Bridging the A-I-R

D3.1. Proposal of 10 Model Scenarios for Residency Practice

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Introduction

This document presents a selection and description of 10 residency models developed by the Bridging the A-I-R (BtAir) Working Group through a collaborative process involving professionals dedicated to designing and implementing performing arts residencies in Europe.

The work employed an experience-gathering methodology that began with an exploratory phase to identify concepts, practices, and references from the collaborating organisations. This was followed by a process of comparing, reviewing, and integrating the collected information. Finally, a design phase focused on 10 residency models prioritised by these organisations based on their objectives, prior experience, and potential for future implementation. Four of these models were selected to be implemented and tested in subsequent phases of the project.

The selection of the four residency models is guided by key criteria including context sensitivity, which ensures that artistic projects are closely aligned with the local characteristics, environmental qualities, and expertise of the participant organisation's territory. To address environmental responsibility, the selected models incorporate low-impact mobility by championing portable, ecologically conscious practices. They also demand a participatory structure and a strong commitment to inclusion, prioritising voluntary co-creation with local communities and establishing supportive, accessible systems for caregivers, families, or individuals who typically face barriers to participation. Lastly, the transferability of the models remains essential, focusing on frameworks that are highly adaptable across diverse settings so they can serve as practical guides for other European organisations seeking direction on implementing these residency practices.

For a detailed description of the four model selection criteria and practical strategies regarding facilitation, participant selection, financial framework, accessibility, and sustainability —among other aspects— applicable to these models, we suggest consulting the manual "Jointly Approved Manual for Open Calls and Selection Criteria", a separate deliverable in this project.

We acknowledge that the landscape of residencies is vast and that capturing its full diversity in a single document is impossible. Rather than offering an exhaustive typology of European residency practices, this publication presents a practical framework developed by the BtAIR consortium based on research, professional experience, and future testing within the project. It serves as a guide for organisations seeking direction on implementing new models or participating in existing ones.

Creation & Art Production Residency Model (M1)

General Description of the Model

The M1 Creation & Art Production model supports professional artistic creation while linking it with broader social and economic goals. Rather than rushing artists toward a finished piece, the model establishes optimal conditions for each stage of the creative process, offering tailored support to reduce the risks inherent in experimentation, creation, and development. Projects evolve at their own pace within an environment adapted to their needs.

The core principles of the M1 model include raising sector quality to foster new artistic languages and methodologies, supporting artistic freedom through protected testing environments for ideas, methods, and technologies, providing professional advice, mentoring, and peer collaboration, and strengthening ecosystem diversity by sustaining non-commercial projects. The model relies on continuous dialogue between the artist and host organisation to determine the timing and progression of each stage.

Methodology

The recommended methodology outlines a medium-term duration of 10 to 30 days, adaptable to individual artists, groups, collectives, and both emerging or established creators and companies. Infrastructure requirements encompass studios, accommodation, and outdoor spaces, with flexible presentation formats including works in progress, open studios, performances, or workshops. Applicable across urban, rural, peripheral, or multi-site settings, it serves disciplines such as theatre, dance, circus, performance, and interdisciplinary practices.

Recognising that projects often develop across multiple residencies with distinct partners and extended gaps, this structure mirrors contemporary international artistic production better than requiring a single finished work.

Outcomes and Creative Process

Creative residencies progress through stages including research, experimentation, artistic development, production, and final presentation. It is desirable that a public presentation be held at the end of the residency. This can occur during the actual residency, at festivals, within the artist's own venue, or via partner organisations. Consequently, outputs remain flexible and encompass works in progress, open studios, workshops, public discussions, and performances or exhibitions where appropriate, ensuring the artistic process shapes the outcome rather than the reverse.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

Organisations aiming to establish or enhance production-oriented residencies can utilise the M1 roadmap as a practical three-step guide:

- Step 1. Build your team: Assign a mediation or facilitation role to connect artists, organisers, local communities, and the territory. Beyond logistics, this role handles community communication, networking, participant wellbeing, conflict prevention, intercultural dialogue, and local adaptation.
- Step 2. Match the project with the place: Align artist needs with local context offerings, selecting artists who will benefit most from and contribute meaningfully to the territory.
- Step 3. Keep outputs flexible: Encourage formats like works in progress or open studios over mandatory premieres, preserving room for experimentation, idea testing, and process refinement.

