



# OPEN CALL

Performing Life Akademia Network [PLANT] is a 2-year transdisciplinary project, funded by Creative Europe Programme, that aims to encourage the development and experimentation of contextual artistic and curatorial practices around cross-performing arts, eco-thinking and everyday life. PLANT is a collaboration between three research and creation centres: CRL – Central Eléfrica in Porto (PT) – project coordinator –, Isadora & Raymond Duncan Dance Research Center in Vyronas, Athens (GR) and Espai nyamnyam in Mieres, Girona (SP).

Through a mutual exchange of experiences, local concerns, methodologies and tools, the project will conceive and develop new sustainable artistic methodologies based on Raymond Duncan's heritage, the Permaculture principles and Contextual Art Practices while advocating the notion of 'commons' in art as a key concept in addressing urgent social and environmental challenges.

The PLANT project includes artistic residencies, public presentations of works developed by artists selected by this open call, conferences, participatory events and workshops, and both artistic and scientific publications, aiming to promote a replicable model for more sustainable artistic productions linked to the specificity of different communities and places.

Between **March 21st and April 30th 2023**, we are calling for proposals for artistic projects to be developed through residencies of 1 year period, in the countries involved in the project (Portugal, Greece and Spain). We are looking for three artists or collectives (represented by a maximum of 2 people), who have carried out previous works focused on relational modes, committed to participating in the development of artistic practices and methodologies capable of establishing strong connections with diverse places and contexts.

# PROJECT FRAMEWORK

The emergence of environmental concerns has demanded a profound change in ideological and cultural references. The great ecological crisis, beyond the environmental dimension, is also a crisis of reason and knowledge, and it is essential to seek new paradigms that recognize the importance of the micropolitical sphere and the planes of subjectivity and affection.

Over 100 years ago, Raymond Duncan - one of PLANT's references -, after a long and life-changing journey, founded an eco-community on the outskirts of Athens, Greece. Advocating self-sufficiency and autonomy, drawing from the thought of Plato, who considered art and technique to be closely interrelated, Raymond Duncan developed a philosophy known as actionalism, which connects the body, labour and craft in the direction of personal development and well-being.

We acknowledge this connection between art and life as one of the great potentials of Contextual Art Practices. A practice with a transdisciplinary approach demands a differentiated look, new references and critical research. By working on the tensions between the local and the global we wish to challenge the site-specific approaches and propose more open methodologies of connection with a place. That is, methodologies that question certain specificities of territory - human or non-human - and at the same time launch the debate on broader scales, enhancing its adaptation to different contexts.

Another field of investigation in PLANT relates to the introduction of Permaculture Principles into the process of art making: how do patterns and relationships found in nature provide us with alternative frameworks within which to develop artistic processes? The shared construction of a toolbox of methodologies around Contextual Art Practices is another of PLANT's aims, boosting the bonds between research and creation.

# WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for individual artists or collectives (represented by a maximum of 2 people), from or based in Portugal, Greece and Spain:

- From different backgrounds or fields, who work within performative practices;
- Who have carried out previous works related to contextual art practices;
- Who are available to participate in all scheduled activities, between October 2023 and October 2024 (please check the confirmed calendar of activities below);
- Who are committed to opening and adapting a methodology to diverse places and contexts, fostering connections within the specific context of each partner, made possible through informal meetings, walks, creative laboratories, etc.;
- Who are interested in reflecting on their own artistic practices and, at the same time, in tuning the debate into broader-scale issues;
- Who are interested in questioning the currently established modes of cultural production towards more sustainable and ethical practices;
- Who are available and interested in methodologies that work within long-term research and practices, developing their project during the different phases of the residency;
- Who are interested in the decentralisation of the artistic routes, further from the so-called “cultural axes” in Europe.

Articulating inclusion and diversity issues, we encourage applications from underrepresented communities.

# CALENDAR

From **October 2023 to October 2024**, the selected artists or collectives will participate in internal meetings, artistic residencies and open moments in Portugal, Spain, Greece and online. They will develop artistic methodologies and implement them in each context and then meet in Portugal for the final replication of the created works. The three partner centres will actively participate in accompanying each process to relate to context.

