IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH!

European Creative Hubs Network

Network Membership Presentation
Dear hub leaders,

Welcome to our vibrant community of creative hubs around Europe!

A creative hub is an organisation which builds a community around creative & cultural activities supporting its members’ personal growth, collaboration, interaction and development.

Hubs may be diverse in size, shape and focus of activities, but all of them produce cultural and creative value for their local ecosystem and the wider creative ecosystem.

We are devoted to making an impact through our work locally and globally and determined to raise awareness of the value that hubs produce, sustain their future and support the creative ecosystem.

Please take 15 minutes to go through this document, reflect and discuss with your team, and hopefully join our network so that we can plan the next steps together. Also, feel free to get in touch with us at any time via info@creativehubs.net.
The European Creative Hubs Network (ECHN) is a peer-led network with a mission to enhance the creative, economic and social impact of creative hubs.

This is the only network in Europe specifically tailored to support hubs that host and connect multiple creative businesses. As focal points for cultural and creative professionals, creative hubs play a key role at the intersection of culture, economy, society, education and technology, and they offer the most effective way to support the growth and impact of the CCS. To achieve this, hubs themselves need to network, to pool resources, share best practices, and build on advocacy, policy and opportunities - and this is what ECHN offers to its members.
Our values

TRANSPARENCY
We believe in transparency and accountability, as a way to sustain real relationships, clearly communicate and build an open and inclusive community.

COLLABORATION
We believe in collaboration as a key process to achieve greater impact and create a stronger ecosystem.

RESPONSIBILITY
We believe in responsibility as a key element to be effective partners, amplify our voice and create a fair community.
European Creative Hubs Network started as a two-year project in 2016, co-funded by the European Commission. The British Council was leading the project in partnership with six creative hubs across Europe – Bios in Greece, Roco in the UK, Betahaus in Germany, Nova Iskra in Serbia, Creative Edinburgh in UK and Factoria Cultural in Spain, as well as the European Business and Innovation Centres Network (EBN).

Throughout the project, it became evident that the potential that European creative hubs carry as new, agile “species” of organisations within the CCS, is immense. Sitting at the crossing of cultural production as we know it, the frontlines of the fourth industrial revolution and the knowledge economy, hubs are the ultimate change-makers. And regardless of their model, shape or location, hubs do share many common challenges.

ECHN proved that there is a great need for peer-to-peer exchange of experience, skills and knowledge sharing, learning, collaboration, and networking in order to bring each one of our organisations forward, advocate together and secure our common future as key players at the intersections of culture, economy, society, education and technology.

Following the open discussions which took place at the Forum in Sheffield (2017), an informal group of hubs proposed at the ECHN Campus in Brussels (2018) to take the first steps to officially set-up the network and invite members to join.

Hubs that facilitated this transition phase until the first General Assembly of the network were: Bios Romantso in Greece (Vassilis Charalambidis), Nova Iskra in Serbia (Relja Bobić), Republikken in Denmark (Ivan Lopez Garrido), Kaapeli in Finland (Kai Huotari), ATÖLYE in Turkey (Atılım Şahin, Kerem Alper) and CRU Creative Hub in Porto (Tânia Santos).

And this is how ECHN evolved from a project to a network.
The Network is run by the Board of Directors, which consists of five members and two alternates, elected for 3 years by the General Assembly. The Board of Directors leads the management and the future direction of the network.

The current board elected from 2019 to 2022:

Vassilis Charalampidis, President, Bios Romantso | Athens, Greece
Tânia Almeida Santos, Vice President, CRU Creative Hub | Porto, Portugal
Atılım Şahin, Secretary General, ATÖLYE | Istanbul, Turkey
Ivan Lopez Garrido, Treasurer, Republikken | Copenhagen, Denmark
Luka Piškorič, Member, Poligon | Ljubljana, Slovenia
Wolf Kühr, Alternate member, Volumes | Paris, France
Ben Kolp, Alternate member, The Living Room Coworking | Malaga, Spain

The management team:

Chryssa Vlachopoulou - Projects manager
Rita Cortes - Community manager
Davide Amato - Project officer

You are invited to read through the complete statutory legal document of the network in full form. It is extensive as this is the version submitted to the court of Athens, as ECHN legal entity is based in Athens, Greece.
By joining the European Creative Hub Network, you become part of a family that empowers each one of the member organisations, offers many opportunities to advance their communities, and acts beyond borders.

What does the network do to support its members?

1. Communication and first hand access to information

At its core a network performs the role of connecting individual members, allowing a flow of information across the network. We, at the European Creative Hubs Network, facilitate this process by sharing information in a transparent way. Tailormade communication helps matching opportunities with needs of each hub and facilitates possible collaboration and partnerships within the network.

2. Training and Development (i.e. capacity building)

With a lot of hubs operating on minimal staff and in isolation, the network has a responsibility to offer training and developing opportunities for its members. It achieves this through peer-to-peer exchange programmes, workshops, promotion of member-hosted workshops and events, webinars and materials shared online, mentorship of new hub leaders by experienced existing members. In 2021 we supported 80 projects fostering skills development for creative hubs and their community members, counting more than 350 participants and reaching out to more than 1200 people through disseminating events.
3. Events

The network aims to facilitate as many in-person interactions to build real relationships between members. It is through these in-person interactions that we create a community that transcends borders. However, we also host online meetings on a regular basis as a way to stay connected.

