ISLAND CONNECT
RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Co-funded by the European Union

ANNUAL REPORT



ISLAND CONNECT II

2026

This is a Domino project.
C.I.N.E.
BIRCA
Teatro di Rilevante Interesse Culturale
Sardegna Teatro
Irish Aerial Creation Centre
National Home for Aerial Arts
Théâtre Albi

INTRODUCTION

ISLAND CONNECT is a collaborative program between seven performing arts organizations, working with residencies located on (or associated with) European islands of different countries. United in the project by a common interest in contributing to the creation and consolidation of performing arts, the network partners of the international exchange residency program wish to address an important ambition. The project aims to support the artists and arts companies in their personal and professional development within the project's framework and therefore launches these open calls.



INTRODUCTION

Island Connect II (2024–2026) is a further evolution of the project, funded by Creative Europe, and will announce three open calls per year of the three-year project. All artists wishing to participate will be asked to critically engage with the themes of insularity, islander identities, or island socio-political realities in a wider European context, comparing the similarities and difficulties that emerge from diverse island regions of the project. Working on something related to these themes is a vital part of participating in the project. Artists are not required to have an existing project in development, and new proposals are equally welcome. Artists are encouraged to interact with the island area and community. Artists' work-in-progress presentations are organized at the end of each residency, and presentations of finished works of selected artistic companies can be performed at partners' festivals. All presentations are followed by an artist-audience feedback session. The objective is to provide the artists with a much-needed space for research and free experimentation, and time for reflecting and posing questions. At the same time, partners' artistic directors may provide them with specialized feedback and dramaturgical advice. This is facilitated through fully funded residencies for each of the artistic companies.



OPEN CALLS

The open calls for 2025 included a call for the Artistic Residency Program, Pilot Co-creation Program, and Islander Focus Program





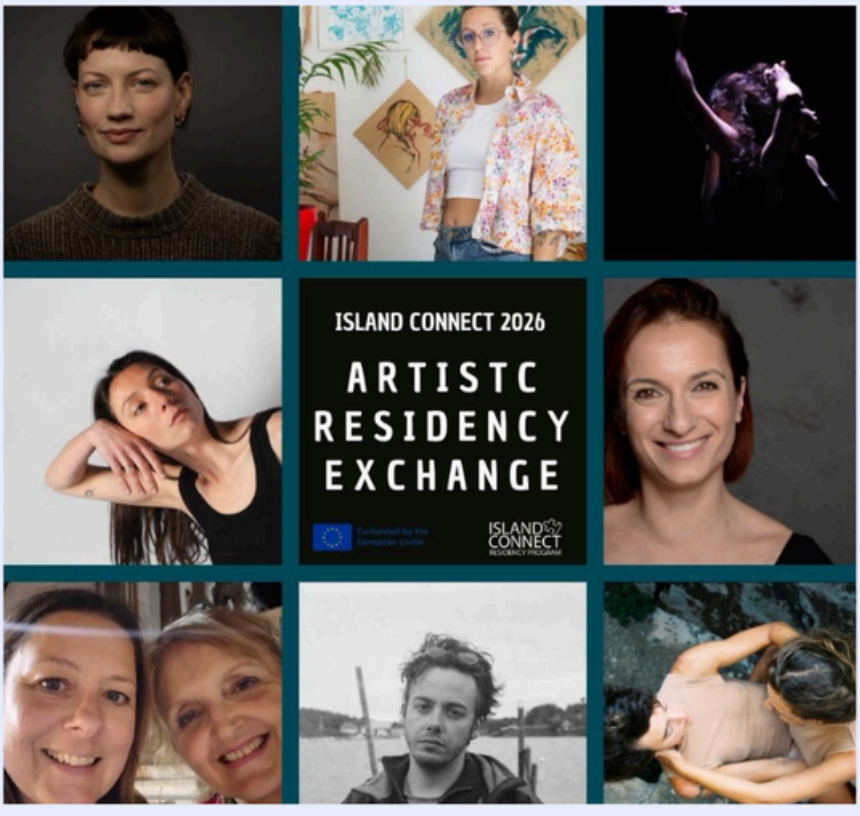


ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

The Artistic Residency Call was open to artists or groups/companies of up to 3 artists, where each artist/group received 2 weeks of residency in their country of origin or domicile and 2 weeks of residency in the partner country. During these weeks of residency, they might have shared the space with another group of artists, which encouraged networking and exchange. This call was open to artists who have a performative element to their work or consider themselves to be in the performing arts. There were 76 applications, of which 7 were chosen for the residences.

