

# CREATURES



## Open Call for Finnish Collectives Engaged in Experimental Creative Practices

The **CreaTures** project (<https://creatures-eu.org/>) calls for Finland-based creative and experimental collectives that engage with issues of socio-ecological transformation to partner with the CreaTures project for a short-term creative production.

The CreaTures project (Creative Practices for Transformational Futures) aims to demonstrate the power of existing and emerging creative practices to move the world towards socio-ecological sustainability. Through direct engagement and co-creation, systematic mapping and analysis, we explore how such creative practices (e.g., from arts, design, culture, citizen-led activism) operate and with whom, how and where they work. Our aim with this research is to understand and evaluate the transformative potential of creative practices and make it better recognized by diverse publics, including policy-makers.

For this open call commission, we are looking for a Finnish experimental collective, organisation, initiative, or association that has long-term experience (at least 5 years) with conducting creative transformative practice addressing socio-ecological sustainability. Ideally, they conduct their practice through art/design projects, cultural events, and/or artistic research and will be willing to collaborate with the CreaTures team to undertake self-reflective research (e.g., observations, journaling, mapping) of the collective's internal processes and how they have changed over time.

Our aim with this commission is to develop a better understanding of how creative collectives and their practices are being transformed internally, while working towards transformative social change in times of social, ecological and climate crisis. How are the experiences, insights and findings generated throughout a long-term creative transformative practice influencing the practice itself and its surrounding communities? Collectives working through creative, experimental means (e.g. art, design, DIY, hacking & making, art-science, bioarts, grassroots organising) with an established self-reflective and archival practice are of particular interest for this open call. The following sections provide detailed information about the scope of the commissioning and viable forms of involvement.

### Open call details:

#### Scope of involvement

The call is open to collectives and/or individuals involved. Collectives must appoint a main contact person responsible for communication with the CreaTures team throughout the duration of the commissioned project. Proposals by individuals must be submitted with a full acknowledgement (letter of commitment) of the collective's coordination body (e.g. association board, steering committee). The

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selected collective/individual will work in close collaboration with the CreaTures team through a series of meetings and joint research sessions. The collaboration is expected to begin in July 2021 and finish by the end of April 2022 (a detailed schedule will be agreed upon selection). Interactions between a responsible member of the collective and CreaTures researchers are expected to happen in a hybrid format (online and in-person where possible).

#### The collaboration will involve several types of activities

- Involvement in initial joint planning and outline of the research scope and schedule
- Mapping of internal transformative processes happening in the collective over time (involves the collective/individuals collecting and mapping resources, via archival work or similar practice)
- Conducting workshops or similar creative sessions to involve (some of) the collective's members in the mapping process
- Ongoing documentation of the process (involves e.g., taking pictures and recordings; self-reflective journaling; observation notes)
- Participation in mutually agreed research sessions led by CreaTures throughout the duration of the commission (e.g., interviews, observations, internal co-creative workshops)
- Production of a final artefact representing the mapping process and outcomes (e.g., a map, visualization, collection, dataset in a paper or digital format to be specified; ideally accompanied by a white paper, that can be later turned into a publication, if there is interest)

#### What do we offer

- A flat fee of 12000 Eur
- Feature in the online CreaTures Laboratory and Observatory collections of sustainable creative practices (<https://creatures-eu.org>)
- Promotion of the collective and their work through CreaTures communication channels
- Inclusion of the joint mapping work and outcomes in CreaTures dissemination materials, such as research publications
- Further presentation opportunities – the CreaTures team is actively trying to promote and present CreaTures-related creative productions at arts and design festivals and other leading outlets
- Work with the CreaTures project team that has diverse expertise and experiences, including transdisciplinary research and practice, and impact evaluation centred around creative practices.

#### Submission requirements

If you are interested to be considered for this CreaTures commission, please submit in one PDF:

- A proposal of how the mapping work would be conducted; its scope; the main person in charge + other people who will be involved (1000 words max. & 5 images max.)
- A preliminary proposal for how the budget will be used to achieve objectives (note that we will only pay the commission through an invoice)
- A collective's portfolio demonstrating long-term experience in the area of creative practices and socio-ecological transformation, including concrete examples of past projects (the material can exist online, e.g. as website)
- Submit no later than **April 20th 2021, 12 am EET by sending an email to [marketa.dolejsova@aalto.fi](mailto:marketa.dolejsova@aalto.fi)**

NOTE: it is important that you are able to commit for the whole program duration July 2021 – April 2022 and have time flexibility to follow a schedule that will be defined jointly at the outset of the collaboration (we are flexible too).

### Selection Criteria

- Alignment of the applicant's expertise with the outlined scope of this commission:
  - at least 5 years of experience with conducting creative practice and/or research through art/design projects, interventions, cultural events or similar focused on socio-ecological transformation
  - the creative practice has taken place in Finland (at least partially) and the responsible applicant is currently residing and registered in Finland (for the sake of invoicing; note: the applicant needs to have a valid Finnish Y-tunnus).
  - the creative practice is a collective endeavour
- Alignment with CreaTures research aims and scope (<https://creatures-eu.org/>)
- Technical and financial feasibility of the proposal (within the allocated budget 12000 Eur)
- Originality and rigor of the proposed plan
- Availability and flexibility to collaborate with the CreaTures research team for the stipulated period

### Main Contact

For more details about the open call please reach out to Dr. Markéta Dolejšová  
[marketa.dolejsova@aalto.fi](mailto:marketa.dolejsova@aalto.fi)

### **About the CreaTures project**

CreaTures (Creative Practices for Transformational Futures) is a three-years H2020 project that explores the potential of creative art and design practices in supporting socio-ecological transformation. The project involves a consortium of 11 partners working closely together while combining their expertise from sustainability-oriented art, design, research and policy. Starting from the proposition that creative practices hold immense potential in supporting sustainable transformations but their impact is largely under-utilised, the consortium conducts a systematic practice-based interrogation to demonstrate the power of arts to move the world towards sustainability. Through direct engagement and co-creation, our Observatory, Laboratory, and Evaluation procedures bring together diverse creative projects and develop insights allowing them to focus their efforts more effectively. Drawing on evolving outcomes, we provide recommendations for policy-makers and implementers to help them see the merit of employing creative techniques.

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