

Kick-off co-creation session 26/03/2026

Developing ideas for the Time for (S)Heroes Open Call

Workshop Materials

Read more: www.timeforheroes.eu

Introduction

This session helps you explore the themes of the Time for (S)Heroes open call and turn early thoughts into project ideas.

During the exercises you will also test the portal environment by posting a project concept that others can see and potentially join.

The aim is not to produce a finished Open Call proposal but to identify a direction that could grow into an international collaboration.

Exercise 1. Rethinking heroism through design, 10 min

Exercise 2. Combining ideas into a new project concept, 10 min

Exercise 3. Exploring the potential of the idea, 10 min

Exercise 4. Publishing the project idea in the portal, 15 min

Workshop materials

For the workshop, it is recommended to have a few simple materials available.

Please prepare drawing tools and white paper for taking notes and sketching ideas. If you prefer working digitally, you can also take notes and create sketches using your own software on a computer or tablet. These help you capture thoughts quickly during discussions and early concept development.

You will also need a device with internet access, such as a laptop, tablet, or smartphone, in order to register on the portal and interact with the platform during the session.



Exercise 1. Rethinking heroism through design

Duration: 10 minutes Format: individual or pairs

Choose one everyday situation where a small action could create a positive change. Think about the idea of heroism in a new way. Instead of spectacular achievements, focus on ordinary actions that support sustainability.

Steps

1. Write down one example of “everyday heroism”.
2. Reflect briefly on what kind of design response could highlight or support this action.
3. Sketch or write a short concept:
 - Who is the hero in your story?
 - What kind of garment, costume, digital concept, or design intervention could represent this hero?
 - What sustainability dimension does it relate to (environmental, social, cultural, or economic)?

Outcome

A short concept note or sketch that captures the spirit of the project themes.

Exercise 2. Combining ideas into a new project concept

Duration: 10 minutes Format: pairs or small groups

In this step the goal is to create a new perspective by combining ideas from the first exercise. Instead of continuing with only one concept, merge at least two different ideas.

Steps


1. Share your idea from Exercise 1. If you worked individually, form a pair. If you already worked in pairs, join another pair and form a group.
2. Deliberately combine the ideas.
The aim is to create a new concept that could not exist without both.
3. Develop the combined concept together using these prompts:
 - What new perspectives emerges when the ideas are merged?
 - Who is the hero in the new concept?
 - What kind of design outcome could represent this idea (garment, digital fashion piece, costume, installation, performance element, or hybrid format)?
 - What sustainability challenge does the project now address?
4. Name your project and write a short project outline of about 4 sentences that describes the new combined idea.

Outcome

A fresh project concept that builds on multiple viewpoints and has the potential to develop into an international project.



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Exercise 3. Exploring the potential of the idea

Duration: 10 minutes Format: pairs or small groups

In this step the group examines how the idea could grow into a real project. The aim is to understand what kinds of skills, methods, and resources would help the concept reach its full potential. At the same time the group reflects on their own interest in developing the idea further.

Steps

1. Discuss the practical realisation of the idea. Consider questions such as:

- What kinds of skills would be needed to realise this concept?
- What techniques, materials, or technologies could support the idea?

2. Reflect on the group's level of interest.

- How inspiring does the idea feel to you at this moment?
- Would it be meaningful to submit later it to the open call competition?

3. Identify a possible project owner.

One participant may feel particularly motivated to develop the idea further and can take the role of project owner.

4. Decide how the group would like to continue.

- One person takes ownership of the idea and publishes it in the portal.
- Several participants are interested and continue developing the idea together as a team.
- The theme inspires multiple directions and different variations of the idea can be developed separately.

Exercise 4. Publishing the project idea in the portal

Duration: 15 minutes Format: individuals, pairs or small groups

In this step the idea becomes visible to the wider community. Publishing a project concept in the portal allows others to discover it and potentially join the team.

Before continuing, everyone should register in the portal. Registration allows you to publish a project idea, join an existing project team, or explore ideas that others have already shared.

Steps

1. Register in the portal. All participants create a user profile. Registration enables you to act as a project owner, join a project team, or browse and connect with the other project ideas.

2. Enter the project idea.

3. Write a short description and fill the requested info. In the portal, tell the idea briefly. Include:

- The main concept
- The type of outcome
- The sustainability perspective or challenge addressed.

Note! At this stage the idea does not need to be fully defined. A short overview is enough to communicate the main concept and invite collaborators. The detailed concept and implementation plan will be developed later and presented in the official open call submission for the jury.

Thank you!



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