Community-Based Artistic Residency Model (M2)

General Description of the Model

The M2 model focuses on co-creation and community engagement, viewing the residency not only as a space for artists to develop their work, but also as an opportunity to build meaningful relationships with people and places. This model invites local people to become active participants in the creative experience, where the territory becomes an important collaborator throughout the process.

This approach is built around three main principles: dialogue, creating spaces where artists and communities can learn from one another through open exchange and shared experiences; collaboration, encouraging artistic creation as a collective process rather than an individual one; and local knowledge, recognising the experiences, memories, and knowledge of local communities as valuable resources for artistic creation.

Methodology

The M2 model works best when artists, communities, and host organisations participate voluntarily and share responsibility for the process. The model encourages communities to become genuine collaborators throughout the residency, focusing on reciprocal learning so that relationships, knowledge, and skills developed during the residency continue to benefit the territory long after the artists have left. The residency environment should support both professional artistic practice and meaningful community participation.

The recommended duration is short to medium term (10–14 days), targeting individual artists, groups, collectives, emerging and established artists or companies. Its geographical context spans rural, peripheral, or urban settings, prioritising implementation beyond traditional performing arts venues in neighbourhoods and peripheral communities. Required infrastructure includes studios, rehearsal rooms, accommodation, kitchen or café, and outdoor or open-air spaces.

Outcomes

Outcomes should remain flexible and may include works in progress, open studios, internal sharings, documentation, workshops, public discussions, or performances or exhibitions, where appropriate.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The following roadmap offers practical guidance for organisations focused on proximity, collaboration, and mutual support:

- Step 1. Map the territory: Identify and map the main community networks and spaces, such as community centres, cultural venues, public spaces, schools, local associations, and neighbourhood initiatives.
- Step 2. Prepare the conditions: Make sure the residency offers a safe, welcoming, and accessible environment for both artists and community members.
- Step 3. Design collaborative activities: Plan activities that encourage dialogue and co-creation, such as artistic laboratories, public conversations, workshops, or other collaborative formats that respond to the local context.
- Step 4. Learn and adapt: Collect feedback from artists, participants, partners, and local communities throughout the process to help the residency evolve and respond to changing local needs.

Community Engagement

Community engagement should not be measured by the number of workshops or public events, as the quality of relationships and depth of participation are much more important than the quantity of activities. For this reason, workshops, discussions, and public programmes should be understood as optional tools that support the residency, rather than mandatory outputs.

Care Residency Model (M3)

General Description of the Model

The M3 Care Residency model is based on the idea that care is an essential part of building a sustainable and ethical cultural sector, recognising that artistic practice, professional development, wellbeing, and family life are connected and mutually reinforcing. The M3 model creates conditions where careers and caregiving responsibilities can develop together.

It addresses three common challenges faced by many artists: professional development and caregiving responsibilities, supporting artists so they do not have to choose between career opportunities, wellbeing, and caring for others; artistic mobility and domestic stability, creating practical conditions that allow artists to travel and participate without disrupting essential support networks; and institutional expectations and social accessibility, moving beyond models that reward unlimited availability to promote programmes that recognise different life situations and support long-term participation.

The M3 model understands care as an organisational approach that shapes every part of the residency, including communication, planning, time management, wellbeing, accessibility, and relationships between organisers and participants. By bringing together different strategies, it reduces practical and professional challenges, making participation easier for artists with caregiving responsibilities throughout their careers.

Methodology

The recommended duration is flexible, depending on the objectives and context of each residency. While a shorter residency makes participation possible for artists who cannot be away from home for long periods, a longer residency with appropriate care support may be more beneficial for others; thus, understanding participant needs before deciding the format is recommended. The target scale includes individual artists, groups, collectives, emerging and established artists or companies, with a particular focus on families, caregivers, and people who often face barriers to participating.

