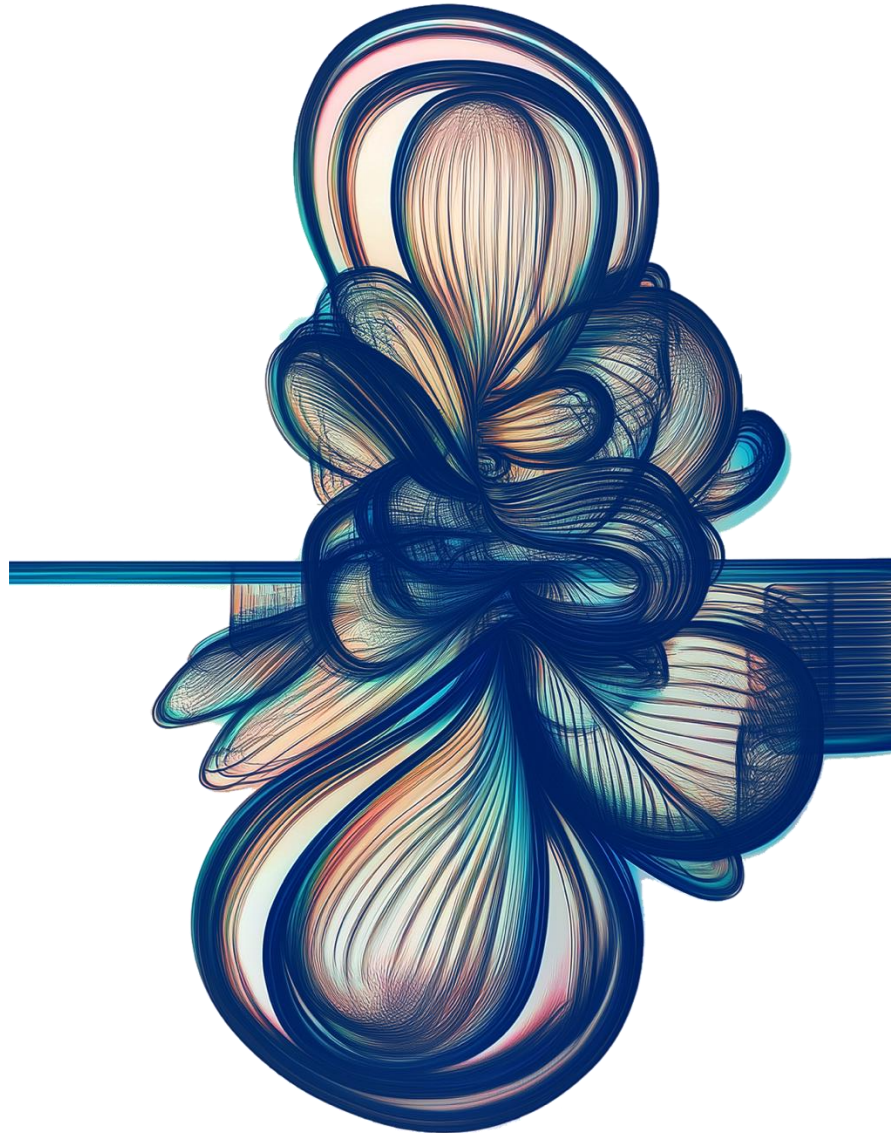




EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY

Cities & Regions Network

Permanently Open Expression of Interest for Delegates





About the EIT Culture & Creativity

EIT Culture & Creativity is the 9th Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) initiated and co-funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union.

This community integrates stakeholders from the Cultural & Creative Sectors and Industries in education, research, innovation, business and culture across all 15 sectors, disciplines and about 30 nations to provide new connections and opportunities.

EIT Culture & Creativity empowers this ecosystem and its members to turn innovation into impact and to do what one cannot obtain as a single organisation. It works for small, medium and large organisations, commercial and non-profit alike, from individual creators to large networks, from private investors to public funders, as well as for cities and regions.

Tackling challenges that span from economic and sector-specific to societal, through actions in education, innovation, and business creation by transdisciplinary and trans-sector collaboration, EIT CC unlocks the innovative potential of its fragmented ecosystem, unleashing the untapped societal impact of the EU CCSI, and contributing to Europe's triple transition, while accelerating competitive and resilient cultural and creative entrepreneurship. Learn more about the EIT CC mission, impact goals and KPIs to reach by 2027 in the EIT CC Strategic Agenda 2024-2027.

EIT CC focuses on the selected priority areas: Architecture, Audio-visual Media, Cultural Heritage, Fashion, and Gaming, each having its specific challenges and needs for intervention, while representing a significant share of the EU CCSI workforce and revenue. While this KIC places a strategic emphasis on these priority areas, it extends its scope beyond an exclusive engagement with stakeholders solely within these sectors.

