

TANDEM

FRYSLÂN



TANDEM FRYSLÂN – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

In 2018, Leeuwarden – capital of the Dutch province Fryslân – will be the European Capital of Culture. The theme for the Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 (LF2018) programme is “iepen mienskip – open community”, an approach also embraced by Tandem. This is why we are joining forces with LF2018 to start a new programme: Tandem Fryslân, which will bring ideas and experiences from Frisian communities and wider Europe together.

If you work in the field of arts and culture and want to tackle community challenges in your region; if you want to engage internationally to grow your work, in collaboration with peers who face similar issues in their home regions, we encourage you to apply for Tandem Fryslân. The deadline for applications is Saturday, 30 September 2017 (23:59 CET). Successful candidates will be informed by mid-October 2017.

WHAT IS TANDEM?

Tandem is a cultural collaboration programme that strengthens communities and civil society in Europe. Tandem believes that the burning cultural and social questions of our times can be addressed much more creatively and effectively through inspiring learning experiences that are provided when collaborating with new organisations and across other realities and localities. Our vision is to see strong networks of creative communities and cultural change-makers emerge from this programme and to support the impact they make on their communities and regions.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Following this call for applications, up to 24 applicants (12 from Fryslân and 12 from other European regions) will be invited to the Tandem Fryslân Partner Forum. Participants will find many networking opportunities and – most importantly – their potential Tandem Partner.

Once the partnerships are formed, each “tandem” will then apply for the full programme with a specific collaboration plan and idea. Seven tandems will be selected.

In addition to becoming part of a broad international network that we call the “Tandem family”, each participant and their tandem will benefit from a placement opportunity in the region where their partner is based. They will also benefit from financial and mentoring support to prototype their idea and establish a mutually beneficial partnership.

IS TANDEM FRYSLÂN FOR ME?

Do you work on cultural ideas and projects that tackle community challenges in your region?

THEN WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO APPLY!

You do not necessarily have to work for an established arts organisation. You could also be working in a collective, NGO, public institution, start-up, association or initiative. The main criteria is that you are part of a team and have roots in your community. Nonetheless, you should be strongly interested in designing new formats of cultural-social work that engages regional communities in re-shaping their current and future realities. You should be motivated to explore unconventional ways of working together with a partner from another region who you don't know yet. You should be committed to identifying and pursuing new ideas for cultural work that address burning societal issues, both in your regional community and across Europe.

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY:

Civil society organisations, public institutions, non-profit initiatives and social enterprises that are engaged with cultural questions and innovation in their region and are based in one of the 28 EU member states or in Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Macedonia (FYROM), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Palestine, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey or Ukraine.

NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS BASED IN THE NETHERLANDS:

You can apply to Tandem Fryslân only if you work in Fryslân and/or with a Frisian community.

Participants based in other Dutch regions are not eligible, unless they are working or plan to work on a cultural/social project including a Frisian community in 2018.

If you like what you have read so far and you are interested in applying, please read on...



LEEWARDEN-FRYSLÂN: EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Whether cultural, social, economic or ecological, the challenges that Frisian communities face today are similar to questions that many regions are trying to tackle across Europe at the moment: the relationship between the city and the countryside, the future of natural heritage, better diversity and inclusion with our communities and many more regional issues. The programme of LF2018 is focused on **cultural interventions that can encourage new approaches to these challenges**, including exchanging ideas and experiences from around Europe. Future European Capital of Culture events such as Rijeka 2020 and initiatives from other European regions work in a comparable context. Tandem Fryslân brings together key cultural actors from various European regions in a learning, collaboration and networking programme.

[TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FRYSLÂN, CHECK THE FAQ OR THE LF2018 WEBSITE](#)

WHY TANDEM FRYSLÂN?

Starting from the shared vision and objectives of LF2018 and Tandem, this special edition of **Tandem Fryslân – *lepen mienskip**** will bring together cultural-social initiators from Fryslân and other regions of Europe. During one year (November 2017–October 2018) they will engage in a peer-to-peer learning process that will kick-start long-term collaboration ‘in tandem’ with each other.

Together they design and test new ideas by realising a pilot project for their own local communities. **Tandem offers the space to develop real and meaningful visions by prototyping project ideas and building on new cross-border working relationships.** It establishes peer-to-peer contacts that are based on mutual societal concerns or cultural and artistic interests. They join a growing community of cultural-social innovators who are deeply engaged in shaping a common European future, both transnationally and from the bottom-up.

