

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



GUIDELINE

2024

Please note, that the pre-registration for interested applicants closed on 16th April 2024, 13:00 CET. Applicants should refer to the tender documents available in DTVP for final information concerning the Fellowship Programme and the further application procedure.

# About CIRCE

CIRCE is an interdisciplinary and international network that unites a diverse range of experts and institutions from the creative ecosystem.

Its primary aim is to foster and carry out both experimental and applied research within the cultural and creative economies (CCE). A key focus of CIRCE is "creative impact", a concept centered on initiatives and enterprises that strive for the public purpose and generate societal impact through deploying creative practices.

As an intermediary between CCE and the public sector, CIRCE stands out for its multifaceted role: it serves as an innovative platform for pioneering creative solutions to societal issues, while simultaneously establishing a foundation for evidence-based policy making for Europe's CCE.

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Please note: The Fellowship guideline summarises the main aspects of the programme. In case of doubt the specifications and tender documents shall apply. These documents will be available during the application phase on the DTVP portal, starting on April 16th (see How to apply).

# Overview of the Fellowship Programme

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CIRCE's Fellowship Programme 2024 is supporting projects from Europe's cultural and creative economies (CCE) that transfer research and knowledge into practice.



Building upon last year's CIRCE Fellowship Programme, in 2024 we are committed to continue promoting creative impact: by translating research and knowledge into creative and entrepreneurial practice.

Starting 1st of June, the CIRCE Fellowship Programme supports 10 pilot projects rooted in or associated with the CCE, led by practitioners and entrepreneurs residing in Europe, whose innovative and creative approaches have a positive impact on society.

We seek people who are involved in the research and development of innovative tools, models and prototypes to address current societal issues. The goal of the Fellowship Programme is to support those who have the courage to question and innovate around the status quo.

## What is creative impact?

Creative impact lies at the intersection of the CCE and social impact, involving practitioners, researchers, and companies engaged in innovating on new ideas and solutions, both non-commercial and commercial (e. g. products or services).

Why is creative impact important? As we face an increasingly complex and crisis-ridden world, fresh ideas and visions are urgently needed for a better future. And CCE are traditionally sites of innovation, whether in the aesthetic, technological or social realm. As such, CCE and creative impact play a pivotal role in revitalising and strengthening societies, economies, and democracies.

The programme provides adequate remuneration for a project implementation period of five months. The programme is funded by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media and Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion.

# Transferring knowledge into practice

Are you interested in applying and evaluating the knowledge acquired through your studies or research in a real-world scenario, or are you an entrepreneur looking to leverage your collected data to address a new problem?



While research and scientific methods played a pivotal role in the [2023 CIRCE Fellowship Programme](#), this year's programme puts a specific focus on transferring research and knowledge into creative and entrepreneurial practice. The fellows will work for five months on an innovative pilot project or a prototype aiming at addressing social, environmental, or economic challenges.

The pilot projects will build upon established research findings, or promising preliminary concepts and ideas with (robust) data, which are considered to have high practical relevance or arise from a creative entrepreneurial practice.





The transfer of research and knowledge into practice can take various directions. On one hand, these can involve recommendations for action derived from research, which are then tested in practice, including services, processes, or products. On the other hand, already existing applications can be further developed. In either case, the project should have a profound social impact, stemming from creative practices aimed at serving public purposes and contributing to a better society – what we call creative impact.

The Fellowship Programme is designed with a dual purpose: Firstly, the fellows will execute their intended pilot project, and secondly, produce a final report, which will be published at the end of the programme, reflecting on the implementation process.

A key aspect of the programme is the emphasis on close cooperation between the fellows themselves, as well as with CIRCE to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experiences.

The overall aim of the Fellowship Programme is to grow understanding on creative impact and encourage experimentation and research within the CCE. CIRCE will use these learnings to encourage and engage funders, policymakers, and the general public to foster and develop impact driven innovation with the CCE. For more information about the relationship between the CCE, creative impact and the importance of innovative entrepreneurial projects in this context, make sure to have a look at [CIRCE's publication „Prototyping Collaboration“](#).

# CIRCE's main topics

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Applicants for the Fellowship Programme are invited to propose a pilot project that aligns with one of the three main topics outlined.



## Sustainability & Environment

In this topic the fellows work on pilot projects that address environmental and sustainable issues. They tackle challenges like climate crisis and biodiversity loss, exploring new solutions for societies to address these problems. Their work focuses on reducing resource consumption, such as making production processes more sustainable, testing alternatives and examining worldviews that support the planet's viability. The pilot projects highlight the vital role of creative practices and the CCE in addressing a globally threatening crisis.