From	Going to	Name	Date
Corsica	Croatia	Compagnie Bal'Dia	10 - 23. May
Croatia	Corsica	Theatar Thalassa	13 - 26 April
Ireland	Mallorca	Hannah Scully	5.-19. July
Sardinia	Denmark	Simone Azzu	11 - 25. May
Denmark	Sardinia	Elise Reine	14 - 28 September
Mallorca	Tenerife	La Perrierie	10 - 24 September
Tenerife	Ireland	Lisa Giambra	4 - 16 August

Matrix with chosen artists for the first call with dates and locations



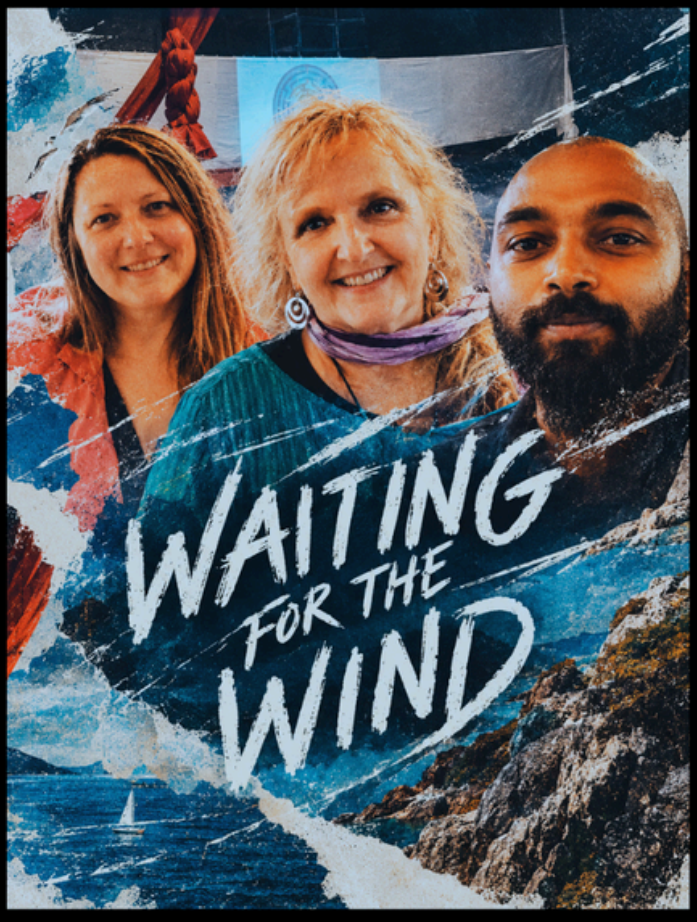
Island Connect II – Artist in Residency selection

ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

Artists from Croatia

Theatar Thalassa (Ivana Slunjski & Dubravka Crnčić Crnojević

Ivana Slunjski participated as a part of Thallasa company (with Dubravka Crnojević Crnčić) in the residency in Corsica from April, and in Croatia from 13 - 27 September. They researched with local communities the insularity not as isolation but as a relationship shaped by distance, waiting, labour migration and demographic change. They developed work-in-progress performance based on the findings.



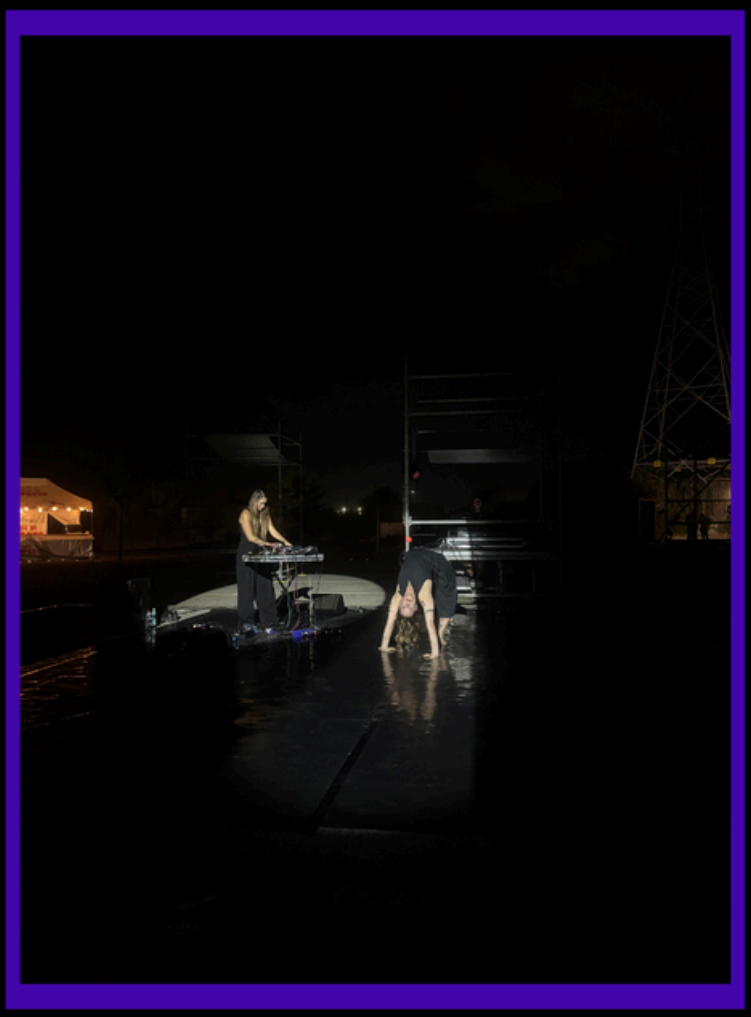
Waiting for the wind, Corsica

ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

Artists from Denmark

Elise Bjerkelund Reine & Fernanda Aleman

Circus artist Elise Bjerkelund Reine and composer Fernanda Alemán had their artistic residency in Bornholm from 11 - 24 May, and in Sardegna from the 14th - 30th of September. They combined experimental circus with electronic music while exploring the tension between human and animal and between nature and machine, inspired by Donna Haraway's A Cyborg Manifesto



