

# Hivos Fellowship

[Hivos](#) is opening a call for applications for Hivos' Fellows.

Hivos has been around for 50 years. We constantly evolve our ambitions for a more just society and relentlessly seek ideas and strategies at the forefront of social change. We want to stay nimble and humble, and make sure we understand the current and upcoming challenges in the fight for a just and fair society.

For this reason, we decided to open our doors to creatives and innovators who are operating ahead of the curve in rethinking the future of humanism.

The fellowships will be assigned on a rolling basis starting from November 2019. Hivos will provide a stipend of 2000 EUR monthly for your expenses. In order to produce a tangible output that resonates with the daily practices of the Hivos team, Hivos request fellows to spend a minimum of sixteen hours per week in a period of four months in a row.

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## The themes

The Hivos Fellowship will be focusing on two main themes: **Digital Futures** and **Creative Futures**.

**We see these themes as a spectrum:** fellows can belong squarely in one of the two camps, or they can lie anywhere in between. Computational artists working on expressive artificial intelligence; researchers utilizing art to express the topics they have researched; we encourage hybrid proposals and unconventional fits.

## Digital Futures

Hivos is positioning itself at the forefront of innovation — understanding and using technology is crucial for gaining and maintaining this position. Technology and innovation are sides of the same coin. The consequences of emerging new technologies, (the lack of) their democratic governance, inequality and the political momentum of our times are highly unpredictable.

Technology development is not a force of nature – it is a human activity. Choices are made every day now that guide our way into the world our children will live in.

Major issues that we anticipate on the horizon of our mission include securing basic human rights in the context of shrinking civic space and increasing threats and infringement of these rights through Digitalization, Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, Big data storage, surveillance and commercial use of personal data. At the same time, we see the contours of novel power configurations that hold promises to advance participation, equality and accountability.

**For Hivos, it is about people intentionally creating and using technologies to create green and open societies and to shape the choices of governments and businesses to make sure everyone is protected, participates and benefits equally.**

- What are the new risks we need to anticipate?
- What are the gains that could be made for our mission that we could help leverage?
- Which roles citizens, civil society and international organizations like Hivos need to play in this changing context?

## Potential fellowship topics

We already have some ideas of concept we would like you to explore. If your idea fits with one of these, great! Or, if you have a different take on what the fellowship should look into, feel free to propose your option.

- **AI for Human Rights:** what are the benefits, risks, and unintended consequences of automated decision-making, especially in Hivos priority countries?
- **Ethics and cultures in technology:** how do ethical concerns around design, ownership, and governance of technology change based on the environment? Keywords: techno-colonialism, Afrofuturism.
- **Community-owned energy production:** how can communities truly own their own energy production from a systemic perspective? How can community-owned renewable energy production (solar, wind, etc.) be strengthened with community-owned maintenance (3D printing of spare parts) and exchange (local marketplaces)?

## Creative Futures

Hivos is positioning itself at the forefront of innovation – constantly processing its actions through creative filters is crucial for maintaining this position. What if... designers, artists, chefs, architects, and the entire scope of the creative industries, could be part of Hivos strategic thinking,

program development and advocacy work? What if the transformative power of the arts was leveraged to propose relevant alternative narratives and new formats of social and environmental actions? What if inspiring creatives could foster new connections, disclose possibilities for new positioning, and develop inclusive practices for long-term adventures?

Hivos seeks disruptive, speculative and activist approaches to unlock unconventional perspectives on its focus areas: freedom & accountability, sexual rights and diversity, women's empowerment, renewable energy, sustainable food. By acknowledging the added value that creative practices can bring for youth development, environmental conservation, social cohesion or community outreach, Hivos is calling for new forms of expressions to challenge and amplify the impact of its programs.

- How to (re)position the arts in the decision-making processes of society?
- How can the arts weave new threads between humans and nature?
- How will the arts unveil new channels to expand restricted civic spaces?

### Potential fellowship topics

- What are the promises of the arts to compose an inclusive **urban age**: can music be used as a tool to optimize food distribution in urban areas? Will buildings grow as adaptive organisms? Bring your hybrid thoughts to challenge this recent form of human settlements that we call "cities".
- How to scale policies for **gender equalities and sustainable practices** within the creative sectors?
- **Art as Social Enterprise**: which new business models to develop for creatives to live for and from their practice in the countries where Hivos is active?

## Who are Hivos Fellows?

Fellows will present a topic of choice to analyze, explore, and produce a tangible output on by the end of their fellowship. The presented topics should relate to Digital and / or Creative Futures. Fellows will be matched with existing Hivos programs and embed themselves within the implementation team to deliver the unexpected. We see fellows less as technical support, and more like critical friends with skills, network and expertise that Hivos doesn't have, or hasn't considered valuable in the context.

## Selection Criteria

- Relevance of the fellow's proposed focus in relation to Hivos' current thematic areas
- Relevance of the fellow's proposed focus in relation to Hivos' geographical areas
- Level of experience in regards to the proposed experimentation / research question / topic
- At least a mid-level knowledge of English, and fluent expression in your language of choice

### What does Hivos offer you?

Hivos will provide a stipend and regular interaction with Hivos teams, either in the Global Office in The Hague, Netherlands or in any of our [regional hubs](#) in Costa Rica, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Lebanon or Indonesia. You will have access to all Hivos staff and its programs, for inspiration and substance. You will also be introduced to mentors and other fellows—active or alumni—giving you an opportunity to develop unexpected connections and networks. Hivos can also facilitate connections with our partner networks, comprising [hundreds of grantees across our focus regions](#).

### What does Hivos require?

Once we finalize the fellowship agreement, you will be free to autonomously pursue your ideas. During the fellowship, we do expect the following:

- Commitment to dedicate a minimum of 16 hours per week to work on the selected research question / experiment / topic for a period of 4 months in a row in 2019-2020.
- Alignment with and / or approval of Hivos mentor on topic and activities delivered.
- Willingness to work with Hivos to identify opportunities for their fellowship's findings to adjust and improve Hivos' existing work, including:
  - Formulating a hypothesis, in collaboration with Hivos staff, that sets out how their work might complement or supplement Hivos staff's existing ways of working.
  - Working with the Hivos mentor and Learning Specialist to identify a lightweight way of reviewing outcomes as they relate to the hypothesis statement.
  - Participating in monthly conversations to monitor and review progress.
  - Writing a short final report (max 2-3 pages) / other format based on the outcomes of the fellowship, with an emphasis on progress in relation to the original hypothesis statement.

Does my idea need to be original, or can I pursue existing work?

We realize that four months might not be enough to fully flesh out a new idea. If you want to use this time to flesh out existing work, that is fine. We do require that the time you spend with Hivos as Innovation Fellow has a clear focus and outcome that can be pointed to as a result of the fellowship.

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