Foreword

It is particularly important for a European network to create opportunities where cultural workers from across Europe can meet and exchange experiences. Not only to learn from each other, but also to develop new projects and to take full advantage of the richness of diversity in Europe.

Socio-cultural community life is at the core of our members’ activities. Their mission at the local level, in their cultural centers, is a lever for more tolerance and commitment for everyone. Identifying tools to translate this to the European level is one of our core goals as a network.

In the past two years, our network has been focusing on articulating connections between this local level and the European one. More cultural professionals and artists than ever applied to our capacity-building programmes. Our Project Fair, European is Beautiful, got record participation, proving that throughout Europe, local actors want to get involved in Erasmus+ or Creative Europe projects. This is precisely one of the reasons that the European Commission is investing in European networks: to achieve more cooperation all over Europe, and ultimately to support social and cultural innovation.

The ENCC celebrated its 25th anniversary as a dynamic and lively organization, with energy and enthusiasm to spare. The past quarter of a century has seen sea changes in terms of cultural and societal contexts. New major challenges have emerged, but our core values in facing them—cultural equality, intercultural diversity and sustainability—remain the same.

Ivo Peeters, chairman of the ENCC board
About

The European Network of Cultural Centres was founded in 1994 to promote dialogue and cooperation between social-oriented cultural centres in Europe. In the 2000s it became a ‘network of networks’, before gradually re-opening membership to individual cultural centres in direct interaction with communities and citizens. It also includes other cultural organisations and professionals as associate members. Today, the ENCC reaches about 5000 cultural organisations in over 20 countries, with quite diverse structures, practices and audiences.

The ENCC’s main action lines are capacity building, networking and advocacy. We organise meetings, conferences, trainings and staff exchanges, participate in research and data-gathering, create tools and publications, and connect our members with other actors from the cultural sector. Empowering cultural centres’ communities is our priority.

We’re supported by Creative Europe as one of the 28 networks representing the cultural sector in Europe. The ENCC currently gathers 13 national or regional networks, 23 individual cultural centres and 16 associated members.

Values

The ENCC’s core values are cultural equality, interculturalism, cultural democratisation and active citizenship through participation in cultural activities. We believe that participation in arts and culture on an individual level brings personal but also societal development.

Objectives

- Strengthening the position and role of national networks of cultural centres and, in places where no such networks exist, stimulating their creation;
- Building bridges between cultural centres and networks by facilitating mobility;
- Supporting the professionalisation of cultural centres and their staff;
- Facilitating communication between cultural centres on a Europe-wide level;
- Exploring and supporting models of cooperation and networking of cultural organisations in rural areas;
- Undertaking research and data collection related to cultural centres, their audiences and their impact, in order to influence new models of practice;
- Stimulating intersectoral cooperation in the cultural field;
- Stimulating informal learning and education processes through the recognition of best practices, and highlighting and disseminating relevant work in the cultural field;
- Cooperating with other European cultural networks to create greater synergy between such networks.
What’s new?

The years 2017-2019 have been very fruitful for the ENCC network and Coordination Office. In 2018, ENCC celebrated 25 years of existence. We celebrated the milestone during our Shortcut Europe meeting in Turnhout (Belgium), with many old and new friends, partners, members and supporters by our sides.

In the past two years, we also went through some major changes in the organizational structure. We created two positions as Communication Manager and Membership Officer, and in 2019, after the departure of our coordinator Ioana Crugel for a new position, Sara Turra joined us to take the head of our coordination office. During these two years, ENCC was also lucky to have two very competent interns: Nicole Kalitsky (USA) in 2018, and Barbara Simovic (Montenegro) in 2019.

Our Coordination Office team is currently made up of:

Sara Turra
Coordinator

Kasia Skowron
Capacity Building Manager

Lucie Perineau
Communications and Publications Manager

Graciela Murga
Project Officer

Clemence Garnier
Membership Officer

Pierre Moundor Diouf
Administrative Assistant

Barbara Simovic
Project Assistant Intern

One last change: the ENCC office has moved from Gan-shoren, where it was hosted for many years by cultural centre and member De Zeyp, to a new location in the centre of Brussels, on Galerie Ravenstein, 28.

In September 2017, we started our four-year project called ‘ENCC – The Next Generation’. This project reacts to a context of fragmented societies facing social and economic turmoil, in which populism and radicalisation are gaining ground. The general focus is on the new competences and organisational models that cultural centres need to develop and implement in order to tackle those challenges. We believe that the cultural and creative sector has a key role to play in fostering an open, diverse, democratic and innovative Europe and that the ENCC has an important potential in this sense. As a transdisciplinary network in the cultural and socio-cultural sector, deeply anchored within European societies, grassroots institutions and local territories, the ENCC reaches a diversity of local audiences and territories that are otherwise underrepresented within European disciplinary cultural and artistic spaces/networks.

