

2026 Open Call

Final report



Open Call for emerging
creatives in spatial practices.

Co-create our community.

Apply by
3 August
2026.

 Learning, Interacting and
Networking in Architecture

Ljubljana, 15 September 2026

1. General information on the Call

The 2026 LINA Open Call was conducted as part of the LINA (Learn, Interact and Network in Architecture) platform, which is being implemented under the Creative Europe programme of the European Union (project number 101175623). Coordinated by the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, LINA is a European architectural platform co-funded by the European Commission. Its goal is to strengthen collaboration between emerging professionals and established institutions across Europe, and to promote regenerative and sustainable architectural practices in line with the European Green Deal. Participation of Swiss architects in the LINA platform is supported by Pro Helvetia.

Each year, LINA launches an Open Call, inviting emerging creatives to apply either individually or as collectives. The Open Call is the platform's main way of finding and helping emerging talent in architecture and spatial practice across Europe. Selected applicants become Spotlight LINA Fellows and are invited to the LINA Forum, where they present their work to the platform's member organisations. Other eligible applicants may become Invited LINA Fellows and collaborate directly with a LINA member.

The Open Call was published on 26 May 2026, with applications open until 3 August 2026.

2. Organising and Selection Bodies

Organiser

LINA team: Matevž Čelik, Head of LINA Platform; Nuša Zupanc, Programme and Community Coordinator; Hana Cirman, Strategy, Partnerships and PR Coordinator; Maja Bevc, Finance and Framework Coordinator.

1st stage: General Assembly vote

Representatives of LINA Members form the General Assembly, and each member organisation designated one voter to cast its votes. At the time of the vote the General Assembly comprised the representatives of arc en rêve. centre d'architecture (Wen Cai), Architecture at the Edge (Frank Monahan), Architectuul (Christian Burkhard), Architektūros fondas (Martynas Germanavičius), Architecture Fund in Albania (Saimir Kristo), ARRA – ARhitektonska RADiona (Irhana Šehović), Beta – Romanian Order of Architects (Alexandru Naghiu), BINA Association of Belgrade Architects (Jelena Ivanović Vojvodić), Copenhagen Architecture Festival (Josephine Michau), DAI-SAI (Ana Dana Beroš), Design Academy Eindhoven (Moritz Maria Karl), dpr-barcelona (Cesar Reyes Najera), Estonian Museum of Architecture (Karen Jagodin), ETSAM UPM Madrid (Maria de las Nieves), Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana (Matevž Čelik), Färgfabriken (Karin Englund), Forecast (Frejo Majer), Fundació Mies van der Rohe (Ivan Blasi), HDA – House of Architecture (Karin Oberhuber), Irish Architecture Foundation (Bláithín Quinn), Kosovo Architecture Foundation (Bekim Ramku), Lisbon Architecture Triennale (Manuel Henriques), Living Summer School – Bolwerk (Elena Falomo), MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Arts (Pippo Ciorra), METALAB (Anna Dobrova), Oslo Architecture Triennale (Line Ramstad), SAM Swiss Architecture Museum (Yuma Shinohara), Tbilisi Architecture Biennale (Tinatin Gurgendze), TU Wien Institute of Architectural Design (Thomas Amann) and VI PER Gallery (Barbora Špičáková).

2nd stage: Selection Committee

A Selection Committee was established for the 2026 Open Call as an additional step between the Governing Board's final approval of Spotlight LINA Fellows. The committee's task is to review the results of the General

Assembly's vote and ensure that the final selection is thematically diverse, geographically dispersed, and includes proposals that, upon closer examination, prove to be relevant and of high quality.

The Selection Committee members are representatives of members who volunteered for this role at the General Assembly: Alina Tokmylenko (METALAB), Christian Burkhard (Architectuul), Irhana Šehović (ARRA – ARhitektomska RAdiona), Thomas Amann (TU Wien, Institute for Architectural Design), Tinatin Gurgenedze (Tbilisi Architecture Biennale) and Moritz Maria Karl (Design Academy Eindhoven).

3rd stage: Governing Board and General Assembly

The Governing Board finalises the selection on the basis of the Selection Committee's proposal. It consists of five representatives of the General Assembly together with the Head of the LINA Platform: Josephine Michau (Copenhagen Architecture Festival), Irhana Šehović (ARRA – ARhitektomska RAdiona), Bláithín Quinn (Irish Architecture Foundation), Elena Falomo (Living Summer School – Bolwerk), Karin Oberhuber (HDA – House of Architecture) and Matevž Čelik (Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana).

