

OPEN CALL INSTITUTION(ING)S

GLOSSARY

1. OVERVIEW

About Institution(ing)s

Institution(ing)s: Co-Creating Inclusive and Sustainable European Art Institutions (Institution(ing)s) is a European Cooperation Project that encourages contemporary art and cultural organizations to co-create innovative institutional models that, through experimentation, co-creation, speculation, and advocacy of sustainable futures, contribute to social inclusion, environmental, economic, and artistic transformation. Composed of 8 organizations of different scales, impacts and target audiences, in 7 European countries, Institution(ing)s represents the diversity of the ecosystem of the cultural sector. It establishes a sustainable cooperation between 1 museum (CAM - Centro de Arte Moderna Gulbenkian), 1 konsthall (Tensta konsthall), 1 higher-education institution (Faculty of Human Sciences of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa), 1 publisher running an art Biennial (Errant Bodies / The Listening Biennial), 1 local network (tranzit.ro/ Iași), 1 arts-in-residency post-academy (Jan van Eyck Academie), and 2 non-profit art-organizations (MOCA NGO and Museum of Impossible Forms). Each partner performs specific roles in the art sector and responds to shared planetary challenges from each of their situated practices and (economic, social, cultural, political) contexts across the European continent (N, E, S, W). By coming together with differences and commonalities in a sort of an institution without walls, a living organism in constant processes of exchange and transformation of practices, Institution(ing)s will bring innovative perspectives to respond to cross-cutting challenges and contribute to the strengthening of European citizenship in a project of social equity and sustainability.

Institution(ing)s is born of the idea of institution practices (Gerald Raunig), defined as “the actualization of the future in a present becoming.”

It is the practice of implementing the speculations of next systems dreamers. There are two types of work that go into an institution practice. First, there is the creation and recreation of an explicit plan, comprised of the legal, financial, and procedural rules that are typically set out by one person or a small group of founders. The second kind of work involved is the management of interpersonal or infrastructural dynamics internal to the framework, or the relationship between the framework and external social dynamics, which evolve over time. The result is, like Institution(ing)s, a framework, a choreographic score for instituting an emerging social vision. It is a collaborative experiment that aims to cut across silos, disciplines, and fields to support contextualized research, situated practices, and translocal knowledge production as shared resources for the future. It seeks to test and share innovative methodologies both in the public parts as well as in the not so visible, internal practices and policies of art institutions (starting with the consortium); it investigates how long-term collaborations that centre socially, economically and environmentally sustainable working methods can envision an expansive form of kinship and custodial relationships with artists, collaborators, with the human and more-than-human towards imagined futures; and it explores alternatives beyond institutional critique towards a healthier arts' ecosystem.

The project activities include 3 social labs, 3 material labs, 3 economy labs, 7 workshops, 8 residencies, 1 call for a glossary of future practices, 7 nomadic schools, 4 community gardens, 7 collective study visits coinciding with 8 content debate assemblies (4 online and 4 on site), 3 sustainability campaigns (online), 8 fieldworks for policymakers, and Institution(ing)s seals for good practices.

About the Glossary

What does it mean to restitute and repair through the usage of languages, long excluded within institutional spaces, but are today sometimes over-represented? They are present in the museum, the gallery, the format of the exhibition, the performances, the conferences, among others.

Today, the creation of a glossary is an exercise to complement and continue to build from the work of writers, linguists, cultural workers in understanding how the politics of language is deeply inscribed in the ways we work, live with one another and define culture(s).

Languages, here, are described beyond words. They are not only verbal communication but also all the practices in which self and collective expression continues to visibilise, archive and evidence people, cultures and communities through the material, sonic, visual, cultural and bodily practices, inside and outside of the institution.

The glossary is a digital platform that will continue to reflect and think through the coexistence of contemporary cultures with the ones that are either lost, erased, endangered as they continue to be persecuted and ought to be revived — what are the languages we want to dismantle within our diverse vocabularies, or those we want to be loudly shared and acknowledged?

The platform will allow creating a generous dialogue with people through a singular medium to share things that have meanings to them. The glossary also aims to provide a resource as an open archive to extensively share knowledge that remains little known or unknown.

The glossary is an imaginary space that reflects a thinking process.

The glossary is co-edited by Cindy Sissokho and Luísa Santos and designed by Denise Santos.

About the Open Call

For us, languages don't just mean words but relate to social and cultural practices, conviviality, collective, plural and fluid identities, emancipation, liberation and resistance. Often, they are things that cannot be translated into words — they are experiences to be lived.

The open call invites languages to be submitted to create a compilation of words /practices/actions/ experiences that populate our lives. Therefore, they are sometimes dissonant or cannot be inside institutional walls. The submissions can be of both existent and new terms/practices/actions/ experiences. We are creating an online resource that will be in dialogue with the broader Institution(ing)s project.