*** *lepen Mienskip***

lepen is the Frisian word for ‘open’, whereas *Mienskip* represents the Frisian sense of ‘community’. Core values – among them mutual respect, equality and responsibility – flourish whenever *Mienskip* is embraced. Arguably, the process can be found almost everywhere, yet in Fryslân it has been given a name, and its presence is felt by people as a part of their culture. There is a dark side to *Mienskip*, as communities can also appear as closed structures wary of external input, clinging to a static definition of their own culture.

This is why LF2018 wants to transform *Mienskip* into *lepen* – an Open *Mienskip*. Creating an open *Mienskip* means bringing together people with different backgrounds, from different areas around Europe. It retains the action-oriented, bottom-up spirit, but incorporates the open-minded, outward-looking attitude that is needed if societies are to evolve and connect with each other in Europe. With the Tandem programme we believe we are contributing to this transformation towards open communities, in Fryslân and across Europe.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Up to **24 applicants** (12 from Fryslân and 12 from other European regions) will be invited to join the Tandem Fryslân Partner Forum from 20-24 November 2017. This first gathering will offer networking opportunities on a pan-European scale and – most importantly – will help participants to find their potential Tandem partner to form a “tandem”. Together, all new tandems can apply for the full programme with a specific collaboration plan and idea. In total **seven tandems** will be selected to become part of the wider Tandem network we call the “Tandem family”. They will benefit from a broad international network, a placement opportunity in their Tandem partner region, as well as financial and mentoring support to prototype their idea and establish a mutually beneficial partnership.

In short, participation in Tandem Fryslân means:

- # Following an intensive one-year exchange programme through peer-to-peer relations, inside a larger network
- # Making time and space to reflect on function, purposes and methodologies of your projects and structures inside changing regions, both on an individual level and on the level of your organisation
- # Developing a small-scale learning-by-doing collaboration (note: Tandem is not just a grant programme).

During the following year, selected participants will realise an **eight-day work placement** at their new Tandem partner organisation. During their work visit, Tandem participants will become directly involved with their partners' organisational working environment and get hands-on insights into local socio-economic and cultural realities. Spending two mutual placement weeks together on site will provide participants with the necessary shared working time for co-designing, testing and realising their pilot collaboration initiatives.

Each tandem will receive modest **start-up funding** (€4,500) for bringing their cultural innovation idea to life. Outcomes will be showcased locally during the **LF2018 events**.



Project initiators of all 14 participating organisations will attend three Tandem group meetings at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of the process. These meetings allow for a mutual exchange of Tandem collaboration experiences with all other programme participants. All meetings will feature peer-to-peer group learning sessions among participants but also workshops with cultural and community experts. The programme team will accompany and mentor all seven Tandem collaborations from inception to completion.

Frequent group meetings will also add to a growing network of colleagues across all European locations involved. After the programme ends, participating organisations will therefore be able to **build on viable European relations and new knowledge exchange contracts for scaling-up their Tandem pilot ideas towards a broader impact**. At the same time, participants join the growing Tandem network connecting them to cultural change-makers in the European neighbourhood.

WHO IS IT FOR?

We are looking for project initiators working for civil society organisations, public institutions, non-profit initiatives or social enterprises that:

