



**medeu**  
waves

**Mad MED**

**Link**  
20 years

**MED HEART** | Mediterranean Health &  
Wellbeing through Artistic Residencies

# ASSOCIAZIONE LINK

---

Associazione LINK is an Italian non-profit organization active at local, national, and European levels, committed to promoting social inclusion, active citizenship, and youth participation.

The association works mainly with young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, through educational, cultural, and participatory projects aimed at strengthening personal skills, social responsibility, and democratic engagement. LINK designs and implements activities focused on non-formal education, volunteering, intercultural dialogue, and community development.

---

At European level, Associazione LINK is actively involved in EU programmes such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, coordinating and hosting international volunteering projects, youth exchanges, and capacity-building initiatives. Particular attention is given to themes such as social justice, freedom of expression, inclusion, environmental awareness, and the role of culture and the arts as tools for social change.

Through a strong network of local and international partners, Associazione LINK fosters cooperation across the Mediterranean and European regions, supporting young people in becoming active, critical, and engaged citizens in their communities.

[LINK](#)



# MEDEU STRATEGY

MedEu is not a project but a strategic plan of the Link Association for the 2025–2027 period. From now until the end of the current generation of the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ programs, we aim to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area through projects that involve greater participation of youth organizations from the Southern Mediterranean, the Western Balkans, and the Eastern Europe and Caucasus region.

## MAIN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED SO FAR:

- Mediterranean Unbound Voices, PDA, June 2025, Italy
- ESC Team Morocco, Urban Art Week, September 2025
- Mobility of youth workers, July 2025, Tangier (Morocco)
- Youth Exchange “Cibo”, September 2025, Italy
- Mad4Med: artistic residency, December 2025, Italy



[MEDEU](#)

# CAPACITY BUILDING

---

Capacity-building in the field of youth projects are international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth in the EU and countries associated to the Programme, on the one hand, and in third countries not associated to the Programme, on the other hand. Projects aim at supporting international cooperation in the field of youth and non-formal learning, as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development and well-being among youth organisations and young people.

These Capacity-building in the field of youth projects are designed as multilateral international cooperation initiatives, with the goal of supporting international collaboration and non-formal learning as a catalyst for sustainable socio-economic development and youth well-being. Eligible applicants, including NGOs and public bodies working in the field of youth, can apply for up to EUR 300,000 for projects lasting between 12 and 36 months, with an emphasis on raising organizational capacity, promoting non-formal learning mobility, and fostering interregional cooperation within the framework of the EU Youth Strategy.

[READ MORE](#)

# THE PROPOSAL

## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the capacity of youth organisations in the Euro-Mediterranean region to use arts and creativity as effective tools for youth skills development, psychosocial wellbeing and community engagement.

## PARTICIPANTS

Countries involved:

- UE (3): Italy (coordinator), Greece, Spain
- Mediterranean South (4): Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine .. [to be selected, apply here](#)

## MAIN ACTIONS

Training courses, community based and well-being activities, artistic residencies, digital platform & toolkit, final event festival.

