

Open Call for Local Mentors – Creative Platforms (Living Labs)

EU4Culture II – Sustainable Creative Ecosystems

Application Deadline: 20 July 2026, 23:59 CEST

GENERAL INFORMATION

About the Call

The Goethe-Institut, the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany, is announcing an open call for individual experts and consultants for the position of Local Mentor for Creative Platforms (Living Labs) within the EU-funded programme “EU4Culture II – Sustainable Creative Ecosystems”.

Applications are invited for mentoring assignments in the following participating countries and programme contexts:

- Armenia;
- Georgia;
- the Republic of Moldova;
- Ukraine;
- the Belarusian cultural and creative sectors in exile.

About EU4Culture II

EU4Culture II supports the development of sustainable and inclusive cultural and creative ecosystems in Armenia, Azerbaijan¹, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, as well as within the Belarusian cultural and creative sectors in exile.

The programme aims to strengthen the role of culture in economic and social development, foster intercultural dialogue and cooperation, and improve the sustainability, participation, and resilience of cultural and creative ecosystems.

About Creative Platforms

Creative Platforms are place-based and/or sector-specific participatory platforms based on Living Lab methodology. They bring together cultural actors, communities, businesses, educational institutions, public authorities, and other relevant stakeholders to co-create, test, and refine culture-related initiatives and solutions responding to local needs.

Creative Platforms aim to:

- bring together relevant stakeholders and encourage inclusive participation;
- apply participatory and co-creation approaches;
- analyse local cultural needs, challenges, assets, and opportunities;
- co-create a Creative Ecosystem Roadmap with shared priorities and practical actions;
- establish functional and participatory governance and decision-making models;
- strengthen local partnerships, ownership, and long-term cooperation.

¹ This open call does not cover the Azerbaijani programme context, for which mentor engagement will be organised separately.

DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

A maximum of two mentors will be selected for each participating country or programme context to support the selected Creative Platforms throughout the full mentoring and implementation process.

The mentors will work as a complementary mentoring team, combining expertise in platform structuring, governance, and self-organisation with expertise in participatory processes, co-creation, innovation, roadmap development, and ecosystem connections.

Together, the mentors will act as process and methodological guides. They will support Creative Platforms in engaging relevant stakeholders, analysing local needs and opportunities, developing functional and sustainable platform structures, and co-creating practical Creative Ecosystem Roadmaps. They will also support the implementation, testing, monitoring, and refinement of selected actions arising from the roadmaps.

Mentors will provide guidance, facilitation, and methodological support but will not replace the responsibility of the selected Creative Platforms for decision-making, implementation, financial management, reporting, or delivery of agreed outputs.

Main tasks and responsibilities:

The mentor assignment will cover the full Creative Platform support process. Tasks will be organised through the following work packages and activated according to the programme timeline and the needs of the assigned Creative Platform(s).

Work Package 1 – Creative Platform Development and Roadmap Co-Creation

The mentor will:

- support the Creative Platform(s) in defining and clarifying their strategic focus, objectives, governance arrangements, and expected results;
- facilitate inclusive community-building and multi-stakeholder co-creation processes, ensuring engagement across diverse actors in the cultural and creative ecosystem;
- advise on inclusive governance, self-organisation models, partner engagement mechanisms, and collaborative decision-making that strengthen operational functionality, local ownership, and long-term sustainability;
- facilitate the adaptation of the Living Lab methodology to the specific cultural, institutional and local socio-economic context;
- guide the mapping of ecosystem stakeholders and the assessment of local needs, assets, challenges, and opportunities through appropriate analysis and stakeholder consultation, while supporting active collaboration among relevant actors;
- support the co-development of practical Creative Ecosystem Roadmaps, including priorities, actions, responsibilities, timelines, resources, risks, and sustainability considerations.

Work Package 2 – Implementation, Testing, and Refinement

The mentor will:

- support the translation of the roadmap into feasible and practical small-scale implementation steps and priority actions;
- provide methodological guidance for planning, facilitating, and testing pilot actions or other selected interventions;
- support stakeholder coordination, facilitation of collaboration, feedback collection, and iterative learning processes;
- support the identification and mitigation of implementation risks and contextual constraints;
- support the refinement of the roadmap based on results, evidence, outcomes and lessons learned, thereby ensuring iterative improvement;
- advise on sustainability plans, local ecosystem ownership, partnership development, and resource mobilisation.