Regarding infrastructure, in addition to rehearsal and working spaces, the residency should provide safe spaces for children's activities, communal areas that support the coexistence of family life and artistic work, and environments that encourage healthy working rhythms, slower practices, and participation by people with diverse backgrounds and needs.

Outcomes

Outputs should remain flexible and may include works in progress, open studios, internal sharings, documentation, workshops, public discussions, or performances or exhibitions, where appropriate.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The M3 model offers organisations a practical roadmap for making residency programmes more inclusive and responsive to different caregiving realities:

- Step 1. Understand participants' needs: Go beyond the application form to better understand the work-life balance challenges and caregiving responsibilities of the artists you want to support, using this information to shape the residency design.
- Step 2. Prepare support systems: Allocate resources for travel, childcare, caregiving support, or other assistance when needed, ensuring the infrastructure is suitable for artistic work while remaining safe, welcoming, and accessible.
- Step 3. Build long-term support: Develop peer networks and opportunities for ongoing exchange so that the benefits continue after the residency ends, ensuring a qualified facilitator or mediator accompanies the process and supports participants throughout.

Nature & Landscapes Situated Residency Model (M4)

General Description of the Model

The M4 model invites artists to move their creative practice beyond the studio and into direct relationship with the natural environment, understanding the territory as an active collaborator in the creative process. Nature-based residencies adapt flexibly across coastal areas, mountains, forests, wetlands, agricultural landscapes, protected natural areas, post-industrial landscapes, and urban green spaces.

The model relies on three main principles: ecological awareness, encouraging artists to consider environmental conditions and responsible resource use within their creative process; community knowledge, learning from local experts, community members, and oral histories to root work in the specific territory; and creative risk-taking, embracing natural unpredictability and changing conditions to influence artistic practice.

Methodology

The recommended duration entails a long-term commitment (1–2 months), often divided into stages over one or two years to build deeper relationships with the territory. The target scale includes individual artists, groups, collectives, emerging and established artists or companies, operating within infrastructure that comprises residential accommodation, production spaces, and outdoor or external studios.

The geographical context centres on the human-environment relationship, encouraging artists to observe, listen, learn from, and respond to the territory to strengthen its long-term care and local community ties across disciplines like theatre, dance, circus, performance, and interdisciplinary practices.

Mentoring, structured exchanges, and collaborative opportunities provided by the host organisation help professional artists, scientists, researchers, local experts, and community members engage with environmental and social contexts. Objectives focus on developing artistic concepts, supporting growth, encouraging knowledge exchange, promoting innovative ecological approaches, documenting territorial characteristics, preserving history and landscape use, strengthening shared learning, and encouraging cultural belonging and territorial care.

Outcomes

Possible outcomes should remain flexible and may include walking research and field observation (immersing artists in natural rhythms and ecological

relationships), low-impact portable practices (such as sound walks or movement-based works that do not require permanent infrastructure), historical and landscape research (including geology, land use, and local testimonies), narrative reinterpretation (through site-specific installations or guided experiences inspired by local stories), performances, installations, publications, sound works, community activities, documentation, educational programmes, new artistic methodologies, performative walks, guided encounters, books, songs, audiovisual documentation and public engagement (including open rehearsals, participatory walks, and shared learning opportunities) that integrate into a broader cultural and ecological ecosystem.

Participant Profile

The programme is primarily designed for mid-career and senior artists, while also encouraging intergenerational exchange between practitioners with different levels of experience.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The M4 model encourages organisations to value biodiversity and contribute positively to a landscape's cultural and ecological wellbeing through low-impact practices, respectful collaboration, and accessible planning from the earliest stages:

- Step 1. Creation and exploration: Support artists in developing new artistic languages through direct engagement with the landscape and its environmental qualities.
- Step 2. Nature and sustainability: Promote environmentally responsible practices and encourage reflection on ecological relationships throughout the residency.
- Step 3. Community exchange: Create opportunities for collaboration with local communities, strengthening local identity through shared artistic processes.
- Step 4. Care practices: Encourage respectful relationships between artists, local residents, and the natural environment, recognising that care is an essential part of working within a territory.

