

TANDEM

CULTURAL CAPITALS

FAQ

Intro

Winning the European Capital of Culture title puts the cultural scene of cities and regions in the international/European spotlight. Pan-European networking, enabling local players to cooperate internationally and share know-how is an important part in the programme before, during but also after this specific year. With Tandem Cultural Capitals we bring together cultural professionals from past, present and future European Capitals of Culture to stimulate exchange and encourage European collaboration.

Tandem Cultural Capitals is co-developed by European Cultural Foundation together with Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2028 and Rijeka 2020, and is realised in close cooperation with Galway 2020, Eleusis 2021, Novi Sad 2021, Esch-sur-Alzette 2022, Kaunas 2022 and Veszprém 2023.

We believe in the importance of cultural collaboration to create lasting connections between different cities, regions, organisations and communities. Working with new partners within the same strategic framework (= European Capital of Culture) but from a different geographic, political, cultural and socio-economic context provides inspiring learning experiences. Our vision is to see new and lasting creative networks emerge from this programme. We are confident that Tandem partnerships will continue beyond the offered programme and thus contribute to filling the European dimension of all European Capitals of Culture programmes with concrete collaboration practice.

1. What is the timeline of the programme?

- 📌 Sunday, April 28, 2019 (23:59 CET): Deadline online applications.
- 📌 Monday, May 6 2019: Selected participants are informed.
- 📌 10-14 June 2019: 4-day Partner Forum in Rijeka, Croatia.
- 📌 Between June and November 2019: Mutual 3-5-day working visits at the new Tandem partner organisations and European Capitals of Culture
- 📌 19-23 November 2019: 4-day Follow-up Meeting in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands.

*Both meetings and the working visits are the core of this programme and therefore **compulsory** for all selected participants.*

2. What are the programme activities provided for by Tandem?

Partner Forum: you will (try to) find your Tandem partner with whom you will work on a potential project idea, whom you will visit during your working visit/placement and who will visit you in return. Tandem is about finding new partners, which means you cannot apply with existing partnerships.

Working Visits or Placements: are a key element in the Tandem programme. You will receive a modest mobility grant (EUR 600.-) to cover your travel and accommodation costs for a 3 to 5-day working visit at your potential partner organisation. During the visit, you become directly involved with the community and the activities of your partner organisation and European Capital of Culture location. Together you will spend time on developing your potential project ideas, but you will also be introduced to the organisation, their stakeholders and communities, and of course their European Capital of Culture environment. You will get a unique opportunity to present your organisation to your hosting organisation and their European Capital of Culture organisation. And of course, your Tandem partner will also come to stay with you for 3 to 5 days. The Tandem team

will provide you with peer-to-peer working tools, practical learning exercises and professional feedback throughout his process.

Follow-Up Meeting; is designed to reflect as a group and further learn from the experienced and insights you gained during your working placements. You will get the chance to present your collaboration to the other programme participants by sharing and discussing the ideas for the potential project and future collaborations you worked on with your Tandem partner. There will be more working time and support to take your initial collaboration idea towards a concrete project proposal. This concluding meeting could also serve for preparing your new cooperation ideas conceived during the Tandem process for presentation to your local European Capital of Culture offices.

Potential project ideas: during the placements and Follow-up Meeting, you will have time to co-design and further work on your potential project ideas. The exact format of these project ideas will be defined by your own collaboration and the challenges within your European Capitals of Culture. All project ideas should contribute to filling the European dimension of your European Capital of Culture programme with concrete new practice.

3. Who is it for?

We are looking for creative professionals and managers of non-profit organisations, public institutions, cultural initiatives or creative enterprises that:

- ✦ are committed to coming up with new ideas with a **clear European dimension which address the challenges within their Capital of Culture city or region**
- ✦ are interested to explore new ways of **pan-European collaboration**
- ✦ are eager to **share knowledge with peers in order to take a next step in their working practice**
- ✦ are ambitious to engage **in strategic and lasting cooperation across borders**
- ✦ can rely on working structures that show **sufficient financial and organisational capacity, are flexible and adaptive, creative, responsible and respected in their field**
- ✦ are early-to-mid career staff members with decision-making responsibilities and/or senior professionals who **are strategically involved with the core mission of their organisation**
- ✦ are socially committed, empathetic, highly motivated, dynamic, **open-minded personalities**
- ✦ have sufficient skills, experience and resources to engage in an intense international learning and reflection process that **requires a minimum time investment of 4 working weeks throughout an 6-month process**
- ✦ are **based in (the region of) one of the 8 participating European Capitals of Culture**; Eleusis (GR), Esch-sur-Alzette 2022, Galway (IE), Kaunas (LT), Leeuwarden-Fryslân (NL), Novi Sad (RS), Rijeka (HR) or Veszprém (HU) and are **fluent in English**

Artists, freelancers, students or initiatives of individuals without association to an organisational body are not eligible

4. I'm not from one of the target cities or region, can I still participate?

No. You can only apply to Tandem Cultural Capitals if you are based in (the region of) one of the 8 participating European Capitals of Culture; Eleusis, Esch-sur-Alzette, Galway, Kaunas, Leeuwarden-Fryslân, Novi Sad, Rijeka and Veszprém.