In the first two years of our Next Generation project, we decided to put a strong focus on the local and community levels. We gave special attention to issues such as cultural dynamics in rural and non-urban areas, how cultural spaces go beyond infrastructure to support whole communities, increasing community impact by creating local cultural networks in which cultural centres collaborate with other organisations, and how they can evaluate that impact. This grassroots focus was the red thread for our trainings, meetings, seminars, conferences and published toolkits and guidelines for cultural operators and organisations.

We also reinforced our member outreach, with particular attention to individual cultural centres, and gathered fresh data about our members.

In the coming years, we’ll be bringing the conclusions of this groundwork to the international and EU levels, with an European summit of cultural centres that goes beyond our network, an EU advocacy campaign with sister networks to support non-urban culture, and a conference on sociocultural action and sustainability in Europe. We’ll continue to act as a connector between the micro and macro, between the local and international levels, particularly with our capacity-building and innovation-supporting programmes.
Programmes

The ENCC leads multi-year programmes to support the professional development of cultural operators and technicians, and the development of cooperation and innovation on a European level.

BECC, our flagship capacity-building programme, which has been running for over 10 years, has seen a huge leap of public interest in the past two action years, and the number of participants has increased accordingly. In 2019, we introduced Incubator, a new programme aimed at mid-expert and senior professionals.

BECC (Bridge Between European Cultural Centers)

capacity building, cultural leadership, education, mentoring, mobility, networking, professionalization, sharing knowledge

BECC is a staff exchange, training and mentoring program that has supported many professionals from the cultural and educational sectors for over a decade now. The idea for BECC was defined in 2007 and brought to life for the first time in 2008-2009. It started in the context of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 and was based on the belief that the best way to learn about different working environments, structures, management and issues is to experience them first-hand. At that time, we were one of the very rare organisations (perhaps the only ones) to offer this type of exchange, focused exclusively on cultural professionals (staff members from cultural institutions). Since then, the programme has supported the mobility of over 160 participants and created bridges between 101 cultural centres from 27 countries across Europe.

The scheme is aimed at young professionals from the cultural sector who want to share their experience and knowledge with colleagues from Europe, gain new skills, and learn more about international cooperation and European projects. The BECC programme spreads over about eight months, with the exchanges between participants lasting at least 7 days (no maximum is determined). ENCC is responsible for covering all costs for the preparation seminar, as well as for providing a financial contribution towards transport, accommodation and other exchange costs. Over the past 2 years, 27 participants from 17 European countries have taken part in the BECC programme.

Programme trainers and the ENCC office are also responsible for supporting and mentoring participants throughout the whole programme, which allows participants to gain both soft and hard skills, gain new competences and actually self-design their learning/training process. In order to tackle important, new or emerging issues, the BECC
programme focuses each year on one specific topic that is discussed throughout the four-day launching seminar. A training connected to that particular topic is organized for participants, as well as workshops, coaching, study visits, interactive presentations and peer-to-peer learning.

The BECC 2018 edition was organised with the support of Plegma (ENCC member) and Konstadina Dulcinea Angeletou (one of the founders of Plegma and a BECC 2017 fellow) on the island of Andros (Greece). The training seminar, on March 27-29, was entitled Cultural management & the digital shift - Using the digital process to reach out and increase participation. Out of 30 candidates, 11 young professionals from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Kosovo, Latvia, Ukraine, Serbia, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom were chosen to attend the seminar and participate in bilateral exchanges and peer-to-peer training. The seminar was supported by trainers Andrea Folie, Katrin Reiter, Dagna Gmitrowicz, with Ioana Crugel present on behalf of the ENCC.

Termokiss, the organisation represented by Njomza Dragusha, BECC 2018 fellow, hosted the next seminar in Kosovo on March 20-23 2019. The topic was Build your local network [and keep it alive]. BECC 2019 supported the mobility of 15 young professionals from Greece, Romania, France, Belgium, Latvia, Italy, Kosovo, Georgia, Hungary, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom. The training was implemented with the support of trainer Dagna Gmitrowicz and cultural policy expert Raluca Iacob.

