



Webinar

EUROPEAN CULTURAL COOPERATION

Mach-making for Latvia's and Portugal's ECoC 2027 candidate cities
28 January, 2021

Latvia and Portugal will host the title of the European Capital of Culture (ECoC) in 2027, and timely elaboration of the project proposals by candidate cities is crucial for delivering programmes of high quality, artistic excellence and respect to European values, as well as contributing to the overall development of candidate cities, using the potential of culture and creativity.

It would be important that ECoC 2027 candidates from both countries find the best ways to work together around European and global topics relevant for both parts, finding jointly innovative solutions on how to enforce the sustainable development agenda, develop cooperation among diverse communities, take care of environmental concerns and foster quality of life and urban development and many other topics via means of culture. The European dimension is the central aspect of the applications, and cities can learn from each other planning and implementing their new cultural strategies and ECoC programmes.

The public discussion initiated by **Ms. Dace Melbārde, the Member of the European Parliament and the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education** in Latvia provoked a wide interest from Latvian cities to start the preparation process in order to bid for the ECoC 2027 title. Six cities have announced their participation in the competition for the title in Latvia, meanwhile in Portugal, ten cities have publicly expressed their interest to compete for this title so far.

The webinar will be hosted by Ms. Dace Melbārde and financially supported by European Conservatives and Reformists group (ECR Group), organized in partnership with NGO Art Cēsis and NGO Culturelab (Latvia). The organizers are inviting all the ECoC candidate cities from Latvia and Portugal to participate in the online joint encounter to present the cultural profiles of candidate cities in order to promote their mutual acknowledgement towards future potential partnerships among Latvia and Portugal.

Cities are invited to prepare short presentations (up to 5 minutes) with max 3 slides, answering these two questions:

- *What is your cultural profile?*
- *Do you have already any expectations, topics and/or objectives regarding cooperation with Portuguese/Latvian cities?*

The webinar will be organized using Zoom platform.

! Cities are kindly asked to register for the seminar till January 25, indicating contact persons and giving the basic facts about your city, filling in the online application form <https://rb.gy/2649nd>.

The Programme, 28 January 2021

9:00 GMT / 11:00 EET	Introduction by Ms. Dace Melbārde, Member of the European Parliament and the Vice Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education
9:10 GMT / 11:00 EET	The European dimension and the cultural and artistic programme criteria as drivers for European cultural cooperation. Ms. Cristina Farinha, independent expert on culture and creative economy and former Member of the Monitoring and Selection Panel of European Capitals of Culture (2015-2020) Questions and answers
9:40 GMT / 11:40 EET	Presentations of Latvian ECoC candidate cities
10:30 GMT / 12:30 EET	Coffee break
10:45 GMT / 12:45 EET	Presentations of Portuguese ECoC candidate cities
12.00 GMT / 14:00 EET	Conclusions

After the webinar the summary with the main information of participants they have agreed to share (city's profile, cooperation interests, contact persons) will be provided.

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