Our vision for the EIT CC innovation community is to fundamentally change the CCSI towards new understandings of competitiveness, resilience, and sustainable economic growth by changing the practice of entrepreneurship.

The entrepreneurship we support converts short term initiatives or projects into long term partnerships with a societal purpose, which are financially sustainable.

With support and co-financing programmes, launched publicly every year, we empower organisations to launch and carry out innovative higher education and lifelong learning training offers, as well as innovative products and



services, to better access private financing through the EIT CC Investment Network, to adopt emerging technologies and new business models, and to scale globally. With regional and European programmes and pitching rounds, we incubate start-ups and support legacy companies when spinning off innovations into new companies.

Education, research and business activities are embedded in frameworks and regulations. This is why EIT CC facilitates cities and regions to be innovative in relation to frameworks and regulations for the growth of CCSI. Learn more about the EIT CC Cities & Regions Networks.

Through six regional hubs in Europe (Co-Location Centres), we turn European innovation potential into societal impacts, also locally and concretely making a difference.

EIT CC is not merely another public body that funds projects, but facilitates long term partnerships with a return on investment and a societal purpose. To this end, we will also become a holding company for the top European CCSI organisations. In this way, we strengthen the global competitiveness of European culture and creativity.

About the EIT Culture & Creativity's Cities & Regions Network

Challenge

The EIT CC has two overarching impact goals where Cities, Regions and Nations can make a pivotal difference to initiate and/or scale the impact the EIT CC strives to reach. These are:

- Increasing resilience in and by EU CCSI, by reducing environmental impact and boosting social cohesion
- Accelerating transitions towards sustainable and responsible economic growth of EU CCSI

However, Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries are often in-between policies and administrative frameworks, either too business-like for the cultural department or too cultural for the business department. For urban development cultural activities often seem too short timed. For this reason, the job and growth potential of CCSI is often underused in cities and regions. Additionally, their potential contributions to climate adaptation, social cohesion, and innovation are not recognized as relevant enough.

Although there are ongoing projects, including those within European programs, aimed at promoting exchange and



collaborative action among policymakers, they frequently suffer from limitations in time, scope, or disciplines, resulting in only partial solutions and implementations on local and regional level.

However, the development of ecosystem integrating education, research, business and cultural institutions are still uncommon, despite the fact the CCSI are the 2nd / 3rd largest business sector in Europe, and in many cities and regions too. Often simple mappings are missing even.

There is an untapped potential of innovative policies and frameworks in cities, regions and nations to scale impact of the CCSI. The Cities and Regions Network wants to unleash this potential.

Vision of the Cities & Regions Network

The Cities & Regions Network will be the first long-term, fully actionable platform for peer learning and concrete delivering of innovations for coherent and cross-domain innovation and policies, frameworks, and regulations on local and regional level for the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries. It will become a mission-driven community of holistic practices for the development, validation, prototyping and rapid implementation of innovation and growth frameworks for CCSI, as well as a space for inspiration and empowerment open to representatives of local and regional governance levels.

Mission

The EIT Culture & Creativity's Cities & Regions Network is a dynamic platform that harnesses the diverse competences, experiences, and backgrounds of its participants across various policy domains, departments, disciplines, and sectors. Its mission is to realize actionable implementation of innovation and growth policies, frameworks, and regulations for the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) in cities and regions, and in doing so, positioning and strengthening the EU CCSI and Europe in global competition.

By co-creating innovative forms of peer learning, exchange, and knowledge transfer, we strive for challenge based and effective local and regional structure that continuously tests, iterates, and optimizes new approaches in improving innovation and growth frameworks.



As innovative form to overcome local policy silos hindering the growth of CCSI, the Cities and Regions Network calls on its members as a rule to pilot, implement or mainstream “intergroup” approaches, that is e.g. having the economic affairs and cultural committee work together for a coherent local or regional strategy of CCSI.

The Cities & Regions Network Delegates function also as ambassadors and testimonials for the pivotal role of cities and regions, that no other players can fulfil and deliver to scale the impact of the European CCSI. These ambassadors interest in and attract other cities and regions to join the EIT CC Cities & Regions Network. The EIT CC Cities & Regions Network strengthens the visibility and highlights the role of cities and regions for the future of the European CCSI and of Europe as such, also in international dialogues and agenda.

As part of its commitment, the Cities & Regions Network provides advice and support to the EIT CC Programmes. In particular, the Cities & Regions Network is collaborating with the EKIP partnership (<https://ekipengine.eu/>), which is aimed at developing innovation policies for the cultural and creative industries. This collaboration uses the research and innovation produced by the EKIP partnership and implement it in a number of regional settings through the delegates of the Network, ensuring a long-term impact of the EKIP project.