'I would like to comment on the impact of the programme on our audience. I think this is one of the most important points for me - the amount of ideas, best practices, and inspirations I got from BECC is already resulting in my organization having new types of activities and I think that our audience is benefiting greatly.' – Katarzyna Kowalska, MasterPeace Eastern Partnership and Central Asia Regional Organization, Tbilisi, Georgia, about BECC 2019
In 2019, we launched a new capacity-building programme – **Incubator**, which is, unlike BECC, intended for mid-career and senior professionals. This programme aims to support cooperation, innovation and project development around specific key topics linked with European priorities (e.g. civic and audience participation, diversity and equality, local democracy), with the final goal of increasing cultural and social innovation in our network and beyond.

The programme is divided into several phases, from selection to expert consulting, mentoring and evaluation. Even though this was the first ever Incubator edition, the interest of candidates was much higher than expected and the programme gained a wide public visibility. We supported 7 projects and 8 professionals from Portugal, Italy, Spain, Serbia, Greece and Germany.

The first Incubator consultancy retreat took place in Arrabida (Portugal) on 5th-6th of June 2019. The external trainers selected for this capacity building programme were **Nicolas Combes**, vice-general director at the World Heritage site Saline Royale d’Arc-et-Senans (EPCC), specialised in European projects and funding, and **Maia Sert**, project manager for On the Move network, specialist of international cultural cooperation and in particular EU-funded projects. Out of the 7 projects supported, 2 have applied for funding and are waiting for results, 1 has already received a positive response on funding, and 4 are working towards an application in 2020.

The programme will be organized annually to support professionals from cultural centres and other cultural operators in developing their European projects).

*We applied for Creative Europe Programme grants in November 2019 and yes! The Incubator programme has been crucial in the process. We are in this path thanks to the ENCC. Its role was important in our strategy and digital communication.* – Maria Giulia Guiducci, Tutti Matti Per Colorno, Italy, about Incubator 2019.
Meetings

Each year, the ENCC organises two main meetings, open to its members as well as other cultural operators: one usually focused on a specific territory, the other connecting participants to the European level of debate.

European Conference 2017

On November 25-27 2017, the ENCC held a large meeting entitled European Conference on Artistic Processes and Cultural Participation - New Perspectives for Rural Development. The event was hosted and co-organised by the Department of Cultural Policy of the University of Hildesheim (Germany). We discussed the significant changes faced by rural areas in recent years, due to globalisation, environmental issues, economic, social, and political changes, urbanisation, and more. As rural development has become one of the key issues for discussion among academics and practitioners, the question is how to define the role that culture can play in it. And how cultural centres can empower local communities, work towards sustainability and contribute to interconnecting European territories. The two-day conference gathered 22 speakers including Wolfgang Schneider (Hildesheim University, DE), Lone Leth Larsen (ECoC Aarhus 2017, DK), Marilyn Gaughan, (ECoC Galway 2020, Ireland), Sabine Zimmerman (Netzwerk Kultur & Heimat Hildesheimer Land e.V., DE), Samo Darian (Trafo-Programm, DE), Alex Meszmer (VISARTE, CH) and Irena Borovina (Association Vestigium, HR). The conference attracted 60 participants from 9 countries, who, alongside keynotes and workshops, had an opportunity to follow study visits to several organisations in the Hildesheim region, guided by Eckhart Liss, Sabine Zimmermann and Stefan Könnecke.

Shortcut Europe 2018

Shortcut Europe is a format for international meetings organized by the ENCC with its partners. These events are designed as platforms for experts, cultural professionals, artists and amateurs from across Europe to meet and exchange their experiences, starting from the idea of culture as the fourth pillar for sustainable development, and the importance of its role in local communities. The very first Shortcut Europe was held in 1996 in Copenhagen (Denmark), at that time European Capital of Culture, and the events have continued to be important meeting places for culture and arts operators, as well as educators, social activists, policymakers and other stakeholders.

For Shortcut Europe 2018, Exploring Cultural Spaces, we decided to put the focus on the way cultural centres have evolved in the past 30 years, to become cultural spaces that go beyond infrastructure in influencing, working and networking with their communities, other types of organisations and their surrounding territories. The
conference, hosted on April 25-27 by our member De Warande, in Turnhout, Belgium, gathered over 50 participants from across Europe. Keynote speakers included: François Matarasso (Writer, Researcher and Consultant), Marjo van Schaik (Creative Producer at Mare), Felix de Clerck (then Director of Kunstencentrum - Flanders Arts Institute), Erik Martens (Head of film culture at the Flanders Audiovisual Fund), Gudrun Heymans (Coordinator of the Creative Europe Culture Desk Flanders), Thomas Kempteneers (Director of the Cultural Centre in Waremme), and Leen Laconte (Director of OKO). Mariane Cosserat (CulturalattachéattheInstitutCulturalFrançaisinOslo) moderated the roundtables.