Horse performance, Sardegna

ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

Artists from Ireland

Hannah Scully & Charlotte Bruce

Hannah Scully and Charlotte Bruce are Irish contemporary circus artists who participated in the residency in Mallorca from 5th - 19th June, and in Ireland from 4 - 17 August. They developed the artwork “Tears for the Pillow”, which deals with vulnerability and the human need for connection and draws on cinema such as All of Us, Strangers and Aftersun while merging C.IN.E’s original function as cinema in the work. In Irish residency they engaged with the local community in further development of the performance



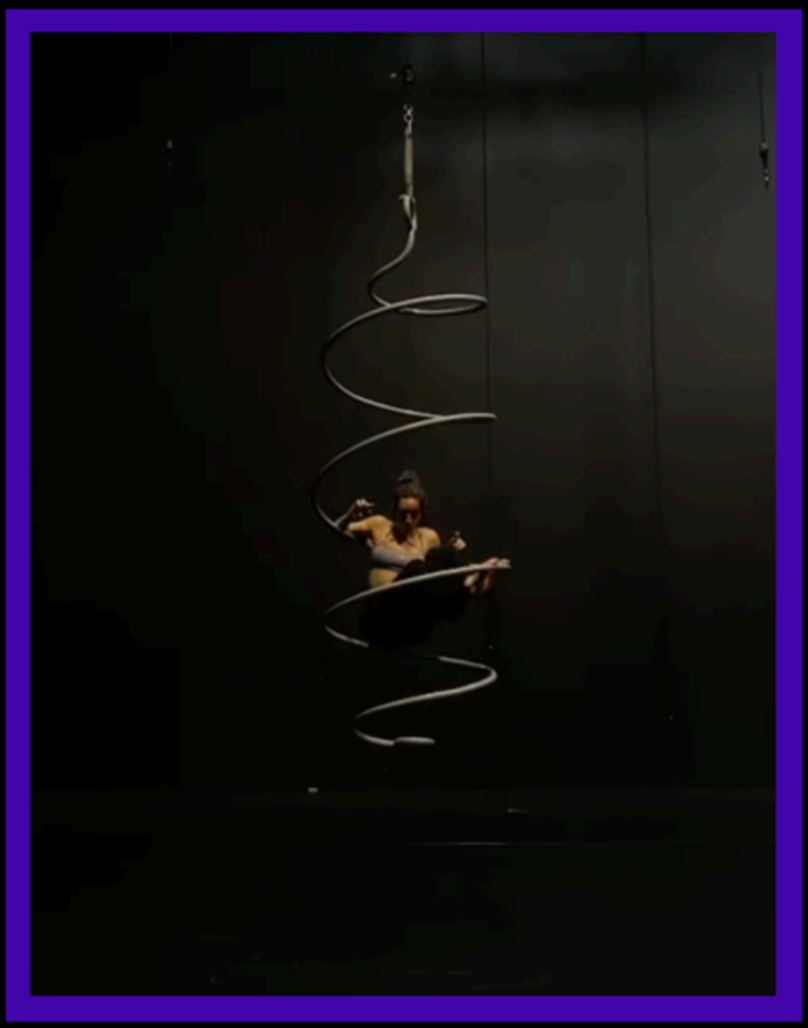
Tears for the Pillow, Sardegna

ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

Artists from Canary islands

Lisa Giambra

Lisa Giambra is an aerial artist from the Canary Islands. She participated in the residency in Ireland from 4th -17th August, and in Tenerife from 9th - 23rd September developing her aerial hoop based performance revolving around relationships with mass tourism on the Canary Islands and Ireland.



Lisa Giambra aerial performance, Ireland

ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

Artists from Balearic islands

La Perriere (Camila Grigera and Ángela Tortajada)

LA PERRERIE is a duo of Camila Grigera and Ángela Tortajada, who come from Menorca and Mallorca and work with movement and improvisation. Their Mallorcan residency from 5th - 19th of June, and Tenerife residency from 9th - 23rd September opened a dialogue between Mediterranean and Atlantic archipelagos, while engaging with the Canary Islands' realities of tourism, migration and transatlantic routes.



Yo soy un Cuerpo, Tenerife

ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

Artists from Sardinia

Simone Azzu & Filippo Lacana

Simone Azzu and Filippo Lacana participated in the residencies in Bornholm from 11th – 24th May, and in Sardinia from 14 - 28 September. They researched how islands are made peripheral through exploitation, depopulation and the erosion of local culture while developing their work Deteritorialization. It builds on former performance “Il Pubblico Bene”, which combines theatre, electronic music, ritual, poetry and archive images.



Decentralization, Sardegna

ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

Artists from Corsica

Compagnie Bal'Dilà (Mathea Rafini & Rosada Zangri)

Compagnie Bal'Dilà is a contemporary dance duo formed by Mathéa Rafini, a dancer and choreographer based in Corsica, and Rosada Zangrì, an Italian choreographer based in Paris. During their Croatian residency on the island of Lastovo in May, and in Corsica in April they were accompanied by dramaturg Pierre-Emmanuel Sorignet.
Their project “Braiding / Intrecci” is a choreographic research into women's hair rituals, such as braiding, covering hair and cutting hair in mourning, which they see as bodily memory and living heritage of Mediterranean islands.