Governance and operation

EIT Culture & Creativity Cities & Regions Network was kicked off on 15 June 2023. During 2023 and 2024, stakeholders involved in the Cities & Regions Network designed and co-created its internal way of working and cooperating. Starting in 2025, EIT Culture & Creativity will provide adequate staff and resources to ensure feasibility of operations and governance. It will provide co-funding for the annual Policy Forum event which is hosted by one of the members.

Each year delegates meet and coordinate work plans and deliverables for the coming year to support the pathway to impact and KPIs of the EIT Culture & Creativity Strategic Agenda 2024 – 2027. Read more [here](#).



Cities and Regions Network delegates

Members of the EIT Culture & Creativity Cities & Regions Network are called delegates. The Cities & Regions Network expects to have 200 delegates in 2027. Delegates commit to take active part in the Cities & Regions Network activities:

- Cities and Regions Forum: once a year, one day in presence event.
- Working groups: twice a year, half day & hybrid meeting.
- Inter-group initiatives: once a year, hosted by each delegates' organisations (rotatory).
- Peer-to-peer learning about innovations in policy and administration frameworks
- Joint transnational activities to innovate policy and administration frameworks

Delegates are expected to attend most of the compulsory activities, though they can appoint a representative with adequate experience and background for certain activities.

Delegates are expected to commit minimum time and staff capacity of appropriate working days, as well as travel budget to participate in above listed events, inter-group initiatives, conceptual work and preparations.

Delegates term of participation has a duration of 3 years. Re-appointment is possible once.

Expression of Interest for Delegates

EIT Culture & Creativity invites policymakers across Europe to become delegates of the Cities & Regions Network.

Who can apply?

EIT Culture & Creativity will welcome applications from:

- Policymakers, as in individuals who are serving as elected politicians or civil servants in local, regional and/or national administrations.



- Representatives of European professional associations, such as CEOs or members of the board.

Applicants should have at least 5 years of documented experience in policymaking or associative representation. Applicants from European countries and beyond are welcomed. Applicants from all policy domains and sectors are encouraged, provided they have a strong interest in incorporating cultural and creative practices and policies as a resource for innovation development and problem solving in their competence areas.

Applicants should be fluent enough in English to ensure active and productive participation in the activities of the Network and to provide written input in English whenever necessary. The Cities & Regions Network will not provide translation or interpretation services.

Applicants are expected to be strongly motivated to engage in teamwork and to commit to cooperative, respectful interaction with peers, while maintaining their full right to constructive dissent and negotiation.

Timeline

The Expression of Interest for Delegates will remain open until 31 December 2025.

There will be cut off dates every month to decide upon incoming applications. Applicants are informed about the decision within 4 weeks after sending the application.

How to apply

Applicants may submit their application through [this form](#). The following information will be requested:

- A motivational letter including details on:
 - years of experience and at which administrative level they are working (local/ regional)
 - the reason of their interest in the Cities & Regions Network,
 - the contribution that they expect to provide to the Network based upon their experience and interests, or potential staff or funding capacities for the Cities & Regions Network
 - the specific aspects of their professional career and experience that support this contribution.



- what they expect to achieve from their participation to the Cities & Regions Network within the next 3 years,
- Documentation of selected activities, policies or initiatives in the last 3 years supporting #3 (above)
- Two letters of support from colleagues from the same administration explaining why the applicant would bring value both to their organization and to the Cities & Regions Network are not mandatory but appreciated.

By submitting their applications, applicants accept the responsibilities described in the above chapter “Cities and Regions Network delegates”.

Review of applications and admission

Nonetheless, the exact number of accepted delegates will be determined during the selection process to guarantee a viable functioning of the governance and co-creation process, while ensuring fair representation of administrative levels (local/ regional), geographical origins, age and experience, and gender.

In this spirit, the Cities & Regions Network will strive to maintain at least: 40% of the least represented gender.

- 40% of the least represented gender.
- 40% of its members should currently be working in organisations based in [RIS eligible countries](#).
- 70% of its members should work in organisations from or for the CCSI or public bodies (administrations or elected bodies) related to, focused on, or promoting the CCSI.
- 50% of its members should be from smaller communities, towns, or rural areas.

In case number of application exceeds the Cities & Regions Network capacity, applications will be placed in a waiting list. Applicants in the waiting lists may be called in case of an opening.

Additional information

For more information of the Cities & Regions Network: <https://eit-culture-creativity.eu/get-involved/cities-regions-network/>

For doubts or queries, please contact info@eit-culture-creativity.eu