The keynotes and speakers looked at societal changes in how we consider culture and artists, at whether the goal of deep participation is truly achievable in today’s cultural infrastructures, at whether we should continue building cultural venues, and on what models. The questions and debates from this event inspired the topic that the network adopted for its next working year, ‘From Hubs to Nodes’, which imagined ‘cultural hubs’ giving way to tentacular networks of cultural organisations cooperating fluidly. Participants were also offered study visits to 4 cultural organisations in Turnhout, as well as a rich cultural programme in the evenings, including dance, visual arts and a film festival.

Travelling Academy 2019

Travelling Academy is one of our capacity building meeting formats, built as a sharing and learning process in which cultural centres, cultural operators and other stakeholders can network on both European and local levels. This format aims to explore a specific territory, including local stakeholders, and to develop competencies and skills of cultural professionals through a specific topic. Since we decided to work on the micro level in the past two action years, and to focus on local development and local networks, Travelling Academy 2018 was devoted to Building your local network [and keeping it alive]. Here we wanted to examine the potential and advantages of local networks and partnerships (from sharing resources and production to impacting communities and aligning for political clout), and provide useful guidelines during two days of discussion, keynotes, presentations and thematic workshops.

The territory we were looking into during this Travelling Academy was Eastern Europe, in particular Timisoara (Romania). The meeting was hosted by local cultural center Ambasada on October 24-25. The programme supported 25 participants from 10 different countries, while invited speakers from Serbia, Italy, the Basque Country, Germany, and Romania reflected on the topic. Travelling Academy 2018 acted also as a debate platform between the Timisoara 2021 ECOC team and local arts and culture operators; the discussion centered on whether ECOCs can contribute to sustainable local collaborations - and do indeed support existing local cultural projects and organisations.
The event included welcome speeches by Simona Neu- 
mann (CEO Timisoara 2021) and Ivo Peeters (Chairman 
of the ENCC Board). Andrei Popov moderated the panel 
on ECOCs and local networks with Chris Torch (cultural 
policy expert and artistic consultant for Timisoara 2021) 
and Milan Vratar (founder and CEO of Kulturanova, Novi 
Sad, Serbia). Presentations of local networks were given 
by Helga Massetani from Mugakide network (Spanish/ 
French Basque Country), Vittorio Bianco from Rete del- 
le Case del Quartiere (Turin, Italy), Eleonor Hefner from 
Creole Sommer (Rhein-Neckar, Germany) and Andreea 
lager-Tako from Ambasada (founder of PLAIfestival and 
Ambasada in Timisoara).

Travelling Academy 2018 also offered a wealth of study 
visits, including Basca/Solidart, MISC, Beta Architecture 
Biennial, Timis County Youth Foundation, Triade Founda-
tion /Jecza Gallery, Museum of Communist Consumers, 
and Hungarian State Theatre.

‘This is the first ENCC event that we’ve attended, and it’s great! I met people from different countries that face exactly the same challenges as our organisation, and I’ve already heard about three different solutions we can use!’ – Pal Szenasi, A Vértes Agorája, Hungary, at the Travelling Academy 2018

 Strategic meeting

On 25-26 February 2019, we held a Strategic meeting 
for ENCC national and regional networks to increase 
the synergies and connections within our network. The 
meeting was organized in Vienna with the support of IG 
Kultur Österreich (ENCC member), and hosted by their 
member Brunnenpassage. 15 participants, representing 
8 regional and national networks of cultural centres, at-
tended the meeting. The aims were:

• Getting a better understanding of the needs, 
daily challenges and concerns of the regional and 
national networks in terms of advocacy/policy, and 
how the ENCC can support them
• Exploring areas of possible joint actions
• Discussing ENCC communication strategy and more 
efficient ways to help it reach the members of our 
network members
• Creating a networking time for network leaders to 
connect.

Study visits were organised to WUK – Werkstätten und 
Kulturhaus (WUK – House for Workshops and Culture) 
and to Q21 creative space in MuseumsQuartier.

This was the first such meeting for ENCC national and re-
gegional networks, and we decided to hold one annually 
from now on.

‘Being part of the ENCC means to integrate the 
European perspective into our work, exchange 
with colleagues from other countries and learn 
about chances and challenges. The ENCC is 
such an important network because it unites 
cultural workers that have the same vision for 
an inclusive, creative and diverse Europe.’ – 
Jennifer Tharr, BSZ, Germany.
Project Fair 2019

‘European is beautiful’ took place on June 4-5 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal. This event gathered 85 practitioners and 67 organizations from 18 European countries.