Interecci, Lastovo

PILOT CO-CREATION

The Pilot Co-creation call was directed toward one performing arts creator from each of the regions to attend a joint co-creation residency on the island of Tenerife. It lasted for one week, from 23rd until 29th of June 2026. The residency was hosted by LAV - C (Laboratorio Artes Vivas, Tenerife). There were 27 open call applications, of which 7 were chosen.

From	Going to	Name	Date
Corsica	Tenerife	Ugo Mairotti	21-29 June
Croatia		Petra Brnardić	
Denmark		Lenka Vorechovska	
Ireland		Elaine McCague	
Mallorca		Alba F. Manzanero Francia	
Sardinia		Chiarmarzia Iole Giarrusso	
Tenerife		Gonzalo Teijeiro	



PILOT

CO-CREATION

The Island Connect interdisciplinary co-creation residency in Tenerife brought together artists: Gonzalo Teijeiro (Tenerife), Elaine McCague (IR), Lenka Vorechovska (DE), Chiaramarzia Iole Giarrusso (I), Alba f. Manzanero Francia (Mallorca), Petra Brnardić (HR), and Ugo Mariotti (F) to explore insularity, identity, belonging, cultural memory and the relationship between people, communities and their natural environments. Hosted by Espacio La Granja and organised by LAV-C, the residency lasted from 21st to 29th of June. The residency approached co-creation as a collective process grounded in co-thinking, co-dreaming and co-imagining. The participating artists bring complementary approaches spanning dance, choreography, music, sound experimentation and participatory performance. Their individual practices address questions of autonomy, identity, cultural transmission and the complex meanings of belonging to an island community. Through embodied research and choreographic exploration, the residency investigates relationships between the human body, nature and cultural environments. Sound and music provide additional ways to explore island identities, combining contemporary experimentation with local heritage, collective memory and traditions of oral transmission. Participatory methods further open the process to collective music-making, shared improvisation and the development of connections between artists and local communities. These diverse perspectives provide a starting point for a collective investigation into islandness as both a geographical condition and a lived experience shaped by histories, cultural practices, social relationships and personal narratives. The creative process was accompanied by a facilitator who supported mediation, dialogue and group cohesion without intervening in the artists' decision-making. The residency culminated in a public presentation at Espacio La Granja on 27 June, based on interactive work with the audiences.

ISLANDER FOCUS

The Islander Focus open call was directed towards one artist, who was sent internationally to two separate residencies of two weeks each. In this year's Islander Focus Residency 2 new islands joined: Iceland, and Martinique. Their organisations aas well accomodated artists from other partner countries for 2 week residency. This call was open to a wider field of artists beyond just the performing arts, such as writers, photographers, etc.

From	Going to	And	Date
Martinique	Croatia	Denmark	DE: 3.16.8.
	Alexandra Déglise		CRO: 17-30.8.
Corsica	Denmark	Suomenlinna	DE: 3.-.16.8.
	Flora Pesenti		FI: 24.8.-6.9.
Croatia	Tenerife	Ireland	Ten: 2.-14.4.
	Natalia Borcic		IR: 4.-17.8.
Croatia	Corsica	Martinique	Martq: 14.-25.9.
	Anamarija Šerbetar		Cor: 13.-26.4.
Denmark	Martinique	Mallorca	Mall: 7-19.6.
	Cathrin Nørgaard		Martq: 14-25.9.
Ireland	Denmark	Norway	N: 25.7.-8.8.
	Amano Miura		DE: 3.-.16.8.
Mallorca	Madeira	Corsica	Cor: 13.-26.4.
	Aina de Cos		PT: 13.-27.8
Sardinia	Ireland	Croatia	IR: 4.-17.8.
	Chiara Capizzi		CRO: 3-17.5.
Tenerife	Norway	Madeira	PT: 13.-27.8
	Koset Talavera		N: 25.7.-8.8.

From	Going to	And	Date
Madeira	Mallorca	Sardinia	Mall: 7-19.6.
	Magdalena Mosteanu		Sard: 1-13.6.
Suomenlinna	Ireland	Croatia	IR: 4.-17.8
	Vilma Suuraho		CRO: 31.8.-13.9.
Sweden	Croatia		
	Elisabeth Raymond		CRO: 31.8.-13.9.
Croatia	Iceland		
	Bruno Isaković, Mia Zalukar, Matea Bilosnić		IS: 25.8. – 7.9.
Denmark	Gotland		
	Daniel Norbäck		SW: 7-17.4.
Iceland	Croatia		
	Yelena Arakelow, Nora Auchbach		CRO: 10.-24.9.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artists based in Croatia

Anamarija Šerbeter

Anamarija Šerbeter participated in residencies in Corsica (April), and Martinique (September) where she continued to transform Mini Theatre - mobile, sensory theatre - into work that tells stories about living on the islands.



Natalija Borčić Peuc

Natalia Borčić Peuc participated in Tenerife (April) and in Ireland (August) developing the project named Islands as Strategic Locations of Amazing Beauty comparing in her paintings Vis, Tenerife and Ireland.