The General Assembly is informed of the confirmed selection.

3. Eligibility

Emerging Artists

The platform is exclusively aimed at supporting emerging artists. The LINA platform considers the following to be eligible emerging artists:

- have less than 10 years of professional experience since completing their undergraduate or postgraduate studies, or have fewer than 10 years of professional experience in their selected field;
- have created independent projects — whether built, theoretical, community-based, or in progress — that demonstrate their capability and vision in architecture or other related fields;
- have begun to receive some form of recognition for their independent work, such as awards, grants, or nominations, particularly from reputable organisations or competitions, but are not yet widely known or established in the field;
- bring fresh, innovative ideas or approaches to architectural design, challenging traditional practices or introducing new perspectives;
- may have had their work presented in smaller or local institutions or publications, but not yet in major or international venues.

These criteria are indicative, not cumulative. No candidate is required to meet all five criteria, nor is any single indicator decisive in exclusion; the indicators are considered collectively, and a candidate is excluded if multiple indicators apply simultaneously, rather than for a single one.

As the criteria required consistent interpretation across all 464 applications, the platform provided a written explanation of how each criterion was applied during the selection process. This distinguished between what was and was not considered an indicator of an established position in each case. The document, 'Verification of Compliance with the Criteria for Emerging Artists', is attached to this report.

Prior to the vote, the LINA team conducted a preliminary review of all applications and shared its findings with the members to assist them in their decisions. Explanations were provided for applications where it appeared that the candidate had an established professional presence, had achieved a significant international

accomplishment, had previously collaborated with a LINA member or was active in a war-affected area. These explanations were advisory. Before submitting the list of selected Spotlight LINA Fellows to the Governing Board, the Selection Committee verified that the candidates met the set criteria.

Nationality and Legal Residency

All applicants are eligible for LINA support if they can prove, at the time of application and throughout their participation in the programme, citizenship or legal residence in a participating Creative Europe country by presenting a valid passport, identity card or certificate of residence issued by the relevant authority in an eligible country. Residency status is verified when the participation agreements are signed; failure to provide proof of legal residence will result in exclusion from the programme.

Applications from Switzerland independently evaluated by Pro Helvetia to comply with eligibility criteria.

Where an obvious discrepancy was found between the country indicated by the applicant and their address or citizenship, the applicant was asked to clarify their residency status. All applicants were confirmed as eligible to participate in the programme based on their citizenship or residence.

Former LINA Fellows and Future Architecture participants

Two more categories of applicants are not eligible: those who have previously participated in the programme as Spotlight LINA Fellows and those with previous significant participation in the Future Architecture programme.

Additionally, applications developed in collaboration with LINA Members are not eligible for selection.

Former Invited LINA Fellows may become Spotlight LINA Fellows.

4. Selection Process

Stage 1: Voting by the General Assembly

All applications were submitted to the members of the General Assembly for a vote via the platform's online voting interface. Each member organisation had 22 votes, each of which could be assigned one, two or three points. Members were asked to use the highest score sparingly to ensure it was reserved for truly exceptional proposals. When voting, members could access a searchable overview of all submissions, along with a preliminary eligibility analysis by the LINA team.

The voting deadline was 26 August 2026. Members who had not cast their votes by this date were notified and granted a short extension. Voting concluded on 28 August 2026. Twenty-nine members voted, casting a total of 611 votes.

The nominations were ranked by total points. The threshold for the wider selection was six points.

Stage 2: Selection Committee

Based on the vote results, the Selection Committee evaluated a broader selection of 55 applications.

The committee met on 1 September 2026 to review this selection. They took into account the votes cast at the general assembly and verified the representation of professional topics among the applications. They also

checked the geographic balance of the applicants and the eligibility of individuals, as well as the quality and significance of the proposed projects for the development of the architectural profession and contemporary discourse. The committee continued its work via correspondence and concluded it on 3 September. Each member indicated their reasoned preferences.

On this basis, the committee compiled the final selection of 22 Spotlight LINA Fellows for 2026 and submitted it to the Governing Board.

Stage 3: Governing Board and General Assembly

The Governing Board received the proposed roster of 22 Spotlight LINA Fellows from the Selection Committee, along with the results of the General Assembly vote from which the roster was drawn and the Committee's account of the additional considerations that informed its final proposal.

The Governing Board met on 4 September 2026. It reviewed the proposed roster and considered the applicants. Following a discussion and evaluation of the list received from the Selection Committee, the Governing Board approved the selection of 22 Spotlight LINA Fellows.