Our Project Fair meeting format is intended for culture professionals, artists, researchers, educators and other professionals planning on developing a social or cultural European cooperation project. The goal is to connect organisations and individuals to potential partners, and to provide support through workshops, mini-trainings and expert speed-dating. ENCC Project Fairs are open to both participants who already have an idea for a project and those who don’t.

During this two-day session in Lisbon, hosted in Museu Fundação Oriente, participants were able to attend keynotes and information sessions from experts on European programmes and funding, including Rosa Pérez Montclus from Culture Action Europe (EU network), Geoffrey Brown from Euclid (UK), Helena Bijnens from the SILO project (BE), Maïa Sert from On the Move (FR) and Nicolas Combes from Les Salines Royales d’Arc-et-Sénans (FR). They also attended dates with experts on their project ideas, partner-matchings, presentation of project ideas and creative workshops on project structuring and writing. Study visits were organized to Museo Nacional do Azulejo and Centro Nacional de Cultura (CNC).

‘For me, the ENCC means great and enlightening conferences, great material to get ideas from, and great opportunities to get new contacts for future collaborations.’ – Arnis Miltinš, Association of Latvian Culture Centres, Latvia.
Projects

The ENCC initiates and manages European and international projects that support new endeavours, capacity building initiatives and the development of members, as well as raising the visibility on the role cultural centres play in our society today. On the other hand, our network is also a partner in projects that address cultural and social issues connected to our concerns.

RECCORD (ENCC project)

In 2016, the ENCC launched a Research/Action project, RECCORD, focused on different types of participation in cultural centres throughout Europe. This 2-year project was conducted in cooperation with Kulturhusene i Danmark (KHiD), Cultural Production Center Godsbanen (Aarhus, Denmark) and the University of Aarhus, and was supported by Aarhus, European Capital of Culture 2017. The RECCORD project ended in January 2018.

In this innovative, bottom-up research project, 20 practitioners working in cultural centres throughout Europe were selected as ‘Cultural Recorders’ and trained by researchers to produce empirical material about their own cultural centres, before carrying out field trips of 10 days in 18 other European cultural centres. The data the Recorders collected was used by the researchers to disturb assumptions and lay the groundwork for a typology of participation in cultural centres.

The research results were first presented at the RECCORD conference, in Aarhus, Denmark, in May 2017, and are scheduled to be published in Cultural Trends research journal in 2020. The RECCORD project also paved the way for DELTAG, a sequel research project that looks at participation in cultural centres in Denmark.

Working Group on Territorial Development and Culture in Non-Urban Areas (ENCC Project)

The ENCC is deeply anchored within European societies, reaching audiences and territories that are often under-represented, including in rural and remote areas, villages, small towns, ‘invisible cities’ and peripheries. Since many years, it has been working to define and highlight the role cultural centres can play in territorial development, political participation and social innovation.

Our Working Group on Territorial Development and Culture in Non-Urban Areas is a transectorial platform gathering ENCC members, partner networks, researchers, practitioners, policymakers and cultural policy experts. The group shares practices and needs, makes recommendations and participates in shaping our advocacy efforts.

In the years 2017-2019, the Working Group participated in curating and facilitating the European Conference in Hildesheim. A core collective of members & organisations then collected materials & ideas, and edited the ENCC Manifesto on Culture for Smart, Shared, Innovative Territories to prepare for a major advocacy effort with partner networks in 2019-2020.
**ABBA (Audience Blending by Arts) (Partner Project)**

From 2017 to 2019, the ENCC was one of 9 European partner organisations in ABBA, supported by Creative Europe. The main objective was to promote an innovative method for bilingual theatre, mixing spoken and sign language and tackling the lack of inclusion in arts, with a specific focus on inclusion and encouragement of people with hearing disabilities.

The ABBA project ended in December 2019. The project was awarded a «Promising Practices in Adults Arts Education» by Senator John Dolan and Denise Shan on behalf of the Erasmus+ programme.

**CIAE (Creative Inclusion in Adult Education) (Partner Project)**

From 2017 to 2019, the ENCC was a dissemination partner in CIAE, an Erasmus+ project coordinated by the Cope Foundation (Ireland), about inclusive arts education for disabled people. The CIAE project aimed to examine current legal framework and policies in inclusive arts for adult education, best practices and support systems, as well as to provide tools and guidelines for policy makers, educators, art practitioners, cultural centres, but also disabled artists. Additionally, the project addressed questions such as: How do people with disabilities access arts education? What are the obstacles that keep them from learning, practicing and developing their own body of work? What are the rights of people with disabilities when it comes to art, culture and education?