However, you could consider applying for one of the other Tandem editions which might include your country or city. Please keep an eye on the website, our Facebook page or subscribe to our newsletter for staying informed about other Tandem programmes.

5. How many people per organisation can take part in the programme?

The Tandem programme is designed for one cultural professional representing one cultural organisation, institution or initiative. While we can select only one applicant from each organisation (see also 10), their colleagues could get involved and get to know the Tandem partner during their respective working placements in their organisations.

6. I would like to apply; however, I don't work for an institution or organisation (I'm a freelancer). Do you accept individual applications?

No. In order to be accepted to the programme, you should be working for a non-profit organisation, public institution, creative social enterprise, an arts initiative, collective or association that has some level of organisational and financial capacity. If you are not associated with any of the organisation types listed above, we can unfortunately not accept your application.

7. Is the programme also open to artists?

No. This programme is targeting cultural professionals and their organisations. Only if you are an artist also working as a cultural manager at an organisation, you are welcome to apply.

8. Is there an age limit for participants? Are there other requirements for application?

There is no age limit. Creative professionals and cultural managers should have institutional as well as international experience, be open to new ideas, interested in new input and improving themselves professionally.

9. Can I participate in only one part of the programme? Is it compulsory to take part in all the activities of the programme?

Yes, it is compulsory to participate in the full programme; participation only in one part is not possible. The aim of the Tandem programme is to support an intense collaboration between cultural professionals and partner organisations over the course of six months, thereby creating perspectives for a long-term cooperation that continues beyond the Tandem Cultural Capitals programme. By applying, you apply for full participation in all activities provided by our 6-months programme

10. Can we apply twice in the name of one and the same organisation?

Yes and no. It is possible to apply twice in the name of one organisation, if there are two cultural professionals in your organisation who are interested in taking part in the programme. However, please note that only one application per organisation will be selected.

11. Who will cover the travel expenses for the programme activities?

Accommodation, meals, transportation and other necessary expenses for both group learning meetings in Rijeka and Leeuwarden are covered by Tandem. You are nevertheless expected to book your travel to Rijeka and Leeuwarden yourself and in advance! We will reimburse you for these costs after these meetings. Please note, that we can only reimburse costs you have previously agreed upon with the team and that you need to prove these travel expenditures by submitting receipts.

For realising the working visit/placement to your new Tandem partners city/region and organisations each participant will receive a Tandem mobility grant of EUR 600.- This grant will cover (some of) your travel and accommodation costs for a 3-5 day working visit at your partner. Your partner will visit you for a 3-5 day placement in return, so that you can count on a shared total of EUR 1,200.- for covering some of the costs of your travels and stays. You can spend the 2 x EUR

600.- for covering any type of costs you need most urgently. Anything from travel to accommodation, meals, joint cultural visits is eligible. Tandem will provide you both with one lump sum of EUR 600.- per participant for covering costs of this activity. We nevertheless expect that you spend 3-5 full working days in your new partner organisation and city and realise a real working placement, and not just a touristic programme. We very much encourage you to be creative with saving costs on this activity. Free accommodation at your partners place/office/venue might save costs you can spend for attending local cultural programs instead, but also for covering higher travel costs, for example.

Tandem Cultural Capitals unfortunately cannot provide you with direct financial support for realising your new collaboration projects and ideas. We will nevertheless discuss and advise you on potential sources of co-funding, especially during the Follow-up Meeting in Leeuwarden, which might also be a good chance to prepare a pitch of your long-term collaboration plans to your respective European Capital of Culture organisations.

12. Should I try to find a Tandem partner beforehand? I already have a partner. Can I apply with my existing project?

No. Please prepare to find a collaboration partner exclusively during the Partner Forum in Rijeka. Tandem is all about finding new partners.

13. When do you inform us about the outcome of your selection process?

We will inform you by **Monday, May 6, 2019** on the results of the selection.

14. Do you need a copy of the organisation registration certificate from our institution?

No, at this stage we will not be asking for such documents.

15. Who will make the selection?

Applications will be assessed and selected by the Tandem team working at the European Cultural Foundation and an independent expert who is very experienced with European Capitals of Culture but does not work for/in one of the eight participating cities/regions at this moment.

16. How do you select participants? What are your selection criteria?

Selection of participants in Tandem Cultural Capitals will strictly focus on the quality of the individual applications we receive. Our criteria solely follow the descriptions of who we are ideally looking for provided in our Call and in this document. We will select up to 30 cultural managers and their organisations from the eight European Capitals of Culture that participate in the programme.

Tandem Cultural Capitals participants 2019 will represent a balanced mix of working fields, professional backgrounds, international experience, strategic interests, original ideas and the local European Capital of Culture challenges they plan to address with their new international collaborations. Next to the quality of all applications we receive, our selection will also make sure that each participant we invite can meet a sufficient number of potential matches during the Partner Forum in Rijeka.

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