



TABAKALERA RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE ITS LINE OF ART, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

> Tabakalera joins the Creative Impact Research Centre Europe (CIRCE) programme after being selected by the German Government as a research centre and laboratory supporting policies for the cultural and creative sector.

> The centre will receive 300,000 euros to develop different projects that propose a collaborative methodology between artists and non-cultural organizations through artistic practice, whose results will be exhibited at Tabakalera in November.

> Tabakalera strengthens its position as a European centre of reference in the field of Art, Science, Technology and Society, and in 2023 it will collaborate with more scientific, technological and cultural partners, such as the BCC Innovation, the Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, the Donostia International Physics Center, Open University of Catalonia, Hangar, the CCCB, Tekniker and University of the Basque Country.

Tabakalera continues in 2023 the journey that it began in 2020 in the **field of Art, Science, Technology and Society, and is becoming a leader in Europe** in this area due to the agreement it recently signed with the German Government, through which it joined the project led by the [Creative Impact Research Centre \(CIRCE\)](#), a European think tank whose objective is to support cultural and creative industries and strengthen their impact in Europe.

With the implementation of this project, Tabakalera will receive 300,000 euros to develop throughout 2023 four projects that propose a collaborative methodology between artists and non-cultural organizations through artistic practice.



Four other European centres have been selected by CIRCE together with Tabakalera: [the u-Institut in Berlin](#), [the City, University of London](#), [Garage48 in Tallinn](#) and Zurich [Centre for Creative Economies \(ZCCE\)](#).

CIRCE, a European project supporting cultural and creative industries

The **Creative Impact Research Centre Europe (CIRCE)** is an interdisciplinary and international think tank dedicated to examining how politics can support creative economies and their impact in Europe.

Headquartered in Berlin and with research laboratories in London, San Sebastian, Tallinn and Zurich, CIRCE joins forces with a highly select network of academics and practitioners from across Europe in order to strengthen the continent's creative economies and harness their potential to respond to current and future crises.

In this way, CIRCE hopes to cushion the negative effects of Brexit on creative economies and preserve knowledge and existing networks.

CIRCE is financed by the German Federal Government's Ministry of Culture and Media (BKM) with funds from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve of the European Commission.

New partners for Tabakalera in Art, Science, Technology and Society

Tabakalera began its journey in the field of **Art, Science, Technology and Society** in 2020. The start of that journey coincided with the opening of Medialab, the open space for citizen creation, and its objective was to develop artistic and creative projects together with experts from the scientific and technological field. The premise of this field of work is that the **process of research and joint creation not only has a great impact on the work of art, but also, and in terms of creativity and innovation, on the scientific and technological field**, due to its ability to create new perspectives and propose scenarios that go beyond the technical. The resulting creations also enable socially relevant issues to be **shared with the public** in a way that is different to standard scientific dissemination, and the **generation of new knowledge**, by providing other readings of reality and proposing other future scenarios.



Beyond its participation in the CIRCE project, Tabakalera will strengthen in 2023 its position as a European centre of reference in the field of Art, Science, Technology and Society, and it will do so together with new institutional and business partners in the scientific and technological field, such as the [Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language \(BCBL\)](#), the [BCC Innovation](#) and the [University of the Basque Country](#), who join Tabakalera's current collaborators in this line of work, the [Donostia International Physics Center \(DIPC\)](#) and [Tekniker](#). Together with these organizations, Tabakalera is supported by the **Basque Government and the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa**.

For its part, Tabakalera is **one of the partner institutions of RED-ACTS**, a structure that co-ordinates key agents that work on the interrelation between Arts, Science, Technology and Society (ACTS), with the aim of creating common spaces for fluid collaboration between institutions, experts, groups and networks, which share common interests in relation to ACTS, but operate in different areas of action to each other. The network is an initiative promoted by [the University Ouberta of Catalonia \(UOC\)](#), [Hac Te](#) and [Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation](#), and is made up of four nodes: [Hangar](#) and [CCCB](#) (Barcelona), [Medialab-Matadero](#) (Madrid), [CCCC](#) (Valencia), the University of the Basque Country and Tabakalera (San Sebastian).