CIAE ended in October 2019, with the publication of two toolkits and an easy-read online resource base.

**CoHERE Critical Heritages (Partner project)**

From 2016 to 2018, the ENCC was a project and dissemination partner of CoHERE, a European cooperation project co-financed by the Horizon 2020 research programme. The project sought to identify, understand and valorise European heritages, engaging with their socio-political and cultural significance and their potential for developing communitarian identities. CoHERE addressed an intensifying EU crisis through a study of relations between identities and representations and performances of history. It explored the ways in which heritage can be used for division and isolation, or to find common ground and ‘encourage modern visions and uses of its past.’

The ENCC organised one of the projects’ ‘Living Labs’ in Brussels, on 15 October 2018, where it brought together two researchers from the project and a number of key stakeholders from heritage and cultural organisations to debate on heritage policy and divided memories in Europe.

The CoHERE project ended in April 2019, leaving behind a very rich collection of academic and other resources, including a database, an oratorio, a documentary film and a video game.
Events

ENCC Calendar, September 2017-August 2019

CoHERE Living Lab - The New Europe
Partner event / Research / Meeting
21-23 September 2017, København, Denmark

European Conference: Artistic Processes and Cultural Participation - New Perspectives for Rural Development
ENCC event / Meeting
25-27 October 2017, Hildesheim, Germany

BECC kick-off Seminar 2018: Cultural Management and the Digital Shift - Using the Digital Process to Reach out and Increase Participation
ENCC event / Capacity building
27-29 March 2018, Andros, Greece

Shortcut Europe 2018: Exploring Cultural Spaces
ENCC event / Conference
25-27 April 2018, Turnhout, Belgium

CoHERE Living Lab: Mainstreaming Heritage Policy
ENCC & Partner event / Meeting
15 October 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Travelling Academy 2018: Build Your Local Network [and keep it alive],
ENCC event / Capacity building
24-25 October, Timisoara, Romania

ENCC Strategic Meeting for Regional and National Networks
ENCC event / Meeting
25-26 February 2019, Vienna, Austria

BECC kick-off Seminar 2019: Build Your Local Network [and keep it alive]
ENCC event / Capacity building
19-23 March 2019, Pristina, Kosovo

Project Fair 2019: European is Beautiful
ENCC event / Meeting
June 4-5 2019, Lisbon, Portugal

Incubator 2019 consultancy retreat
ENCC event / Capacity-building
June 5-6 2019, Arrábida, Portugal
Publications

Following our European Conference on Rural Development in 2017, we participated in the anthology Vital Village, published by the University of Hildesheim, our partners for the conference.

Vital Village

Vital Village is a collection of essays on cultural policy in rural areas, edited by Wolfgang Schneider and Beate Kegler, from the Department of Cultural Policy at the University of Hildesheim, and Daniela Koß from the Foundation of the German state of Lower Saxony. Ivo Peeters, chairman of the ENCC board, wrote the foreword, while Piotr Michalowski (coordinator of the ENCC Working Group on Culture in Non-Urban Areas), Andrea Folie (member of ENCC network IG-Kultur) and Ioana Crugel (ENCC coordinator) contributed articles. The bilingual (English-German) collection looks at decentralisation, demographic change, digitalisation, the relationship between agriculture and culture, and more.

The Evaluation Journey - A Toolkit for Cultural Operators

In March 2018, we published The Evaluation Journey - A Toolkit for Cultural Operators. The toolkit by Marie Le Sourd and Dagna Gmitrowicz, initially developed in the context of our BECC programme, is designed for both cultural operators who work in cultural centres, and for all arts and cultural professionals interested in evaluation of their projects, programmes and/or organizations. Evaluation is a very relevant topic in the cultural field that has been deeply examined in recent years by European networks and their members, but it is also one of the key elements of success of each organization. This digital toolkit aims to encourage and facilitate access to evaluation, as well as to help navigate other existing tools and resources on the topic. The Evaluation Journey is especially helpful for professionals who work in organisations with limited budgets and limited human resources to dedicate to evaluation.

> Free download

Vital Village back cover:

Due to global processes of transformation and the social challenges posed by demographic change, rural areas increasingly demand attention from politics and the public sphere. [...] The arts have proven their ability to provide fresh impetus and new insights. This compendium of theory and practice combines outcomes of studies in cultural policy, introduces exemplary models and thus constitutes a first attempt at determining the position of innovative cultural work in rural areas.

