

THE EUROPEAN CREATIVE HUBS NETWORK POLICY PAPERS RESTRICTED CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Creative Hubs are platforms or workplaces for all creative actors from artists and musicians through designers and filmmakers to entrepreneurs in, or open to engagement with, the creative industries and broader creative sector. They are uniquely diverse in structure, sector and services, and range from collective and co-operative, to labs and incubators; and can be static, mobile or online.

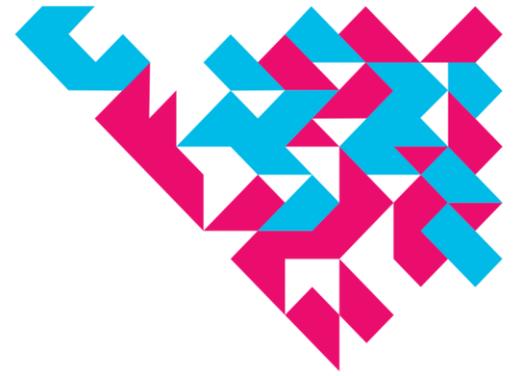
Over the last decade, Creative Hubs have come to be recognised as *drivers of growth for the creative industries* and *catalysts for cross-sectorial innovation* whose impact resonates far beyond any narrow sectorial confines or physical boundaries of space. They are uniquely placed to spark discussion, foster collaboration and generate distinctive practices, offering much needed exhibition, performance and work spaces and contributing significantly to agendas in regeneration, tourism, education, inward investment and endogenous socio-economic growth.

The **European Creative Hubs Network (ECHN)** is a two-year project co-funded by the European Union through the Creative Europe programme, to help Creative Hubs connect and collaborate across Europe. Launched in February 2016, ECHN is building a community network of Creative Hubs by hosting a series of people-to-people encounters incorporating trainings, debates, best practice sharing and other topical and sometimes difficult discussions.

One of the ECHN project deliverables is to conduct **policy analyses** towards producing a recommendations' framework that will help champion the sector and ensure Creative Hubs are supported by policy and continue to thrive in the decades to come.

The format of the analyses and recommendations will be that of policy papers developed with a clear objective of taking forward policy dialogue in the sector. The papers shall review existing sector policies (mapping, desk analysis, bibliography, interviews, etc.), showcase best practices or innovative practices, and provide a needs analysis of the Creative Hubs sector, and issue recommendations to improve policy at local, regional and EU level, in support of the Creative Hubs.

To this end, **EBN invites proposals from its members and from creative hubs in the ECHN network to participate in the development of three policy papers addressing existing and emerging challenges encountered by Creative Hubs.** Topics for the three papers are described below. Proposers should ensure relevance of the content and synergy with other ECHN activities, such as the Fora topics. EBN and ECHN project team will support the selected author(s) to ensure this



relevance and also provide a good basis for initial bibliography. The author(s) will be invited to present their papers to the ECHN final event, as per the details below.

Each paper should focus on one of the following topics:

1. Labour market & skills development: creative hubs may provide a platform for non-formal education & training better suited to respond to the needs of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) and to contribute to the Lifelong Learning (LLL) agenda than more traditional, formal settings, thereby influencing and contributing to active labour market policies.

This paper could, for example, analyse and showcase best practice examples from the following areas:

- Non-formal education partnerships / training platforms
- Development of digital skills, connecting the creative and cultural sector
- Future of work & creation of new jobs

2. Economic value of creative hubs: creation of new jobs, services and startups.

The paper could analyse and showcase best practice examples from the following areas:

- New business and working models
- Attraction of private investment and collaboration between the cultural sector and their local business community
- Fostering of inclusive entrepreneurship and tailoring of incubation support services to cater to disadvantaged groups

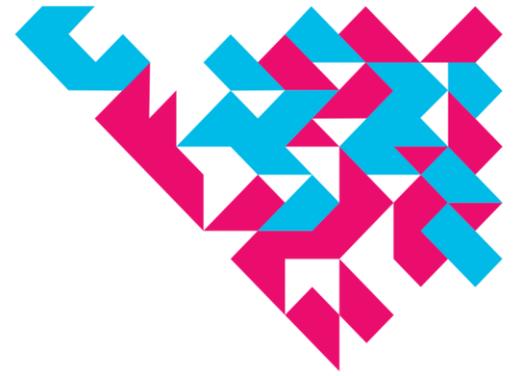
3. The social role of creative hubs

This paper could analyse and showcase best practice examples from the following areas as well:

