



MEMORANDUM

FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF THE CANDIDATE CITIES NETWORK

Considering that:

Bidding for the European Capital of Culture (ECoC) 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;

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 – can make better use of this exceptional mobilising of talents, ideas and resources;

Culture is essential as a transformative force for social and urban development and it should be included as a pillar of the local development strategies of all European cities.

Us, the signatories of this Memorandum agree to associate to establish the Candidate Cities Network.

The mission of the network is to support current and former European Capital of Culture 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.

The network will start operating as an informal alliance. The functioning of the network is detailed in the enclosed concept paper. The secretariat of the network is held by the Cluj Cultural Centre, in Romania.

SIGNATORIES/FOUNDING MEMBERS

Ștefan Teișanu, Executive Director, Cluj Cultural Centre, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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