

Open Call

BE AWARE

Architecture With an Approach of Regeneration and Empowerment



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Architecture With an Approach
of Regeneration and Empowerment

AWARE

Within the framework of the European project AWARE. Architecture with an Approach of Regeneration and Empowerment, the Foundation of the Order of Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservationists of the Province of Milan (FOAMi) launches an open call to involve young architects under 35 in the project for the 2026–2027 two-year period. Applications are open until 8th May 2026.



ABSTRACT

The Foundation is among the winners of the Creative Europe programme with a project that takes place between Italy, Slovenia and Estonia **AWARE. Architecture with an Approach of Regeneration and Empowerment** is a cultural project led by three entities working on **architecture**: the Foundation of the Order of Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservationists of the Province of Milan – Italy, the Estonian Association of Architects in Tallin – Estonia, the Museum of Architecture and Design in Ljubljana – Slovenia.

The project aims to contribute to the search for identity and knowledge of the places we inhabit, while addressing the general lack of awareness of the city's architectural and cultural heritage and highlighting the potential role of architects in society, involving in a participatory process young architects, cultural operators and residents.

A multidisciplinary approach will be used combining various fields – architecture, culture, and sociology – as well as different forms of expression – including architectural, creative, and popular languages – to explore and create new narratives for spaces and architectures in neighborhoods in Milan, Tallinn and Ljubljana, through a new dialogue that fosters culture.

The proposal aims at introducing innovation in the social and architectural fields through the international exposure of young architects, creating a pilot experience where the new generation of architects takes centre stage in re-exploring the relationship between places and architecture.

THE CALL

The call is **open to architects under the age of 35** (applicants must not have turned 35 by the deadline of this call) who wish to actively participate in the creation of a cultural project in Milan through a **participatory process** in which they will be involved as key actors together with the local community and the cultural operators. Through this call, architects are invited to propose a neighborhood that aligns with the project research. Applicants must be registered in an Italian Order of Architects and must be available to follow the project for its entire duration in Milan.

ELIGIBILITY

We are looking for **two architects** who:

- have architectural, social and cultural knowledge of the neighborhood proposed as the project area. The neighborhood must be located within the city of Milan or its Metropolitan area;
- are available to collaborate on the project for its entire duration (24 months) and to follow its activities in the Metropolitan area of Milan;
- have previous experience in participatory processes and co-design, and/or strong interest and motivation in these fields;
- have a multidisciplinary approach to reading and interpreting the city and its needs (e.g., architecture and photography, architecture and art, architecture and culture, architecture and sociology, architecture and participation, architecture and philosophy, etc.);

CALL OPENING PERIOD

The call will be open **from April 2nd to May 8th included**.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Each participant may submit their application through the form. The application must include:

- A brief CV and a motivation letter (maximum 1,000 characters excluding spaces)
- A description of the neighborhood the applicant wishes to propose, along with the reasons for this choice – needs, challenges, potential (maximum 2,000 characters excluding spaces). It is possible to add photographs and graphic elements.

The PDF must be no larger than 5 MB.

It will be possible to apply individually or as two participants collaborating by submitting to the same neighborhood.

The call is organized in one stage. Documentation of the application can be in Italian and/or English.

WHAT THE PROJECT OFFERS

The architects involved will have the opportunity to:

- develop and expand their international network
- have occasions of exchanges at multiple levels (sharing best practices, workshops / study visits) throughout the project's duration
- co-design a pilot project at the European level through a multidisciplinary and participative approach

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Honorarium for two selected architects (collaboration contract): €6,000 for each architect (all taxes and charges included);
- Budget for the cultural experience: up to €4,000 (all taxes and charges included).

SELECTION PROCESS AND PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

The selection will be carried out by a scientific committee composed of the Foundation's Board, staff and external professionals. Suitable candidates will be invited for an introductory interview; the results of the selection will be announced on **Friday, May 22nd** and they will be published on the website of the project.

A project kick-off meeting with the partners and the selected architects from Milan, Tallinn and Ljubljana will take place online on Wednesday, May 27th at 2 p.m.: attendance is mandatory.

CONTACTS DETAILS AND Q&A

Any question can be sent by email to: cultura@architettura.mi.it by 30th April 2026.

CALL ORGANIZER

Foundation of the Order of Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservationists of the Province of Milan, Via Solferino 19 – 20121 Milan, Italy.

Opening hours 9 am–1 pm
 2 pm–6 pm

PARTNER



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Annex 1 Scope of the project

MAPPING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD(S) — RESEARCH PHASE

- Research on neighbourhood structures and connections.
- Architectural and historical mapping of the neighbourhoods.
- Mapping of local organisations and associations.
- Mapping of social, economic, and cultural aspects.

Output: Historical and social map of the selected neighbourhoods

Deadline for mapping: December 2026

CULTURAL PRODUCT OR CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Participants will develop a cultural product or cultural experience that presents new narratives and interpretations of urban and social spaces, supports the understanding of urban transformations, enhances the value of modern and contemporary architectural heritage, and encourages a sense of belonging to place.