Bruno Isaković, Mia Zalukar, Matea Bilosnić

In Iceland participated Bruno Isaković, Mia Zalukar and Matea Bilosnić from Croatia (August) who developed their performance that translates moments of waiting, and engagement in the context of insularity



ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artists based in Denmark

Cathrin Nørgaard

Catherine Norgaards participated in the residency in Martinique (September), and Mallorca (July) research explores how island isolation shapes identity and belonging, between loneliness and connection, and how newcomers find their place among locals



Cathrin Elenor Nørgaard is a Danish contemporary dancer, choreographer and performer trained at the Contemporary Dance School in Hamburg. Her practice combines movement, improvisation and interdisciplinary collaboration, exploring presence, spontaneity and the relationship between structure and freedom. Alongside performing and creating original works, she works as a dance teacher and collaborates with artists across disciplines.

Daniel Norbäck

In Gotland (SW) participated Daniel Norback (August 2026) who researched the text based on interviews with local communities about differences in Scandinavian islands.



Daniel Norbäck is a Swedish-born, Copenhagen-based performance artist, theatre director and founder of the company Norpol. His interdisciplinary work combines theatre, documentary practices and installation to explore human rights, European identity, power and collective responsibility. Drawing on interviews, personal biographies and political realities, he challenges conventional theatrical formats and creates performances that encourage critical reflection.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in the Canary Islands

Koset Talavera & Gara Hernandez





Koset Talavera & Gara Hernández participated in the residency on island of Lofoten, Norway (August) and Madeira (June), Portugal where they developed queer, noise-based sound performance while treating island landscapes as collaborators in the work.

Koset Talavera is an interdisciplinary performing artist from Gran Canaria working across physical theatre, dance, performance and visual arts. Their practice explores identity, memory, sexuality and resistance through the body, objects and improvisation. In 2024, they founded the performance company La Sísmica, developing experimental approaches to the relationship between bodies, objects and spaces.

Gara Hernández Sánchez is a musicologist, sound artist and researcher from Gran Canaria. Her practice combines electronic and electroacoustic experimentation with critical research into sound, gender and queer identities. Drawing on her background in classical piano, she explores noise and experimental music as tools for challenging social conventions and reimagining the relationship between sound, body and identity.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in Ireland

Amano Miura



Amano Miura participated in the residency on Bornholm, Denmark (August) where she developed an ecological score imagining an encounter with extinct animals.

In residency on Lofoten islands (August) she continued to develop her score incorporatin g resistance to the mass tourism.

Amano de Landra Miura is a Japanese-born, Irish-raised multidisciplinary artist, songwriter, poet and sean-nós singer. Her work brings Irish and Japanese cultural traditions into dialogue through experimental music, folk influences and performance. Exploring language, memory and cultural identity, she draws inspiration from landscapes and everyday encounters, transforming sensory experiences into musical and poetic compositions.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in the Balearic Islands

Aina de Cos

Aina de Cos participated in the residency in Corsica (April) focused on women, roots, insularity and identity via women's testimonies transformed into written word.

In residency in Madeira (July) she collected women's testimonies as well and combined it with ones already obtained.