Work Package 3 – Monitoring, Coordination, and Reporting

Throughout the assignment, the mentor will:

- ensure efficient coordination with the other selected mentor to guarantee complementarity, coherence, and avoidance of duplication;
- support proportionate monitoring, reflection, and learning processes;
- facilitate adaptive and collaborative management practices, enabling the Creative Platform(s) to adjust their approaches based on evidence and feedback;
- maintain regular communication with the EU4Culture II team and the relevant Country Coordinator;
- provide concise progress updates and summaries corresponding to the activated work packages.
- contribute to cross-platform learning and ecosystem knowledge exchange across countries.

Duration and workload

The assignment is expected to begin with preparatory mentor training in October-November 2026 and continue through the Creative Platform development, implementation, testing, monitoring, and refinement process, indicatively until March 2029.

The mentor's engagement will be organised through work packages activated according to the programme timeline and the needs of the assigned Creative Platform(s). All activated work packages form part of the same overall service contract.

An indicative input of approximately **20–25 working days** is foreseen for **Work Package 1 – Creative Platform Development and Roadmap Co-Creation**. The workload and deliverables for subsequent work packages will be agreed and confirmed before their activation.

The activation of subsequent work packages will be subject to programme decisions, the progression of the assigned beneficiaries to the relevant implementation phase, and confirmation of the related scope, workload, and deliverables. The indicative end date does not guarantee continuous work or the activation of all work packages.

The work will be carried out primarily within the relevant participating country or programme context and may include travel to regional locations, in-person activities, and online meetings.

Approved travel and accommodation costs related to the mentor training and assignment activities will be covered separately by the programme.

MENTOR PROFILE

Skills, Experience, and Qualifications:

Applicants are not expected to demonstrate equal strength across every area listed below. The programme may select complementary mentor profiles to ensure that the mentoring team collectively covers the needs of the assigned Creative Platform(s).

1. Knowledge

- Good understanding of the cultural and creative sectors, including the relevant regional or local contexts and sectoral priorities described in [Annex 1](#).
- Solid knowledge of project planning and implementation in the cultural and creative sectors.
- Understanding of governance, self-organisation, partnership, and decision-making models relevant to participatory platforms.
- Familiarity with experimental and iterative project-development approaches.
- Familiarity with participatory and community-based approaches, including Living Lab methodology, the Quadruple Helix model, design thinking, and similar collaborative frameworks, is considered an asset.
- Excellent command of the relevant local language or languages and a high level of working English.

2. Experience

- At least seven years of relevant professional experience in cultural management, facilitation, organisational development, community-based initiatives, or related fields.
- Experience in one or more of the following areas:
 - platform development, governance, or self-organisation;
 - facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and co-creation;
 - cultural ecosystem development and strategic planning;
 - roadmap development, testing, learning, and refinement.
- Experience in organising or facilitating workshops, meetings, or collaborative processes.
- Experience working with diverse stakeholders, including cultural actors, civil society organisations, communities, businesses, educational institutions, and public bodies where relevant.
- Previous coaching or mentoring experience is considered an asset.
- Experience in international or EU-funded projects is considered an asset.

3. Skills

- Clear and concise verbal and written communication.
- Strong facilitation, coaching, or mentoring skills.
- Ability to organise tasks, manage timelines, and follow up on agreements.
- Ability to analyse and summarise discussions, evidence, and results.
- Good command of standard office and online collaboration tools.

4. Personal Competencies

- Strong team-working skills and openness to dialogue and constructive feedback.
- Ability to work independently in a structured and results-oriented manner.
- Reliability, responsibility, and a high level of discretion.
- Curiosity and willingness to understand different local needs and perspectives.
- Readiness to travel within the relevant country or programme context for Creative Platform activities, where required.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME OFFER

1. Engagement through agreed work packages, with the workload and deliverables for each activated work package confirmed in advance.
2. Participation in the EU4Culture II mentor training and exchange with other mentors and international experts.
3. Opportunity to contribute to the development of sustainable and participatory creative ecosystems within the relevant country or programme context.
4. Remuneration based on the gross daily fee proposed by the applicant and confirmed in the final service contract.

Applicants are required to indicate one proposed gross daily fee in EUR in the Application Form. The proposed fee will be considered during the selection process and will form the basis for the contractual daily rate.

Approved travel and accommodation costs related to the mentor training and assignment activities will be covered separately by the programme and should not be included in the proposed daily fee.

Applicable taxes, invoicing requirements, payment arrangements, and other contractual conditions will be defined in the service contract.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Depending on the activated work packages, the mentor will provide:

- a mentoring work plan, including coordination arrangements with the other selected mentor;
- concise progress notes documenting the support provided, key issues, and agreed next steps;
- written feedback and recommendations on the Creative Platform's governance arrangements and draft Creative Ecosystem Roadmap;
- implementation, testing, and refinement notes, including observations, lessons learned, and recommendations for adaptation;
- a final mentoring summary covering progress, key results, challenges, learning, sustainability considerations, and recommendations for continued development.