## Communities & Care

With their pilot projects fellows contribute to building resilience in communities affected by current economic or social crises as well as structurally underserved or marginalised sections of the population. Through social innovations, entrepreneurial commitment and innovative approaches, they showcase how creative production in the CCE can empower communities, foster more just and socially sustainable relationships, facilitate knowledge transfer, and contribute to a more inclusive sector but also to a more just world in general.

## Democracy & Participation

In this field, fellows focus on supporting the engagement of citizens and diverse societies in shaping and improving modern democracies. The pilot projects aim to showcase how the CCE can serve as a testing ground for inclusive and democratic practices and participation, e.g. strengthening civil society engagement, fostering a more accessible bureaucracy or developing educational journalistic formats. Other aspects address the current shifts in European democracies, such as the rise of authoritarian and neo-nationalist tendencies.



# CIRCE's values

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The Fellowship Programme's design embodies values, illustrating what should ideally guide the pursuit of research and practice in the field of creative impact at CIRCE.



## Trust

CIRCE sees itself as an inclusive community that focuses on relationships and trust rather than rigid hierarchy, control and bureaucracy. Therefore, trustful, open, and equitable relations, are forming the foundation for research, collaboration, and shared learning at CIRCE.

## Flexibility

Innovating on creative impact requires dealing with complexity, never knowing what the outcome of a pilot project might be. Therefore, we believe it is important to allow for flexibility and even failure when taking on risk. We believe that constant risk aversion hinders innovation.



# CIRCE's values

## Transparency

We believe that there is always a valuable lesson to be learned from success and failure. Practicing transparency and sharing your experiences with the community contributes to collective learning, helping everyone understand what does and doesn't work in the realm of creative impact.

## Inclusiveness

The greatest impact is often realised in areas where the market, state, and society fall short, resulting in the marginalisation of individuals and communities. Therefore, CIRCE values inclusiveness, focusing on creating impact where it can achieve the greatest leverage: By the affected, for the affected.

## Ownership

We encourage the fellows to take an active role in addressing challenges, fostering a strong sense of ownership and initiative. CIRCE will provide support to empower the fellows in this endeavor.

## Care

Creative professionals often face uncertainty, whether in their creative work, or in the organisational and financial structures of the sector. Recognising this, CIRCE prioritises care, cultivating an empathetic and supportive environment where every individual feels valued and heard, ensuring their well-being is as central as the overarching goals of the programme.

The success of CIRCE's Fellowship Programme hinges on a shared understanding and commitment to these values for all parties involved at CIRCE.

# CIRCE's approach to learning

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Core responsibilities of the fellows during the Fellowship Programme are twofold: firstly, to execute a pilot project and secondly, to create a final report reflecting on the implementation.

To aid in these tasks, the Fellowship Programme provides participants with support, practical skills, potential matching with partners and guidance through CIRCE's comprehensive learning journey, which encompasses three key initiatives:

- Individual mentoring sessions
- Expert talks and workshops
- Monthly peer learning sessions

Each fellow is expected to proactively engage in the CIRCE's learning journey, organising and scheduling sessions with their mentors, attending and engaging in talks and workshops, as well as preparing and co-hosting one peer learning session. We will match the fellow's needs regarding skills, interests, and goals, as outlined in their application, with corresponding mentors.

To support fellows in their project endeavor, CIRCE offers the following benefits.



- Remuneration: Each fellow will receive € 16,000 to cover a five-month delivery period, ending with October 31st, 2024.
- Travel budget of up to €500 for each fellow to visit other fellows or events related to the CIRCE community
- Individual mentoring sessions
- Talks and workshops
- Peer learning sessions
- Potential matching with partners

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## ↘ Info

Kindly be aware, that the Fellowship Programme is not a typical grant, but a commission: CIRCE commissions you to carry out a pilot project and remunerates you for the completion of this commission. As we are supported by public funds, we are obligated to follow a strict tender procedure. The awarding of fellowships occurs within the framework of German public procurement law. The application and selection process as well as the programme organisation may differ from other fellowship programmes which you may be familiar with.

Please note:

- there is no repayment or self-funding component
- there is no need for co-financing
- you can also combine your project with other funding programmes



# Expectations

Active involvement of all fellows in the programme includes engagement in the following key areas.



