NUR Open Call 2026

Euro-Mediterranean atelier for audiovisual production and artificial intelligence

1. Purpose

The Italian-Arab and Mediterranean Centre - Sardinia promotes this open call as part of NUR to identify artists and talent working in audiovisual production using artificial intelligence.

NUR is an atelier dedicated to developing Sardinian talent and producing AI-native audiovisual works in Sardinia. Its model is learning through production: artists in residence create an original work in Cagliari alongside a local crew, sharing methods, tools and creative processes through a masterclass and daily production work.

The works will be presented at a public event in Cagliari, included in NUR's freely accessible multimedia publishing series and supported by a national and international dissemination campaign.

2. Structure of the call

The call is divided into two sections.

Section A - Artists in residence: selection of three artists or collectives. One residency is reserved for an artist born, resident or domiciled in Sardinia (the "reserved residency"); the other two are open to Italian and international applicants of any origin.

Section B - Production crews: selection of talent born, resident or domiciled in Sardinia, organised into three crews of 2 to 4 people, each paired with a residency.

Applicants may apply to both sections.

3. Dates and location

The residencies will take place in Cagliari from 16 November to 16 December 2026. Each residency will last between 2 and 4 weeks (14–28 days), according to a schedule agreed by the artistic direction and the selected artists. Applications awarded after 25 November 2026 may only be assigned a two-week residency.

The final presentation of the works will take place in Cagliari on 17 December 2026. The event will be open to the public and free of charge.

4. Section A: eligibility and conditions

Artists, filmmakers and digital creatives may apply individually or as a collective. All participants must be aged 18 or over. A maximum of two members per collective may take part in the residency. Applicants must have created at least one audiovisual work in which artificial intelligence plays a significant creative role.

Each residency includes a fee of €600 gross per week and a production budget of up to €2,000 for technical services, equipment hire, software licences and computing resources. Equipped workspaces and organisational and technical support are also provided.

Artists coming from outside Sardinia will receive reimbursement of return travel expenses up to €1,200, accommodation in Cagliari provided by the organisation for the entire residency, and a daily allowance of €30 for each day of the residency.

For the artist in the reserved residency:

- if resident or domiciled outside the Metropolitan City of Cagliari, accommodation is provided for the entire residency, together with a meal allowance of €30 per day and a flat-rate travel reimbursement of €100;
- if resident or domiciled within the Metropolitan City of Cagliari, a meal allowance of €30 per day is provided.

All amounts are gross of withholding taxes, charges and VAT, where applicable.

The selected artist undertakes to:

- be present in Cagliari throughout the 14–28-day residency;
- deliver a masterclass of at least four hours, open to their crew and members of the public attending as observers;
- create the work with the active involvement of the assigned crew;
- deliver the completed work;
- participate in the final event and the project's communication activities.

5. Section B: eligibility and conditions

Applicants must be aged 18 or over and born, resident or domiciled in Sardinia, with skills in at least one of the following areas: directing, writing, cinematography, editing, sound design, VFX and compositing, generative AI pipelines and tools, or production. Where scores are equal, priority will be given to applicants under 35.

Each crew member will receive €100 gross for each day of participation in the resident artist's project, a certificate of participation and a credit in the work.

Crew members undertake to:

- attend the masterclass;
- participate in production for at least ten days during the assigned residency;
- attend the final event.

The artistic direction will match crews with residencies, taking into account applicants' skills and the needs of each project.

6. Themes and characteristics of the works

Works must be original and use artificial intelligence creatively and thoughtfully. Eligible formats include short films, video art, experimental works and documentaries, with a duration of 3 to 15 minutes. Works must have Italian and English subtitles or be accompanied by explanatory materials that facilitate understanding.

Dialogue with Sardinia and the Euro-Mediterranean region is encouraged: places, communities, languages, memories and landscapes may serve as material, context or interlocutors for artistic research, without constituting a mandatory theme.

7. Use of artificial intelligence

Applicants must declare the artificial intelligence tools they intend to use and guarantee that they hold the necessary rights and licences for all materials, models and content used.

Generating images or voices attributable to real people without their written consent is not permitted. Works must comply with the transparency obligations for generated or manipulated content under Regulation (EU) 2024/1689. The role of AI in the creative process must be stated in the credits and accompanying information about the work.

8. How to apply

Applications may be submitted from 15 October until 23:59 on 30 November 2026, exclusively through the project's online application form. Participation is free of charge.

The form sends applications and attachments to the NUR team at team@nurcreativelab.eu. While completing the form, data and attachments remain available only while the page is open; closing or reloading the page before submission will erase the information entered.

Section A applicants must submit a single PDF file, no larger than 10 MB, containing:

- a biography and portfolio links;
- the concept for the work to be created during the residency (maximum 3,000 characters);
- a work plan and technical requirements;
- a masterclass proposal (maximum 1,500 characters);
- the roles required within the crew;
- any request for the reserved residency, specifying the eligibility criterion met and the municipality of residence or domicile.

An introductory video of up to three minutes is optional.

Section B applicants must submit:

- a CV;
- links to previous work;
- a motivation letter (maximum 1,500 characters);
- their main area of expertise.

The call is published in Italian and English. Section A applications may be submitted in either language.

9. Evaluation and selection

Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis until all available places are filled. All applications must nevertheless be submitted by 23:59 on 30 November 2026.

Applications will be evaluated by a committee comprising NUR's artistic and scientific direction and two external experts in audiovisual production and creative technologies.

Applications from artists in residence will be published on the project's social media channels.

Evaluation criteria - Section A

Criterion	Maximum points
Artistic quality of the applicant's practice and concept	30
Originality and critical awareness in the use of AI	20
Educational value of the masterclass and ability to involve the local crew	20
Feasibility within the residency timeframe	15
Relationship with Sardinia and the Euro-Mediterranean region	15
Total	**100**

Evaluation criteria - Section B

Criterion	Maximum points
Skills and previous work	50
Motivation	30
Alignment with the needs of the selected projects	20
Total	**100**

The committee may conduct online interviews with applicants.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTED PARTICIPANTS
Results will be communicated by email and published on the website. The committee's decision is final.

10. Rights to the works

Authors retain ownership of the rights to their works and grant the Italian-Arab and Mediterranean Centre - Sardinia a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence for five years for:

- publication in NUR's freely accessible publishing series;
- presentation at events, festivals and cultural diplomacy initiatives;
- use of excerpts for project communication and documentation.

Any subsequent dissemination by the author must include the following acknowledgement: "Opera realizzata nell'ambito di NUR - Atelier euromediterraneo dell'audiovisivo e dell'intelligenza artificiale, con il contributo della Regione Autonoma della Sardegna".

11. Personal data

Personal data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 exclusively for the purposes of this call and the project. The data controller is the Italian-Arab and Mediterranean Centre - Sardinia.

12. Information

For information and requests for clarification, contact team@nurcreativelab.eu. Answers of general interest will be published as FAQs on the project website.
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