At the same meeting, the Governing Board also considered the applicants who were deemed too established to meet the 'Verification of Compliance with the Criteria for Emerging Artists' requirements. Individual applicants were notified of the decision on 15 September 2026.

The General Assembly was informed of the Governing Board's final decision on 14 September 2026.

5. Call Response and Results

Number of Applicants

A total of 464 applications were received by the deadline. Around three in five were submitted by individual practitioners, while two in five were submitted by collectives. Team sizes ranged from two to fourteen members.

General Comments

The response confirms the diversity of contemporary spatial practice in Europe and how it now transcends the boundaries of the architectural discipline.

Although around three-quarters of applicants cited architecture and research as their fields of practice, the vast majority combined several fields rather than working solely within one. Design, the visual arts, urban planning, ecology, and curatorship were all strongly represented, while a significant proportion of applicants also worked in film, photography, and multimedia. Very few applications described their practice as being limited exclusively to conventional architectural design.

The distribution of proposed forms of collaboration also points in this direction. The most frequently proposed forms were research, workshops, exhibition design and developing interventions, all of which outnumbered lectures and publications. Based on this, we can conclude that candidates applying to the platform are seeking contexts in which they can work and publicly test ideas rather than formats in which to present final results.

Geographical Distribution

Applications were received from 39 countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The largest numbers of applications came from Germany (61), Spain (58), France (42), Italy (38), Switzerland (34) and the Netherlands (29). Fourteen applications were received from Ukraine. Applicants from countries with smaller architectural infrastructures were represented by one or two applications each.

Fields of Practice

Applicants were asked to indicate the fields in which they work, and could select more than one. Architecture was named in 362 applications and research in 359, followed by design (250), visual art (187), urban planning (164), ecology (142), curating (141), multimedia (99), landscape architecture (86), communication (74), photography (66), film (65) and engineering (24).

6. Final Selection

The 2026 Spotlight LINA Fellows are:

- **Ecoredaction: reading the landscape as an archive,**
Alisa Aleksandrova, Ukraine
- **Cosmic Heritage in the Ararat Valley,**
Anahit Ghazaryan and Juliette Martin, Armenia
- **Anatomy of a Scam,**
Anila Shehaj, Germany
- **arèneeurope,**
Etienne Gilly and Gianluca Gadaleta, France
- **Hosted by the Ruin: Life of Abandoned Modernism,**
Crossroads (Carol El Farraji and Karla Abou Khalil), Spain
- **The Museum as Public Device,**
Dafni Retzepe and Philippe Buchs, Switzerland
- **EASA Archive: Record of an Assembly,**
EASA Archive (Lilla Kammermann, Angela Krstevska, Ana Popovici and Sofija Savić), North Macedonia
- **Soil and Dung: Biotic Architecture in the Caucasus,**
Ecem Sariçayır and Bart Feberwee, the Netherlands
- **Post-Soviet Vernacular,**
Ella Katrovasová, Czechia
- **Post-War Sarajevo: Between Decay and Permanence,**
Lorenzo Arduini, Matteo Fabiani, Gianluca Martelli and Georgiana Beatrice Pascariu, Italy
- **Architecture from the Ground Up,**
Giulliana Giorgi, Romania
- **Open Architecture,**
Holly Dale, the Netherlands

- **The Public Architect,**
Jakob Walter, Switzerland
- **From fragmented interventions to sponge ecosystems,**
Jordi Ma Lu, Spain
- **Spaces of Energy,**
Lee Ell (Helmi Marie Langsepp), Estonia
- **Bodies Beyond Representation,**
LoBa (Thomas Kerr-Bell), Ireland
- **The Landscapes That Protected Us,**
Made & Meant (Daria Borovyk and Kateryna Bulatova), Ukraine
- **Unarchiving Details: Atlas of Loss,**
Miloš Kostić, Germany
- **Topography of Home,**
Olha Tuharinova, Ukraine
- **Ground,**
Johanna Bendlin, Belgium
- **Architecture of Hospitality,**
Studio Margarita (Sebastian Caballero, Maria Covrig and Daniel Koller), Austria
- **The Right to Focus,**
Ruslan Antonenko, Oksana Hrabchak and Iryna Tsyba, Ukraine

Composition of the roster

The 22 Fellows come from 16 countries. Ukraine is represented by four Fellows, Spain, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands by two each, and Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, North Macedonia and Romania by one each. Eight of the 22 are based in central, eastern and south-eastern Europe, a share well above that of the applicant pool, and the roster includes the single applications received from Estonia and North Macedonia.