PLANT residencies follow the methodology of the whole project: Dream - Design - Celebrate.

- 1. Dream - Common Ground: 24 October - 4 November 2023, Greece**  
Internal meeting between all artists and partners, followed by the open "Dream" event in Greece. Then, with DDRC accompaniment, during a one week residency, all selected artists will explore the notion of common ground with references to Duncan's legacy and Permaculture principles.
- 2. Dream - Context and Target Groups: 6 - 11 November 2023, Portugal**  
With CRL accompaniment, during a one-week residency, all selected artists will get to know Porto's context and cross paths with local artists who have been developing work in the area.
- 3. Dream - Sharing: 5 - 7 February 2024, Online**  
Online moments with all partners and selected artists to share and develop ideas for each project.
- 4. Design - Context Experience: 15 - 26 April 2024, Greece and Spain**  
During a two-week residency period in Spain and in Greece, with nyamnyam and DDRC accompaniment, the selected artists will develop their methodologies related to local contexts, create work-in-progress performances and open them to the public.
- 5. Design - Systematization: 29 April - 5 May 2024, Spain**  
With nyamnyam accompaniment, during a one-week residency, the selected artists will share methodologies among themselves and systematize knowledge resulting from previous contextual experiences. This residency will be followed by the open "Design" event in Spain.
- 6. Design - Sharing: 17 - 19 June 2024, Online**  
Online moments with all partners and selected artists to reflect and assess each project and prepare the Celebration phase.
- 7. Celebrate - Implementation: 16 September - 8 October 2024, Portugal**  
With CRL accompaniment, during a two-week residency in Portugal, the selected artists will develop and implement the methodology previously experimented within Spain and Greece. This residency will be followed by the open "Celebrate" event in Portugal.

## FUNDING

The funding allocated for each selected project is **7.000,00 euros** (all taxes included). Adding to that, the project will cover travel, accommodation, food expenses and also a limited amount for project implementation. The selected projects should cope with the project framework to produce sustainable practices aligned with the permaculture principles.

## SUBMISSIONS

After its launch on 21st March 2023, the Call will be open for applications until **30th April 2023, 23h59 (CET)**. The final results will be shared via email and available on the project's website on 31st May 2023.

Proposals should be submitted in the English language through **this specific form** available on the project's website. The quality of the English language will not be an object of the Evaluation Criteria, as long as it is discernible.

## JURY

The evaluation and selection will be made by a jury composed of representatives of each partner - André Braga, Cláudia Figueiredo and Pedro Vilela (CRL), Ariadna Rodriguez and Iñaki Alvarez (nyamnyam) and Penelope Iliaskou, Rosana Sanchez and Aris Spentsas (DDRC).

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The criteria for choosing the artists will depend on the interest expressed in participating in the project, the outline of the idea to be developed, past experiences in contextual artistic practices and concerns with sustainability, inclusion, diversity and gender equality.

Applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

### **Artist's body of work**

Balance: 40%

- the consistency of the artistic background of the applicant (artistic path and previous works)

### **Artistic project and its relevance to the framework of the project**

Balance: 50%

- Interest and originality of the presented idea;
- Experience/motivation for designing replicable models related to local contexts;
- Experience/motivation for reflection on more sustainable artistic practices and methodologies.

### **Adequation to context**

Balance: 10%

- Feasibility of the work the artist wants to develop;
- Capacity of the partners to provide support in line with the applicant's expectations and needs.

## DISCLAIMERS

Shall the selected individual artists or collectives withdraw from pursuing the coproduction, the partners involved ought to be notified within two weeks after the final selection notice, in order to summon the next eligible runner-up.

If the individual artists or collectives withdraw from the process once the contract has been signed and the residencies have started, they will have to return the sums received so far and compensate the partners for the damages caused.

Given that PLANT is an international cooperation project, all applicants should be mindful that the production and creative process must be led in English.