Throughout the residency, informal conversations, shared experiences, and oral history collection serve as valuable connections between artistic practice and local knowledge, ensuring contemporary work remains meaningful and accessible.

Cross-Disciplinary Residency Model (M5)

General Description of the Model

The M5 model encourages collaboration across disciplines by creating opportunities for artists to work alongside professionals from other fields, strengthening dialogue between the arts and other areas of knowledge to open new ways of thinking, researching, and creating together. By bringing together different perspectives and expertise, the residency supports shared learning and becomes a space for innovation and mutual development.

In this model, interdisciplinary artistic practice may involve collaborations between the arts and other disciplines, such as education, natural and social sciences, ecology and technology, among others relevant to the residency's objective.

Methodology

The recommended duration is a focused, high-impact residency lasting between 7 and 20 days, targeting individual artists, groups, collectives, and established artists or companies. Infrastructure requires studios or rehearsal rooms, accommodation, and essential living facilities. Interdisciplinary research depends on appropriate working conditions, specialised resources, equipment, expertise, and connections with professionals across fields, benefiting from dialogue, shared methodologies, access to knowledge, and collaborative working environments.

Outcomes

Interdisciplinary residencies may focus on research, experimentation, artistic development, exchange of methodologies, prototyping, creative exploration, and collaborative production. Recommended practice encourages providing resources for varied outputs, including artistic works, prototypes, research, publications, performances, installations, educational activities, public presentations, new methodologies, and future collaborations.

Project Focus

Applicants must demonstrate a clear rationale for an interdisciplinary approach, such as developing new artistic concepts, exploring scientific or technical questions, or collaborating with specialists.

Participant Profile

The model mainly supports adult practitioners while encouraging intergenerational collaboration whenever relevant, requiring participants prepared to engage in professional-level collaborative work. Co-creation is emphasised, with research connecting to wider audiences via conferences, public presentations, open laboratories, or knowledge sharing. Selection models include open calls, curated invitations, strategic partnerships, or mixed selection models.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The M5 model provides a framework for organisations seeking to develop interdisciplinary programmes and strengthen cross-sector collaboration:

- Step 1. Build new partnerships: Expand institutional networks by connecting with organisations and professionals from technical, scientific, environmental, educational, and other relevant sectors.
- Step 2. Support genuine interdisciplinarity: Create working conditions that encourage the exchange of methods, perspectives, and knowledge between disciplines, allowing new forms of collaborative research to emerge.
- Step 3. Explore new funding opportunities: Develop partnerships that make the residency eligible for interdisciplinary funding programmes, including European and cross-sector grants where appropriate.
- Step 4. Strengthen artists' skills: Provide opportunities for artists to learn new techniques, engage with different research environments, and work alongside professionals from other disciplines.
- Step 5. Create new professional opportunities: Support artists in expanding their professional networks and exploring collaborations across academic, scientific, industrial, social innovation, and cultural sectors.
- Step 6. Develop artistic creation: Support the production of ambitious artistic work that combines creative exploration with strong research, technical knowledge, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Exchange Residency Model (M6)

General Description of the Model

The M6 Exchange Residency model is designed to strengthen cultural cooperation across different places, communities, and professional contexts. Through mobility, shared experiences, and mutual learning, it encourages participants to build lasting professional relationships rather than simply taking part in a short-term visit. The goal is to create opportunities for people, organisations, and ideas to connect, exchange knowledge, and develop future collaborations across borders.

The model is built around three main principles: knowledge sharing, encouraging the exchange of artistic practices, methodologies, tools, and experiences across cultural contexts; professional mobility, using travel and exchange as opportunities to broaden perspectives, develop new skills, and create international collaborations; and intercultural dialogue, building relationships based on mutual respect, curiosity, and long-term cooperation between people from different cultural backgrounds. Exchange can take many forms, including knowledge exchange, organisational exchange, artistic exchange, job shadowing, peer learning, co-creation, long-term institutional partnerships, and digital collaboration.

Methodology

The recommended duration is flexible, varying considerably depending on objectives, partners, and available resources. The target scale includes individuals, groups, collectives, families, or organisations, while specific infrastructure depends on the objectives of each exchange and participant needs.