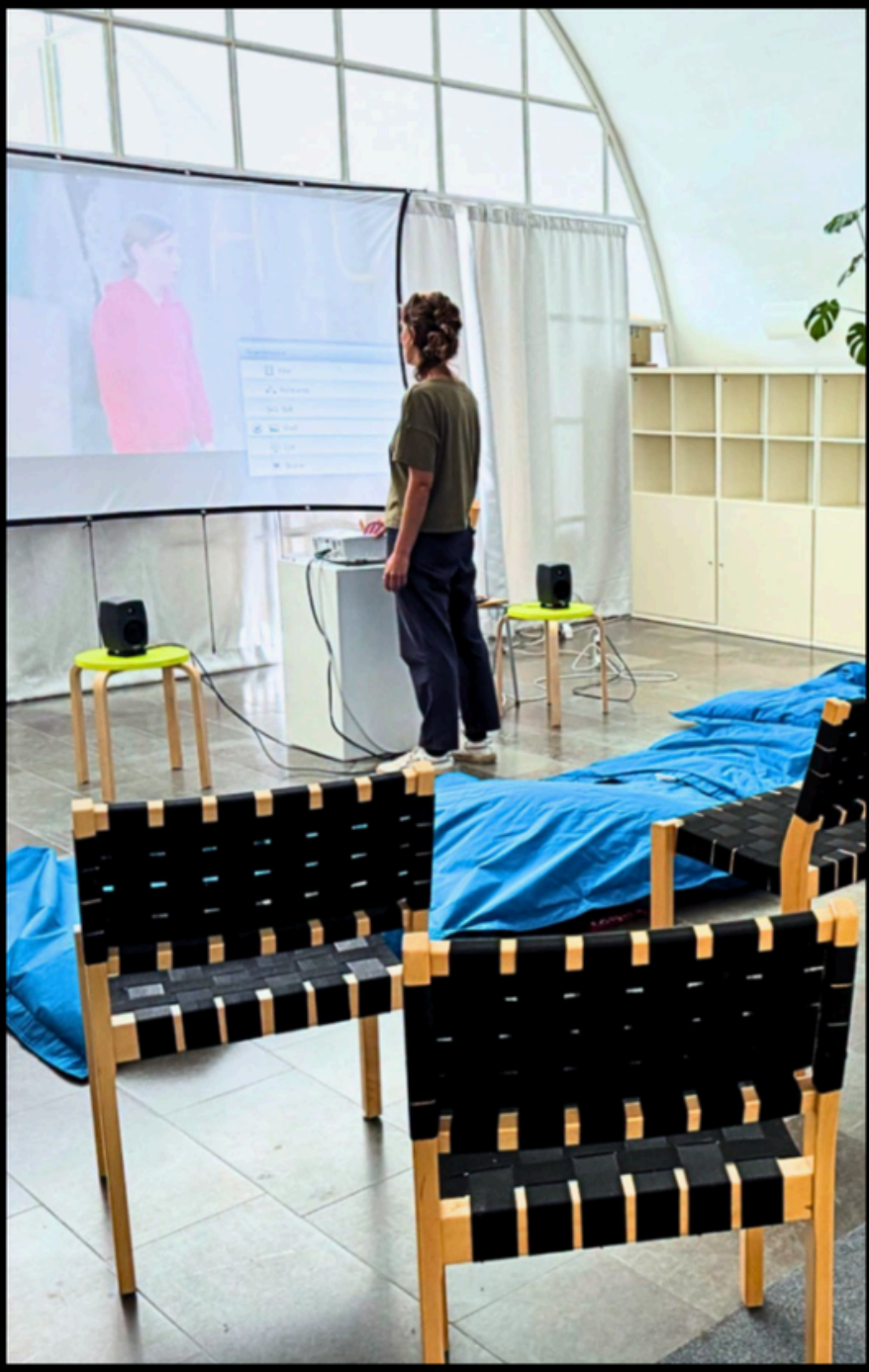


Aina de Cos is a Mallorcan playwright, theatre director and actress trained at the Institut del Teatre in Barcelona. Her work combines contemporary dramaturgy with social and political questions, often focusing on women's experiences and overlooked histories. Her plays include Només quan plou, Antígones 2077 and Les Preposicions.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in Corsica

Flora Pesenti



Flora Pesenti's project looks at how landscape shapes the way we live and how we give meaning to the places around us, and she wants to meet other islanders and artists from different fields. On Suomenlinna ((August/September) she explored what it means for an island to lie right next to a capital city.

Flora Pesenti is an Italian-born filmmaker and documentary director based in Corsica. Her work combines documentary and fictional approaches to create poetic, dreamlike audiovisual narratives. Drawing inspiration from human experience, landscape and island life, she explores the relationships between geography, memory and imagination, using film to investigate how places shape individual and collective identities.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in Sardegna

Chiara Capizzi



Chiara Capizzi is a dance and theatre performer from Sardinia who is developing a solo piece called “(IS)LAND”. The piece explores how living on an island creates feelings of belonging, protection and suffocation, and it is based on a questionnaire she gave to islanders from different places. A fish tank is used on stage as a symbol of confinement, and during the residency she wants to add voice and singing and finish the ending.

Chiara Capizzi is an interdisciplinary dancer and artist whose practice explores movement, audiovisual experimentation and island identity. Working across European contexts, she investigates insularity, emotional landscapes and belonging. Her project (IS)LAND, developed during an artistic residency on Lastovo, examines how geographical isolation shapes personal experience and relationships with place.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in Finnland

Vilma Suuraho



Vilma Suuraho participated in Ireland (August) and Croatia (September) residencies where she interviewd local people about isolation and belonging, turn their stories into images, and then translate those images into movement. Her approach puts fragility and emotion before circus tricks. She showed interest in nature, rural places and the stories of LGBTQI people in small island communities.

Vilma Suuraho is a Finnish multidisciplinary circus artist who graduated with a bachelor's degree in circus arts from the Stockholm University of the Arts in 2026. Specialising in swinging trapeze, her practice also encompasses aerial rope, dance acrobatics and partner acrobatics. She is interested in collaboration across artistic disciplines, combining physical skill, curiosity and experimentation to explore movement, risk and the relationship between control and uncertainty.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in Sweden

Elisabeth Raymond



Elisabeth Raymond was on residency on Lastovo (September) where she researched insularity as connection with the sea as a living tissue that links bodies, histories and ecologies

Elisabeth Raymond, also known as Eli Eli, is a choreographer and multidisciplinary artist whose practice connects dance, sound, film, writing and installation. Her work explores relationships between bodies, landscapes and materials, with a focus on listening, interdependence and collective knowledge. Through tactile and experimental approaches, she investigates alternative ways of creating and sharing artistic experiences.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in Portugal

Magdalena Mosteanu

Magdalena Mosteanu participated in the residencies in Mallorca (June), and Sardegna (September). She works with “Cards for the Journey”, her own toolkit of physical tasks and multilingual exercises that help people from different cultures create together. She ran sessions with local artists and communities to compare life on Madeira, Mallorca and Sardinia.



Magdalena Moșteanu is a theatre practitioner, researcher and lecturer whose work spans acting, collaborative theatre-making, directing and facilitation. Her practice explores cultural identity, migration narratives and cross-cultural encounters. Combining artistic creation with practice-based research, she has worked on projects involving community storytelling, displacement and theatre in social contexts.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in Iceland

Yelena Arakelow, Nora Auchbach



Yelena Arakelow & Nora Auerbach participated in the residency in Zlarin (September) worked on the choreography representing the local community through body movements.

