

# Arts & infra- structures

Shaping Futures



AVEC LE SOUTIEN DE



## INFRASTRUCTURE WE NO LONGER SEE

Through the services they provide, infrastructure systems play a critical role in improving living conditions and supporting local economic development (water supply networks, wastewater treatment plants, power generation facilities, transport systems, urban and rural infrastructure, etc.).

However, these systems raise multiple challenges across different scales (local ownership, usage, sustainability, maintenance).

Despite their essential role and the magnitude of the issues they entail, infrastructure often remains partially invisible, operating in the background.

**When overlooked, it becomes difficult to design, build, understand, operate, and maintain these systems effectively. As a result, the services they deliver are weakened.**

**“The normally invisible quality of working infrastructure becomes visible when it breaks: the server is down, the bridge washes out, there is a power blackout.”**

SUSAN LEIGH STAR, SOCIOLOGIST





# HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE ARTS TO ENGAGE WITH SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure shapes our daily lives. It is a tangible asset embedded within territories.

To strengthen our relationship with these systems, this being Metis' core specificity, we propose approaching infrastructure as both a source and a medium for artistic creation.

Artists, operators, technicians, and local communities are brought together to co-create impactful and meaningful artworks that help reimagine and experience infrastructure differently.

**Through this process, infrastructure becomes visible, its inherent challenges are addressed more effectively and stakeholders engage with it in a deeper, more meaningful way.**

## ZOOM ON A PROJECT

### PALESTINE, 2025

### "THE TOWER OF DREAMS"

## Context

**36%**

of Palestinians have continuous access to running water.

## Partners

The Beitunia Girls' School hosts 750 students from the city and surrounding villages.

The city of Beitunia is the third largest city in the country and is experiencing rapid growth driven by migration.



## Initiative

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Metis transformed a water tower into a work of art. Over several days of artistic workshops, mural artist Fuad Al Ymani collaborated with 10 high school students. Together, they explored their aspirations for their country.

Their collective sketches inspired a large-scale mural painted on a water tower rising 25 meters above the city. The unveiling of this powerful and emotional artwork brought together participants, local water authorities, and the mayor of Beitunia—creating a meaningful connection between infrastructure and local stakeholders.



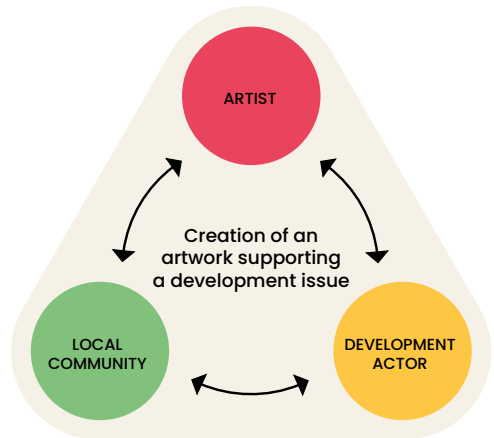


# ACTING IN THE TERRITORIES: 15 SOCIO-ARTISTIC INITIATIVES ACROSS 15 INFRASTRUCTURES

In 2026 and 2027, fifteen local initiatives bring together an artist, a group of citizens, and a technical operator directly linked to an infrastructure (water, energy, transport...) in fifteen territories.

Together, over several weeks, the three stakeholders engage in an artistic discipline by approaching infrastructure in a sensitive and creative way. They question it, imagine it, dream it... Until producing an artwork dedicated to it.

**This artwork is presented, discussed, celebrated.  
The identity of the infrastructure is renewed.  
Its future is illuminated.**





POTENTIAL AREAS OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION  
(TO BE DETERMINED JOINTLY)

## AMPLIFIED IMPACT FROM LOCAL TO INTERNATIONAL

### **Two workshops for more Arts and Infrastructure projects**

In two countries participating in the program, the Metis Fund team will train local stakeholders in Arts and Development initiatives by sharing its expertise. These training sessions will equip technical staff and civil society actors with the tools they need to design their own Arts and Infrastructure initiatives in the future. This is a way to ensure the sustainability of the projects implemented in the program and to spread the Arts and Society movement.

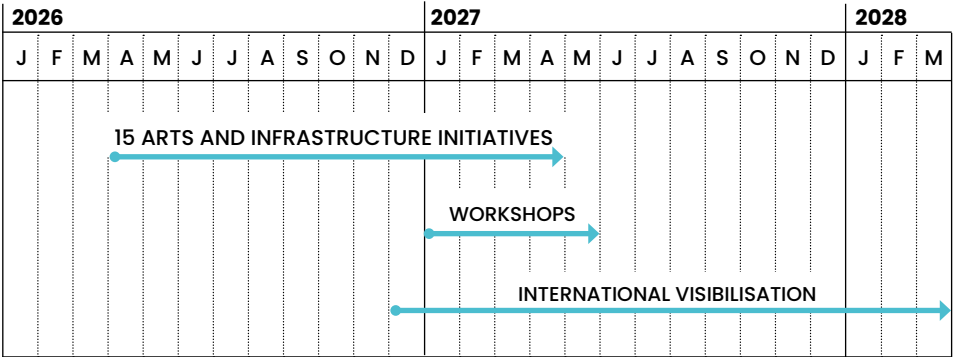
### **Highlighting the program within several international events**

