

MICROBIOTA

Call for Applications

1. Introduction

MICROBIOTA, the Invisible Ecosystem Within Us is an art and science workshop co-funded by the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) and Cultura Digital, Department of Culture of the Government of Catalonia. The aim of this initiative is to bring science closer to society by connecting the public with researchers and their work through an experiential and emotional approach, highlighting the benefits scientific research brings to people's lives and its impact on everyday life.

2. Art & Science Workshop

Fundació Èpica is offering a total of 30 scholarships for selected creatives to participate in the Art & Science Workshop, which will take place from 12 October to 8 November 2026, inclusive.

The Invisible Ecosystem Within Us proposes an innovative approach to science communication through collective creation and participatory experience.

PHASE 1 (Online) – Knowledge Transfer Sessions (12–13 October)

The project begins with an initial knowledge transfer phase in which researchers specializing in the human microbiome share the most relevant scientific foundations of the gut microbiota with participants.

Through a series of working sessions, scientists will provide an in-depth explanation of the composition and functioning of this biological ecosystem.

PHASE 2 (On-site and Intensive) – Concept Development, Design and Public Presentation (26 October – 8 November)

Building on this knowledge, participants will engage in a process of artistic translation, reinterpreting observed biological phenomena through performative actions, participatory dynamics, body language, audiovisual resources, and interactive experiences involving the audience.

Rather than literally representing how the microbiota functions, the project seeks to create experiential metaphors that recreate its essential dynamics. In this way, the audience becomes an active part of the work, participating in actions that reflect processes such as cooperation, transformation, communication, resource exchange, competition, adaptation, and the creation of balance within a complex ecosystem.

FINAL PHASE – Public Presentation and Performaforum (7–8 November)

The final phase of the project will consist of a public presentation of approximately 45 minutes, followed by a Performaforum, an open dialogue between scientists, artists, and the audience.

During this discussion, the connections between the lived experience and the biological phenomena that inspired it will be revealed, allowing participants to compare perceptions, share insights, and collectively reflect on the influence of the microbiota on our daily lives, health, and emotional well-being.

The project aims to develop new forms of science communication based on experience, participation, and artistic creation, building bridges between specialised knowledge and society.

3. How to Participate

Would you like to be part of this learning experience?

Below you will find the key information about this call for applications.

Workshop Dates

Phase 1: 12–13 October (online)

Phase 2: 26 October – 8 November 2026, inclusive (on-site)

Schedule

Phase 1: Online. The timetable for the virtual sessions will be announced shortly.

Phase 2: On-site, Monday to Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The schedule may become more intensive during the final days of the workshop.

Location: Barcelona

Places Available: Up to 30 fully funded places.

Price: Participation in the training programme is supported by a scholarship (the programme is valued at €3,500). The scholarship does not cover meals, travel or accommodation expenses, nor administration and registration costs. Participants selected for the programme must pay a €150 registration fee upon confirming their place. This fee covers administrative costs, registration, and insurance.

Profile: The call is open to creative individuals, including artists, scientists, and technologists, with particular interest in multidisciplinary and hybrid profiles eager to take part in a disruptive and innovative collaborative experience.

Full availability throughout the on-site phase is required.

Application deadline: 15 September

Application form: <https://forms.gle/WwJAnuyzHjUoHcAZA>

4. Required Application Documents

Participation in the workshop is open to individuals only. No previous knowledge or experience is required. Applications must be submitted through the application form indicated above. Applicants must provide the following documentation:

- **Personal information:** full name, date of birth, national ID/passport number, and email address.
- **Curriculum Vitae with a recent photograph** (maximum two pages, PDF format).
- **Motivation letter** (maximum two pages, PDF format).
- **A presentation video** of up to three minutes answering the following questions:
 - Who are you?
 - What do you usually do?
 - What can you contribute? (Based on your experience, knowledge, or studies.)
 - What would you like to contribute? (Your aspirations, curiosities, or things you do not usually do but would like to explore.)
 - What do you expect to gain from participating in this experience?