Twelve of the 22 are collectives and ten are individual practitioners, so that the Fellows comprise some 38 named practitioners in total. Thematically, heritage, memory and archive remains the largest strand, followed by material, reuse and construction, and by water, soil and land; housing, climate and ecology, and war, displacement and reconstruction are each represented by two proposals, and public space and questions of the body and care by one each.

Gender Balance

Of a total of 38 individuals and team members amongst the 22 Spotlight LINA Fellows there are 24 women and 14 men. Women therefore account for approximately two-thirds (63 %) of the selected applicants. The ratio amongst all 464 applicants is similar, with approximately 60 per cent being women and 40 % men.

7. Conclusion

The 2026 Open Call drew 464 applications from 39 countries, and the quality and range of the proposals received confirm that the platform now reaches well beyond the networks of its own members. The applications describe a field in which architectural practice is increasingly inseparable from research, from ecology and from work with communities, from film and exhibition-making, and in which practitioners at the beginning of their careers are addressing questions of climate, memory, housing and displacement with a seriousness that the profession's established institutions are still catching up with.

The 2026 Spotlight LINA Fellows will be presented at the LINA Forum in Barcelona, held in a year in which the city is UNESCO World Capital of Architecture, and organised in collaboration with the Fundació Mies van der Rohe. The Forum is where the Fellows meet the platform's member organisations and where the collaborations that make up the following year's programme begin to take shape.

LINA thanks all those who applied, and the member organisations whose representatives read, weighed and voted on 464 applications over the summer, and whose Selection Committee gave the final roster its shape.

Appendix: Verification of compliance with the criteria for an emerging artist

A1. Verification of compliance with the criteria for an emerging artist

This table explains how criterions published in the LINA Open Call are applied in practice when applications are screened for an established professional presence.

No applicant is required to satisfy all five criterions, and no single indicator is decisive on its own. As a general rule, all indicators are taken into account collectively when assessing whether to exclude an applicant, and exclusion occurs where several exclusion criteria are met, not just one.

Three further grounds for exclusion are taken into account:

- Applications submitted by institutions, rather than by individual experts or small independent practices, do not fall within the scope of this call for applications.
- Applicants who have previously been selected as Spotlight LINA fellows, as well as former fellows of the Future Architecture programme, are not eligible for repeated support from the platform.
- Proposals created in collaboration with LINA Members are not eligible for selection

Criterion as published in the Open Call	Applied in screening
1. Under 10 years of professional experience Has less than 10 years of professional experience since completing undergraduate or postgraduate studies, or fewer than 10 years of professional experience in their selected field.	Treated as an indicator 10 yrs from the start of independent professional activity: - the year of graduation, - the founding date of the applicant's own practice, - other time indicators of the beginning of independent career (also moving between fields) Not treated as an indicator - years spent working within a larger office under another practitioner's direction - years of study, or current doctoral candidacy
2. Independent projects Has created independent projects — built, theoretical, community-based, or in progress — demonstrating capability and vision.	Treated as an indicator - at least one applicant's own project - not work produced within an employer's practice - not work produced with mentors at the university Not treated as an indicator - whether the project has been built or not - the scale or budget of the project.
3. Awards, grants & nominations Has begun to receive some form of recognition for independent work, such as awards, grants or nominations, but is not yet widely known or established in the field.	Treated as disqualifying indicators Regarded not as emerging but as established: - tenured professors, heads of departments or programmes and deans, - directors of a major cultural institution or programme - practices with an extended body of commissioned works.

Criterion as published in the Open Call	Applied in screening
	Not treated as a disqualifying indicator - awards and programmes addressed to early-career practitioners (under-40 and under-30 listings etc) - national competitions for young architects, - European competitions, - postdoctoral fellowships and residencies - the title of professor alone; fixed-term, visiting, adjunct or assistant posts without a leading or directing role.
4. Innovation Brings fresh, innovative ideas or approaches, challenging traditional practices or introducing new perspectives.	Not used as an eligibility filter.
5. Public exposure of the work to date May have had work presented in smaller or local institutions or publications, but not yet in major or international venues.	Treated as disqualifying indicators - a sustained record of major international exhibitions across several years (but only in combination with an indicator under the 3. criterion). Not treated as a disqualifying indicator - a single appearance in a major international exhibition, including the Venice Architecture Biennale, - curating or co-curating a national pavilion, which is a national appointment.