



EMPOWERING TOOLS

RIBOCA (Rīga International Biennial of Contemporary Art), HIAP (Helsinki International Artist Programme), and NAC (Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts) call for applications to participate in residency programmes in Helsinki, Finland and Nida, Lithuania between January–March 2022.

The residency is aimed at artists, architects, designers, musicians, educators, and practitioners from other disciplines interested in engaging in the fields of art education and mediation. The purpose of this residency is to develop a set of learning kits for an online platform that can be freely used by teachers, pupils, young adults, students and parents to uncover a wide variety of topics through research-based practices of contemporary art.

Each kit will be based on the practice of the participants in the residency, or a specific aspect of it, and formed to bring their views into the study process. Developed in a dialogue with practicing educators, the kits will be aimed at pupils between the ages of 6–19 years old and will be applied as part of the curriculum in a broad range of subjects: nature sciences, physics, maths, music, art, etc. They will be made available in Latvian, Lithuanian, Finnish, Russian, and English.

We are keen to work with practitioners who see their practice as having the potential to develop *tools to empower*: to empower the curiosity to know and act, to empower an intention to fight for social justice, to empower innovation in fighting for environmental justice, and to empower an educational context that supports young people—trusting their views and ideas as well as supporting them by providing the tools, context, and knowledge required for reaching those goals. The project aims to support the educational field in these attempts by working on tools developed within the context and methodologies of the art world.

Financial support:

Participants will receive a monthly individual support of €2200 and will be reimbursed for travel costs (based on ERASMUS+ programme guidelines). There is a dedicated additional production budget of €750 per kit that can be used for material costs, equipment rental, and other similar costs. In the case of group participants, the financial support will have to be shared among the members of the group.

Residency start and duration:

The HIAP residency is two months long and will take place from February–March 2022.
The NAC residency will take place in January 2022.

Application deadline:

Thursday 30th September, 11:59 p.m., GMT +3.

Who can apply?

Practitioners from all disciplines are welcome to apply. Their practice should have an artistic, scientific, and/or socio-political outreach with formal and informal experience in art education and a strong interest in it. Following the ERASMUS+ guidelines, only practitioners based within the European Union and/or EU citizens are eligible to apply. Via this open call, four practitioners or groups will be selected to take part in residencies contributing to this project (three for HIAP and one for NAC).

Application requirements:

- (1) Completed [application form](#).
- (2) Portfolio, sample of work, or publications (selection of 3–5 relevant projects).
- (3) Current CV (max. two A4 pages).
- (4) Submit all documents in a single PDF file in the order listed above using the following title: 'Full Name'.

Please send your CV, portfolio or other digital materials you would like to share in a single PDF file via mail to the Residency Coordinator, Skaistė Marčienė (NAC): skaiste@nidacolony.lt and to HIAP: empoweringtools@hiap.fi or submit via WeTransfer. Email subject: 'Empowering Tools'.

NAC related application questions to:

Residency Coordinator, Skaistė Marčienė: skaiste@nidacolony.lt

HIAP related application questions to:

Director, Juha Huuskonen: juha@hiap.fi

RIBOCA project related questions to:

Project Manager, Katrīna Vītola: katrina@rigabiennial.com

Selection process and criteria:

The applications are assessed by the NAC curatorial team, the HIAP project team, and the RIBOCA project team. Evaluations are based on the applicants' submitted materials according to the following criteria:

- Relevant, sufficient, and continuous experience working with the proposed subject matter and residency theme;
- Quality and innovation of the proposed activities, possible research question(s) and/or perspectives, and their relationship to the applicant's field(s) of practice;
- Reliability in reaching the project's goals and realisation of the educational kits.

Living conditions at NAC

NAC provides a live/work studio of 65m² equipped with basic kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and workspace facilities. Additionally, full access is given to common spaces such as the library and the professional workshop (with weaving looms, a ceramic kiln, laser cutting machines, wood and metalworking tools, plus digital photo, video, and sound equipment).



Photo: Living conditions at Nida Art Colony

In addition, residents have access to naturally seasoned, Neringa-sourced timber boards cut during the 2019/2020 and 2021 logging season and stored on-site at NAC (subject to availability).

The NAC residency program can host up to five international residents at a time. In addition to the international residencies, NAC organises educational and research projects as well as exhibitions. NAC is a department of the Vilnius Academy of Arts and hosts student seminars and work retreats.

Living conditions at HIAP

The residencies at HIAP will be hosted at Villa Eläintarh, an artist residency in a wooden villa in the centre of Helsinki, next to Töölönlahti bay. The facilities in the villa offer residents a homelike environment.



Photo: Living conditions at HIAP

There are seven individually decorated single rooms and the residents share: a living room equipped with a television, two bathrooms with showers, two toilets, and a kitchen. The kitchen is fully equipped for the residents to cook their meals. A washing machine and a tumble dryer are also available. More information at www.hiap.fi/villa.

The participants will receive advice and support from the HIAP and NAC project teams in finding local contacts and resources (if required).

The open call takes place within the ERASMUS+ project “RIBOCA Repository of Knowledge”. The project is based on international exchange, short-term training events and the work on educational strategies where participants are provided with opportunities and are encouraged to exchange experience and know-how between themselves, as well as to draw on the experience and knowledge of educators. The project aims to develop learning kits for an online platform and give participants the opportunity to take part in a programme of international exchange to share ideas and knowledge. The exchange is facilitated by all three of the participating organisations.



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