

**Common
Grounds**

**OPEN
CALL**

Artistic cross-production residency
between Bulgaria, Spain and France

Common Grounds is a project co-funded by the European Commission's
Creative Europe programme and supported by the Carasso Foundation



GRADOSCOPE



RIA

THE PROJECT

Common Grounds is a European project supported by the Creative Europe program, bringing together artists, researchers, and local communities to address issues of urban and rural regeneration. Led by a consortium of three partners – La Citadelle de Marseille (France), Gradoscope (Bulgaria), and Fundación RIA (Spain) – the project operates at the intersection of today’s ecological, democratic, and urban challenges. It aims to tackle soil pollution by exploring narratives and interdependent relationships within our green spaces, contributing to a renewed imagination of the living world. The project runs from late 2024 to mid-2026.

THE CALL

Through artist residencies and collaborations between ecologists, artists, mediators, residents, public authorities, and businesses, **Common Grounds** aims to create new narratives and perspectives on the role of soil in contemporary societies. We are open to any proposal that could range from physical interventions to video installations and performances, responding to context and urges of the selected Bulgarian, French and Spanish sites.

Artists from all fields are invited to participate, including visual art, architecture, video, photography, arts and crafts, performing arts, installation, and digital arts. Experience in collaborative project management with local communities will be highly appreciated. The artist’s interest in projects combining art, nature, landscape, art and science will also be appreciated. Applicants need to be fluent in the use of English, since it will be the main language during the programme.

THE RESIDENCIES

Three artists will be selected for joint research and production residency at each of the partner spaces. The residency program lasts for 6 months between June and December 2025.

First session will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria
from June 02 to July 27 2025.

Second session will be held in Marseille, France
from August 18 to October 12, 2025.

Last session will take place in Galicia, Spain
from October 27 to December 21, 2025

Each residency session will comprise public presentations as the project unfolds (2 intermediate restitutions and 1 final presentation)



Sofia, Bulgaria. / Photo credit: Eduard Valentinov



Marseille, France. / Photo credit: Iurii Dzivinskyi



Galicia, Spain. / Photo credit: Jaime Diaz

THE AWARDS

The award for each artist selected will include artistic fees, housing fees for non local artists, production grant and the coverage of the transportation costs. Each partner will provide working spaces and human support during the residency period.

THE RESIDENCY CONDITIONS

Gradoscope, Sofia, Bulgaria:

- Artistic fees: 2 000 € per artist for the whole period. In the event of force majeure leading to early termination of the residency, fees will be paid in proportion to the time spent.
- Round-trip tickets from Marseille and Galicia to Sofia up to 400€
- Gradoscope will provide an accommodation or allowance of up to 400 €/month for housing for the French and the Spanish artists.
- Gradoscope will provide a local artworks production grant up to 2 000 € per artist, including any shipping fees.

La Citadelle de Marseille, Marseille, France:

- Artistic fees: 3 000 € per artist for the whole period. In the event of force majeure leading to early termination of the residency, fees will be paid in proportion to the time spent.
- Round-trip tickets from Galicia and Sofia to Marseille to 250€
- Citadelle de Marseille will provide an accommodation or allowance of up to 500 €/month for housing for the Bulgarian and the Spanish artists.
- Citadelle de Marseille will provide a local artworks production grant up to 5 000 € per artist, including any shipping fees.

Fundación RIA, Galicia, Spain:

- Artistic fees: 2 400 € per artist for the whole period. In the event of force majeure leading to early termination of the residency, fees will be paid in proportion to the time spent.
- Round-trip tickets from Sofia and Marseille to Galicia up to 400€
- Fundación RIA will provide a residence allowance of up to 400 €/month for housing for the Bulgarian, French and Spanish artists
- RIA will provide a local artworks production grant up to 5 000 € per artist, including any shipping fees.

ELIGIBILITY

There are no limits on nationality, age, race, ethnicity, religion and gender. However, candidates must be settled in either Marseille (France), Sofia (Bulgaria), or Galicia (Spain). The artists must be working in one of the three cities concerned.