- Carrying out the pilot project within a five-month period to put the suggested solution into action for the problem you've identified with completion by October 31st
- Project documentation to reflect and describe your pilot project in the form of a final report (around 8 pages) to be submitted by October 31st as well as a (public) presentation on the CIRCE website
- Participation in individual online mentoring sessions (five hours in total), online talks and workshops as well as hosting one online peer-learning session
- Willingness to work with CIRCE to support dissemination of own project results through participating in external events and working with partners
- Participation in surveys and interviews with CIRCE to support our ongoing learning and contribute to the growing discussion about creative impact
- Involvement in CIRCE press and public relations work (providing material for the website and social media, potential short interview, engagement and sharing of CIRCE posts)
- Active engagement and contribution in the ongoing development of the CIRCE network until the end of the year 2024

# Scheduled events

The participation in following CIRCE events is mandatory. Possible opportunities to collaborate during other events will be announced throughout the programme.



## Fellow Summit I + CIRCE Community Gathering

The first face-to-face meeting will take place from June 26th to 27th at the u-institut in Berlin. Following a series of digital meetings, these two days will be devoted to fostering personal connections and delving deeper into each other's projects.

The primary aim is to facilitate networking and the exchange of ideas, with thematic discussions centered on the fellows' projects. The event will also give fellows the opportunity to engage with their peers who shaped the first round of the CIRCE programme in 2023. This will enable the 2024 fellows to network with individuals who can offer advice or other resources for their projects.



## Fellow Summit II

The second analogue meeting will take place on October 9th to 10th and will be the last of its kind for 2024. Sufficient time will be given to discuss the forthcoming reports, issues and questions they raise.

# Eligibility and requirements

CIRCE is seeking pilot projects that embrace daring and imaginative new methods, and are willing to engage in a collaborative learning with other fellows. Eligible to apply are:

CCE	Researchers, creatives and practitioners working in or associated with the CCE.
Individuals	The application should be submitted individually, but we do not formally exclude applications from multiple individuals involved in the same project.
Residency	Residents of one of the 46 countries of the Council of Europe or Kosovo.
Main topics	<p>Pilot projects generating creative impact in at least one of the three main topics of the CIRCE Fellowship Programme 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Communities &amp; Care</li><li>◦ Sustainability &amp; Environment</li><li>◦ Democracy &amp; Participation</li></ul> <p>The projects may intersect across multiple categories.</p>
Practice	The proposed projects must involve transferring research and knowledge into practical application.

## Info

Applicants who are currently employed by or have an affiliation with a scientific, cultural, or social institution or organisation, where the pilot project can be initiated, are particularly encouraged to apply. However, meeting this criterion is not a mandatory condition for a successful application.



# Documents to be submitted

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Following documents must be submitted during the tender procedure. Applications will be evaluated primarily on the basis of the quality of the concepts submitted.

## CV

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A Curriculum Vitae of max. two pages referencing past projects related to the CCE and one of CIRCE's main topics chosen. Please note, that the CV will not be part of the award criteria and will solely provide context about your past experiences.