Outcomes

Exchange residencies lead to new professional relationships, shared methodologies, future collaborations, artistic development, organisational learning, and international partnerships. Depending on objectives, outcomes may include works in progress, open studios, public presentations, workshops, documentation, or collaborative projects.

Participant Profile

The model welcomes artists (emerging to established), cultural professionals (curators, managers, producers, arts researchers), collectives and organisations (established companies, cultural entities, family-inclusive groups), and

participants from underrepresented regions or those developing transnational projects. The model values curiosity, openness to mutual learning, and a genuine interest in building long-term professional relationships to strengthen future international networks.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The M6 model encourages organisations to design exchange programmes prioritising long-term cooperation (future cooperation, trust-building, joint project development, long-term partnerships, exchange of organisational practices) and learning from the host organisation through job shadowing, observing processes, participating in team meetings, sharing management approaches, and learning local working methods:

- Step 1. International and intercultural exchange: Create opportunities for participants from different cultural backgrounds to meet, share experiences, and learn from one another by facilitating structured meetings, organising presentations of methodologies, and developing activities that encourage mutual learning.
- Step 2. Build international networks and partnerships: Support collaborations that continue after the residency ends by organising networking events with local and international partners, encouraging joint project development, and facilitating cooperation agreements between organisations.
- Step 3. Promote mobility and knowledge exchange: Focus on sharing experiences, methods, and knowledge through workshops, public seminars, study visits with local cultural organisations, and documentation and dissemination of generated knowledge.
- Step 4. Encourage peer learning and professional development: Create opportunities for participants to learn from one another regardless of experience levels through peer-to-peer learning sessions, specialised mentoring, and reflective conversations about practices.
- Step 5. Connect with the host territory: Support meaningful engagement with the social, cultural, and historical context of the site through meetings with local communities, site visits, and public activities that encourage dialogue with local audiences and residents.

Organisational Development Residency Model (M7)

General Description of the Model

The M7 Organisational Development Residency focuses on strengthening the people, teams, and organisations that make artistic work possible, recognising that a healthy cultural sector depends on strong, sustainable organisations to support creative practice over the long term. The M7 model provides dedicated time and space for organisations to reflect, learn, and plan together, offering an opportunity to strengthen leadership, improve internal processes, develop long-term strategies, and build more resilient ways of working.

The residency should be understood as one step within a broader organisational development process rather than a standalone event, encompassing preparation before arrival, the residency itself, follow-up implementation, mentoring after the residency, and long-term evaluation of organisational change.

Methodology

The recommended duration is short (2–5 days), with the possibility of extending to 10 days depending on objectives, allowing participants to step away from daily responsibilities without interrupting ongoing work. The scale accommodates individual participants, teams, collectives, or organisation-wide participation. Infrastructure requires dedicated workspaces, meeting rooms, accommodation, kitchen, and laundry facilities.

The participant profile targets artistic directors, producers, cultural managers, board members, cultural networks, and organisational teams. Multi-site development or international partnerships enable organisations to learn from diverse working environments, cultural contexts, and professional networks.

Outcomes

The M7 model encourages practical organisational outcomes that continue supporting the organisation after the residency ends, providing lasting value for future growth and sustainability. Possible outcomes include strategic plans, action plans, organisational development roadmaps, mentoring outcomes, partnership proposals, improved internal processes, leadership development, revised governance practices, new working methods, communication strategies, and action plans ready for implementation.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The M7 model combines different organisational learning approaches, including personalized support (coaching, mentoring, specialised consultancy), collective learning (peer learning, networking, building relationships with similar organisations), organisational support (leadership development, collaborative problem-solving, reflection, regular feedback), future planning (knowledge exchange, partnership development, strategic planning), and learning from the territory (meetings with local cultural organisations, institutions, and community experts).