APPLICATION

Interested artists are invited to send manifestations of interests including:

- Curriculum vitae, contact infos, relevant previous experiences & professional references.(maximum 2 A4 pages)
- A letter of interest (max. 3 page A4) reflecting candidate views on:
 - project idea(s)
 - production process
 - proposition of methodology on how to engage with local & scientific communities
- Portfolio including images, texts and examples of previous works.
- Un letter confirming the commitment of the artist(s) to the entire residency program.

The deadline for applications is April 13, 2025.

The application should be sent by email with the subject:
“Common Grounds - application [name - country]”:

For the artists based in France, please send the elements to this address:
europa@lacitydelle.org

For the artists based in Bulgaria, please send the elements to:
ina@gradoscope.com

For the artists based in Spain, please send the elements to:
info@fundacionria.org

Questions regarding this call and residency programme, must be sent to:
consultas@fundacionria.org

The format for sending elements is PDF.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The selection committee will be composed of representatives from cultural, scientific, mediation sector, and local communities from each area; it will be gender-balanced.

The selection committee will meet on April 30 2025 after having shortlisted 9 artists (3 from each country) to attend personal interviews (online or in person), in order to select one artist per country. According to the number of applications, non-selected artists might not receive extensive feedback on their application.

THREE SITES, THREE REALITIES

Collaborations will be woven around three European sites facing soil pollution issues, engaging a diverse range of people and expertise.



Stochna Gara, Sofia (Bulgaria) – A disused freight railway station in downtown Sofia, where the Gradoscope association, professionals, and residents are rethinking its uses and future. Its industrial past has impacted soil health, leaving areas partially polluted. This raises a critical question in the rehabilitation process: how can new uses be reimagined while considering soil pollution?

[Click for more information](#)



La Citadelle de Marseille (France) – A former military site in the heart of the city, featuring over 3 hectares of green spaces left fallow. With three centuries of military history and urban development, the site now faces partially polluted soils. As it is gradually reactivated and opened to the public, questions arise about the future of its green spaces in a city center marked by significant disparities.

[Click for more information](#)



Froxán communal land community, Galicia (Spain) – A wooded area formerly home to mines dedicated to war munitions production, now closed. The forest has been cared for and maintained by the residents of the Galician village of Lousame for generations. Mining activities have affected not only the forest and soils but also the region's socio-economic fabric. After a major wildfire in 2016 villagers, alongside the Barbanza Ecosocial Lab and Fundación RIA, are working together on forest regeneration while facing the potential reopening of mining operations.

[Click for more information \(p. 50\)](#)

THE HOSTS

The three hosting organizations came together out of a shared conviction that regenerating public spaces and restoring polluted soils cannot be achieved without genuine collaboration between citizens, scientists, and artists. We embrace common values such as equitable decision-making, power balance, and shared governance. As cultural organizations, we believe that art can—and must—serve as a vital catalyst for rethinking how we perceive and narrate our society.

GRADOSCOPE



Gradoscope (Sofia, Bulgaria)

Gradoscope focuses on redeveloping industrial sites, such as the former Stochna Gara freight station in downtown Sofia. Merging urban planning, citizen engagement, and artistic creation, the association seeks to sustainably reimagine the use of abandoned industrial spaces, while addressing soil pollution and meeting the social needs of the neighborhood.

CITADELLE DE MARSEILLE



La Citadelle de Marseille (Marseille, France)

Located in the heart of the city, La Citadelle de Marseille is a seventeenth-century military fort surrounded by 1,5 hectares of partially polluted green spaces. Its mission is to revitalize this historic heritage by involving local residents, back-to-work programs participants, and ecological engineers, thereby inventing fresh ways to develop and enhance these urban areas.

RIA



Fundación RIA (Galicia, Spain)

Fundación RIA promote a collective and ecological approach to territorial management. By drawing on scientific research, the active involvement of local communities, and cooperation with public authorities, they aim to regenerate forest areas and secure balanced socio-economic development in Galicia.

Common Grounds is a project co-funded by the European Commission's Creative Europe programme and supported by the Carasso Foundation