

ACTIVITY REPORT

Rural Labs 2026 – Selection of Artists

Activity

International Open Call Results for Rural Labs 2026

Date

June 2026

Organised by

Cáceres European Capital of Culture 2031 Consortium

Activity Description

Rural Labs is an international artist residency programme developed within Cáceres' bid for European Capital of Culture 2031. The initiative promotes contemporary artistic creation connected to rural communities, local territories and the relationship between urban and rural environments.

The programme was launched in May 2026 in collaboration with independent cultural organisations across Extremadura that will host the selected residencies.

Participation

- 145 applications received.
- Proposals submitted from 54 countries.
- Strong European and international representation.
- Projects covered a wide range of disciplines, including:
 - Visual arts.
 - Performance.
 - Cultural mediation.
 - Artistic research.
 - Sound art.
 - Audiovisual creation.
 - Public art.
 - Community-based and participatory practices.

Selection Results

Following an evaluation process and interviews conducted together with the hosting organisations, three artists were selected to develop residencies between July and November 2026.

Selected Artists

Ksenia Shinkovskaya (Latvia)

Host organisation: La Sindicalista Estudio Cáceres.

- Textile sculptor working primarily with felt.
- Combines traditional craftsmanship with contemporary artistic approaches.
- Explores relationships between humanity and nature through organic and hybrid forms.

Séverine Berthias (France)

Host organisation: Asociación MUDARTE.

- Member of Compagnie Des Cousus.
- Specialised in puppetry and socially engaged artistic projects.
- Focuses on collaborative creation and strengthening links between art, participation and community engagement.

Kalin Mihov (Bulgaria)

Host organisation: Ras de Terra.

- Works across installation, performance, video and land art.
- Develops site-specific projects connected to landscapes and natural environments.
- Explores themes of territory, memory, community and ecology.

Strategic Objectives

Rural Labs contributes to:

- Supporting contemporary artistic creation in rural areas.
- Strengthening connections between cities and surrounding territories.
- Enhancing the international visibility of Extremadura.
- Promoting collaboration between artists and local communities.
- Building new European and international cultural networks.
- Encouraging cultural innovation through rural contexts.

Contribution to the Cáceres 2031 Bid

The programme supports key strategic priorities of the bid, including:

- European and international cooperation.
- Territorial development and cohesion.
- Citizen participation.
- Cultural and social innovation.
- Collaboration between independent cultural organisations.
- International positioning of Extremadura as a place for contemporary artistic production.

Assessment

The strong response to the open call, with 145 applications from 54 countries, demonstrates the international appeal of Rural Labs. The selected artists from Latvia, France and Bulgaria will contribute to strengthening connections between

contemporary artistic practice, local communities and the cultural landscape of Extremadura while expanding the European dimension of the Cáceres 2031 programme.