We are looking for materials that contain a multiplicity of meanings that a language cannot always encompass. The online glossary aims to be a platform that will host a plurality of these languages.

The submission can include but is not limited to: an image (such as a photograph; an archival document); an object; a song; a video; a choreography; a dish; a symbol; a drawing.

Submissions can be in any language and/or format (see above), but please provide a description for each submission in text. For example, if the submission is an image depicting an action, such as a cultural rite, you should submit it in its original language, a word to describe it (if there are, or multiple words, an expression to describe it). No matter how precise or approximate it will be, it will provide the readers with context. However, note that the image will be shared as an image, and the word will only be a second interpretation.

The glossary is an imagined space that reflects a thinking process.

2. SUBMISSION PROCESS

We allow for 1 submission per person or collective to the open call.

The submission can take the form of a written document, an image, a sound, or a short video (maximum 5 minutes).

You should indicate the following information:

- Who is the author(s) of the submission
- A little bit about you or your collective (maximum 200 words)
- The medium * see below for more information
- A short explanation about what the submission is about. If it is written, in up to 300 words and if it is a video, under 5 minutes for the total submission video. This means that you can include the video description within the 5 minutes submission.
- The following contact details: your name(s), status/occupation, where you are based and an email address.

* About the medium

In your submission, please state:

- The type of submission
For example: is your submission an image, a video, an object, etc.?

If you are submitting an object, you can illustrate it with a photograph or a short video (maximum 5 minutes). In your submission, please clearly indicate that you are suggesting an object and not the documentation of the object as an image. Please ensure that the image of the submission is as accurate as possible.

- The file size for your submission
For example, for an image, is your file in .JPEG? or for a sound piece, is your file in .WAV?

Video and sound work submitted can be up to a maximum of up to 5 minutes.

Sending your submission before the deadline

Once ready, you can send your submission to info@institutionings.eu and maria.duarte@institutionings.eu.

If you have any questions or need any support with your submission, please kindly get in touch with us via info@institutionings.eu and maria.duarte@institutionings.eu.

3. KEY DATES AND SELECTION PROCESS (CODE OF CONDUCT)

Launch of the Open Call: 1st September 2025

Deadline for submission: ongoing, until the end of the project (October 2028).

Glossary launch on the website: January 2026

The code of conduct of the online glossary will be updated regularly to allow us to be in constant reflection and to receive suggestions from the public.

All submissions will be uploaded in Institution(ing)s website and/or our social media. However, under no circumstance we will publish submissions that we consider a inappropriate behaviour such as a lack of respect or good fellowship, and abusive language towards other people.

We will not publish any submissions that imply one or various of the following:

- conduct, action or language that has physical, psychological or social consequences which are perceived as negative. This includes in any case

sexual intimidation, discrimination, aggression, violence and bullying;

- any form of verbal or non-verbal, visual or non-visual language with the purpose or effect of compromising the dignity of a person or a group of people;

- any form of verbal or non-verbal, visual or non-visual language with a sexual connotation with the purpose or effect of compromising the dignity of a person or a group of people;

- any form of verbal or non-verbal, visual or non-visual language expressing insults or violent action against people because of their religion, belief, political affiliation, race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, marital status, age, or on any other ground related to personal characteristics;

- psychologically, visually or verbally harassing, threatening or attacking a person or a group of people;

OPEN CALL GLOSSARY INSTITUTION(ING)S

Colophon | Institution(ing)s

Governance:

Institution(ing)s is run by a Board of the Project, comprising of an artistic and scientific committee, and a management committee with representatives of each of the institutions, and the Project Leader.

General Coordinator:

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Steering committee:

Luísa Santos (Universidade Católica Portuguesa and CAM – Centro de Arte Moderna Gulbenkian); Ana Fabíola Maurício (Universidade Católica Portuguesa); Peter Hanenberg (Universidade Católica Portuguesa); Benjamin Weil (CAM – Centro de Arte Moderna Gulbenkian); Ana Botella (CAM – Centro de Arte Moderna Gulbenkian); Hicham Khalidi (Jan van Eyck Academie); Boudewijn Cox (Jan van Eyck Academie);

Cecilia Widenheim (Tensta konsthall); Alba Lindblad (Tensta konsthall); Giovanna Esposito Yussif (Museum of Impossible Forms); Yuliia Hnat (MOCA NGO); Olga Balashova (MOCA NGO); Brandon LaBelle (Errant Bodies | Listening Biennial); Livia Pancu (tranzit.ro/lași); Florin Bobu (tranzit.ro/lași).

Project Artistic Director:

Luísa Santos

Project Management:

Ana Fabíola Maurício

Communication:

Maria Eduarda Duarte

Graphic Design:

vivoeusébio

Website development:

vivoeusébio + webxperience

Typeface:

Acumin Variable

Online Glossary's Editors and Responsible for Research:

Cindy Sissokho and Luísa Santos

Online Glossary's Graphic Design:

Denise Santos

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