A major strength is direct experiential learning from the host organisation via job shadowing, observing practices, team meetings, daily activities, and sharing practical experience. Depending on needs, challenges, goals, and organisational maturity, residencies can combine coaching, mentoring, peer learning, strategic planning, job shadowing, networking, facilitated team reflection, and study visits:

- Step 1. Identify development needs: Work with the participating organisation to identify the areas where additional support, resilience, or long-term planning is needed.
- Step 2. Design the support system: Combine mentoring, coaching, peer learning, and networking opportunities to create a balanced learning experience that responds to the organisation's goals.
- Step 3. Promote inclusion and transparency: Encourage diverse participation and use clear, accessible communication throughout the residency so that organisational learning can be shared more broadly.
- Step 4. Define practical outcomes: Focus the residency on producing useful documents and tools that can guide future work, such as development plans, strategic roadmaps, or action plans.
- Step 5. Make the most of partnerships: Whenever possible, use multi-site collaborations and international networks to broaden perspectives, strengthen partnerships, and expand future opportunities for the organisation.

Mentoring-Based Artistic Residency Model (M8)

General Description of the Model

The M8 Mentoring Residency model focuses on supporting artists through meaningful learning relationships that continue beyond the residency itself, creating opportunities for long-term professional growth, knowledge sharing, and career development. The programme is built around three main principles: mentoring, creating direct connections between emerging artists and experienced practitioners to share professional knowledge across generations; peer learning, encouraging participants to learn from one another through skill exchange in a collaborative environment; and professional guidance, supporting artists in developing organisational and professional skills for sustainable careers.

The residency can serve as one stage within a longer mentoring relationship comprising preparation before the residency, mentoring during the residency, follow-up meetings, continued professional support, and evaluation of personal and professional development. Its intergenerational approach helps preserve valuable knowledge within the performing arts sector by creating opportunities for experienced practitioners to share expertise with the next generation.

Methodology

The M8 model combines focused mentoring with collaborative learning across a wide range of disciplines, including Theatre, Dance, Circus, Puppetry, Object Theatre, Performance, and interdisciplinary practices. The recommended duration is medium term (7–10 days), allowing enough time for meaningful exchange while maintaining an intensive, focused learning experience. Its scale encompasses emerging, mid-career, and established practitioners to bring together participants with different levels of experience.

Infrastructure requirements include dedicated studios and rehearsal spaces, technical support for experimentation, and accommodation, kitchen, and laundry facilities that support living and working together.

Outcomes

The M8 model emphasises personal, artistic, and professional development. Activities include critical response sessions, one-to-one mentoring, peer learning circles, collaborative creative laboratories, skills sessions, and career guidance sessions. Possible outcomes include increased confidence, new professional skills, stronger artistic practice, expanded professional networks,

future collaborations, career development, and long-term mentoring relationships.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The M8 model combines individual mentoring with collective learning across three complementary areas: direct mentoring and feedback (personalized support, one-to-one discipline-specific mentoring, and critical response sessions), collaborative and peer learning (peer learning circles, collaborative creative laboratories, and public sharing activities like open rehearsals), and professional and career development (skills sessions covering creative development, performance, rehearsal processes, collaborative creation, leadership, audience engagement, and project development, alongside career guidance).

- Step 1. Create different mentoring opportunities: Combine one-to-one mentoring with peer learning so that participants can benefit from both individual guidance and collaborative exchange.
- Step 2. Connect learning with practice: Encourage participants to share works in progress, develop projects, and apply what they learn throughout the residency so that mentoring leads to tangible artistic and professional outcomes.
- Step 3. Make the most of the residency period: Design the 7–10 day programme to balance intensive mentoring, artistic practice, collaborative work, and opportunities for reflection.
- Step 4. Build sustainable funding: Whenever possible, combine different funding sources to strengthen the long-term sustainability of mentoring programmes and support both individual artists and larger collectives.
- Step 5. Strengthen professional networks: Use partnerships with different organisations and residency hosts to connect participants with local, national, and international professional networks.

Expanding Mentoring Practices

Mentoring formats can extend beyond one-to-one relationships to include group mentoring, peer mentoring, reverse mentoring, interdisciplinary mentoring, mentoring circles, and shadowing experienced practitioners. Learning through real professional practice is further supported by observing rehearsals, participating in artistic processes, job shadowing, collaborative creation, practical problem-solving, and reflective discussions.

