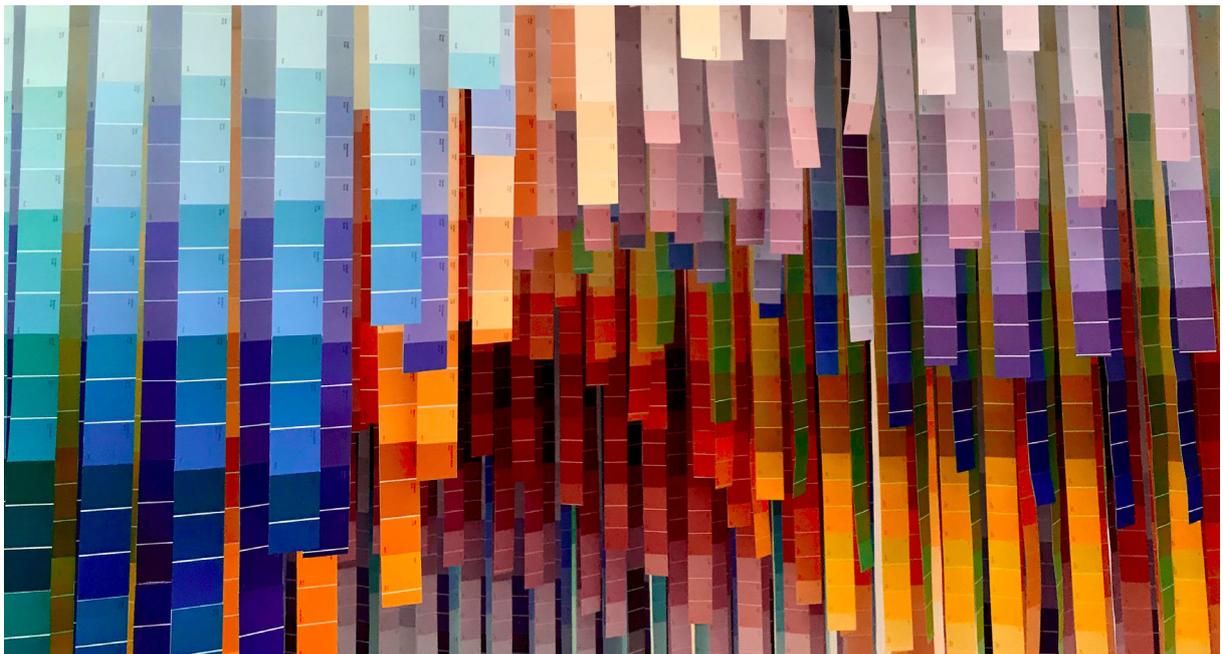EUROPEAN
NETWORK OF
CULTURAL
CENTRES

ENCC

STRATEGIC PLAN

# *ENCC New Generation - «Culture is Everybody»!*

# Mission

The ENCC, as a transdisciplinary and pluralistic network, aims to connect and strengthen the potential of socio-cultural centres and other cultural and artistic participatory practices organized at multiple levels, while advocating for the value of their work in Europe and beyond, to contribute to revitalising European democracy, civil society, inclusion and intercultural dynamics.

# Vision and beliefs

We envision an emancipatory, solidary and sustainable society, which derives from culture, creativity and the arts.
We believe that active participation in arts and culture on an individual level brings personal development but also societal cohesion.
We believe in the importance of ensuring fairness, justice, equality and inclusion in the practice of arts and culture.
We believe in the decisive role of socio-culture as a basis for building an open, connected and inclusive world and in its potential to envision responses for our common challenges.

# Values and frame of reference

Apart from the mission and the vision the ENCC is being guided in all its activities by our core values:

- Participation – the creation of culture as a common good to be built collectively in Europe and throughout the world;
- Diversity – the celebration of diversity within cultural centres and in the wider socio-cultural sector by putting in place policies and practices that challenge all forms of discrimination and stereotypes;
- Cultural equity, in line with the Fribourg Declaration on Cultural Rights, article 3 and 4;
- Development of intercultural competencies and policy frames;
- Accessibility - creating conditions for inclusive participation in culture regardless of one's age, origin, race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, with a special focus on arts and disability, in line with the Fribourg Declaration on Cultural Rights, article 5;
- Cultural democracy - in line with Porto Santo Charter 2021, it implies the value of distinct cultures and publics and recognises the right for emancipation and empowerment of people as active cultural subjects who participate in and decide the cultural life of their communities;
- Territorial development - regenerating urban-rural linkages by integrating culture at the core of regional and rural planning, both in local and global senses;
- Sustainability - in line with SDGs of the UN, working for a sustainable future on the multiple dimensions of sustainability: environmental, social, economical but also taking into account related aspects such as ethical digitalization;
- Empowerment - providing our members and other cultural actors with platforms and tools to grow in their respective strengths and increase their impact in societies;
- Networking and cooperation – in line with Porto Santo Charter 2021, mapping public cultural institutions, third sector entities and cultural agents, including informal collectives that work for the promotion of a participative culture, and creating ties for common projects, sharing good practices and learning from one another;
- Democracy - internal democratic functioning and participation of members to the life of the network;
- Referring documents at this regard are: the Fribourg declaration, the Roma Charter, the Porto Santo Charter, the UN sustainable development goals, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

