



Where are we now? How can we imagine our future? What is the future we want to build together?

Four partners – **Liv.in.g.**, **Kultura Nova Foundation**, **Creative Scotland**, **On the Move** – have been working since the start of the pandemic to create a model to bring professionals together to imagine our future. Through an online and live path, from June 2022 to January 2023, Life on Mars will pose some key questions around cultural cooperation and the role of the international community in a critically transformed world.

Ece Temelkuran, **Mikey Martins**, **Shahram Khosravi**, **Ceyda Berk-Söderblom**, **Annalisi Camilli**, **Creative Carbon Scotland**, **Pierliogi Musarò**, **Cecilia Colombo** are some of the guests who will share with us ideas and practices and who will help us promote exchanges, networking, mentoring, cooperation during our journey.

The process is tailored on artists, cultural operators, cultural managers, public and private cultural organizations and public institutions; part of it will be held online, with a live gathering in Bologna from 13rd to 16th October, with keynotes, dialogues, Open Space Technology formats.

The activities will be held in English and the entire process will be reserved for no more than 100 participants, with an entry fee.

The full updated programme is available on [the project website](#).



Concept

In the last two years opposing tensions have emerged such as hyper-connectivity versus localism, international solidarity versus nationalism, international cooperation versus monolithic representation. The Covid 19 virus crisis and new international conflicts reveal that old approaches are no longer fit for purpose. We need to explore new ways of working to build our future together.

Life on Mars 2022 will look at the meaning of international cultural cooperation. It will be a creative lab where participants will question the obstacles of our present and look at possible methodologies to address these.

The so-called new normal must deal with some crucial issues: digital transformation, sustainability, a new idea of welfare. For that reason, Life on Mars will have a cross-sectorial approach. Its participants will co-create new cooperative international adventures. We will experiment with working online and offline. The notion of care will be central: care in our relationships, care towards the environment, care in the processes that we will use.

Life of Mars will put all of these topics at the core of the debate among established and independent artists, cultural professionals and researchers, representatives of different organisations which work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Partners

Life on Mars is coordinated by **Liv.in.g (Italy)** in partnership with **Creative Scotland (UK)**, **Kultura Nova Foundation (Croatia)**, **On the Move (Belgium/France)**.

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Life On Mars 2022 programme

Life on Mars will be structured in three different phases:

(a) [September 2022 / a 'digital' road map](#) which aims to start placing a few initial questions and to provide a first moment of encounter among the participants applying for the entire journey. Two interactive webinars will take place in September;

20th September – 11.00 / 12.00 CEST - Let's start talking!

Informal online meeting among the participants: a “coffee break” to get to know each other before Bologna, with breakout rooms and networking format. Curated by: [Liv.in.g. \(Italy\)](#)

26th September – 11.00 / 13.00 CEST - Webinar

Interactive webinar on environmental sustainability, dedicated to green approach to culture. Curated by: [Ben Twist – Creative Carbon Scotland \(UK\)](#)

(b) [13 - 16 October 2022 / live international creative laboratory in Bologna](#)

Three days of keynotes, dialogues, mentoring sessions, networking and visit of the city: a space for in depth conversations, inspiring moments and new relations.

- **Open Space Technology** will aim to stimulate the co-creation of ideas and cooperative projects. Curated by: [Gerardo de Luzenberger - Genius Loci \(Italy\)](#)

- **3 dialogues** will have the aim to inspire and give tools for facing nowadays issues:

- **13th October** - 'Climate change and social justice',
Speakers: [Pierluigi Musarò - Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna \(Italy\)](#), [Marie Le Sourd - On the Move \(France/Belgium\)](#)
- **14th of October** - 'Urban context and rural development'
Speakers: [Cecilia Colombo - Kilowatt Bologna \(Italy\)](#), [Mikey Martins - Freedom Festival \(UK\)](#)
- **14th of October** - 'Between monolithic and pluralistic representation'
Speakers: [Annalisa Camilli - Internazionale \(Italy\)](#); [Ceyda Berk-Söderblom - MiklagardArts \(Finland\)](#)



- **2 keynotes on 15th October** will be hosted at Alma Mater Università di Bologna and will fly into nowadays challenges.

- **10.00 / 10.45 Keynote “Reality: I am lovin’ it! Choosing the reality when it is at its worst”**

Every day, a new gadget or an app is invented for us to take shelter in virtual reality. Post-truth world warmly welcomes those too tired to manage the complexity of today’s reality. The numbness we are asked to develop in the face of the world’s perils feels as warm as sleeping in the snow. There is nothing in reality that can inspire hope or determination to carry on living a humane life. Ece Temelkuran argues the ethical remedy lies in getting closer to reality rather than the desperate flee from it. She will talk about ‘the joy of dignity’ and that we can experience this unmatched joy by jumping into the real world.

With: Ece Temelkuran (Turkey)

- **10.50 / 11.35 Keynote “Borders of Imagination”**

When borders are erected they take on lives of their own. Borders change the social terrains and have deep impact on the social imaginaries and social relations even after they fall. The symbolic meaning of borders is greater than their physical presence. Borders produce new subjectivities that deprive us the capacity to imagine a different form of organizing humanity and the earth, a world without borders. This talk is about the urgency of speculating the impossible.

With: Shahram Khosravi - University of Stockholm (Sweden)

- A **mentoring programme** will accompany the three-days networking event and it will be curated by **Liv.in.g. (Italy), Creative Scotland (UK), Kultura Nova (Croatia), On the Move (France/Belgium).**



(c) [November 2022 - January 2023](#) / a [digital follow-up](#) organized with a set of online mentorship sessions to finalize the co-creation process. After the Bologna live event, Liv.in.g. will provide an online platform where the participants will find all the collected materials and in addition digital tools will be provided in order to continue the exchange among the participants and proper networking.

This follow-up will be coordinated by On The Move network which will organize an ad hoc final mentoring sessions to the participants of the event.

Finally, after one month and half the live event, an only session with all the participants will aim to have an evaluation of the entire process. It also aims to check if real opportunities of cooperation have arisen and which have been the main issues and strengths of the collective work.