Yelena Arakelow is a Swiss-born dance artist, choreographer, teacher and producer based in Reykjavík, Iceland. Her interdisciplinary practice focuses on dance improvisation, corporeal experience, attention and the relationship between movement and anticipation. She explores the boundaries of dance through experimental choreographic scores and performative states, while also developing inclusive approaches to dance education.

ISLANDER FOCUS

Selected artist based in Martinique

Alexandra Deglise

Alexandra Deglise participated in residencies in Bornholm (August) where she developed her research on relationship with nature opposed to her personal experience.
On the island of Vis (August) she continued her research around military history of Vis, and strenghtened feeling of isolation that continued to be part of the islands' memory.



Alexandra Déglise is a French-Caribbean-American performing artist, actress, playwright and director from Martinique. Her multidisciplinary practice combines movement theatre, Butoh dance and storytelling, exploring cultural identity, memory, displacement and connections between territories. She founded DALA CompaNY in 2019 to foster artistic exchange between the Caribbean and the Americas.

SPRINGLAB



SpringLab is a core activity within Island Connect. Its purpose is to bring together artists and cultural professionals from islands to exchange practices, explore critical issues, and stimulate artistic co-creation.

Third Springlab was held from the 23th to 29th of March 2026 in Bastia, Corsica. The programme combined partner and artist presentations, individual project discussions and regular co-creation meetings as preparation for the residency in Tenerife.
Alongside these sessions, participants explored Bastia and Corsican culture through a guided city walk, a contemporary dance workshop, a comic book festival visit, a film screening examining Corsica's representation, and a debate on the role of artists in the face of war. The programme also addressed the challenges facing island communities, particularly the real estate crisis, tourism-driven speculation and the preservation of local cultural identity.

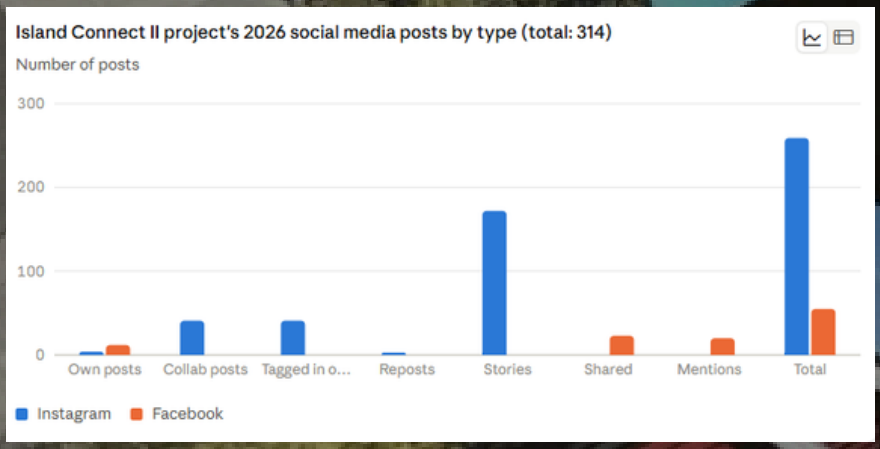
SPRINGLAB

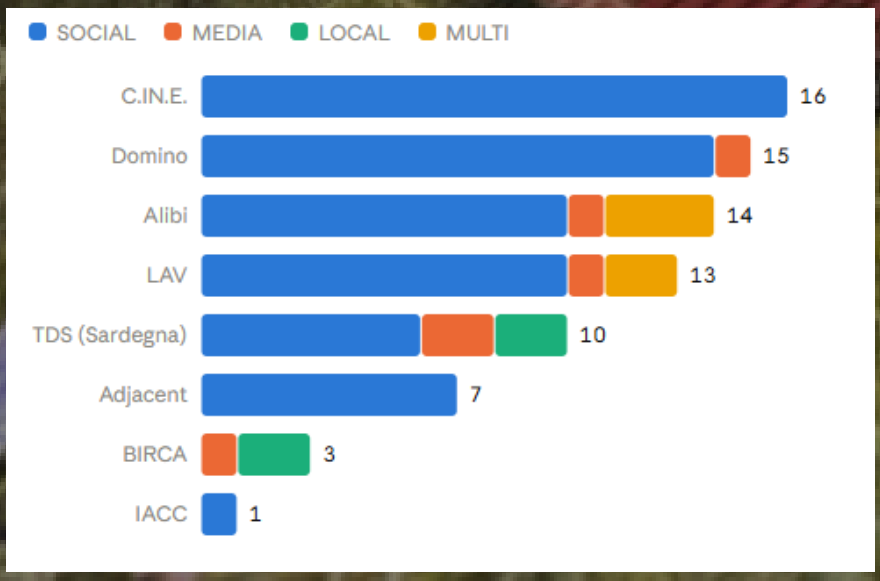


Additional Springlab was organised in Sardinia from 23rd to 27th of September 2026 as the final event of the project Island Connect II. Including all partners, this event focused on chosen presentations of works in progress by artists that were in the residencies in 2026 and presentation of finished performances by resident artists from previous years. Moreover, the program included lectures on decolonization, deterritorialization, contemporary views on academic background of artistic practices considering insularity, guided tours around Cagliari, Oristano, and Paulilatino. This capacity building included panels on artistic practices in the islands, lecture and talk with Gordan Bosanac about European islands focus, and recap of the program with focus on sustainability and continuation of the program.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