The cultural product or experience may take different formats, allowing young architects to experiment with the social role of the architect from a holistic perspective and to reinterpret architecture through different media such as art, photography, audiovisual media, and other creative approaches.

This reinterpretation will be shaped by the individual perspectives of the participating architects (for example architect-photographer, architect-artist, architect-anthropologist, etc.) and by the involvement of local stakeholders. The result will be an enriched architectural narrative and a new dialogue between architecture, culture, and community.

The cultural product or experience should:

- Reinterpret spaces and architecture within the neighbourhood.
- Serve as a tool for FOAMi to communicate architectural and design topics to people who live in or frequently use the neighbourhood.
- Within the AWARE project it will be transformed into a digital product, leaving a tangible legacy of the project.

The selected architects will be the main contributors to the cultural production.

Output: A tangible cultural product or cultural experience

Deadline for cultural product/experience: July 2027

Testing period: September 2027 – October 2027

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The project will adopt a multidisciplinary perspective, combining different fields such as architecture, culture, and sociology, and using various forms of expression, including architectural, creative, and popular languages.

Annex 2 Project Timeline

April 2026 – January 2028

*Following dates are tentative and subject to changes according to the project development

APRIL 2 – MAY 8 2026	Application period
8 MAY 2026	Application deadline
22.05.2026	Selection of young architects
27.05.2026 – 2 P.M.	International online workshop (Milan – Tallinn – Ljubljana)
JUNE 2026 – DECEMBER 2026 DEADLINE: DECEMBER 2026	<p>RESEARCH PHASE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on neighbourhood structures and connections. • Architectural and historical mapping. • Mapping of local organisations and associations. • Mapping of social, economic, and cultural aspects. <p>OUTPUT Historical and social map of the neighbourhood community</p>
FEBRUARY 2027 – JULY 2027 DEADLINE: JULY 2027	<p>CO-CREATION PHASE Development and testing of the cultural product.</p> <p>OUTPUT Production of the cultural product/experience.</p>
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2027	<p>Launch of the cultural product/experience within the community.</p> <p>Testing period for the cultural product/experience.</p>
NOVEMBER 2027 – JANUARY 2028	Digitalisation and publication of the cultural product (by project partners).

AWARE aims to address an innovation objective by emphasizing a holistic vision of architecture and the city, as well as the social role of the architect within an international context. Through the work of cultural operators and the involvement of young architects under 35 – who will act as a “bridge” between the city’s architecture and the communities that inhabit and experience it – it will be possible to present new narratives and interpretations of urban and social spaces. These narratives will facilitate the understanding of urban transformations, enhance the value of modern and contemporary architectural heritage, encourage public collaboration and foster a renewed sense of belonging to places. The project thus seeks to reinterpret or re-read spaces and architectures in selected neighborhoods in Milan, Tallinn and Ljubljana, chosen for their distinctive characteristics and ongoing dynamics. Through storytelling and participatory experiences, these places will be brought closer to those who live in and frequent them. The proposal aspires to co-create narratives of architectural heritage through “other languages” and “other actors” with the goal of going beyond purely disciplinary and architectural interpretations, instead reinforcing a sense of belonging to cities that extends beyond the functional value of architecture.

How does architecture “shape” places and people’s interests? How do certain places contribute to the form and uses of the city? What dynamics create connections between places and inhabitants? What is the social role of the architect, and how do their actions contribute our future environments?

Architects are responsible for shaping the environments in which people live, work, and interact. This gives them a powerful role in influencing social, cultural, and environmental outcomes. Through their work, architects address critical issues like sustainability, accessibility, community needs, and cultural identity. By engaging with communities, collaborating with other professionals, and considering longterm impacts, architects actively shape what the future will look like and they do it together. This process is known as co-designing the future, meaning they work alongside stakeholders (citizens, governments, planners, etc.) to create spaces that reflect collective needs, values, and aspirations.

To explore the above questions, the project will focus on the parallel development – in three European cities – of a community of young architects engaged in reinterpreting the architectural heritage of their cities. This interpretation will be approached through a multidisciplinary lens, combining various fields – such as architecture, culture,

and sociology – as well as different forms of expression – including architectural, creative, and popular languages. The reinterpretation of these urban areas will be shaped by the unique perspectives of the participating architects – architect-photographer, architect-artist, architect-anthropologist, and more – alongside residents, enriching architectural language through a new dialogue that fosters culture.

At a European level, the proposal seeks to involve cities that either share similarities and differences in terms of architectural and cultural heritage, as well as geographic, political, and social dynamics. By working in parallel across three European cities, each focusing on a specific neighborhood, the project will produce three cultural outputs – three “itineraries” and three participatory public engagement approaches – following a model that can hopefully be applied in other urban contexts across the EU.