‘Super useful, friendly and inspiring! And the illustrations are wonderful!’ - Vassilka Shishkova, independent arts and culture impact researcher, Sofia (BG).
Members

The ENCC is a community of 52 members representing over 5,000 cultural centres from 24 countries in Europe. Our members can be regional or national networks of cultural centres, individual cultural centres or associated members.

Over the past two years, 17 new members joined our network, from 7 European countries: Belgium, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and the United Kingdom; and one extra-EU country – Turkey. We also created links with cultural centres in Serbia, Kosovo and Ukraine.

New ENCC members, 2018-2019

VEF Culture Palace - Institution of Riga Municipality
(Riga, Latvia)
http://www.vefkp.lv

Culture Palace is the largest cultural space in Latvia, hosting artistic groups and studios, and cultural professional and amateur events, including international meetings, concerts, art exhibitions, balls, dance competitions, workshops, lectures and performances of foreign and local artists.

Stazione Leopolda (Pisa, Italy)
http://www.leopolda.it

Stazione Leopolda is a cultural centre in a historical and architectural heritage area in Pisa. It hosts many independent associations and promotes initiatives and projects that strengthen the social fabric and democratic growth of the city.

Rete delle Case del Quartiere (Torino, Italy)
http://www.retecasedelquartiere.org/

«Rete delle Case del Quartiere» (Network of Neighborhood Houses), is a network of eight community centres in Turin - the first Italian network of this kind! Each of the eight Houses works independently as a multi-functional community hub, open to any field of activity and to everybody regardless of age, culture, geographical origin and others.

Municipal Cultural Center in Radomsko (Radomsko, Poland)
http://www.mdkradomsko.pl/

The Municipal Cultural Center in Radomsko (MDK) is a 50-year-old cultural institution that organises concerts, exhibitions, artistic workshops, and offers 25 different classes including theatre, dance, art and vocal sections. It also acts as a cultural platform for local communities.

ArtWash (Thame, United Kingdom)
https://www.artwash.co.uk/

ArtWash is an artist-led association that makes art and events happen in unconventional spaces and contexts, such as an operating laundrette. It also provides a platform for regional, national and international artists, offering them feedback and dialogue on the development of their work.

De Warande Cultural House (Turnhout, Belgium)
https://www.warande.be

De Warande is a regional centre for art and culture with a focus on societal tendencies. It aims to to support artists in their development, to challenge art lovers with experiments and novelties and to be a welcoming space for those who want to experience all kinds of culture.

Sue Sheehan (Coppenbrügge, Germany)
http://www.sue-sheehan.de

Sue Sheehan is an American freelance musician living in Germany, where she coordinates a world music project in rural areas, focusing on migration, refugees and mixing professional and amateur musical practices.

Podgórze Culture Centre (Krakow, Poland)
http://www.ckpodgorza.pl

Centrum Kultury Podgórze (CKP) is one of the most significant creative spots in Krakow and its Podgórze district. It carries out broad and diverse artistic and educational activities, including workshops, courses, concerts, exhibitions, performances and events about local tradition and history.
Culture and Folk Art Centre RITUMS (Riga, Latvia)
https://www.ritums.lv/en/
Ritums is an culture and folk art centre in Riga that has been running since 1995. It focuses on immaterial cultural heritage, traditional culture and applied arts. Ritums showcases 36 amateur art groups and offers monthly exhibitions of professional and emerging artists.

Xarxaprod – Network of spaces for production and creation in Catalonia (Barcelona, Spain)
http://www.xarxaprod.cat
Xarxaprod – Network of spaces for production and creation in Catalonia – gathers 26 public and private centres working on contemporary cultural production and creation. The main objectives are sharing and optimizing resources, as well as reinforcing members’ relationship to society and benefits for the public.

Foundation New Music-Impulses Schleswig-Holstein (Eutin, Germany)
https://www.neue-musik-impulse.com
Stiftung Neue Musik-Impulse Schleswig-Holstein manages the project CLASSICAL BEAT, a festival combining classical with modern electronic music in the North of Germany, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands. It also works with scientific researchers in the music-sociological field to get the younger generation interested in classical concerts.

Association Sur le bout des doigts (Ixelles, Belgium)
https://surleboutdesdoigts.org/
Sur le bout des doigts is a Belgian theater company composed of two hearing actors and two deaf actors. It creates pieces using sign language to build bridges between deaf and hearing communities around art, and to improve the cultural offer for disabled people.

