



OPEN CALL

2 positions open for the FDC exchange program

The Future DiverCities (FDC) project is launching the Twinning program! (mobility grant)

This is a unique opportunity to visit and exchange with the Future DiverCities pilot sites. Each pilot is located in a different EU city and has its own different profile. Check the table with the 8 locations and mobility opening in the table below.

Conditions

Days of Mobility	5
Travel reimbursement	Up to 350 €
Subsistence and accommodation	Lump Sum of 825 €
Total number of grants	8
Contact	delphine@creativehubs.net

No	Pilot Name (click on the name for more info)	City, country	Theme	Dates of visit	Status of the open call
1	Kontejner	Zagreb, Croatia	Sustainability, community engagement	October 2024	Open
2	LAMA	Londa, Italy	Contemporary art scene, Art residency	June or July 2025	Open
3	ANTI	Kuopio, Finland	Community engagement, accessibility, ecological and social justice	5-23 Aug. or 1-11 Oct 2024	Closed

4	La Friche / Chroniques	Marseille, France			To be announced
5	Plai	Timișoara, Romania			To be announced
6	Public Art Lab	Berlin, Germany			To be announced
7	Liepaja	Liepaja, Latvia			To be announced
8	Bios	Athens, Greece			To be announced

Presentation of the project

We are on the lookout for eight ECHN members to take part in the Future DiverCities project through a twinning program (that will include modules and visits). Following a series of open calls, ECHN members will be able to apply to a peer-to-peer collaboration with a Future DiverCities' partner on a pilot site.

[Future DiverCities](#) is the continuation of a project implemented successfully by 10 partners in Europe and Canada (2016-2020) which has explored new ways to work in challenging urban areas through participatory methodologies and co-designed digital tools.

This second edition is again a four-year project funded by the European Commission (Creative Europe) implemented by European organisations seeking to re-imagine culture-led regeneration of urban empty spaces in an ecological way.

The project will develop cultural approaches to enhance and preserve the ecological value of unused vacant spaces in 8 European Cities: Berlin, Zagreb, Liepaja, Kuopio, Marseille, Florence, Timișoara, and Athens.

There is a space and a demand to inject new project concepts and to learn from other experiences on how to better weave together culture, regeneration, and ecology and that's what the partners involved in the project propose to do. They will demonstrate through long experimentations in urban settings how cultural urban regeneration is also all about ecological development, and how culture-led projects can produce ecological transformation.

Future DiverCities project aims:

- To pilot and test new culture-led usages of vacant urban lands that can enhance urban ecology.
- To foster cross-sectoral learning and collaboration at the local level to accelerate the production of sustainable solutions and approaches.



- To consolidate the ecosystemic capacity of the cultural players to become eco-conscious changemakers in future cities.
- To develop and disseminate new approaches and practices of cultural urban regeneration with new linkages between cultural practice and urban ecology.
- To create evidence-based recommendations to better qualify the ecological factor in cultural development strategies and cultural policies.

Criteria

For this series of Twinings, the interested candidates should apply, and the selection will be based on the best fit for each pilot city, considering the specific needs mentioned in each pilot's profile. Only ECHN members with an active membership in 2024 can apply.

Twinning program #1

between one ECHN member and the Future DiverCities partner, KONTEJNER, Zagreb.

Location: [KONTEJNER, Zagreb](#)

Calendar: 5 days in October 2024.

Deadline to apply: 15th of September

Before renovation



photo Sanja Bisticic

After renovation



Who is the Partner #1

[KONTEJNER, bureau of contemporary art praxis](#) is a non-profit organisation from Zagreb, Croatia founded in 2002 that is engaged in curatorial work, organisation of art festivals and events, artistic productions, publishing, education, and social theory. The main field of interest is a progressive contemporary art that investigates the role and meaning of science, technology, and the body in our society, focusing on relevant and current phenomena as well as those perceived by society as taboos, such as pleasure, time and energy, mental health, human and artificial intelligence manipulation, and dark matter.

KONTEJNER deals also with local problems of inadequate spatial infrastructure for organisations of independent culture and civil society in Zagreb and is engaged in the conceptualization of innovative models. KONTEJNER is experienced in EU and international projects and has been and is part of numerous Creative Europe projects: Future DiverCities (2016-on-going), EMAP – European Media Art Platform (2017-on-going), Re-Imagine Europe (2019-on-going), Arc-hive (2021-2022) as well as a lead partner on the Erasmus+ project “Sound Experiments – New Approaches in Non-formal Learning in Music” (2021-2023).

Challenges of the partner #1

In Croatia, Zagreb has been heavily affected by the 2020 earthquakes (alongside the pandemic). Damage to museums, galleries, and similar infrastructure caused a transformation of the city center and added to the already existing lack of spaces for cultural and artistic programs. By repurposing and activating empty spaces not previously used for culture, Zagreb intervention will explore new models of artistic production, presentation, and community participation through the topic of biodiversity and urban ecology.