Tabakalera projects and exhibitions in 2023

As a result of the aforementioned collaborations, in 2023, Tabakalera will carry out various projects that bring artists and organizations together and which aim to have an innovative impact on the organizations with which it collaborates, as well as provide new forms of development for artists.

The third project in collaboration with the Donostia International Physics Center and Tabakalera, ***Future Storage***, investigates the future of digital storage and its ecosocial and territorial implications. The architect **Marina Otero**, in collaboration with Harvard University, **NASA engineer Eduardo Bendek**, and the **Donostia International Physics Center**, suggests experimental models that redesign our relationship with data, its production, consumption and preservation, by taking into account the diversity of information and the externalities emerging from its storage.



The third collaboration between **Tekniker and Tabakalera** will be focused on the interaction between humans and robots. This time, through body support machines such as exoskeletons, and the relationship of trust that has to be developed with their users. The objective of this project, developed by the artist **Amaia Vicente and the Tekniker researchers**, is to present a multisensory interface that enables the interaction between these robots and their users to be improved.

Meanwhile, BCBL researcher **Manuela Ruzzoli** and multidisciplinary artist **Laura MM** will collaborate on an innovative and experimental exhibition that uses artificial intelligence and neuroscience to create a unique and unforgettable experience. The aim is to explore how artificial intelligence can be used to create art that is unexpected and surprising for the viewer, based on the theories of the "violation of expectation" researched at BCBL. Some Tabakalera users may be part of the creative process, since the project will include an item of free hardware developed by Medialab to capture the brain signal.

The collaboration between the **BCC Innovation**, Basque Culinary Center's gastronomy technology centre, and Tabakalera will focus on the **Food Fictions** project that will involve various creatives from the art world who, together with chef-researchers from the BCC innovation and research area will imagine the food of the future, as well as its cultural, environmental and social implications. In specific relation to this, the project will focus on investigating how the stimulation of the different senses can influence how we perceive what we eat.

The annual meeting of the CIRCE project members will take place in **June at Tabakalera**. Comprising the highest representatives of the five selected European research laboratories, as well as the members of CIRCE's general advisory board, the group will meet in San Sebastian in order to share the work processes that each research laboratory is carrying out through its projects.

As a way of highlighting and sharing with the public the work carried out throughout the year between artists and organizations within the framework of the Art, Science, Technology and Society line, Tabakalera will **organize a large exhibition in November** that will bring together a sample of all the projects developed throughout the year. The researcher, critic and curator **Maria Ptqk**, a leader in the field of art and science, will curate the exhibition.



Tabakalera's trajectory in Art, Science, Technology and Society since 2020

Tabakalera presented *Supraspectives*, its first artistic Art, Science, Technology and Society production in September 2020, to coincide with the 5th anniversary of the centre's founding. This is an exhibit by the German artists [Quadrature](#) (Juliane Götz and Sebastian Neitsch), developed with the astrophysicists **Silvia Bonoli and Raúl Angulo** from the Donostia International Physics Center, in collaboration with Ars Electronica. The audio-visual installation highlighted the contrast between the suggestive beauty of Earth seen from above and outer space, and a critical awareness of its human colonisation, quite often for military and surveillance purposes.

Throughout 2021, the artistic duo [Varvara & Mar](#), in collaboration with Tekniker, examined the concept of trust in human-robot interaction, and the result was [Dream Painter](#), an installation that, thanks to Artificial Intelligence, listened to and interpreted the dreams of visitors to Tabakalera, in order to later "create" a pictorial work based on them.

In June 2022, Tabakalera took a new step along the lines of Arts, Science, Technology and Society with the presentation at the 31st International Machine Tool Biennial, which took place at the Bilbao Exhibition Centre, of the artwork, [Holobot. Social Garden](#), a social robot that communicated with its environment and was present on social networks. The project was developed by Tabakalera and the artist collective [VR Kommand](#), in collaboration with Tekniker and the robotics company KUKA, with support from the Basque Government.

In November 2022, Tabakalera and the Donostia International Physics Center presented [Clouds of Pollen, Data, living material](#), an art installation that studied the potential of living systems to interact with artificial life and analysed the storage of digital data in plant pollen. The installation was developed by the collective [Grow Your Own Cloud](#) with the collaboration of DIPC visiting scientist and artificial intelligence expert [Steen Rasmussen](#).

San Sebastian, 29 March 2023.

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