



Partner Creative Innovation Call 2026

The Centre of Expertise Creative Innovation (CoE CI) invites professors of applied sciences and lecturer-researchers from the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, the Amsterdam University of the Arts, Inholland University of Applied Sciences, and the Gerrit Rietveld Academie to submit project proposals for the Creative Innovation Call 2026. These funds support innovative projects that address urgent themes in education, research, and practice, thereby strengthening and critically interrogating the programme lines of the Centre of Expertise. For 2026, the CoE CI will publish specific calls per programme line, distinguishing between seed and harvest grants. The maximum budget per project is €12,500.

Seed and Harvest Grants

Seed Grants for Experiments

Seed grants aim to support new initiatives or ideas at an early stage. They are intended to kickstart a (research) project, network building, or thematic knowledge development, to assess feasibility, or to conduct experiments that lay the groundwork for further development. Examples include: experiments for educational innovation, preparatory (literature) research, prototype development, consortium formation, organising focused sessions or lectures, hosting a residency, or drafting funding proposals. These examples are indicative, not exhaustive.

Harvest Grants for Dissemination and Impact

Harvest grants aim to enhance the dissemination and valorisation of knowledge, including research results, to spread insights further within education, research, and/or professional practice. This can be achieved through toolkits, (online) training, courses, masterclasses, workshops, teaching materials, podcasts, publications, or other forms of knowledge sharing and application. These examples are indicative, not exhaustive.

The three programme lines

Creative Methods & Artistic Research

Creative methods and artistic research are increasingly used strategically and directionally, both within the creative and cultural sector and beyond. This programme line focuses on developing, applying, and sharing creative methods and artistic research to address complex societal challenges. It aligns closely with programmes such as the New European Bauhaus and Dutch initiatives like De Publieke Ontwerppraktijk (PONT), the CLICKNL-agendas (Ontwerpkracht, Maatschappelijk verdienvermogen, Key Enabling Methodologies), and the Collectie Artistieke Methoden formulated by the Platform for Art Research.

The CoE CI invites projects that develop new methods to make societal transition challenges tangible and discussable, or that strengthen existing methods. It actively promotes collaboration between makers, researchers, students, and societal partners. Examples include artistic research into new forms of participation, developing co-creation methods, or organising workshops and courses that apply and share artistic and design research. Projects building on the SPRONG project Imagination in Transitions are also welcome. For examples of previous projects, see the publication Testing the Waters.

Material & Experimentation

variety of new media and materials available. The CoE CI experiments with the possibilities these offer creative makers. Knowledge about the (im)possibilities of deploying (new) technology in the design process, interventions, and in the interaction between humans, environment, and technology is essential for developing interventions.

We are interested in projects that use new media and/or materials to enhance the creative process, exhibitions, or societal interventions, with a focus on two directions:

- **Digital media:** Given our active role in the CIIC network, we specifically seek projects that experiment with and aim to scale immersive experiences and technologies. Applications on Generative AI (and creativity) as a transition challenge for the creative sector, object-based media, mixed media, and 3D scanning are also welcome.
- **Materials:** The combination of digital technologies and traditional materials opens new possibilities for creative makers. They experiment with digital fabrication, such as generative design, 3D and laser cutting, robotics, and digital construction techniques (weaving, printing, knitting), as well as with bio-art and organic materials, including organic sensors and bio-printing.

The CoE CI actively supports (future) creative makers and researcher-practitioners in their professional development and builds a broad knowledge base directly applicable to societal interventions.

Media, Technology & Society

This programme line investigates the impact of new technologies on the digital and democratic society and what this means for (future) creative makers. The rapid rise of digitalisation, driven by artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, the Internet of Things, augmented and virtual reality, and social media platforms, has profoundly transformed our democratic institutions. We focus not only on broader societal implications but also on the role creative makers can play in shaping a future where technology and democracy go hand in hand.

We seek project proposals that address the societal impact of digitalisation and technological developments, developing creative interventions that foster critical awareness and engagement. Projects within this programme line can be presented at the Society 5.0 Festival 2026. The application should describe the format of the presentation, such as an installation, artwork, exhibition, performance, documentary, knowledge session, lecture, workshop, debate, or think tank. Presentations may stem from research conducted by the four partner institutions in collaboration with external partners such as EIT Culture & Creativity and/or the IX community. The aim is to develop interventions that make current or future society visible and tangible.

Who is eligible to apply?

Lecturers and researcher-practitioners from the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, the Amsterdam University of the Arts, Inholland University of Applied Sciences, and the Gerrit Rietveld Academie may submit proposals. Researcher-practitioners require approval from their line manager but submit the proposal independently. Each applicant may submit a maximum of one proposal as lead applicant. There are no restrictions on involvement in other proposals.

Available Budget

- A maximum of €12,500 is available per project. Proposals for lower amounts are also welcome, increasing the number of projects that can be funded.
- The total budget is €50,000.
- Internal hours are calculated using full cost allocation, applying HOT 2026 rates. External activities included in the budget must always include VAT.



Conditions

- Formal details must be completed in the digital form, and the project proposal uploaded via www.coeci.nl/call
- The proposal must align with the objectives outlined above for seed and harvest grants
- The proposal must correspond to one of the CoE CI programme lines and may have overlaps with others
- The proposal must be firmly rooted in creative practice (design, media, arts, and technology)
- The proposal must include a realistic budget and be executed in 2026
- The applicant's approach should reasonably ensure the stated objectives are achievable
- Collaboration with external partners and/or at least one other lectoraat or programme is required. Cooperation with other institutions within the CoE network is encouraged

The project will be assessed on:

- Completeness (formal check)
- Relevance to the respective programme line
- Quality of the project plan
- Expected impact (on education, research, or practice)
- Feasibility (based on planning and budget)

Key Dates

- 30 January 2026: Deadline for submission of Creative Innovation Call 2026
- 20 February 2026: Notification of funding decisions and feedback
- 2 June 2026: Interim evaluation
- Early 2027: Presentation of main outcomes of awarded projects

How to Apply

The application procedure consists of two steps:

1. Submit your application via the [digital form](#) on www.coeci.nl/call by 30 January.
2. Upload your full proposal and budget using the template 'Project Plan & Budget', available on the website: www.coeci.nl/call

In addition to the Partner Creative Innovation Call 2026, the HvA Creative Innovation Call 2026 is available for those employed at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. Conditions for this call can be found at www.coeci.nl/call

Contact

You will receive confirmation once your application has been received. For questions about this call or the procedure, please make an appointment or contact our project developers at hello@coeci.nl. We are happy to assist you.