

Challenge #13

FLUVIAL RIGHTS. PO RIVER'S BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLLUTION

COUNTRY

Italy

RESIDENCY HOSTING INSTITUTION

OGR Torino

KEYWORDS

Fluvial ecosystem,
Collaborative citizenship

RELATED INNOVATION AREAS

Biodiversity, social infrastructure

PROBLEM STATEMENT OF LOCAL CHALLENGE

The Po river plays a vital role in terms of space in the city of Turin, although it is marginal in the town's infrastructural, social, economic and biodiversity actions. How can the Po River become a part of Turin, and how can the population sensibilise and the river's waters be healed and cleaned to favour species that thrive in it?

DESCRIPTION

Turin, chief town of Piedmont (Italy), is crossed by the Po River, the most considerable flowing body of water on the peninsula, which in its Piemontese section crosses two UNESCO biospheres (Monviso and Collina Po), examples of virtuous coexistence of human and non-human species. Although it is a significant source of biodiversity with great potential as a social infrastructure, the river is considered by Turin more an obstacle than a resource.

The investigation of this residency focuses on the river from its sources springing from Mount Monviso – which are increasingly dry in summer due to the gradual disappearance of the glaciers supplying it – until its urban section in Turin where the interference of industries can also be studied.



The challenge will also entail working with the local inhabitants, collecting and documenting the stories and water relations of the groups who live in the mountain areas and have decided to face the challenge of maintaining communities in the high lands.

These two interests are contextualised in the broader climate emergency leading to melting of Alpine snow and rain scarcity. The residency will consider phytotechnologies as a tool for solutions and a hybrid approach which can combine the river's social and ecological dimensions.

How can the river become a core point of perceived value for the city? How can its healing provide positive effects on communities?

RESIDENCY CHARACTERISTICS

INFO ON THE REGION

OGR is an international hub combining a focus on contemporary art and performance with an interest in developing new technologies through innovation and acceleration programs. We are looking for a resident capable of constructing dialogues with a varied parterre of local communities and regional entities.

The selected artist should be able to create connections and collaborative practices between those institutional environments and the local communities. The residency will be strongly connected to the territory and to aspects of water management science. The artist will participate in several residency periods in Piedmont: in Ostana with our partner VisoaViso, visiting the Po sources – and in Turin exploring the relations between the city and the river.

The artist is expected to attend activities and conduct field research in dialogue with our Local Expert Group (Orti Generali, Alpstream, Hydroaid, VisoaViso, Fondazione Santagata) and the communities they work with daily. These encounters will provide a basis to produce the artistic outcome that will have a main presentation in OGR and two satellite showcases in Orti Generali and VisoaViso.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are open to any kind of artistic expression capable of combining an interest for low-tech phytotechnologies with an attention to the specifics of the territory and its populations.

Works could also potentially be featured at Ars Electronica 2025, the UN Ocean Conference a/o the Love Tomorrow Conference.

Travel expenses should be considered as part of the budget plan that will be presented. However, the artist is invited to join the summer school in Croatia, for which the travel costs are being granted.

The jury day will take place between 15th and 19th July and might take place online. The jury day will offer the possibility for a project pitch by the three short-listed artists.

USEFUL LINKS

[OGR Torino](#)

[Orti Generali](#)

[Alpstream Research Center](#)

[VisoAViso](#)

[Monviso Natural Park](#)

[Fondazione Santagata](#)

[Hydroaid](#)