The specific format, timing, and number of deliverables will be defined in the service contract and confirmed for each activated work package.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be assessed based on the criteria below:

	Criterion	Description	Weighting
1	Relevant professional experience and contextual knowledge	Relevance and depth of professional experience in the cultural and creative sectors, including understanding of the relevant local, regional, or programme context.	20%
2	Facilitation, mentoring, and stakeholder engagement	Experience in facilitating participatory and multi-stakeholder processes, workshops, co-creation sessions, or mentoring involving cultural actors, communities, civil society, businesses, educational institutions, or public bodies where relevant.	15%
3	Experience relevant to Creative Platform development	Experience in one or more relevant areas, including platform governance and self-organisation, Living Lab methodology, ecosystem development, strategic planning, roadmap development, pilot implementation, testing, learning, or refinement.	25%

4	Quality of application and motivation	Clarity, relevance, and coherence of the application and motivation section, including understanding of the assignment, suitability for the mentor role, and ability to communicate ideas clearly.	10%
5	Proposed gross daily fee and cost-effectiveness	Competitiveness and reasonableness of the proposed gross daily fee in relation to the assignment.	30%
	Total		100%

Applicants are not expected to demonstrate equal strength in every area. Following individual assessment, complementarity of expertise may be considered among candidates who meet the required quality standard, with the aim of forming effective mentoring teams.

PAYMENTS

Payments will be calculated based on the gross daily fee confirmed in the service contract and the number of working days approved and completed under the relevant activated work package.

The mentor will submit the required invoice, timesheet, and agreed deliverables or progress documentation for the relevant work package. Payment will be processed following confirmation and approval of the completed work by the EU4Culture II team.

Applicable taxes, statutory deductions, invoicing requirements, payment schedules, and supporting documentation will be defined in the service contract.

Travel and related expenses, where applicable and approved in advance, will be handled separately in accordance with Goethe-Institut procedures.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Applicants must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest related to the assignment, including professional, financial, organisational, or personal circumstances that could affect, or reasonably appear to affect, their independence and impartiality.

Selected mentors must promptly inform the EU4Culture II team if a conflict of interest arises during the assignment.

Failure to disclose a known conflict of interest may result in exclusion from the selection process or termination of the service contract.

DATA PROTECTION

Personal data submitted as part of the application will be processed solely for purposes related to the management, evaluation, contracting, implementation, and reporting of this selection process and the resulting service contract.

Personal data will be handled in accordance with the applicable data protection rules of the Goethe-Institut and the European Union, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), where applicable.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Application deadline: 20 July 2026, 23:59 CEST.

Applications must be submitted by email to: eu4culture@goethe.de

The email subject line must follow the relevant format:

Application – Creative Platform/Living Lab Mentor – [Country / Programme Context] – [Applicant’s Full Name]

Applicants must submit **one single PDF file** containing:

1. the completed Application Form;
2. a current curriculum vitae;
3. any optional supporting references or links that are not already included in the Application Form.

Selected mentors are expected to participate in the mentor training in October-November. The exact dates, format, and location will be communicated during the selection and contracting process.

QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Questions regarding this open call may be submitted by email to: eu4culture@goethe.de

Questions should be submitted by **9 July 2026, 23:59 CEST**.

Responses to relevant questions will be published publicly in a consolidated Questions and Answers document.

Annex 1

Indicative Geographic and Sectoral Focus of Creative Platforms

Country / Context	Indicative No. of Creative Platforms	Geographic Focus	Sectoral Focus
Armenia	2	Gegharkunik; Syunik; multi-town approaches encouraged	Performing arts & music; visual & applied arts (incl. crafts); cultural tourism & cultural education
the Belarusian Cultural and Creative Sectors in Exile	At least 1 (possible extension to 2)	Belarusian cultural and creative sectors operating in exile	Books, literature & publishing
Georgia	1-2	Kutaisi; Zugdidi (subject to updated risk assessment)	To be confirmed
Republic of Moldova	2	Cahul (with outreach to Gagauzia); Ungheni (with outreach to Bălți)	Performing arts; visual arts; applied arts (incl. crafts); design, digital & new media; cultural infrastructure management & cultural education
Ukraine	2	Ivano-Frankivsk; Lviv	Performing arts; music; audiovisual & multimedia; design, digital & media arts; creative innovation