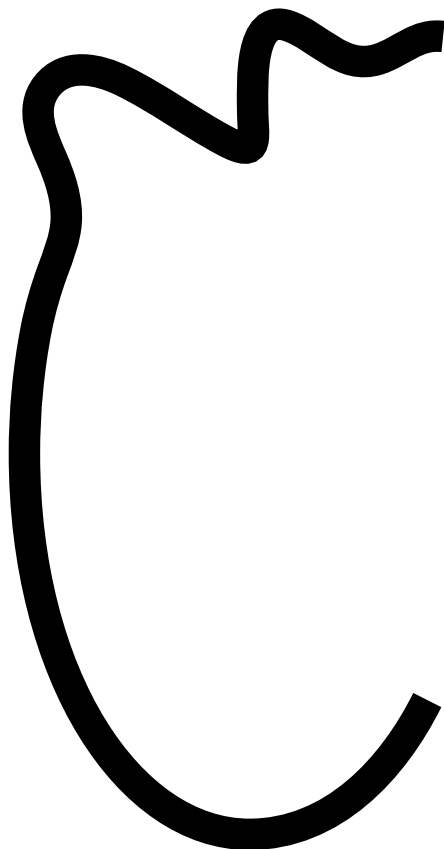


Open Call Crossing borders



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Borders are often boundaries invented by people which can be experienced differently: administratively, scenically, ecologically, but also practically. They are defining because of their inclusive and exclusive effect; at the same time, they are not as precise and succinct when the area surrounding them is considered a whole. Here, life and work take place, there is nature and infrastructure, and there are challenges and opportunities that reach further than the border. At the same time, government scenarios often seem to come to an abrupt halt at these boundaries. What would the transitional zone around the border look like if we approached the existing urgent challenges together in an integral way that transcends borders? And what role do administrative borders still play then? A part designers can play is to make the highly abstract level and multiplicity of the border perceptible and clear.

The Creative Industries Fund NL is inviting designers and spatial designers to do research by design with relevant collaborative parties into border areas and to create awareness about the layout and division challenge that is part of the geographic character of border areas. The objective is to arrive at new perspectives, based on equality and reciprocity on various scales, that go beyond borders and that can help shape the future in these areas.

Open Call Crossing borders

First proposal

- Closing date: 26 August 2024
- Number of grants: 26 of € 3,000

Complete project application

- Closing date: 25 November 2024
- Number of grants: 15 of a maximum of € 34,000
- Period: January up to and including September 2025, after which applications for € 44,000 can be submitted for the follow-up phase

crossing borders

The report *Every region counts! A new approach to differences between regions* (Council for the Environment and Infrastructure (Rli), Council for Public Administration (ROB) and Council of Public Health & Society (RVS), March 2023) argues that regional disadvantages and differences form a problem for the national approach to the necessary transitions in, for example, the energy system, agriculture and the economy. We see that increasing differences in well-being and negative developments in various regions reinforce each other. However, the focus on economic growth in our country is still given too much attention. Border regions feel that The Hague government overlooks them, and this is also felt overseas in the Caribbean part of our Kingdom, where economic interests are put before the local cultural interest in policies and where the impact of climate change is still increasing. And let us not forget the influence of Brussels, which determines legislation and regulations that go beyond country borders and in that regard scrutinizes the layout and division challenges at an even higher level.

At the same time, we see that people in border areas often unite in finding their way, look past the border and focus on their own region. Border areas use the policy vacuum that is more or less there and the free experimental space that arises from that vacuum to set up many initiatives and cross-border collaborations. In this open call, we are therefore focussing on how regional identities are expressed and how communities operate around borders.

The objective is to uncover, by means of research by design, what is happening on various scales in Dutch border areas, both in the country as well as overseas. What specific needs are there in light of the urgent challenges of today and of the future? Is there leeway? And how can we show that border areas can actually serve as an

example when it comes to launching definitions such as reciprocity and multiplicity? We challenge applicants to discover the core values of various border areas and to reveal the opportunities that are there by means of observation, analysis, reflection and imagination. This will lead to valuable insights for both policymakers and designers and spatial designers, and of course for the occupants of these areas.

who is this open call intended for?

Proposals can be submitted by designers that form a relevant coalition with concerned parties and stakeholders. Think of collaborations with communities or social organizations or their representatives, nature management and waterboards, border guards, such as the Dutch Border Police, representatives of border provinces or regions, occupants and companies of border communities, area and project developers, corporations, educational institutions, knowledge institutions, but also daily urban/regional systems that go beyond borders or meet each other, connect with or overlap each other on the border. This could also include diversity and inclusivity, segregation and gentrification activists and scientists from the social, economic, political, cultural and spatial domains.