## CONCEPT

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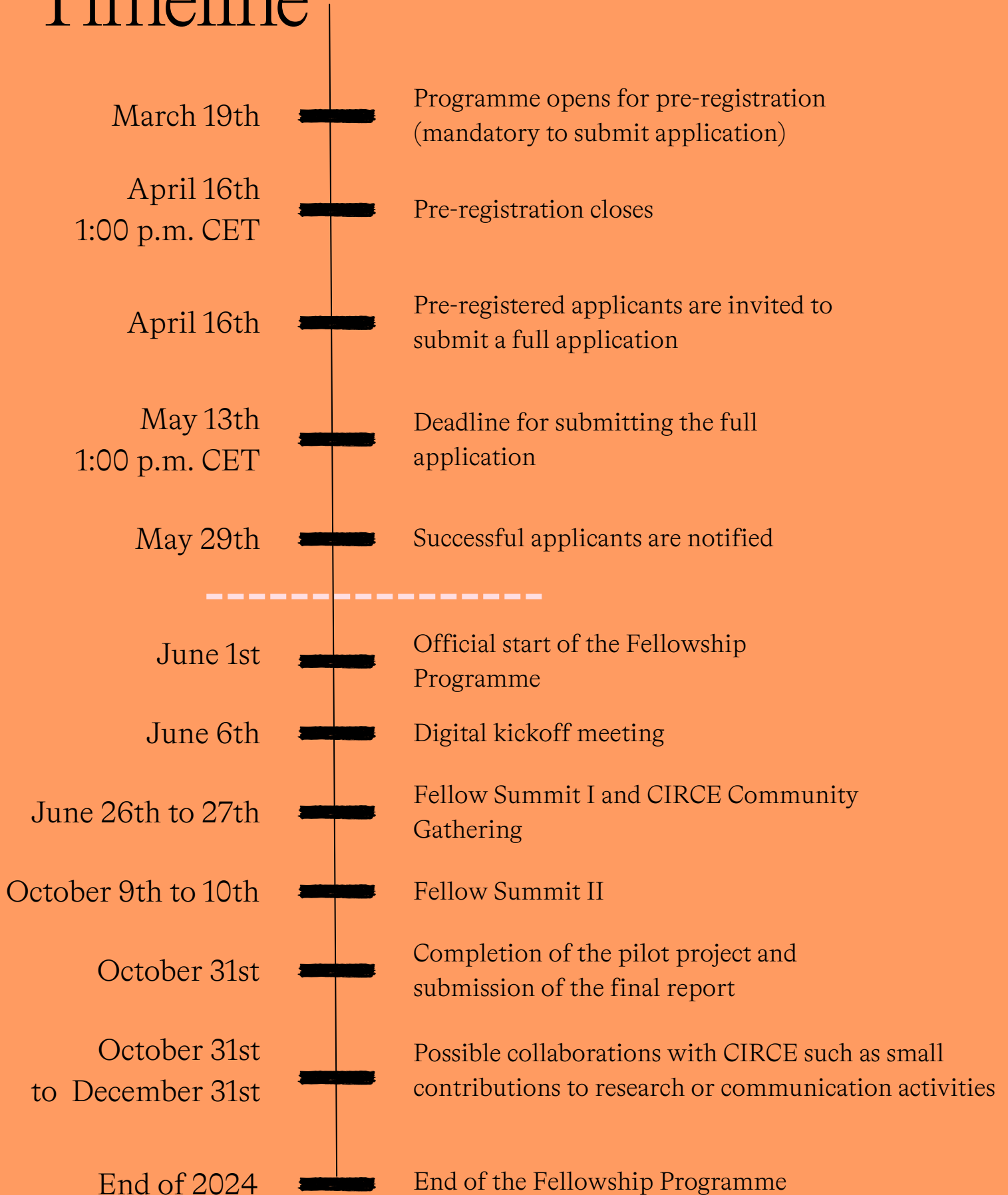
All applicants submit a concept in which they describe their project proposal, including methodology, implementation and intended outcome. The concept should cover the following aspects:

- Abstract – Summary of the main aspects of your concept
- Problem and solution description in one of the main topics of CIRCE 2024
- Project in practice – Description of your approach to transforming research and/or knowledge into creative and entrepreneurial practices as well as to engaging with your target audience.
- Overview of the various planned steps in the five-month delivery period
- Relation to CCE – In which way are you/your project part of the CCE?

As part of the application process, we will also ask you for additional formal information as well as your needs regarding the CIRCE mentoring.

All required documents must be submitted in English.

# Timeline



# How to apply

The CIRCE Fellowship Programme has a two-stage application process with an initial pre-registration followed by an application procedure.

**Step 1:** The pre-registration phase (expression of interest) takes place from March 19th to April 16th, 2024 at 1:00 pm CET. You must pre-register during this period in order to gain access to the application portal. If you are interested in participating, please register using the provided form.

The pre-registration is now closed.

**Step 2:** The application procedure is carried out on the dedicated application portal DTVP. The portal opens from April 16th to May 13th, 2024, 1:00 p.m. After the end of the pre-registration, you will receive an email with a link for DTVP. If you do not receive an email on the 16th of April, please check your spam folder.

To complete your submission through DTVP, you will need to submit the above-mentioned documents. We will provide support for accessing and using DTVP in the form of a manual and video tutorial before the application starts. The tender documents and specifications will be accessible via DTVP only for the candidates who have pre-registered. Please, make sure to set aside enough time beforehand, since it usually takes a bit to get used to DTVP the first time you use it.

We want to encourage people from the BIPoC communities, people with a migrant biography, people from national and ethnic minorities, people from the LGBTQIA+ community and people with disabilities to apply.



# Contact us

You can reach the CIRCE team by  
email at [info@creativeimpact.eu](mailto:info@creativeimpact.eu)