of January 1st, 2024, it has been determined that one artist cannot receive more than one grant concurrently from a S+T+ARTS Residency Programme at the same time. Meaning, individuals who are currently recipients of a grant from an existing S+T+ARTS Residency Programme or are selected to receive one in 2024-2025 are not eligible to receive funding from STARTS4 EC(H)O Residency Programme.

<sup>5</sup> Reference can be found on page 19 through the following link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651>

**All projects need to adhere to the following eligibility criteria:**

- Adherence to call requirements.
- Submitted the application forms filled in correctly, with all required fields completed, respecting the pages or number of characters limit and on time – **online and in the English language**;
- The proposed project is new, meaning:
  - The project has received no major EU funding;
  - The project has been running for less than six months at the time of submission or is significantly re-developed.

**Additional conditions:**

- ☐ *Artists may submit more than one proposal (up to 2 proposals maximum – for different challenges).*
- ☐ *Selected artists must commit to take part in the incubation program.*
- ☐ *Applicants must demonstrate a clear objective & offer for the S+T+ARTS collaborative practice and foresee participation in the collaboration program (e.g. co-creation weeks);*
- ☐ *Explain a clear European dimension and contribution to European policies (such as European Green Deal, New European Bauhaus, Trustworthy AI, ...);*
- ☐ *Agreed with the granting of rights form along with their application (accepting the open call rules & confirm the IP is 100% owned by the submitter), including the confirmation of key RRI concerns and open research approaches;*

*Other specifications may apply according to the challenge.*

*Please read the [challenges description](#), as additional pre-requisites might be required.*

## 6. Preparation & Submission

The Online [Application Form](#), accessible through the link below, must be submitted along with the completed [Artistic Proposal Template](#) and the [Estimated Budget Template](#). In the Application, applicants will include administrative information and the description of the proposed project(s), accept the formal declarations and provide an overview of the projected budget.

*Please note that any additional material, not specifically requested in the online application form, will not be considered in the evaluation.*

[Online Application Form  
with granting of rights](#)

[Artistic Proposal Template](#)

[Estimated Budget Template](#)

When submitting the application, please note that it must:

- **Be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 17h00 Central European Time.** Any application received after the deadline will be automatically rejected.<sup>6</sup>
  - Upon receipt of each proposal, you will receive an email with a confirmation of your submission. Get in touch with STARTS EC(H)O ([startsecho@starts.eu](mailto:startsecho@starts.eu)) if this is not the case.
- **Be submitted only through the system** - applications sent by email will not be considered.
- **Be submitted by an eligible applicant** (review Section 5 of this document).
- **Be submitted in English**, and comply with the number of characters/pages, as indicated in each application section.
- **Have all mandatory sections completed.**



### Multiple submissions

Applicants can submit a maximum of two proposals; however, they must respond to different challenges (one per challenge). If the candidate is selected by two different host institutions, they will be assigned the residence they prioritised (this must be mentioned in the proposal).

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<sup>6</sup> 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 administrative data (e.g. contact mail or phone, name of the company, etc.). In this case, the applicants must contact STARTS EC(H)O at [patricia.vieira@inova.business](mailto:patricia.vieira@inova.business) indicating the proposal ID, their username and the data that needs to be corrected.



## **Confidentiality**

### **Processing of Personal Data**

The reply to any call for projects involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, e-mail, and address). Such data will be processed pursuant [to Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016](#) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the consortium.

### **Data retention periods and deletion**

Deletion of data from the open calls will be processed in two steps:

- **Non beneficiaries:** As soon as each of the open calls are decided and at the latest one month after having the successful beneficiaries contracted, all submissions will be deleted as they are no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were collected. Data will not be used subsequently for any other purpose.
- **Beneficiaries:** Deletion of data for parties granted is derived from the legally mandated terms for the storage of the data in conjunction with the project's grant agreement and will be handled as soon as the retention obligations expire.

## 7. Intellectual Property

- Projects should be based on artists' original work or its right to use the IPR must be clear. Going forward, any foreseen developments must be free from third party rights, or those third-party rights must be clearly stated.
- Results and intellectual property rights are owned by the Party that generated them. The copyright of the results produced during STARTS EC(H)O Residency shall remain with their generators.
- Unless agreed otherwise, the ownership and copyright of the artwork or prototype developed during the STARTS EC(H)O Residency shall remain the property of the Artist, who has the exclusive right to reproduce, distribute, and commercially exploit the generated artwork/ prototype.
- All specifications concerning copyright and IPR shall be discussed during the residency and included in a written agreement to be signed by all the Residency parties.