Workshops and webinars - yearly we create a new series of workshops and webinars designed to match the needs of our community, both offline and online.

Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programs - Peer learning and exchange is one of our skills development pillars offered to the members yearly. Every year, we host a programme of P2P exchange testing different formats and ways to exchange.

Conferences - A series of events about the CCS and its ecosystem, an opportunity to network and connect to the experts and trends of the sector.

Monthly: ECHN Family Online Brunch - Our monthly casual gatherings, every first Friday of the month. We meet on Zoom, share our news, and put under the spotlight one of our members to get to know their story better.

Annual: General Assembly - the main annual event at which the management and future direction of the network is decided.
4. Policy Advocacy

One of the main missions of the network is to raise awareness of the creative, economical and social value which hubs represent and their role in local and the global ecosystems.

This is why the map of European hubs on our website is open to all hubs (members and non-members) to pin themselves down and amplify the voice of the sector.

Creative hubs, as cross-sectoral organisations, have a significant influence on their local territory and community. We share the ambition to extend this impact in Europe by connecting these communities and taking action all together. We are supporting hubs in making their voice heard on a local and international level.

Considering the vast majority of CCIs are micro-enterprises, policy support for the creative industries often remains underrepresented: we want to bridge the gap by maintaining links with the EU institutions on key issues affecting the creative sector.

5. Access to Grants and Funds

We want to facilitate the process of applying and participating in European Grants and Funds by being the first point of contact among our members to collaborate and foster partnerships in open calls. We also provide our members with letters of support on their proposals and help them scout partners by matchmaking skills and competences.
Want to join the network?

The ECHN community welcomes creative hubs but also organisations, institutions, networks and individuals whose work is relevant to the Cultural and Creative Sectors.

We also encourage the creative hubs (members and non-members) that would just like to be on the European map of hubs on ECHN’s website to pin their organisations using the Add your Hub button available to all interested parties.
Regular Membership

For Creative Hubs:

Criteria to join the network

1. A hub’s focus must be to support the Creative and Cultural Industries (CCIs).
2. A hub must be a base for multiple businesses and/or individuals from the Cultural and Creative Industries.
3. A hub must have a physical community activation.
4. A hub must be focused on the professional and social development of its community.

If you meet all the four criteria listed, you qualify to join the network as a regular member. By paying the annual membership fee*, regular members benefit from all of the network activities/resources, and have a right to vote, nominate etc.

Associate Membership

We welcome hubs, organizations, institutions, networks and individuals that do not meet the regular membership’s criteria to join the Network as Associate Members provided they have professional activity and interest relevant to the CCS.

Associate members have the right to benefit from all the activities and resources by paying an annual fee**. Associate members are not eligible to vote or be nominated in the general assembly.

* & ** : The network offered memberships free of charge for 2020 & 2021 as an act of solidarity to the sector that suffered from the COVID-19 crisis. In 2022, the annual fees have been resumed as before COVID. Nevertheless, we will keep supporting members facing financial challenges. Memberships are valid on a calendar year basis (January – December).

For applications that come in after July 1st of every year, members can pay half the membership fee for the current year.
Our vision is to sustain a close-knit community of hubs that are willing to collaborate with each other, accountable to take responsibility to propel creative hubs forward.

For the network to be effective, members need to be active in their participation.

A network with a small number of active members can achieve much more than a large network of passive members.

It is therefore essential that, by joining the network, members will agree to actively participate in ECHN’s activities, cascading information, request for advocacy support and support the network’s advocacy activities, contribute to the network in: hosting a peer exchange visit, host workshops for members, mentor other hub leaders etc.

There are three proposed levels of membership fees, paid on an annual basis. Hubs are welcome to pay whichever fee level they feel able to, however, guidance on an appropriate amount is provided below (and showing a monthly breakdown for reference). The record of payments will be made public so there is transparency on contribution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Annual turnover of the hub</th>
<th>Annual ECHN membership Fee</th>
<th>Monthly ECHN membership Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small hub</td>
<td>up to 150K €</td>
<td>180 €</td>
<td>15 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium hub</td>
<td>150K - 1M €</td>
<td>480 €</td>
<td>40 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large hub</td>
<td>+ 1M €</td>
<td>960 €</td>
<td>80 €</td>
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</tbody>
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How to join?
Three easy steps.

Step 1
Fill in the online form, and thus sign up for membership.

Step 2
You will receive feedback from our community manager: we will invite you for an introductory call to get to know each other and then you will receive the membership payment details and signup/agreement letter so you can officially join the network.

Step 3
Once you fill in the membership papers and complete the payment of your first membership, you have officially become a member of the European Creative Hubs Network! Hooray!!
We would love to hear from you!

We strongly believe that In Union There is Strength! (our motto) and we are looking forward to welcoming you to the family!

If you still have any questions regarding memberships or future collaborations, feel free to contact us at info@creativehubs.net.