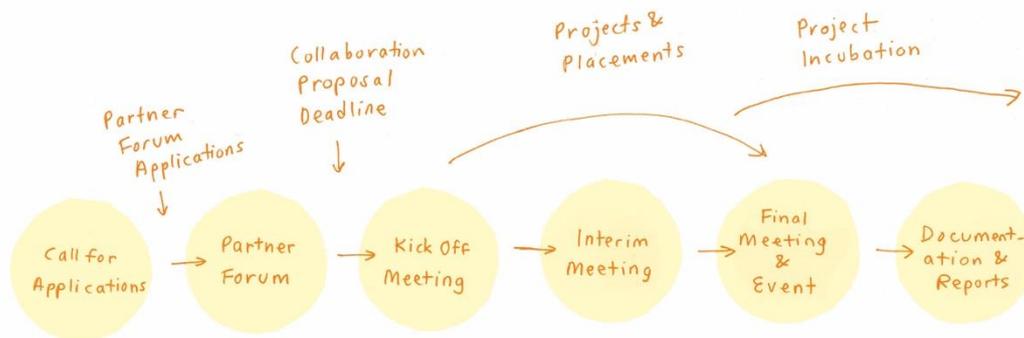
-  work on **pioneering cultural ideas that tackle regional community challenges**
-  explore unconventional ways of working that show potential for **real social impact** (on a local, regional and European level)
-  are highly motivated to extend their cultural work to **new working areas which contribute to social and alternative economic innovation processes** all over Europe
-  develop **creative solutions for a sustainable socio-economic development** of their communities, cities, villages or regions that are based on local citizens' needs
-  design **new cultural formats for engaging citizens in re-shaping social and economic realities** of the region they live in
-  are ambitious to engage in **strategic and lasting cooperation across national borders**
-  are socially committed, empathetic, highly motivated, dynamic, **open-minded personalities**
-  can rely on **working structures that show sufficient financial and organisational capacity, are flexible and adaptive, socially responsible and respected in their field**
-  are early-to-mid career staff members with some decision-making responsibilities and/or senior professionals who **are strategically involved with the core mission of their organisation**
-  are eager to experiment, **ready for structural change, seize new opportunities, have an entrepreneurial spirit and the courage** to take risks and fail forward
-  have sufficient skills, experience and resources to engage in an intense international learning and reflection process that **requires a minimum time investment of 10 working weeks throughout a one-year process**
-  are based in one of the 28 EU member states*, or in Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Macedonia (FYROM), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Palestine, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey or Ukraine **and are fluent in English**

***Note for participants from the Netherlands:** You can apply to Tandem Fryslân only if you work in Fryslân and/or with a Frisian community. Participants based in other Dutch regions are not eligible, unless they are working, or plan to work, on a cultural/social project including a Frisian community in 2018.

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

- Participation in a partner forum with up to 24 cultural organisations from all over Europe (one applicant per organisation for the whole meeting, plus one colleague for the last two days of the meeting)
- Time abroad during a working placement at a new partner organisation
- 3 group meetings including peer-to-peer learning sessions, and workshops with experienced trainers on social innovation
- Reimbursement of travel costs and living expenses during project events and placements
- €4,500 start-up funding for testing a shared pilot collaboration idea
- Expert-facilitated mentoring of pilot collaboration initiatives from inception to completion
- A showcase event to present the outcomes of all pilot collaboration initiatives
- Access to a growing alumni network of cultural initiatives in more than 200 cities across wider Europe.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE



-  A 5-day **Tandem Partner Forum** including workshops 20-24 November 2017
-  A 5-day **Kick Off Meeting** including workshops February 2018
-  An 8-day **Placement** at individual Tandem partner locations across Europe (self-organised by individual tandems) March–September 2018
-  A 6-day **Interim Meeting** including peer-to-peer learning sessions and workshop July 2018
-  A 4-day **Final Meeting** including learning and evaluation October/November 2018

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection of Tandem candidates to the Partner Forum is based on the quality of their individual applications. The programme team and partner representatives will pre-select up to 24 project initiators; 12 from/working in Fryslân and 12 from across Europe. These organisations and initiatives will represent a balanced mix of working fields, professional backgrounds, strategic interests, original ideas and the regional socio-economic challenges. We will invite those applicants who best fulfil the criteria listed above, as well as making sure we have a balanced mix of participating organisations at the forum.

The deadline for submitting applications to participate in the Tandem Fryslân Partner Forum is **Saturday, 30 September 2017**. Successful candidates will be informed by mid-October 2017.

At the Partner Forum in November, the Tandem team will guide all 24 participants through an interactive mix of informal matchmaking and presentation sessions. All candidates will have sufficient time to identify and get to know their potential Tandem Fryslân partner before they actually form pairs and start drafting a concrete proposal for their collaboration plans and pilot initiative. For the first three days, the applicant joins the Partner Forum individually; for the last two days, they will be joined by a colleague to test the new-found partnership and work on the Tandem application together.

Shortly after the Partner Forum, up to 12 new tandems will submit their written proposals for assessment. The second selection process will be carried out by an external programme jury, which will choose the seven most promising Tandem proposals for participation in the main programme phase.

HOW TO APPLY?

Fill out the [ONLINE application form](#).

Deadline for submitting your application is Saturday, 30 September 2017 (23.59 CET)

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Browse the Tandem website, check the FAQs, or get in contact with:

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