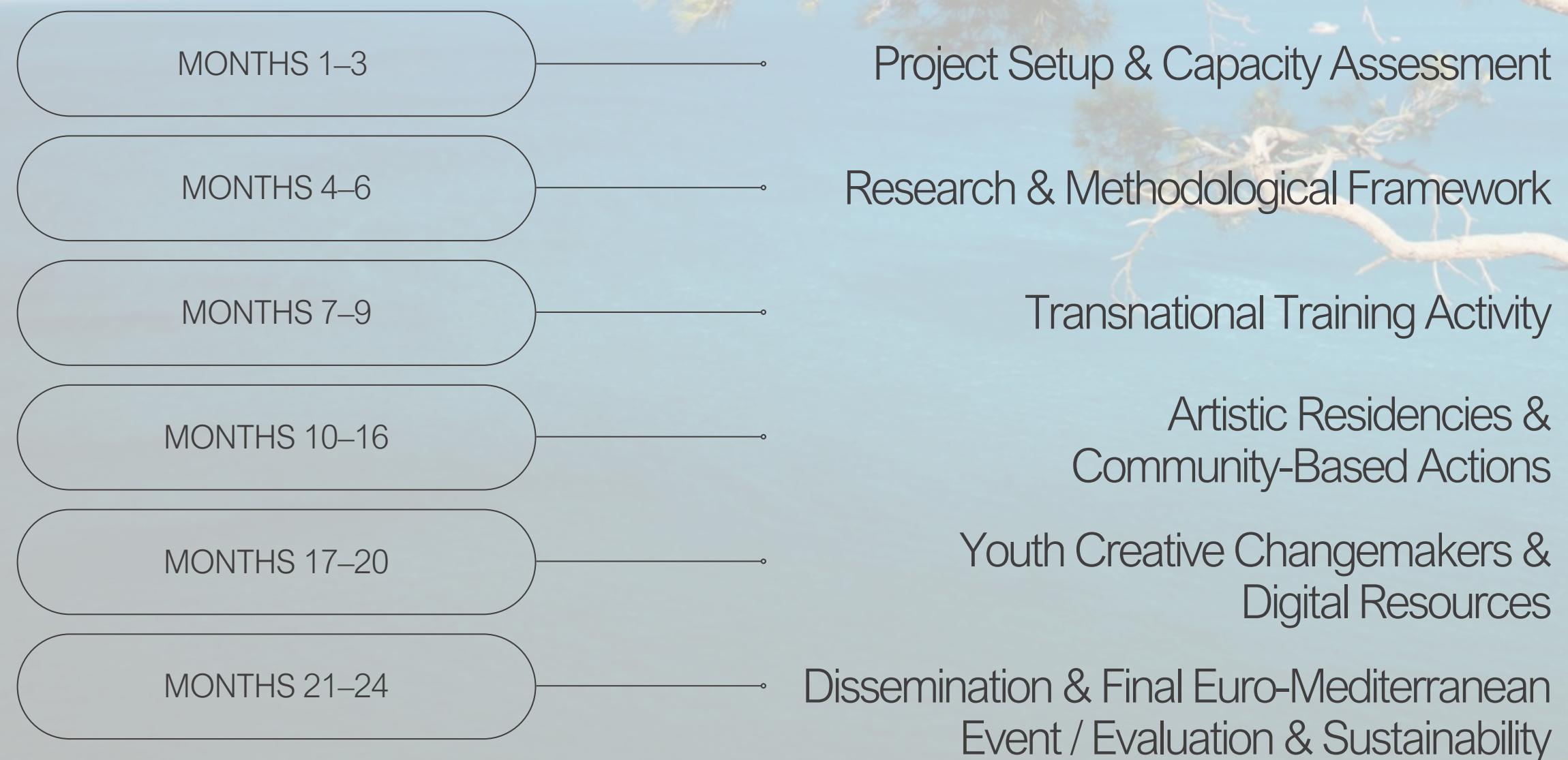
## DURATION

24 months

## BUDGET

Between 280.000 € and 350.000 €

# PROJECT'S TIMELINE



# MED HEART

Mediterranean Health & Wellbeing through Artistic Residency

*Over 3000 studies identified a major role for the arts in the prevention of ill health, promotion of health, and management and treatment of illness across the lifespan.*

## General objective

Strengthen the capacity of Mediterranean youth organizations to use art and creativity as tools for skills development, psychophysical well-being, and young people's community engagement.

## Specific objectives

- To strengthen the organisational and methodological capacity of youth organisations from EU and South Med countries to design and deliver arts-based youth activities integrating non-formal education, wellbeing-oriented approaches and community engagement.
- To co-develop and pilot shared and transferable arts-based models, including international artistic residencies and community-based creative actions, responding to the needs of young people and local communities..
- To reinforce sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the youth field by producing practical tools, resources and partnerships that ensure long-term impact, transferability and uptake beyond the project duration.