It is important for the application to clarify which coalition partners you are involving and what their contributions are going to be. We also encourage you to involve civilians or their representatives from each side of the border.

which projects are eligible for a grant?

The open call focuses on projects that develop innovative spatial strategies on the significance of borders, using research by design. The central aspect of the projects is an inclusive approach to the urgent challenges in border areas. They should explicitly concern uncovering something that is already there, but which has not sufficiently been seen or heard yet. Projects can focus on various scales and different levels of action and take place in the spatial domain, where borders lead to layout and division challenges. It is important to be explicit about the scale, the various perspectives from which the challenge is approached and the location of the research by design, but also about the form of the border that is central to the research. Motivate the choices made.

what are we aiming at with this open call?

With the projects that are supported under this open call, the Fund wants to form a community of practice within which knowledge and experiences are exchanged. This enables projects to reinforce each other and coalition partners to help each other to elevate the developed perspectives and integral working method in their organizations and to embed them in their policy. During the term of the projects, the Fund will therefore organize various meetings for both the designers and the non-designer coalition partners. The investment that this takes, can be included in the project's budget.

To share any results or interim results outside the community of practice as well, we will collect them on our *De nieuwe ruimte* platform. We will do this in the form of in-depth articles, interviews and videos. Together with strategic network partners, we will also organize public presentations and meetings for the project teams, partners and other parties interested in the spatial quality of the Netherlands. In doing so, we can show that it is worth using research by design to tackle social challenges, the goal of the Spatial Design Action Programme 2021–2024, of which this open call forms part.

research by design as a method

Research by design is a method by which spatial design is used as a research tool to develop new knowledge and insights. It is a method that, on the basis of possible spatial

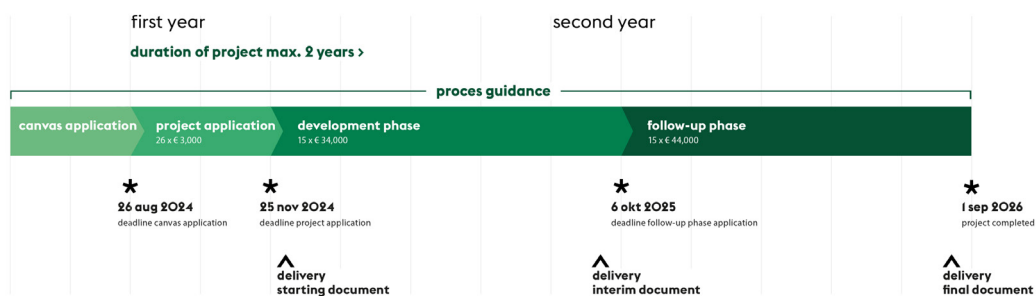
futures and/or future spatial possibilities, focuses on developing new spatial proposals, strategies, arrangements and/or concepts, which help to redefine or reorganize existing systems.

While the political domain is focussed on desirable futures and the scientific domain is preoccupied with probable futures, research by design is mainly about exploring possible futures. By setting agendas and catalysing movement, research by design is at the heart of the world of systems, the physical and the social world. Research by design develops new knowledge about possible futures that, as a result, become probable and desirable and eventually liveable.

Therefore, research by design is ideally suited to represent the consequences of various choices and to make them clear and open to discussion, by connecting the past, present and future and by bringing together the world of systems and the social and physical world. It answers the question of how you bring about co-creation with those civilians and non-civilians, experts, social and other organizations, market participants and government bodies that are involved. And this method results in relevant, qualitative knowledge development, which leads to integral future perspectives and possible solutions, but also to new insights for policymaking by government bodies and market participants.

what phases does this open call have?

The Open Call: Crossing Borders is divided into the following phases:



first phase

The assessment of the applications in the first phase is split into two parts, namely:

- canvas application

In this phase, you draw up a concise application using the [Spatial Design Action \[SPA\] project canvas](#) (in Dutch only). The closing date for this phase is 26 August 2024. An advisory committee then assesses the applications and selects a maximum of 26 proposals which will each receive € 3,000 to develop the canvas application into a complete project application. This amount is financial compensation for the investment of time that is required for this. This selection will be announced in the first half of October 2024.

