

DESIGN

# Designing Futures. Social Labs in Europe.

Hans Sauer Award 2018

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More information:  
[www.hanssauerstiftung.de](http://www.hanssauerstiftung.de)  
[www.socialdesign.de](http://www.socialdesign.de)



## Idea

Labs are regarded as a promising way to address challenges and questions of the future which cannot (or can no longer) be solved within conventional structures and organisations. Labs employ a plethora of tools and methods to stimulate creativity, enable dialogue, cooperation and participation. Labs dissolve disciplinary and sectoral boundaries – at least temporarily – and are instead replaced by participatory, interdisciplinary and experimental forms of working and creating.

A number of players have discovered labs for the development of new solutions: companies, universities, state institutions, and, increasingly, social and non-profit initiatives and organisations. Over the past years, labs and lab-like structures, which tackle various social and societal issues – commonly known as “Social Labs” – have developed in many European countries. With the Hans Sauer Award 2018 “Designing Futures. Social Labs in Europe.”, the Hans Sauer Foundation seeks to highlight and explore this trend, support the creation of a European network of Social Labs, and further international exchange on the subject.

## Award

The Hans Sauer Award 2018 will support the best and most innovative Social Labs in Europe by comparing their work and offering their creators a transnational exchange. Consequently, we encourage initiatives, institutions and other forms of organisations which work in the form of a lab to submit a proposal, introducing themselves and their work.

According to a fixed set of criteria a team of experts will evaluate and compare concepts and practices of Social Labs. The selection process will, in some cases, be accompanied by an on-site visit.

In early March 2018, the five successful finalists will be invited to the Social Design Elevation Days 2018 in Munich. During this multi-day experimental format, labs, their projects, perspectives and successes will be presented, and networking activities will be planned.

At the end of the three-day-event, a jury will select one (or several) winning lab(s) and distribute the award money of € 10.000.

## Time Frame

Registration begins on October 1st, 2017 and ends **December 15th, 2017**.

On January 15th, 2018 the finalists will be announced and will receive an invitation to the Social Design Elevation Days 2018 in Munich, Germany. The final, the Social Design Elevation Days 2018, will take place from March 8th to 11th, 2018.

## Eligible for Competition

Labs, Social Labs, Social Innovation Labs (or similar institutions or initiatives of a different name) which fulfil the following criteria:

1. Mission and cause emerge from a social issue / challenge (not from a commercial one).
2. The work includes participants and/or collaborators from various disciplines, industries, sectors and areas of society – all the way from initial idea to implementation.
3. The work contains participatory and collaborative elements in all phases, from initial idea all the way to implementation.
4. The work is experimental; prototypes, iteration and action are essential features.
5. The project aims for systemic change and social change; not the solving of symptoms.
6. The lab must already be working, or be in the process of implementation and beyond the conceptual stage.  
Labs can be temporary or permanent in their nature.
7. The Lab is in Europe.

## Application Requirements

Applicants should supply the following documents and send them to **award2018@hanssauerstiftung.com**:

I.

A description of the Social Lab in English. The description should be 1,000 – 2,000 words and contain all visual materials necessary for understanding the lab (images, graphics, illustrations, videos).

The document should also answer the following questions:

- Mission (What is the aim?)
- Topic (What is/are the problem/s the lab is working on?)
- Time/Place (When was it founded? What is the timeframe? Is it a temporary or a permanent lab? Where is it located? What space or spaces does it utilise? Is it temporary or permanent?)
- Financing/Support Structure (In what ways is the lab supported financially, materially and immaterially?)
- Initiators (Who founded the lab?)
- Stakeholders/Participants (Who is involved in the lab work? What sectors, what disciplines, what stakeholders, what sorts of expertise are combined?)
- Methods/Tools (What are the methods the lab is working with? What is the innovation toolbox? What role do experimentation, prototyping, and iteration play?)
- Processes/Qualities (To what degree is the process participatory and to what degree specialised? How are participants/stakeholders involved in the process? How do you take advantage of the interdisciplinary nature of the project?)

II.

A description of at least one but no more than three of the Social Lab's cases/projects. Those should be 800 to 1,000 words and contain all visual materials necessary for understanding the project (images, graphics, illustrations, videos), as well as contain information on the following topics:

- Clients /Users/Participants
- Sector(s) addressed
- Core Team
- Key Stakeholders
- Start/Status
- Costs
- Methods used
- Impact



**Hans Sauer**  
Stiftung

**Hans Sauer Stiftung**

Haus des Stiftens  
Landshuter Allee 11  
80637 München  
Tel.: +49 (0)89/613 672 10  
award2018@hanssauerstiftung.com

[www.hanssauerstiftung.de](http://www.hanssauerstiftung.de)  
[www.socialdesign.de](http://www.socialdesign.de)

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