- social inclusion, community building and work with refugees
- Community open spaces for civic participation, democratic dialogue, freedom of (artistic) expression
- Social innovation and entrepreneurship
- Bringing public services closer to the citizen / working with the public sector (examples: channelling state funds to the arts sector, running public employment programmes, on the job training as part of a public or university training programme)

Proposals should follow the template set out in Annex 3 and outline a research methodology, to ensure the final papers will contain:

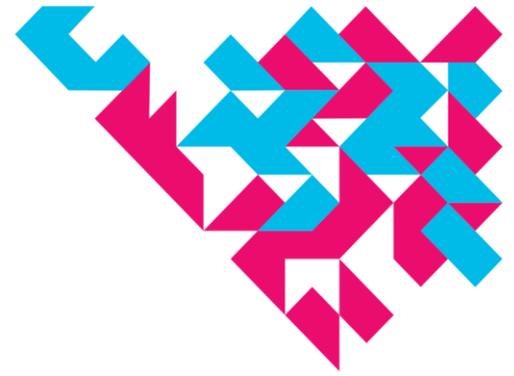
- Context analysis for the specific topic (mapping, desk analysis, bibliography, interviews)
- Case studies of best practice or innovative practice examples
- Recommendations for policy improvements (at local/regional/national and EU level)



Work on the policy papers is expected to begin in June 2017 to allow sufficient time for desk-based and empirical research before the final papers are presented to policy makers at a high-level event that will take place in Brussels some time between mid-January 2018 and mid-February 2018. The proposals should also contain a draft timeline for the development of the paper/s, which allows for review by the ECHN team in consultation with the European Commission. The timeline should respect these key deadline:

- 21 July 2017: Draft literature review
- 22 September 2017: Draft Paper
- 15 November 2017: Final Paper

A total budget of approx €10,000 is foreseen for the three policy papers. Proposals may address one, two or all three of the policy papers, bearing in mind that the budget they request should be proportionate. Proposals should be submitted, addressing the evaluation criteria set out in Annex 2 and following the template provided in Annex 3 to this document to margaret.mulligan@ebn.eu before midnight on **Sunday 24 May**.



ANNEX 1 – ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN CREATIVE HUBS NETWORK

The European Creative Hubs Network is a 2-year project, co-funded by the European Commission through the cross-sectoral strand of the Creative Europe programme, and led by the British Council in partnership with 6 creative hubs across Europe (Bios, betahaus, Creative Edinburgh, Factoria Cultural, Kulturni Kod (Nova Iskra) and Addict) , and EBN.

The focal aim of the European Creative Hubs Network project (ECHN) is to significantly enhance the ecosystem that supports the development and growth of the creative and cultural sector through transnational exchange of experience and knowledge.

The specific objectives of the project, through which it will reach its aim, are:

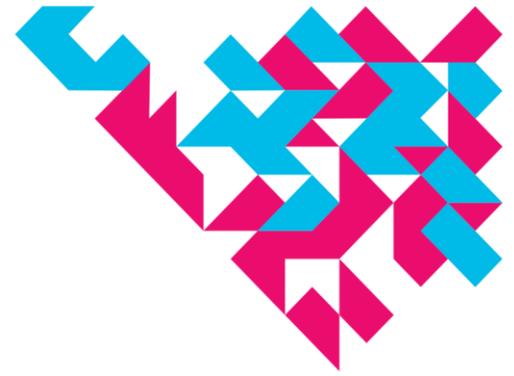
- 1) To support the subsistence and growth of creative hubs in Europe; by enhancing the ecosystem that contributes to their resilience
- 2) To create a community of experienced creative hubs leaders across Europe, from a variety of sectors, business models and stages; in order to enable peer-learning and collaboration on transnational projects
- 3) To promote hubs as innovative models to support the creative economy in Europe, towards shaping policy and funding streams to the needs of the creative hubs.

Activities delivered so far:

- Project launch – April 2016
- Online network platform - <http://creativehubs.eu/>
- Leadership Group
- ECHN Forum #1 took place in Belgrade in September 2016, was organised by Nova Iskra, and brought together 150++ creative hub leaders from across Europe. The forum's main theme looked at the shifting paradigm of work and how creative hubs respond to it ('How work works'). The forum produced a booklet collection of critical texts, available here: <http://creativehubs.eu/resource/how-work-works-publication/>
- P2P scheme round #1 – September 2016 – January 2017
- ECHN Forum #2 took place in Athens in January 2017, was organised by Bios-Romantso, and brought together 150 creative hub leaders from across Europe. The forum's main theme looked at the potential effect creative hubs can have on an economic and social level, both locally and globally. <http://creativehubs.eu/resource/syn-acting-together-publication/>
- ECHN skills workshop #1 Madrid - March 2017 - to empower creative hub leaders with 0-3 years' experience in running a creative hub.

