

CANDIDATE CITIES NETWORK

CONCEPT PAPER

OUR MOTIVATION

Bidding for the European Capital of Culture title requires a high level of commitment, investment and cooperation among various local actors, making this process a rather unique development opportunity for participating cities.

90% of the bidding cities are not awarded the title. However, all these cities develop strong cultural strategies and establish mechanisms for cultural planning and citizen participation. Moreover, these cities manage to raise significant budgets for the implementation of their programme: a multiannual integrated plan contributing to local and European development. These efforts are usually lost after not gaining the title.

How can candidate cities – be them in the preparation phase, title holders or former candidates that did not make it through pre-selection or selection for the title – make the most of this exceptional mobilising of talents, ideas and resources?

OUR MISSION

The mission of the network is to support current and former ECoC candidate cities to implement culture-led urban development programmes and policies. The network makes a contribution to the ECoC programme legacy, by facilitating the implementation of more ECoC programmes throughout Europe.

WHY IS THIS NETWORK NEEDED?

1. Because, whether being ECoC labelled or not, all cities need support and inspiration in order to carry on with the implementation of their programmes;
2. Because this Network can contribute to the success and legacy of the ECoC project;
3. Because more European cultural programmes give more power to address European issues;
4. Because the partnerships, talents and resources mobilised through ECoC bidding make a strong base for a long-term culture-led development process in cities.

BENEFITS FOR MEMBER CITIES

1. Exchange of information and expertise specific for the needs of cities in different phases of the ECoC candidacy through:
 - a. Free access to the Network conferences: a 2-day training and partnership European marketplace taking place twice a year;
 - b. Free access to the Network's digital platform: a database with projects in ECoC programmes, with contacts for partnerships and a communication tool for the members of the Network;
2. Free access to the Network's capacity building programme for cultural cities: an annual training programme built on the needs of the members and funded through suitable European grants;
3. Technical and moral support to face the challenges specific to different phases of ECoC candidacy;
4. Participation in specific programmes (residencies, artistic programmes a.o.) and grant application consortia;
5. Participation and support in advocacy campaigns related to culture, urban development and Europe. The opportunity to contribute to local and European policies and establish best practices in these fields;
6. Members increase the European relevance and visibility of their work and their cities. The network facilitates European partnerships, mobility of creators and artworks, engagement of cities and citizens with European issues.

MEMBERSHIP

1. Available for former and current ECoC candidate cities. It is open to cities in the pre-candidacy phase if the city has made public the intention to become a candidate city. It is open to current and past title holders.
2. Members are the agencies in charge with the candidacy and/or the implementing of the programme. In the cities where these agencies ceased to exist or these responsibilities are split among different local partners, the member organisation/institution needs to be officially endorsed by the Municipality.
3. One single organisation per city is accepted as member.
4. The membership fee to be applied as of 2019 will be established by the network assembly.
5. Founding members do not pay a membership fee for the first year (2018).
6. Other networks or programmes related to ECoC, cultural policies and urban development can participate to the network activities as associate members/observers.

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. For the start, the network operates as an informal alliance.
2. The secretariat for the first two years it is hosted by Cluj Cultural Centre. Later it can be moved to a different member city or it can stay in Cluj-Napoca for longer or for good.
3. Decisions are taken by the assembly of the members during plenary meetings or online. Operational decisions are made based on peer consent.

COMMUNICATION TOOLS

- Internal Communication:
 - Closed Facebook Group
 - E-mails
- External Communication:
 - Website
 - Digital platform

MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

- Meetings will be organised twice a year, one in the city that hosts the Secretariat and the other in another member city;
- Cluj Cultural centre will host one meeting a year during the first two years;
- The host cities cover organisational costs, provides spaces and covers travel and accommodation for guest experts (eg trainers);
- Members cover their own travel and accommodation expenses;
- Proposal to set up a solidarity fund to cover participation costs for exceptional cases;
- Open to members only;
- Guests (cities interested to join the network) may attend one conference (one time only) by paying a conference fee.

SECRETARIAT CONTACT

Cluj Cultural Centre

Blvd. 21 Decembrie 1989, No. 58, 400094, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Tel. +40 372 773 603

office@cccluj.ro

www.cccluj.ro