Sanatatak (Kadıköy, Turkey)
http://www.sanatatak.com
Sanatatak is an online platform for arts and culture in Turkey. The main activities of the organisation are publications, education, the ongoing My First Century project, and a residency programme.

Mutamento (Turin, Italy)
https://www.mutamento.org/
Il Mutamento Zona Castalia is a professional theatre production company and nonprofit cultural association. It presents original productions, organises cultural events and offers artistic workshops and labs for children, youth, migrants, disabled persons and others.

Non Riservato Network (Milan, Italy)
http://www.nonriservato.net/it
Non Riservato is a network of non-profit associations working in the Milan area. Their main objective is the revitalisation and activation of public spaces through art and cultural interventions. It also runs a training program to support sustainable cultural management and communication.

Muzikator (Škofja Loka, Slovenia)
http://www.muzikator.si/
Muzikator deals with art education in the field of music, creating synergies between arts and education, artists and teachers, cultural and educational foundations. It organises innovative workshops for children, offering them the chance to experience, create and perform music in public with professional musicians.
**ENCC Members**

**FULL MEMBERS**

**National networks of cultural centers**
- **ACC**, Association des Centres Culturels de Wallonie, Belgium
- **ASTRAC**, Réseau des professionnels en Centres culturels de la Communauté Wallonie-Bruxelles, Belgium
- **BSZ**, Bundesvereinigung Soziokultureller Zentren e.V., Germany
- **Съюзнанароднитечиталища (Chitalishta Union)**, Bulgaria
- **IG Kultur Österreich**, Austria
- **Kulturális Központok Országos Szövetsége (KKOSZ)**, Hungary
- **Kulturerhusene i Danmark**, Denmark
- **Latvijas Kultūras darbiniekus biedrība**, Latvia
- **Lietuvos liaudies kultūros centras**, Lithuania
- **Rahvakultuuri Keskus**, Estonia
- **Suomen kulttuuritalot ry**, Finland
- **VCC, Vereniging Vlaamse Cultuur- en gemeenschapscentra vzw**, Belgium

**Regional networks of cultural centers**
- **Mazowiecki Instytut Kultury**, Poland
- **Xarxa prodxarxa de centres de Creació i Producció de Catalunya**, Spain

**Local networks (individual cultural centers)**
- **ARCU** – Centrul Cultural al Municipiului București, Romania
- **A Vértex Agorája (Agora Sport és Szabadidő Közhazná Nonprofit Kft.)**, Hungary
- **Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre**, United Kingdom
- **Centar za kulturu Trešnjevka**, Croatia
- **Centrum Kultury Podgórza**, Poland
- **Cēsu Kultūras centr**, Latvia
- **Culturcentrum Leopoldsburg**, Belgium
- **Cultuurhuis de Warande**, Belgium
- **Dom Kultury Dorozkarnia**, Ośrodek Działania Artystycznych dla Dzieci i Młodzieży, Poland
- **Gemeenschapscentrum De Zevp**, Belgium
- **Gminny Ośrodek Kultury Oleśnica**, Poland
- **Íslan Panorama Setrið**, Iceland
- **KD Mlejn**, Czech Republic

**ASSOCIATED MEMBERS**
- **La Cárcel - Segovia Creation Centre**, Spain
- **La Expositiva**, Spain
- **Menningarmiðstöð Pingeyinga**, Iceland
- **Miejski Dom Kultury in Radomsku**, Poland
- **Miejski Ośrodek Kultury w Konstantynowie Łódzkim**, Poland
- **Ośrodek Kultury Ochoty**, Poland
- **Puertas de Castilla**, Spain
- **Rete delle Case del Quartiere**, Italy
- **RITUMS Kultūras un tautas mākslas centrs**, Latvia
- **RD IKSD VEF Kultūras pilis**, Latvia
- **Samorządowe Centrum Kultury w Mielcu**, Poland
- **Stazione Leopolda**, Italy

- **LaCérès**
- **Asociación Cultural Hacería Arteak**, Spain
- **Fundación Iberoamericana de las Industrias Culturales y Creativas**, Spain
- **Galerija Štab**, Serbia
- **Il Mutamento Zona Castalia**, Italy
- **Le LABA**, France
- **Muzikator**, Slovenia
- **Non Riservato**, Italy
- **Πλέγμα (Plegma)**, Greece
- **Praxis**, Russia
- **Sanatatak**, Turkey
- **Sophia Littkopf**, Germany
- **Stiftung Neue Musik-Impulse Schleswig-Holstein**, Germany
- **Sue Sheehan Band**, Germany
- **Sur le bout des doigts**, Belgium