Upcoming activities include:

- Peer-to-peer scheme: application period (31/03 – 23/04/2017), travel period (1/05 – 17/09/2017)

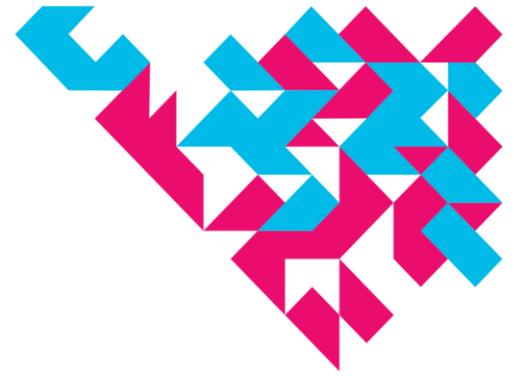


- Mobility scheme supporting peer-to-peer learning and co-creation for creative hub leaders from across Europe. Leaders are encouraged to spend minimum 5 days working in a hub from in a different country, to learn, exchange knowledge and solutions, or set-up collaborative projects. This is the second round of the P2P scheme, during which we will offer 36 mobility grants x 1000EUR.
- Skills Workshop #2 – Berlin: We-Thurs 7-8/06/2017
 - The second skills workshop in a series of three, aiming to help develop skills of creative hub leaders. This workshop will focus on leadership skills, and will target participants who have at least 3 years’ experience in running a hub.
- European Creative Hubs Forum #3 – Sheffield: 09/2017 (dates tbc, probably first two weeks of September)
 - The third and last ECHN Forum will once more bring together 100++ creative hub leaders from across Europe, to network, share experience and discuss common challenges and best practices. This forum will have ‘challenges of the collaborative economy’ as main topic.
- Skills Workshop #3 – Edinburgh: Thur-Fri 19-20/10/2017 (exact dates tbc)
 - The third and final skills workshop, aiming to develop skills of creative hub leaders. This workshop will focus on the future of creative hubs, and will target participants who are ready to drive their creative hubs into the future.
- European Creative Hubs Campus (final event) – Brussels: 01/2018 or 02/2018 (dates tbc).
 - The final event (closing conference) of the ECHN project will take place in Brussels at the beginning of 2018. The Campus will aim to bring together 150+ creative hub leaders, in dialogue with local and national authorities, European policy makers, and other stakeholders. A series of policy recommendations to enable more support for creative hubs, as well as a Creative Hubs Barometer will be presented during this event.

ANNEX 2 – SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals should be a **maximum of 10 A4 pages** (see template in Annex 3) and provide sufficient detail to be assessed against the following selection criteria:

Criteria	Points
Elaboration and further ideas on proposed topic(s) to EBN and ECHN	5
Proposed methodology	5
Previous relevant experience of organisation/ lead author - researcher	5
Sector awareness as indicated by suggested bibliography (max. 10 references)	5
Total	20



Indicative bibliography (non-exhaustive, and to be enriched by the papers' authors)

- Creative Hubkit - <http://creativehubs.eu/resource/creative-hubkit/>
- Workgroup reports from ECHN Forum in Belgrade: SPACE, COMMUNITY, BUSINESS MODELS - <http://creativehubs.eu/resource/belgrade-forum-workgroups-reports/>
- Creative Hubs – Lighthouses for the new urban economy - <http://creativehubs.eu/resource/creative-hubs-new-economy-report/>
- How Work Works publication - <http://creativehubs.eu/resource/how-work-works-publication/>
- Syn- Acting Together publication - <http://creativehubs.eu/resource/syn-acting-together-publication/>
- Culture for Cities and Regions catalogue of best practices - http://www.cultureforcitiesandregions.eu/culture/case_studies/Catalogue_practices

ANNEX 3 – PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Organisation Name: _____

Author's Name: _____

Author's Email: _____

Additional Contact: _____

Contact Phone No.: _____

Description of Topic and specific themes to be explored (max. 3.5 pages)

Short needs analysis (why these topics are important for the sector – max 2 pages)

Proposed Methodology (max. 2.5 pages)

Indicative Bibliography (max. 1 page and max. 10 references in total)

Draft Timeline (max. half a page):

Author Bio (max. 1.5 pages):

Organisation Short Description (max. 1 page)