

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

NETWORKING TRIP: CONTEMPORARY ART IN NRW, GERMANY

11.-15.10.2026 to various cities in NRW

Networking trip for contemporary art curators living and working in Lithuania to connect with curators, institutions and spaces in NRW, Germany.

The **Goethe-Institut** together with the **Lithuanian Culture Institute** invites contemporary art curators to explore the rich contemporary art scene in NRW to build connections and gather inspiration for future collaborations, which could potentially be initiated and/or implemented during the Culture Programme of Lithuania in Germany 2027/2028.

North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is one of Germany's most **dynamic regions for contemporary art**, shaped by its dense urban fabric and its transformation from an industrial heartland into a cultural landscape. The region hosts a strong network of internationally significant institutions – such as, the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen –especially K21– in **Düsseldorf**, Museum Ludwig and Kunstverein Köln in **Cologne**, as well as Museum Folkwang and the Zollverein complex in **Essen** – alongside experimental and emerging platforms. NRW sports a diverse, **interconnected ecosystem of contemporary art institutions and professionals** that makes the region a leading laboratory for contemporary art production, exhibition, and discourse in Europe.

During the networking trip, participants will visit a selection of important institutions and spaces, meet with professionals shaping those institutions and the contemporary art scene in the region, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

The networking trip is hosted against the backdrop of the program **Lithuania in Germany 2027/2028**, which aims to strengthen creative dialogue between Lithuania and Germany and to establish and nurture long-standing partnerships in the cultural sector.

When? 11.10. until 15.10.2026 (including arrival and departure day)

Where? NRW, Germany

Language? English

APPLICATION

Who can apply?

- The trip is aimed at contemporary art professionals both independent practitioners with a proven history of curating for institutions, as well as in-house curators at art institutions engaging with contemporary art, who live and work in Lithuania.
- Interest in networking with partners in Germany, and interest in transregional curatorial exchange and institutional collaboration are a prerequisite.
- Spoken proficiency in English is a prerequisite. All meetings will be held in English without translation.

Which costs will be covered?

- Participation in the trip is free of charge. Travel costs, accommodation, and entrance fees will be covered as part of the trip. Subsistence costs will be covered – either through catering or a daily allowance.

How does the selection work?

- Applications will be reviewed by representatives of the Goethe-Institut and the Lithuanian Cultural Institute. The decision will be based on the relevance of the application documents and will be taking into account the overall composition of the group.

Required application documents

- Short biography. Please include information when you last visited Germany, as well as information on your existing professional network in Germany and prior experience of collaborating with partners in Germany (if any).
- Letter stating your interest (max. 1 page). Please include the mention of institutions or professionals in NRW that you might have a specific interest in visiting/ meeting (if any).
- Insight into your curatorial practice, with examples of recent projects
- Indication of special needs or requirements (if any)

APPLICATION PROCESS

- ✓ Please apply by **15.06.2026** via email to kultur-vilnius@goethe.de.
- ✓ Your **English-language** application should include all stated required documents. Please provide all material in **one pdf-document**.
- ✓ If you have any questions, please contact Anna Maria Strauß, Director of Goethe-Institut Lithuania via annamaria.strauss@goethe.de.
- ✓ The decision is planned to be announced in mid-July.

In collaboration with

