

Open Call: After Industry: Regeneration of Utopia

Reflecting on the revitalization of urban, architectural and care-providing utopias

Residency Duration: 4-5 weeks

Location: Trenčianske Teplice, Slovakia

Time frame of residency: September - October 2025

We are looking for artists, cultural workers, collectives, interdisciplinary scholars interested in realizing an on site (art)research reflecting on topics of post industrial transformation, social justice, solidarity networks, architecture or infrastructures of care, transitology and the like.

What we offer

- **2 residencies with a stipend of each 3.000 Eur** (covering travel, accommodation, expenses) and research-related expenses during the residency stay in Slovakia and final presentation
- **up to 1000 Eur for research-related expenses for each residency** during the residency stay in Slovakia and for final presentation (e.g. materials, local travel expenses, etc.)
- the possibility to engage in a transnational dialogue on the challenges of the post-industrial heritage in Europe
- a network of European experts and artists

(Collectives might apply but the budget and production conditions of the residency remain the same.)

Application Requirements, Process

Your digital application in English must include the following documents:

- Your CV and a letter of motivation
- A short summary of the residency project (max. 5000 characters)
- Expected format of the residency output

- Applicants' portfolio(s)
- Preferred dates of a residency stay (between Sept & Oct 2025)
- Cost Calculation (please specify cost estimate)

Expected Outcomes

Public presentation of the residency findings. Various formats are possible: lecture, lecture-performance, commented walk, public discussion, studio visit, work-in-progress presentation. We don't expect residents to *produce* a new artwork or project, but to provide a conceptual output for an artwork or intervention and share their reflections during an international conference at the end of the residency programme in October 2025.

Residency Set-Up:

During the residency stay residents will be in touch both with the curatorial team (regular meetings) and a local „buddy“-organization providing assistance on spot. Several meetings with the Slovak artists, researchers, actors will be organized during the residency stay in order to support an exchange and sharing of thoughts.

How to Apply

- Submit your application digitally via email to: Sarah.Schloer.extern@goethe.de
- Only complete applications will be reviewed by our jury!
- Application Deadline: **Sunday 4 May 2025 (results will be announced in May 2025)**

Selection Criteria

- thematic relevance
- financial plausibility

AFTER INDUSTRY is a project by EUNIC-Cluster Bratislava together with various local partners. It is funded by Franco-German Cultural Fund and by EUNIC – European Union National Institutes for Culture and funded by EUNIC global.



EUNIC
EU National Institutes
for Culture

Context and proposed framing of the residency topic:

Curated by Ivana Rumanová

The region of Trenčín has been historically marked by the massive industrialization since the early 20th century. The development of the heavy and arm industry, but also the chemical and textile industries in the cities of Middle Považie region have been implemented under the newly formed Czechoslovak Republic as means of modernist progress leading the region out of poverty and agrarian character towards the “better tomorrows”. The industrial aspect of the region have been re-confirmed after the 2nd World War with working classes being the most important demographic factor of the cities and their urbanism. Yet, after the fall of communism in 1989 that brought along partial or complete closure of most factories the cities have found themselves in a position of an eternal liminality: Not the centers of production anymore but not achieving any new identity either. The region is stuck in a post-phase, with utopian thinking, or prospect of future disappearing from its horizons and with surveys regularly showing the high level of skepticism towards the EU policies.

The aim of the project is to reflect on the lost utopias using the case studies of two neighbouring cities: Nova Dubnica and Trenčianske Teplice. Nova Dubnica was built in 50s on a greenfield site upon the urbanist proposal of Jiří Kroha, following the SORELA principles. Built to accommodate the workers of a nearby arm factory, it was meant to embody the principles of an ideal socialistic city with zones for work, living and leisure activities. The city has no historical center, no other possible point of reference. **What happens with the ideal socialist town once the socialism is over? How does its urbanism responds to new dynamics of living and working? How do inhabitants identify themselves? What sources of inspiration does the modernist urbanism offer for today? How can we validate this experience, yet without falling into a trap of nostalgic narration and with taking a critical approach towards the environmental and ethical impacts of arms-production? How will the recent interest in the renewal of arms production affect the everydaycity? How to approach the issue of weaponisation, which causes cuts in culture and social services, through the arts?**

Trenčianske Teplice is a spa city, located just some 5 km from Nova Dubnica. It was a place of recreation of vital forces for hardly working bodies. Thus it creates a complementary reference point to the productivist city of Nova Dubnica, it represents the architecture of care and its accessibility. Yet, an important part of this public infrastructure and gems of functionalist architecture got privatized after 1989 and became victim of profit-oriented speculations. **What role can architecture of care play in revitalizing the utopian thinking nowadays?**

The project will bring together local actors, inhabitants, activists, both Slovak and international experts in architecture and urbanism, artists and activists from Europe to reflect on the revitalization of utopias – which is a highly relevant topic, both locally and on European level. It tries to ground the various artistic and expert reflections in two particular localities, thus valorizing the expertise of the local inhabitants as equally important.