- complete project application

Only applicants whose canvas application has been selected can submit a complete project application. The closing date for submitting the project application is 25 November 2024. An advisory committee then assesses the applications and selects a maximum of 15 proposals that will be awarded a grant of a maximum of € 34,000 (€ 26,000 for research by design and € 8,000 for knowledge sharing and impact enhancement). This selection will be announced in early January 2025.

development phase

After the final selection in January 2025, you will work on the research by design together with your coalition partners from January up to and including September 2025, during which period you will focus on developing new working methods, insights and

design proposals. During this period, the Fund will organize a number of intervision and knowledge sharing meetings. At the end of the development phase, project applications up to a maximum of € 44,000 can be submitted for work on the next steps of your project.

follow-up phase

Supported applications receive a maximum of € 44,000 (€ 36,000 for research by design and € 8,000 for knowledge sharing and impact enhancement) in the follow-up phase. The follow-up phase runs from November 2025 up to and including September 2026. The objective of this phase is to engage the power of design to further develop the results obtained up to that point. In the follow-up phase, the Fund will also organize a number of intervision and knowledge sharing meetings.

what is assessed?

Both the canvas application and the complete project application will be submitted to at least three external independent advisers for assessment. This committee will then assess the plans based on the provisions included in the [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) and in the [Open Call Crossing Borders](#). The working method is described in the Fund's [Advisory Committee Procedure](#) document. In derogation from this, the individual advisers will only assess the proposals based on criteria 1 up to and including 3 prior to the meeting. The advisers will then assess the proposals based on criterion 4 together in the meeting.

The canvas applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. research question

Analysis of the problem, and the research question ensuing from it, will be assessed in relation to the open call's theme. What is important is that the application instils confidence that the research question can be elaborated into a complete project application.

2. positioning

The committee assesses how the application, and therefore the formulated research question, is positioned with respect to existing knowledge and the discussion within and beyond the area of expertise, and how that positioning is translated into an approach. Reciprocity and multiplicity are important aspects. How do you, as a team and as a designer, relate to the challenge and context, and how do you position yourself in this regard? What responsibility will you take on in the challenge and how do you make yourself part of the story? This requires reflection. Will any unexpected and relevant questions be asked or new perspectives discussed? Does the proposal question prevailing ways of thinking and doing or does it build on them? Based on this, the committee determines whether the application instils confidence that the complete project application will be able to make a relevant contribution to the open call's theme.

3. collaboration

The committee assesses whether the application instils confidence, in terms of the intended cooperative ventures and the proposed collaboration forms, that with the complete project application, it could make a relevant contribution to how the issue is approached. This requires introspection: where are my own boundaries and who do I involve to enhance the project?

4. contribution to diversity and connection with the selection

The Fund is striving for a selection of 15 projects that together can find an answer to this open call's invitation. To come to a selection that represents diversity in border areas, target groups and challenges, the advisory committee also reviews the applications in correlation to each other.

Applicants with a selected canvas application will receive by email the assessment criteria including explanations for the project application, development phase and follow-up phase.

submitting the application

You can submit the canvas application up to and including **26 August 2024** via the Creative Industries Fund NL's [application environment](#). Select the 'Open Call Crossing borders' round. The application should consist of:

1. a fully completed application form;
2. a fully completed [SPA project canvas](#) (in Dutch only);
3. at least one letter of intent from a coalition partner (no more than 2 pages).

Please note:

- Make sure you create an account for the online application environment in good time. It takes one working day at most to activate a new account.
- Applicants may not submit more than one application within this call.
- Read the [Explanatory Notes to the SPA Project Canvas](#) (in Dutch only) to prepare for writing your application.
- Designers act as the main applicant and are responsible for the project. Collaborative parties act as co-applicant.

grant procedure

The assessment of the canvas application is similar to a tender - this means that, within the available budget, a number of proposals will be preferred over other ones. Only positively assessed projects can be supported. The submitted canvas applications will be processed and assessed on the basis of the Fund's Open Call Grant Scheme and the open call's criteria. The committee issues its advice on each application to the Fund's board.

Please note: Article 8 (Contents of the application) of the Open Call Grant Scheme does not apply to the canvas application within this open call.

acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of the selection

No later than one week after the closing date, you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt via the Fund's online application environment. The selection of the canvas applications will be announced in the **first half of October 2024** in the online application environment. The selected applicants will subsequently be invited by the Fund to submit a complete project application.

contact

For questions about the open call and the procedure, please contact: Manon van den Blik or Ivo de Jeu, via actieprogramma@stimuleringsfonds.nl or call +31(0)10-4361600.

newsletter

Are you interested in the results and insights from the Spatial Design Action Programme? And would you like to be informed about lectures, debates and in-depth work meetings? Then sign up [here](#) for the newsletter 'De nieuwe ruimte'.

context

This open call is part of the Spatial Design Action Programme 2021–2024, implemented by the Creative Industries Fund NL on the instructions of the Ministries of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and Education, Culture and Science.