Educational-Training Residency Model (M9)

General Description of the Model

The M9 Education and Professional Development Residency focuses on strengthening learning, teaching, and professional development within the arts sector, designed for educators, teachers, cultural mediators, researchers, and arts education organisations seeking to develop new ways of teaching, learning, and sharing knowledge. The model creates time and space to explore educational practices, test new methodologies, and strengthen the skills and capacities of people supporting arts learning.

The programme is built around three main principles: collaborative learning, strengthening individual and organisational capacities through knowledge exchange among artists, educators, researchers, and cultural professionals; methodological testing, using the residency to experiment with, refine, and evaluate new educational approaches, teaching methods, and training formats; and knowledge sustainability, prioritising the creation of learning resources, methodologies, and Open Educational Resources (OER) that benefit others long after the residency ends.

Methodology

The recommended duration is flexible based on residency objectives and context, while the scale encompasses individual artists, educators, groups, collectives, and both emerging and established practitioners or organisations. Unlike production-focused residencies, infrastructure places greater emphasis on spaces supporting learning and collaboration (meeting rooms, libraries, digital learning facilities) alongside accommodation, kitchens, and laundry facilities to help participants focus on collaborative work without everyday distractions.

While international exchange is welcome, many programmes operate at a national level where participants share similar educational systems, institutional structures, and cultural contexts, making it easier to test and apply new methodologies. Geographical context is highly adaptable, ranging from urban settings (offering closer connections with universities, schools, and cultural institutions) to rural environments (providing quieter spaces for reflection, collaboration, and research) across Theatre, Dance, Circus, Performance, and interdisciplinary practices.

Outcomes

The M9 model focuses on strengthening professional practice while generating enduring knowledge. Possible outcomes include new educational methodologies, teaching resources, toolkits, publications, Open Educational Resources (OER), collaborative research, professional networks, stronger partnerships with schools, universities, and community organisations, improved teaching and facilitation practices, and documentation of learning processes.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The M9 model encourages organisations to actively facilitate learning, collaboration, and educational development, combining immediate learning activities with long-term knowledge sharing strategies.

Direct learning activities include intensive workshops, masterclasses, mentoring sessions, expert-led training, peer learning, collaborative knowledge exchange, and pilot testing of new methodologies. Long-term knowledge development focuses on generating co-developed teaching methods, educational toolkits, publications, OER, partnerships with universities and schools, and shareable documentation:

- Step 1. Define the focus: Identify the educational challenge, research question, or methodological need that the residency will address, connecting it with organisational goals and funding opportunities.
- Step 2. Build partnerships: Develop relationships with schools, universities, community centres, and educational partners who can contribute to and benefit from the residency.
- Step 3. Co-design the programme: Define the research focus, learning objectives, and participant profile, using an invitation model to curate a balanced group of practitioners.
- Step 4. Develop and test: Carry out the residency through workshops, mentoring, collaborative learning, and tool development while documenting the process.
- Step 5. Share and build on the results: Finalise toolkits, publications, and Open Educational Resources (OER), sharing them with the wider sector so knowledge remains available and useful.

Technical Support & Research Residency Model (M10)

General Description of the Model

The M10 Technical Residency focuses on the technical research, experimentation, and development that support artistic creation, responding to the growing complexity of contemporary performing arts projects where artists need specialised equipment, technical expertise, and dedicated testing time. Designed for projects with a well-developed artistic concept that require technical exploration, refinement, and validation before production or premiere, this model complements rather than replaces creation residencies.

The programme is built around four main principles: technical artistic research, recognising technical experimentation as an essential creation phase in its own right; access to infrastructure, providing professional equipment, technical facilities, and specialised expertise; collaborative innovation, creating opportunities for artists, technicians, producers, and researchers to work together and develop new approaches; and risk-managed experimentation, offering a supportive environment to safely test technologies, digital tools, and technical solutions before full-scale production.

