



## OPEN CALL

### New positions open for the FDC exchange program

**The Future DiverCities (FDC) project continues 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

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

<b>No</b>	<b>Pilot Name</b> (click on the name for more info)	<b>City, country</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Dates of visit</b>	<b>Status of the open call</b>
1	<a href="#">Kontejner</a>	Zagreb, Croatia	Sustainability, Community engagement	Spring 2024	Closed
2	<a href="#">LAMA</a>	Londa, Italy	Contemporary art scene, Art residency	Summer 2025	Closed
3	<a href="#">ANTI</a>	Kuopio, Finland	Community engagement, Accessibility, Ecological and social justice	October	Closed

4	<a href="#">Liepaja</a>	Liepaja, Latvia	Community engagement, Stakeholders' collaboration, Funding program, European Capitale of Culture 2027	April, May 2025	Open
5	<a href="#">Plai</a>	Timișoara, Romania	Social innovation, Global challenges, Sustainability, Cross sectorial knowledges	Flexible. Suggested: end of June, beginning of July 2025 or first half of September 2025	Open
6	<a href="#">Public Art Lab</a>	Berlin, Germany	Environment, Sustainability, Advocacy of non-human beings, Art	May, August or September 2025	Open
7	La Friche / Chroniques	Marseille, France			To be announced
8	Bios	Athens, Greece			To be announced

## Presentation of the project

We invite ECHN members to take part in the Future DiverCities project through a twinning program (that includes modules and visits). Following a series of open calls, ECHN members can 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 develops cultural approaches to enhance and preserve the ecological value of unused vacant spaces in 8 European Cities: Berlin, Zagreb, Liepaja, Kuopio, Marseille, Florence (Londa), 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 # 4**

**between one ECHN member and the Future DiverCities partner, [The Department of Culture, Liepaja](#).**

**Location:** Liepaja

**Calendar:** 5 days in April or May 2025

**Deadline to apply the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2025**



### **Who is the Partner**

[The Department of Culture](#) is a Liepāja municipal institution, that implements the function of commitment to culture and promoting the preservation of traditional cultural values and the development of community creative activity. The main functions of the Department of Culture are to shape the cultural landscape and ensure the long-term development of cultural activities in Liepāja, by ensuring and implementing the local government policy of the city in the field of culture and creative sector; to promote the participation of the community in the activities of folk art and craft art by promoting the preservation of cultural heritage; to promote access to cultural education; to preserve the minority cultural traditions, and facilitate the development of the cultural and creative sector resources; to foster partnerships with



regional, national, and international entities to facilitate cultural exchanges, joint projects, and collaborations and to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Liepaja by safeguarding historical sites, traditions, customs, and intangible cultural heritage of the city. Liepaja Culture department was a partner of the first Future DiverCities project (2016-2020). Liepāja, as city with a rich industrial heritage, military historical context, a wonderful cultural offer and fabulous natural beauty, is constantly hanging between opposites – rest and unrest, noise and silence, action and inaction, buzz and tranquillity, full speed and full stop, white and black, joy and grief, love and hatred. Opposites and differences exist side by side, and their mutual tension often forms the unique identity of Liepāja. For the next few years Liepāja is building the capacity of the local cultural sector and cross-sectoral cooperation. Furthermore, Liepaja holds the title “European Capital of Culture 2027”.

Liepāja intervention explores biodiversity through artistic approach at the vacant spaces in Karosta – a specific part of the city that was closed to residents for several decades for military purposes. During the intervention municipality representatives, non-governmental organizations and local communities, especially young people will be involved to help convey the interconnectedness of ecosystems, raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation, inspire a sense of wonder and appreciation for the diverse life forms that exist in Karosta and underline its importance in the future development plans of urban environment of Liepāja city. To do this, multi-sensor interaction with the surroundings will be implemented and the senses with various technological tools will be stimulated.

### **Challenges of the partner**

- Work closely with the Liepaja Coalition,
- Consolidate the work team (all located in Karosta),
- Develop the collaboration with community,
- Explore funding opportunities,
- Activate and make alive a region abandoned for many years.

### **Needs of the partner**

- Get methodology tools: how different NGO's and entrepreneurs, coming from different backgrounds, can work in team;
- Define a common offer/product in Karosta with all stakeholders;
- Engage with community;
- How to attract funds and make the project sustainable

### **Profile of the ECHN member**

It would be interesting to couple with another initiative who have an experience in:

- Strengthen a team of stakeholders from different background
- Working with different communities
- Activating an abandoned and neglected area
- Changing the vision of the local inhabitants toward an abandoned area

### **What will you gain from this exchange?**



The Future DiverCities partner proposes to the ECHN member to:

- Visit Karosta;
- Share experience and knowledge;
- Discover Liepaja-ECOC 2027.