# *Strategic and operational objectives - 2021/2025*

ENCC has a significant potential: as a transdisciplinary network in the cultural and socio-cultural sector, deeply anchored within European societies, grassroots institutes and local territories, it reaches a large variety of local audiences and territories that are often underrepresented within European disciplinary cultural and artistic spaces / networks.

The key strategic objectives for the period 2021-2025 are:

## *S.O.1: BRIDGING, NETWORKING and COOPERATION*

Strengthen existing socio-cultural networks by offering inputs and a platform to be connected, and support all efforts to develop new networks of cultural centres in Europe on urban, national and regional levels, fostering cooperation and innovative practices.

Related UN sustainable development goals: 11, 16, 17.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

1.a) support emerging cultural networks at all levels (local, national, regional, etc.) and stimulate their creation;
1.b) Connect existing cultural centres and foster exchange and cooperation between our members and beyond;
1.c) Explore and support models of cooperation and territorial development, activate community life, re-discuss ideas and reimagine the meaning and connections between 'rural' and 'urban';
1.d) Create opportunities for connection and cooperation between different sectors and actors in order to foster sustainable systemic change and mainstream culture into their work; build strategic partnerships with European networks operating in key sectors like Environment, Health, Social inclusion, Education, in order to enable cross-cutting initiatives and overcome the silo mentality that affects policymaking and organisations.

## *S.O.2: CAPACITY BUILDING and EMPOWERMENT:*

Provide support and empowerment to cultural centres through capacity building, professionalization and peer learning, with a focus on specific societal challenges and, as a priority, the reintegration of the European dimension and values.

Related UN sustainable development goals: 4, 5, 16, 11

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

2.a) Support the professionalization and the organizational capacities of cultural centres and their staff;
2.b) Foster active participation and the socio-cultural approach of cultural centres as a key answer to societal challenges;
2.c) Provide activating impulses to the whole network on specific burning issues with multiannual focuses on cross-cutting topics such as diversity and inclusion, accessibility, arts and disability, territorial development, sustainability;
2.d) Enhance the role of community participation in local governance and participative leadership on all levels (neighbourhoods, rural areas, communities, counties, regions, etc.).

## *S.O.3: ADVOCACY FOR SOCIO-CULTURE:*

Advocate for the values and benefits of socially engaged arts and culture on the European level and beyond and give visibility to the work done at local, regional and national levels, while creating meaningful partnerships with other relevant actors.

Related sustainable development goals: 4, 5, 16, 17

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

3.a) Provide visibility to the needs, impact and potentials of socially engaged arts and culture;
3.b) Cooperate with other European and non-European cultural networks to create greater synergy between such networks;
3.c) foster an holistic approach to society, connecting culture and social engagement and fulfilling the potential of culture in tackling important challenges that European society is facing;
3.d) advocate for socially engaged arts and culture, their values and benefits on a wider European level.

# ANNEX 1 - Glossary

*SOCIO-CULTURE - involving a combination of social and cultural factors, namely:*

1. *Providing everyone with access to creativity and artistic expression in various genres;*
2. *Connecting professionals and non-professionals, and creating mutual learning experiences;*
3. *Encouraging participants to develop their cultural and social potential to shape their environment sustainably;*
4. *Offering tools, methods and experience to support diverse forms of civic engagement;*
5. *Making spaces, equipment and networks available for cultural activity;*
6. *Bringing together partners from different sectors and initiating further collaboration;*
7. *Nurturing mutual understanding and making the cultural diversity of society tangible;*
8. *Engaging the community through participation in the design of programs and projects;*
9. *Working with culture and cultural education towards inclusion, for democracy and an open society;*
10. *Focusing not only on the final results but also on the whole process.*

**ENCC**
European Network of Cultural Centres