The fragility and precarity are real issues for the partner. This twinning program aims to explore with them how to:

- Ensure sustainability and long-term perspective of working on the site,
- Experiment with activation of the wider industrial area around the site,
- Directly engage the local community and especially the neighbourhood

Needs of the partner #1

- More concrete and productive dialogue with stakeholders and decision-makers, municipality, governmental bodies, surrounding companies and landlords, private businesses etc,
- Time and resources to establish the identity of the space and its connection to the community,
- Conditions to experiment with sustainability models (in an economic and environmental sense)

Profile of the ECHN member

It would be interesting to couple with another similar initiative to learn from each other's practices and creative solutions toward ensuring sustainability.

Possible fields of interest:

- Exchange of good practices and experiences,
- Developing new strategies and work models,
- Working on visibility and inclusion action plan for locals and the neighbourhood,
- Topics of sustainability both economic and environmental,
- Experimental financing models and activation of stakeholders,
- Possible curatorial and program exchange

What will you gain from this exchange?

The ECHN member will learn firsthand from the partners' experience and gain knowledge and know-how on developing innovative culture-led development strategies.

The Future DiverCities partner proposes to the ECHN member to:



- exchange good practices and experiences,
- work with the wider team of experienced and renowned curators and cultural workers in the field of new media art and experimental music,
- network with the artists and the local cultural community,
- visit institutions and meet the experts, visit KONTEJNER's new venue and visit similar bottom-up spaces established in Zagreb,
- connect with other EU projects and networks.

Twinning program # 2
between an ECHN member and the Future DiverCities partner, LAMA, Florence.

Location: Montagna Fiorentina, municipality of Londa
Calendar: 5 days June or July (Residency A dimora) 2025.
Deadline: 30th of October 2024



Who is the Partner #2

LAMA Impresa Sociale is a consultancy agency for impactful change and innovation. LAMA supports organisations in designing, implementing, evaluating, and communicating meaningful innovation strategies, through a systemic approach that takes together visions, roadmaps, positionings, and organisational models toward the achievement of sustainable and environmental impacts. LAMA is also the co-founder and managing organisation of two creative hubs: Impact Hub Florence, a local social innovation hub, and MIM –Made in Manifattura in Florence.

To promote culture-led regeneration processes LAMA presents a three-year art residency named '[A dimora](#)' ('to plant' in Italian) in the "Montagna Fiorentina" in collaboration with the municipality of Londa.

The first cycle took place in the summer of 2023 and explored two main matters: the context of Londa and the relationship between human and natural environments (see the pictures on [Instagram](#)).

The exploration of Londa was meant to acknowledge its rich historical and cultural legacy, but also to inquire about the existing cultural manifestations in the area and to map local opportunities for creativity enhancement.

The residency aimed to highlight and investigate the intricate and dynamic connections between people living and using the area and the natural ecosystems living around them, historically shaped and transforming throughout a continuous pattern of interdependencies with humans. These human-induced alterations to the natural environment and the responses of impermanent landscapes to these alterations may be one of the key lenses through which the residency may investigate, with an attention to the wide range of living beings inhabiting the area, spanning from bacteria to fungi, from animals to plants and forests. Nonetheless, humans need to be included in the picture: this implies also activating some potential research streams on local cultures and beliefs, often linked to practices emphasising harmony, respect, and stewardship towards the natural world, in a balanced and reciprocal relation with the environment.

The second edition will take place during the months of June and July 2024, with a final exhibition in September.

Five artists were shortlisted to take part in the residency, according to A dimora's principles: to listen attentively and to stimulate and accompany reflection by questioning the most relevant themes that inhabit Londa and its surroundings.

Challenges of the partner #2

In Florence, the initial concept is to investigate underused space, a space that is not empty per se but is lacking in purpose and meaning. It will challenge the usages, looking at adding new ecological value and meaning. The intervention will investigate the idea of rethinking spaces and places through relational and generative mechanisms, leveraging the role of artists as key actors for social and civic change.



The Future DiverCities partner aims to increase the perception of art and its value in regenerative processes and community building. Balancing the different perspectives and expectations of various stakeholders is another challenge to consider (forest management, municipality, inhabitants...).

Needs of the partner #2

The Future DiverCities partner would like to move further,

- support the artists who participate in the residency to access the international contemporary art scene;
- link A dimora to the international artist residency scene and enter the contemporary art circuit.

Profile of the ECHN member

The member:

- represents an organisation that manage/organise a festival, exhibition, event, or gallery;
- will have an experience in contemporary art, art circuit, and art residency and could participate in an exchange with a Dimora;
- will have an interest in intervention in public space, or land art;
- is willing to engage in a possible exchange: starting from on site scouting in Londa and Florence, to co-produce if necessary and to showcase one of the artists' research and work in its own space.

What will you gain from this exchange?

The Future DiverCities partner proposes to the ECHN member to enrich its program with one of the artworks created for A dimora, to broaden the festival network, and to exchange practices and knowledge through different experiences in working with culture-led regeneration processes.

During your time in Londa and Florence you will:

- meet with the artists and stakeholders
- participate in a collaborative art program including the exchange of artists, and artworks
- explore the potential for collaboration with A dimora artistic residencies programme, and receive potential co-financing from A dimora to showcase the work of artists and/or to co-produce future artistic work.