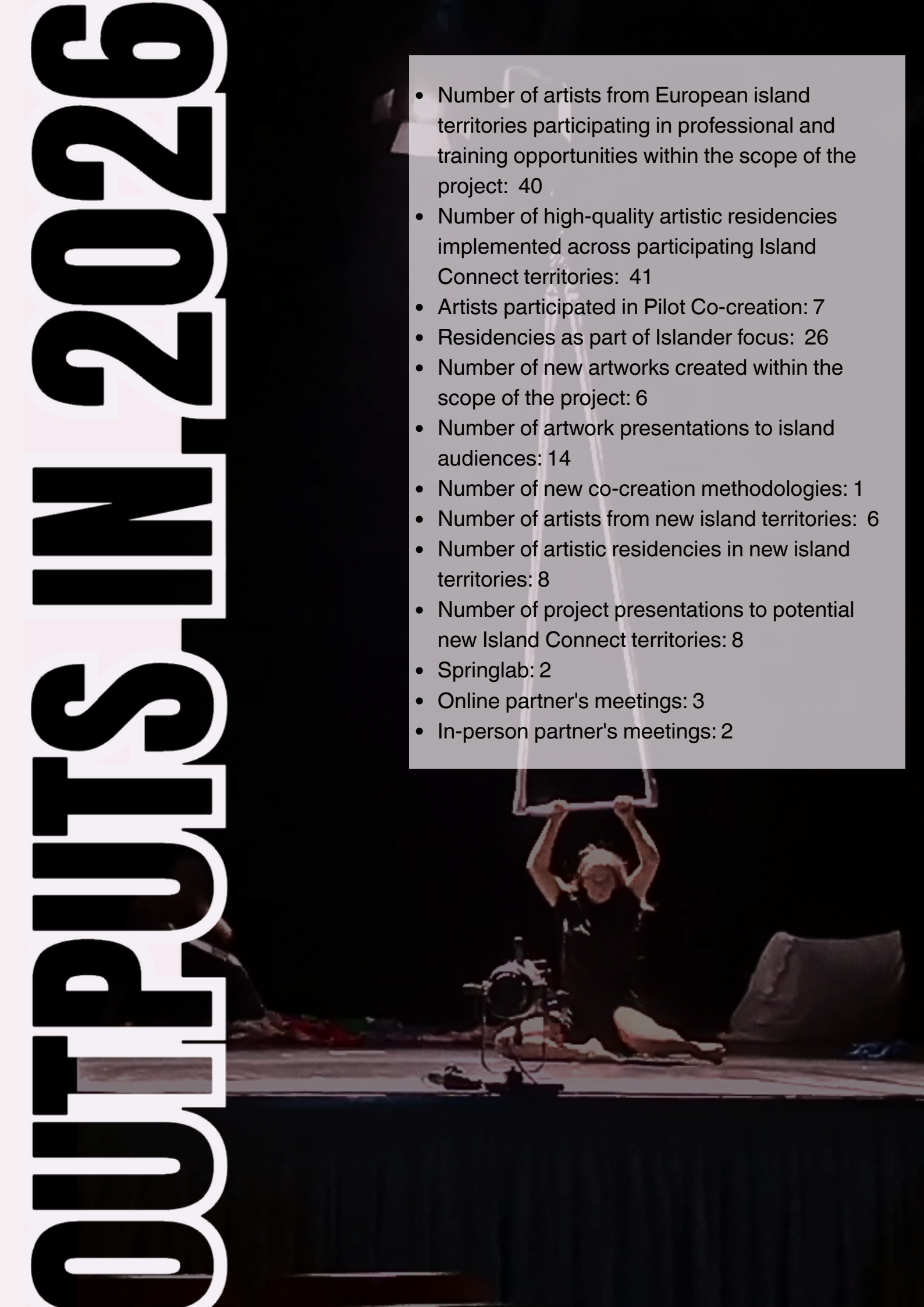
A communication strategy was established during the kick-off meeting at the end of 2023. It includes information on the project website and social media (Facebook and Instagram), where information about open calls, selected artists, and continuous updates about the project are shared. Each partner informs their audience via their organization's websites, social media, and newsletters about each residency. This includes information about selected artists from their country for each call, announcements of the residency, and the final presentation event. The project is also promoted via local and international media. An important part of the dissemination activities is the international promotion of the project during education, training, and conferences held by or with the participation of partners.





OUTPUTS IN 2026

- Number of artists from European island territories participating in professional and training opportunities within the scope of the project: 40
- Number of high-quality artistic residencies implemented across participating Island Connect territories: 41
- Artists participated in Pilot Co-creation: 7
- Residencies as part of Islander focus: 26
- Number of new artworks created within the scope of the project: 6
- Number of artwork presentations to island audiences: 14
- Number of new co-creation methodologies: 1
- Number of artists from new island territories: 6
- Number of artistic residencies in new island territories: 8
- Number of project presentations to potential new Island Connect territories: 8
- Springlab: 2
- Online partner's meetings: 3
- In-person partner's meetings: 2





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