

# IUVVENTA

## OPEN CALL FOR IDEAS TO RETHINK THE RESCUE BOAT

Promoted by

M  
A — DE  
Program

Accademia  
di Belle Arti  
Rosario Gagliardi  
Siracusa



LAZY STUDIO

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MADE  
Program,  
Iuventa  
Crew  
and Lazy  
Studio

## CALL FOR IDEAS “IUVENTA – From Rescue Vessel to Beacon of Reconnection”

A multidisciplinary festival and open creative call to reimagine and reactivate the former IUVENTA ship.



Between 2016 and 2017, the IUVENTA – a former fishing trawler operated by the German NGO Jugend Rettet – navigated the central Mediterranean, assisting over 23,000 people fleeing war, violence, persecution, and poverty. The ship became an international symbol of civilian solidarity at sea and of civil resistance against the progressive closure of European borders and criminalization of sea rescue. In August 2017, Italian authorities seized the vessel in the port of Trapani, Sicily. It remained impounded there for years amid a high-profile criminal trial accusing the crew of “facilitating unauthorized immigration.” In April 2024, after seven years of proceedings, the Trapani court acquitted all defendants, dropping every charge. Yet the ship itself – abandoned, plundered, and left to decay by state custody – still sits quietly (and precariously) in Trapani’s harbor: a silent witness, a political artifact, a floating archive of memory, loss, and unextinguished hope.

MADE Program, the creative research hub of Accademia di Belle Arti “Rosario Gagliardi” in Siracusa, has long operated at the crossroads of contemporary art, design, traditional craftsmanship, and the urgent questions of the Mediterranean.



**We especially encourage proposals that explore:**

- Engage with the histories of people on the move rescued by the IUVENTA, as well as with vessels that share a similar fate (e.g. BARCA NOSTRA).
- Site-specific interventions that dialogue with the ship's scarred materiality: rust, faded rescue-orange paint, traces of former life-saving equipment, the visible violence of abandonment, and its stubborn persistence.
- Imaginative activations of the deck, hold, bridge, and engine room – turning functional spaces into poetic ones.
- Hybrid formats blending visual art, soundscapes, live performance, participatory design, digital storytelling, and augmented reality.
- Cross-cultural and intergenerational dialogues involving Trapani's local residents, migrant communities in Sicily, artists with lived experience of crossing, youth crews, and international networks.
- Sustainability and circularity: reuse of salvaged ship parts, low/no-budget materials, renewable energy hacks, upcycled scenography.
- Temporal experimentations: short intense bursts (3–5 days), longer residencies, seasonal returns, or phased evolutions toward a permanent cultural hub.
- Speculative futures: what if the IUVENTA sails again – not for rescue, but as a traveling embassy of solidarity?



## ELIGIBILITY & SPIRIT

Open to individuals, duos, collectives, studios – no age, nationality, or disciplinary limits. Single ideas or concepts welcome. Emphasis on visionary yet realistically implementable proposals: resourcefulness, community involvement, low-tech/high-imagination approaches, and the potential to attract partnerships, crowdfunding, or institutional support.

## ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

All proposals must engage critically and honestly with the political and historical context of the IUVENTA, her role in civil sea rescue, the criminalization of solidarity, and the structural causes of displacement. Projects should resist aestheticizing suffering or reproducing voyeuristic, spectacular, or humanitarian visual regimes, and must not reduce the ship to a monument or relic disconnected from ongoing struggles. Funding from institutions complicit in border violence, militarization, or the criminalization of migration will not be accepted.



## THE SYMPOSIUM

The authors of the selected projects will be invited to a public presentation of their projects in Syracuse 3 (National Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Migration, established in 2016 to commemorate the tragic shipwreck of 3 October 2013, which took place off the coast of Lampedusa and claimed the lives of 368 people) and 4 October 2026.

At that event, a further selection of one or more projects will be made, partly based on their practical feasibility, whilst at the same time, a funding plan will be drawn up.

In the case of projects submitted by more than one person, unless otherwise agreed, the organization will cover expenses (travel and accommodation costs + a maximum of €300 to cover any necessary materials for the presentation) for only one member of the working group, as designated by the project authors themselves.

Selected proposals will be invited to develop full concepts in dialogue with MADE Program and the IUVENTA Crew.

A jury of artists, curators, activists, and local stakeholders will help shape the final festival program.

### What we ask from the 5 selected artists/designers

Attend the Symposium in Siracusa

Present their project (10–15 min)

Deliver a short participatory lab or talk (approx. 1–2 hours)

Collaborate with MADE and IUVENTA Crew on the shared vision document

## HOW TO APPLY

Please apply using this [form](#) by **26 July 2026 (midnight CET)**:

- Project description (max 2 MB PDF), including concept, preliminary budget, and sustainability considerations
- Short CV (max 1 page)
- Portfolio (max 2 MB PDF)

Selected applicants will be notified by **16 August 2026** and will be required to participate in the Siracusa symposium, delivering a presentation and a participatory workshop or talk.



### Intellectual Property

Each applicant to the call for ideas expressly declares that every idea, prototype, project or part thereof submitted in response to the call for ideas is original and does not in any way, in whole or in part, infringe the intellectual property rights of third parties, and undertakes to indemnify and hold harmless the organizers from any liability, claims for damages and/or compensation that may be brought by any third party in this regard.

The intellectual property rights relating to the project concepts and/or proposals submitted by the candidates remain with the candidates themselves, who shall be fully responsible for the protection of such rights through the means provided by law for that purpose.

The partners of the call for ideas are exempt from any liability for any disputes that may arise regarding the originality and authorship of the projects or parts thereof.

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OPEN CALL  
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TO RETHINK  
THE RESCUE  
BOAT

**Solidarity is not a  
crime.**

**Creativity can be  
its most powerful  
continuation.**

**We relaunch the  
luventa — together.**

*MADE Program  
& luventa Crew*

**[APPLY HERE!](#)**

For more info:  
[info@madeprogram](mailto:info@madeprogram)