Methodology

The recommended duration is short to medium term (5–10 days), accommodating individual artists, groups, collectives, and both emerging and established artists or companies. Infrastructure recommendations prioritise environments supporting intensive technical research, including specialised studios and rehearsal spaces designed for technical testing and production development, professional technical support from experienced technicians for consultation and troubleshooting, and nearby accommodation with shared living facilities to enable full focus.

Outcomes

The M10 model focuses on technical development rather than finished artistic production. Possible outcomes include tested technical solutions, refined production workflows, technical prototypes, lighting, sound, video, or stage design experiments, documentation of technical research, improved production plans, stronger collaboration between artists and technical teams, and technical knowledge supporting future production stages.

Implementation Roadmap for Organisations

The M10 model requires active collaboration where the host organisation acts as a technical partner through careful planning, clear communication, and ongoing technical support:

- Step 1. Assess technical needs: Begin by identifying the project's technical requirements, including lighting, sound, video, stage technology, software, equipment, and specialised expertise.
- Step 2. Plan technical support: Develop a work plan that includes technical consultations, scheduled testing periods, troubleshooting procedures, and access to the equipment needed during the residency.
- Step 3. Support experimentation: Use the residency period for technical testing, experimentation, validation of ideas, and refinement of the project's technical components.
- Step 4. Document the process: Record the technical research, solutions, challenges, and learning outcomes so they can inform future stages of production and be shared with collaborators when appropriate.

Organisational Recommendations

The model can be strengthened through several complementary strategies: technical troubleshooting (developing clear procedures to address technical challenges quickly with experienced staff), interdisciplinary collaboration (encouraging technicians, researchers, and producers to participate as creative collaborators), shared infrastructure (making specialised equipment available as a shared resource for multiple projects), ongoing evaluation (including initial technical assessment and final evaluation documenting discoveries and future needs), and network building (building relationships with local technical partners, equipment providers, and production companies to expand residency possibilities).

Comparative Overview of the Residency Models

Model Type	Main Objective	Duration (days)	Participant Profile	Resource Intensity	Community Involvement	Settings	Outcomes
M1 Creation & Art Production	All stages of artistic creation	10–30	Artists & companies	Low–Medium	Low–Medium	Highly adaptable	works in progress, workshops, public discussions, exhibitions...
M2 Community-Based	Co-creation & community engagement	10–14	Artists & local communities	Low–Medium	High	Community-based settings	works in progress, collaborative projects, documentation...
M3 Care	Supporting artistic creation alongside caregiving responsibilities	Flexible	Artists with caregiving responsibilities & other participation barriers	Medium–High	Medium–High	Accessible settings with care & community support	works in progress, workshops, documentation, public sharings...
M4 Nature & Landscapes Situated	Artistic creation through engagement with nature and landscape	30–60	Mid-career & senior artists	Low–High	Medium–High	Nature-based settings	site-specific works, research, installations, publications, educational activities...
M5 Cross-Disciplinary	Collaboration between artists & professionals from other fields	7–20	Artists and professionals from other fields	Low–High	Low–Medium	Highly adaptable	artistic works, research, prototypes, public presentations...

M6 Exchange	Cultural cooperation across different territories & professional contexts	Flexible	Artists, cultural professionals & organisations	Medium–High	Low–High	Multi-site & cross-territorial	collaborative projects, workshops, public presentations, documentation...
M7 Organisational Development	Strengthening cultural organisations & teams	2–5	Cultural organisations, managers & artistic teams	Low	Low	Highly adaptable	strategic plans, organisational tools, partnerships, new working methods...
M8 Mentoring-Based	Mentoring, knowledge exchange & professional development	7–10	Emerging and experienced artists	Low–Medium	Low	Highly adaptable	new professional skills, expanded professional networks, career development, long-term mentoring relationships...
M9 Educational-Training	Learning, teaching & professional development	Flexible	Artists, educators, cultural mediators & researchers	Low–Medium	Low–High	Highly adaptable	educational resources & methodologies, professional networks, collaborative research...
M10 Technical Support & Research	Technical research & experimentation, supporting artistic creation	5–10	Advanced-stage projects requiring technical development	Medium–High	Low	Urban or multi-site settings	tested technical solutions, technical prototypes, production development, technical documentation...