## 8. Evaluation process

The evaluation and the selection of the applications will go through the following steps:

### STEP 1) ADMISSIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY CHECK

This will be completed by the STARTS EC(H)O Consortium. Only those applications that meet all requirements outlined in Section 5 and Section 6 (eligibility criteria, completeness of submitted documents, admissibility) will pass to the Internal Evaluation Phase.

### STEP 2) INTERNAL EVALUATION PHASE

Eligible and admissible applications will be assessed by two evaluators (one internal consortium staff member and one external expert). An arithmetic average of the rankings for each project will be calculated. The ranking will be made available to the evaluation committee.

Each evaluator will individually score each application. For each sub-criterion, evaluators will assign a score from 0 to 5, which will be recorded in an Individual Evaluation Report. All individual evaluations will be compiled and an average score per criterion, and total score, will be calculated resulting in a ranking list based on the numerical score.

This evaluation will be based on a 20-point score considering the following criteria and weighting as per the table below. The overall score of the evaluation will be subject to the following:

- **Minimum total score:** proposals with a total score of less than 12 points will be considered of insufficient quality and rejected.
- **Minimum score per criterion:** Proposals scoring less than 3 points in any sub-criterion will be considered of insufficient quality and rejected.

Criteria	Strategic dimension	Implementation dimension	Sustainability dimension	Score
<i>Artistic Mission 25%</i>	Concept & theoretical basis of the idea	Artistic thinking and methodology	Proposed aesthetic & design quality of the outcome	Threshold: (3/5)
<i>Relevance for innovation area &amp; industry sector 25%</i>	Relevance of the technological/scientific innovation for the chosen innovation area	Quality of partnership and benefit from infrastructure & know-how	Scalability & exploitability for the industry sector	Threshold: (3/5)
<i>Experimental use of technologies 25%</i>	Potential to develop, alter, hack, disrupt or govern the use of the technology	Realistic chance & likelihood of achieving the proposed results	Value proposition of pilot through the use of ICT	Threshold: (3/5)
<i>Triple transformation 25%</i>	Holistic transformation approach	Human compatible approach	Sustainable approach & ecological consciousness	Threshold: (3/5)
REMARKS				Threshold: (12/20)

0	= Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information
1	= Poor – criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	= Fair – proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses
3	= Good – proposal addresses the criterion well, but shortcomings are present
4	= Very good – proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
5	= Excellent – proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

All submitted proposals will be scored according to these criteria and ranked. Proposals having passed the **threshold in the second step** of the evaluation will be ranked according to their overall score and passed on to the evaluation panel. To ensure a sufficient **balance between the number of residencies per innovation area**, the evaluation panel may discuss a deviating selection from the ranked order.

### STEP 3) REVIEW PANEL

The jury members will decide on the final selected 10 artists based on the pool of ranked projects (only those above the threshold will be discussed) and a priority order in case of the same scores. If necessary, the evaluation committee will conduct interviews with the shortlisted candidates to decide on the final selection. The committee will further decide on a number of ranked proposals for a waiting list, in case the selected artists are not able to commit to the program.

### STEP 4) WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT & CONTRACT SIGNING

Results will be communicated to all the applicants (rejected and selected) by email, by **September 30th, 2024**. Once formal checks and validations have been completed, the winning artists will sign a tri-lateral sub-grant Agreement (between Artists, STARTS EC(H)O Consortium Partners and Residency Host Institutions).

**Note:** The evaluation committee will issue a public statement with an overview of the selection process, outcomes, and rationales, in the spirit of transparency and accountability. The statement will include the names of the evaluators.



## 9. Payment Arrangements

Applicants propose a budget based on a simplified estimation of costs, summarising the expected costs for the different budget categories, up to a maximum of EUR 40.000.

The selected grantees will receive a grant that will cover a maximum of 100% of the budget of their residencies as far as the costs are eligible and up to the maximum amount of EUR 40.000.

To be considered eligible, costs need to comply with the general and specific conditions set in the sub-grant agreement, including, among others, the following:

- they must be actually incurred by the artist;
- they must be incurred during the residency period as outlined in Section 1 and in connection with the expected activities and outputs of the Residency; and,
- they must fit the budget categories set out in approved budget, namely:
  - Fees for artist or collective
  - Travel & Subsistence
  - Subcontracting
  - Other Goods, Works & Services (including production, prototyping and consumable costs)

### REPORTING AND PAYMENT SCHEME

The participant must submit one interim report and one final report, using the templates provided by STARTS EC(H)O which will outline the activities performed and costs incurred. These reports shall not be longer than five pages.