### **Twinning program # 5**

**between one ECHN member and the Future DiverCities partner, [PLAI](#), Timisoara.**

**Location:** Timisoara

**Calendar:** 5 days end of June/beginning of July 2025 or First half of September 2025.

Flexible dates, another schedule could be discussed.

**Deadline to apply extended to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2025**



Credit Diana Giurea

### **Who is the Partner**

[PLAI](#) is a non-profit NGO that has started its social impact approach towards communities forming by the use of culture and urban interventions since 2006. Starting off with a volunteer-based Festival, the NGO has organically developed into a multilayer organization having three main values throughout its actions and projects:



urban regeneration, human-centered approaches with a focus on inclusion of the vulnerable and multi-communities' interactions. PLAI has always been drawn to develop projects starting with neglected spaces (from a forgotten Village Museum to the post-communist industrial sites that follow the trend of being demolished and replaced with the very typical real-estate development of high-density apartment flats and office buildings) to spaces in between outskirts neighbourhoods or the dynamics of a private property that no one cares about. PLAI's experience with EU projects has started in 2018 and it focuses on subjects of urban regeneration, creative repurpose of the urban space in favour of communities and mixed audiences, as a partner of Cultural and Creative Spaces and Cities, EUREKA – Training the Urban Innovator, and Subtopia. Timișoara is a green, living city, where nature plays a significant role for the citizens. The concept of the intervention is to create a physical and timeless space, in a natural context, which has its degree of wildness but is also a platform for learning and protecting what nature can offer us. GreenFeel is a place that provides a base of diverse communities, from different generations, but also allows the formation of interpersonal, creative connections and ultimately new communities.

### **Challenges of the partner**

- Participation
- Social innovation
- Better solution for global challenges
- Reduce negative impact on sustainability

### **Needs of the partner**

- Knowledge transfer
- Nature based design vs human centred in the process of the structure in progress
- Inspiration and new way in making
- Cross sectorial knowledges

### **Profile of the ECHN member**

It would be interesting to couple with another initiative who have an experience in:

- Understanding in social innovation
- Interaction with technical innovation

### **What will you gain from this exchange?**

- Social and cultural expertise
- Exchange on urban, social and educational innovation
- Introduction to the local stakeholders: CCIs, industry, education, ...
- Knowledge transfer in June-July with the organisation of the Jazz Festival and in September with the Plai Festival (cultural diversity and social change).



## **Twinning program # 6**

**between one ECHN member and the Future DiverCities partner, [PAL](#), Berlin**

**Location:** Berlin

**Calendar:** 5 days in May, August or September 2025.

**Deadline to apply 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2025**



Photo Myriel Milicevic

### **Who is the Partner**

[Public Art Lab \(PAL\)](#) is a Berlin based and globally networked non-profit organisation for urban media art that investigates, curates, and produces artistic projects in the urban public sphere at the intersection of media arts, urban planning and creative technologies. PAL is specialised in digital placemaking, creative city making, citizen science, art and climate change and connecting people and places through artistic interactions. The projects are generated in an action research and open co-design process with stakeholders to facilitate methodologies and strategies for community placemaking and neighbourhood building. Public Art Lab was project lead of the Culture Programme of the European Union like Connecting Cities Network 2012-16 and beneficiary in the Creative Europe projects Future DiverCities 2016-2020 and participated in the Augmented Europe project of the Europe for Citizens programme and in Culture Backstage of the Erasmus programme among others. Public Art Lab has a large European and worldwide network and an experienced partner in implementing international and translocal cultural projects.





In Berlin, [Public Art Lab](#) explores the relationship between human and non-human living beings in the [Spreepark](#) which was an amusement park before the Berlin Wall fell, long a lost place, surrounded by water and now an in-between state of past and becoming a future arts and cultural venue, the [Spreepark Art Space](#). Together with [Prof. Myriel Milićević](#) and her students from Potsdam University of Applied Sciences, Public Art Lab studies especially the disappearance of species and the arrival of new creatures (neobiota) with mapping methodologies presented in artistic scenarios and performances and including the local communities and audiences.

### **Challenges of the partner**

- Create awareness for the environmental urgencies among the multipliers of city making
- Register the River as a legal entity

### **Needs of the partner**

- Experience and a methodology for the advocacy of non-human beings
- Artistic and legal know-how to activate engagement for sustainability

### **Profile of the ECHN member**

- Interest in curating art+ecologies
- Conception of artistic campaigns for non-human beings
- Experience in commons-based ecological and economic models

### **What will you gain from this exchange?**

- Exchange with a cross-disciplinary team of curators, nature writers, experts of indigenous cultures, biodiversity and circular economies
- Knowledge transfer in May with the organisation of panel and performance at [Re:publica](#) and in August-September with the [River interventions](#).