The voices of artists, communities and local development stakeholders will be shared alongside those of experts and policymakers during events such as:

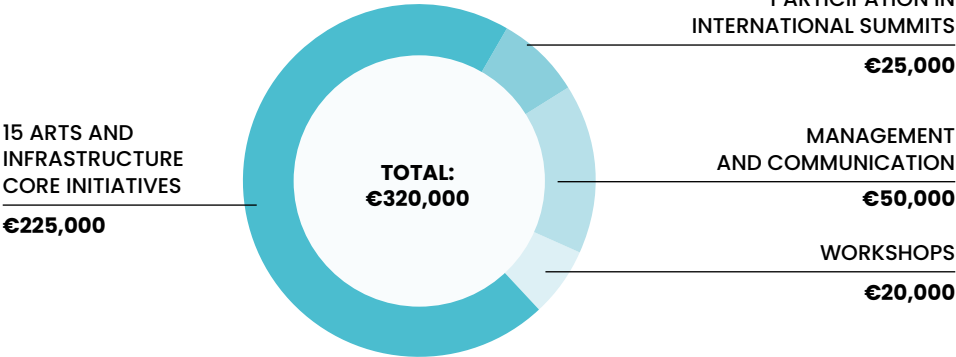
- ◆ **The United Nations Water Conference**  
from 4 to 8 December 2026
- ◆ **The World Urban Forum**  
in 2028



# PROGRAM TIMELINE



# PROGRAM BUDGET



# THE METIS FUND

## AN EXPERIENCED PARTNER

### ◆ An innovative and structured public-private mechanism

Metis is an innovative and solid public-private mechanism on which our partners can rely. Through our own endowment fund, we define and implement ambitious operational programs aligned with the Arts and Development dynamic. Legally and financially autonomous thanks to this fund, Metis is hosted by the French Development Agency (AFD). We thus benefit from an extensive network of partners and a strong grounding in knowledge of the issues in the countries where we operate.

### ◆ A partnership-based approach rooted in territories

Our trademark is based on attentive listening and a collaborative approach with our financial partners. Our teams work closely with them to design tailor-made operations adapted to their objectives and intervention contexts.

With shared resources and visions, Metis supports its local partners on a daily basis, who have the best understanding of field realities. We support them in defining and implementing the concrete actions they wish to carry out, within a co-construction and long-term impact approach.

### ◆ A proven methodology generating transformation

Since its creation in 2021, Metis has developed a specific project engineering approach aimed at maximizing the impact of its operations. This approach consists in bringing together three types of stakeholders around a given development theme to work together on the creation of an original artwork. Deployed in more than 60 territories to date, this innovative methodology has demonstrated its transformative power, both at individual and collective levels.



# A TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAM FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

Through this program, infrastructure becomes a source of emotion and creativity. It takes on a positive, human dimension, helping all stakeholders better understand, design, build, and use it.



## For technical operators

- ◆ 15 infrastructures better designed, perceived and managed worldwide
- ◆ A better understanding of the issues surrounding infrastructure through a sensitive approach
- ◆ Enhancing technical professions and an opportunity to strengthen teams



## For participants

- ◆ Through the practice of an artistic discipline, strengthening of skills, self-confidence, and initiative
- ◆ Ownership of territorial issues, engagement, development of leadership



## For artists

- ◆ Enhanced technical and interpersonal skills in Arts and Development
- ◆ Through the Metis networks, an increased international visibility
- ◆ A unique artistic creation engaged with infrastructure-related issues
- ◆ Lasting relationships built with participants and development operators





## FOR A UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL MOVEMENT

- ◆ Advocacy for action that integrates the Arts at the heart of Infrastructure
- ◆ International visibility of these projects and the possibility of initiating a movement among public policy stakeholders
- ◆ Through training, capacity building and the expansion of local actors' perspectives to inspire new Arts and Infrastructure approaches.



## Infrastructures in common

Art for Shaping  
Futures

◆ **15 artworks**

**CO-CREATED**

◆ **5,000 people**

**DIRECTLY INVOLVED**

◆ **15 infrastructures**

**AND THEIR ECOSYSTEMS  
TRANSFORMED**

◆ **20 technical  
stakeholders**

**TRAINED IN ARTS AND  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

◆ **1 new narrative**

**ON INFRASTRUCTURE**



By supporting Metis, you can support one or several initiatives that matter to you and become part of a movement that transforms creativity into concrete action in the service of people, nature and culture.

Give creativity the means to become a true catalyst for change.

Our team is at your disposal to imagine with you the most appropriate forms of support and the most meaningful partnerships.

◆ **Tiphaine de Mombynes**

Director of the Metis Fund

Email: demombynest@afd.fr

◆ **Raphaël Lemarchand**

Partnerships Officer

Email: lemarchandr.ext@afd.fr

*Your financial support is received through our endowment fund. Depending on your tax situation, you may be able to explore tax-efficient options, both in France and abroad.*

