

ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES → INDIVIDUAL AND → COLLECTIVE A NON-FORMAL



NEWSLETTER #4



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Erasmus+ Programme
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The Erasmus+ project “Artistic Residencies - individual and collective non-formal learning” aims to establish a European Network of Artistic Residencies (RA) to facilitate the development, dissemination, and promotion of artistic work across different countries.

Artistic Residencies: How to Host Erasmus+ KA210 ADU Meeting | 22- 23 November 2024 , Porto, Portugal

The final face-to-face meeting of our Erasmus+ project focused on the question: How do we organise an artist residency? After exploring the artist’s perspective in previous meetings, this session turned its attention to the role of the host—the promoters, organizations, and spaces that make residencies possible.

Artistic residencies require more than creative ambition. They need physical space, an articulated artistic vision, and the financial, human, and logistical infrastructure to support artists during their stay. Whether in formal institutions or alternative grassroots spaces, each residency is shaped by the interplay of these three core elements.



In Porto, we conducted hands-on fieldwork: visiting diverse residency venues, learning about their models, and discussing the challenges they face. We listened to their stories—how they found their spaces, how they operate, how they build partnerships and sustain themselves. The selected spaces differ in scale, discipline, and philosophy, offering a rich panorama of approaches to hosting artistic residencies.

Through this shared exploration, we aimed to deepen our understanding of what it takes to host—not just accommodate—creative processes, and to contribute to building more connected and sustainable residency ecosystems.

ACTION #04 How to Organise an Artist Residency

As part of our fieldwork in Porto, we visited seven distinct artist residency spaces, each offering a unique perspective on how residencies can be structured, supported, and sustained. From grassroots collectives to institutional hubs, these spaces reflect the diversity, challenges, and creative potential of residency models in contemporary Europe.

O Instituto

We began our field visits at O Instituto, an interdisciplinary cultural space housed in a restored 1950s warehouse in the heart of Porto. Founded by architect Paulo Moreira, the space blends architecture, critical spatial practices, and cultural discourse, hosting residencies that explore urban culture, post-colonialism, and social impact through creative and research-based projects.

Campus Paulo Cunha e Silva (CAMPUS PCS)

Our second visit took us to Campus Paulo Cunha e Silva, a public space dedicated to the research and development of the performing arts. Housed in a former school building, the campus offers a supportive and inclusive environment for artists, emphasizing care, sustainability, and ongoing dialogue with the local community, while encouraging new artistic formats and collaborative practices.



Field Visits in Porto: Exploring Diverse Models of Artistic Residencies

A Leste

The third stop on our tour was A Leste, a transdisciplinary space dedicated to critical thinking, artistic experimentation, and collective reflection. Embracing values of empathy, care, and radical tenderness, A Leste fosters a sense of community where diverse forms of knowledge and creative expression converge, encouraging artists to explore alternative ways of living and creating together.

A Piscina

Our fourth visit was to A Piscina, a former swimming pool transformed into a dynamic space for performing arts by the cultural section of Sport Club do Porto. This unconventional venue hosts workshops, performances, and residencies, offering artists a playful and inspiring environment that encourages creative reuse and site-specific exploration.

Sonoscopia

Next, we visited Sonoscopia, a unique space dedicated to experimental, improvised, and electroacoustic music. Operated by a core collective of artists, Sonoscopia provides technical resources and a collaborative environment for sound-based research, creation, and informal presentation, making it a vital hub for sonic experimentation in Porto.



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Creative Infrastructures: Inside Porto's Residency Spaces



De Liceiras 18

De Liceiras 18, is an independent, artist-run space in the heart of Porto. Housed in a former residential building, this informal and experimental residency fosters collective living and creative exchange, bringing together a rotating group of artists each month to collaborate, share, and create in a self-managed, non-hierarchical environment

CRL – Central Elétrica

Our final visit was to our partner CRL – Central Elétrica, a former thermoelectric power station transformed into a vibrant center for artistic residencies and creation. Run by Circolando, CRL functions as a permanent laboratory for interdisciplinary experimentation, with a strong focus on performing arts, movement, music, and film, encouraging risk-taking and collaboration across generations and artistic practices.



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