# THE PILARS

## Mediterranean Health & Wellbeing through Artistic Residency

*The project proposal is based on a number of conceptual pillars that reflect the latest developments in European and cooperation policies, as well as on scientific evidence regarding the correlation between art and well-being.*

### Culture Compass for Europe

The Culture Compass for Europe establishes a vision based on the strengths of European culture: our shared values, our freedoms, our identity.

### The Pact for the Mediterranean

Our story of the strengthened partnership between the EU and the countries of our Southern Neighbourhood starts with people. People of all generations are at the heart of the new Pact. The Mediterranean's greatest resource, however, is its youth, its talent, its creativity.

### Mediterranean Capitals

The Euro-Mediterranean region boasts a rich and diverse heritage, shaped by centuries of cultural exchange. A melting pot of different languages and traditions, a deep sense of identity and belonging.

### New European Bauhaus

BEB is an EU initiative connecting sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics to create beautiful, green and inclusive living spaces and ways of living.

### Art & Well-being

Over the past two decades, there has been a major increase in research into the effects of the arts on health and well-being, alongside developments in practice and policy activities in different countries, as proven by WHO.

# THE ACTIONS

Mediterranean Health & Wellbeing through Artistic Residency

**1** *Coordination & Capacity Assessment*  
• Kick-off meeting (UE)  
• Need analysis MED  
• Quality plan, risk management

**2** *Transnational training (7 days). Topic: designing and curating artistic residencies for young people, integrating art, wellbeing and community engagement*

**3** *At least 3 artistic residencies, duration 12-15 days.*

**4** *Community Creative Actions - at local level. Workshops, public art, theatre, photography and other activities coherent with the New European Bauhaus values.*

**5** *Digital Storytelling & Knowledge Platform. Collecting stories, processes, best practices. Producing a toolkit “Art for well-being” Open source resource database.*

**6** *Final event: Med Heart Festival. Showcase, performances, exhibitions, discussion panels.*

# PARTNERS

Mediterranean Health & Wellbeing through Artistic Residency

*Associazione Link is searching for partners for this Capacity Building in the field of Youth (CBY) project focused on arts, wellbeing and community engagement in the Euro-Mediterranean context.*

## Type of organisations

- Non-profit youth organisations / NGOs
- Cultural organisations with a strong youth work component
- Community-based organisations working with young people
- Foundations or social enterprises active in arts-based education
- Organisations experienced in international cooperation and non-formal education

## Core Expertise Required

1. Youth Work & Non-Formal Education
  - Have proven experience in youth work (ages 18–30)
  - Use non-formal and informal education methodologies
2. Arts & Creativity in Social Contexts
  - Actively use artistic and creative practices (visual arts, performing arts, media arts, storytelling, music, theatre)
  - Be able to host or support artistic laboratories, workshops or residencies
3. Wellbeing, Mental Health & Care-Oriented Approaches
  - Integrate wellbeing, psychosocial support or care-oriented practices into youth activities
4. Community Engagement & Local Embeddedness
  - Be strongly rooted in their local communities
  - Have established relationships with schools, local authorities, cultural spaces, grassroots groups or informal communities
5. Organisational & Management Capacity
  - Have experience managing EU or international projects (Erasmus+, ENI, Creative Europe, etc.)
  - Be able to handle financial management, reporting and internal coordination
  - Have staff or volunteers dedicated to project implementation.



IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR ORGANISATION MEETS  
THE PROFILE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE AS A  
PARTNER IN THE PROJECT, WE KINDLY ASK YOU TO  
COMPLETE THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM BY  
15 JANUARY.

WE WILL REVIEW ALL APPLICATIONS AND INFORM  
YOU BY 20 JANUARY WHICH ORGANISATIONS HAVE  
BEEN SELECTED TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT  
DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION BY 26 FEBRUARY.

**APPLY HERE**