Payments are planned as follows:

- **a first payment (representing 60% of the grant)**, following the signature of this sub-grant agreement by the parties;
- **a second payment (representing 20% of the grant)**, following the approval of the first interim report (covering months one to six of the residency), which will only be triggered if costs are declared and considered eligible.
- **a final payment (balance - representing up to 20% of the grant)**, following the approval of the final report (covering the full period as set out in the contract). The payment of the balance reimburses or covers the remaining part of the eligible costs for the implementation of the residency up to the maximum grant set in the sub-grant agreement.

The aim of the payments is to provide the participants with a float. The financing remains the property of STARTS EC(H)O until it is cleared against interim and final payments.

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the sub-grant agreement. They will be made in Euros to the bank account indicated by the participant. *Rules applicable to the conversion into euros will be included in the sub-grant agreement.*

If an audit of the commission states that the direct costs of providing financial support to the Artist or Collective of Artists must be cancelled for reasons caused by the Artist or Collective of Artists, the Consortium will have the right to ask the third-party for the reimbursement of the corresponding costs.

## 10. Artist Info Sessions

To help artists get a better understanding of the open call we plan to have **four live-streamed info sessions (about 30 min each)**.

**Session 1 – 21<sup>st</sup> May 11h CET – by INOVA+** – during this session, the consortium of STARTS EC(H)O will present the open call, the application process, requirements, budget questions and submission.

**Session 2 – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 12h CET – by MSC, HLRS, SFS and AE** – each host representative will present their challenges (5 to 9), the expectations for the artists and the foreseen outcomes.

**Session 3 – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 11h CET – TUD, ESPI, FTGP and AU** – each host representative will present their challenges (1 to 4 and 10), the expectations for the artists and the foreseen outcomes.

**Session 4 – 18<sup>th</sup> June 11h CET – by INOVA+** – this session aims to clarify applicants' questions and summarise the most common requests. After this meeting, the consortium members will publish these questions in a more comprehensive "FAQ" document.

All these sessions will be recorded and will be available on the [YouTube S+T+ARTS channel](#) (STARTS EC(H)O playlist).

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR  
THE INFO SESSIONS](#)

# 11. Contact Us

## IN CASE YOU NEED HELP

If, after reading the Guide for Applicants and the FAQs on the call webpage, you have further questions regarding the Open Call process, please send us an email at [startsecho@starts.eu](mailto:startsecho@starts.eu).

\* In case of any technical issues, please include the following information in your message:

- your name and your email address;
- details of the specific problem (error messages you encountered, bugs descriptions, i.e. if a dropdown list isn't working, etc.);
- screenshots of the problem.

## IF YOU HAVE COMPLAINTS

If, after receiving the results of the evaluation phases, you consider that a mistake has been made, you can send us your complaint. To do so, please send us your complaint in English by email at [startsecho@starts.eu](mailto:startsecho@starts.eu) including the following information:

- your contact details (including email address);
- the subject of the complaint information; and,
- evidence regarding the alleged breach.

Please submit your complaint within **3 calendar days starting** from the day of receipt of the rejection email. The STARTS EC(H)O Consortium will review the complaint within **seven calendar days from its reception**. If more time to assess the complaint is necessary, such will be communicated via email.

**Note:** The STARTS EC(H)O Consortium will not review anonymous complaints or complaints with incomplete information.

Please consider that the evaluation is conducted by a diverse group of experts. Complaints related to the results of the evaluation will not be considered, only those related to mistakes in the evaluation process will be analysed.

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## STARTS EC(H)O CONTACTS

Questions on the STARTS EC(H)O Residencies Program

Residency Program email: [startsecho@starts.eu](mailto:startsecho@starts.eu)

INOVA+ representative: Patrícia Vieira: [patricia.vieira@inova.business](mailto:patricia.vieira@inova.business)

Other questions / STARTS EC(H)O Coordinator

Masha Zolotova: [Masha.Zolotova@ars.electronica.art](mailto:Masha.Zolotova@ars.electronica.art)

For updates and project news, please visit the STARTS EC(H)O website

<https://starts.eu/what-we-do/residences/startsecho/>

Stay updated, by subscribing to the STARTS Newsletter

<https://starts.eu/subscribe-to-the-newsletter/>



## 12. Final Provisions

- Any matters not covered by this Guide for Applicants will be governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented, if necessary, by the law of Belgium.
- At the contract signing phase, Grant beneficiaries will discuss the necessary information regarding the projects to be used by the STARTS EC(H)O 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 STARTS EC(H)O Consortium might 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).

**DID NOT FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?**

You might want to check the [Frequently Asked Questions on our website](#).





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