



OPEN CALL

Last 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

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	Spring 2024	Closed
2	LAMA	Londa, Italy	Contemporary art scene, Art residency	Summer 2025	Closed
3	ANTI	Kuopio, Finland	Community engagement, Accessibility, Ecological and social justice	October	Closed

4	Liepaja	Liepaja, Latvia	Community engagement, Stakeholders' collaboration, Funding program, European Capitale of Culture 2027	April, May 2025	Closed
5	Plai	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	Closed
6	Public Art Lab	Berlin, Germany	Environment, Sustainability, Advocacy of non-human beings, Art	May, August or September 2025	Closed
7	Friche la Belle de Mai / Chroniques	Marseille, France	Commoning practices, emotional link to a space, question of legacy	April, July or Fall 2025	Open
8	Bios	Athens, Greece			To be announced



Presentation of the project

We invite eight 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 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 Twinnings, 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 #7
between one ECHN member and the Future DiverCities partners, [La Friche](#) and [CHRONIQUES](#), Marseille

Location: Marseille

Calendar: 5 days in April (the week of the 26th), July (around the 23rd); or Fall 2025

Deadline to apply: 30 March 2025



Picture of the pilot, the Crimée Garden, in Marseille



Who are the Partners

[La Friche La Belle de Mai](#), in its prototypical form, arose in 1992 out of the new models for urban cultural interaction in the public interest, now known as “third places.” This unique, reinvented space brings together artistic activity, modes of urban transformation, real connections to the region, and dynamic cooperation. La Friche is both a workspace for 70 resident organizations representing all creative disciplines (400 artists, producers, and employees work here every day), and a cross-disciplinary venue (each year, over 600 artistic events are made available to the public). Every year, 450,000 visitors come to this 45,000 square-meter public space housing five performance spaces, a community garden, a playground and athletic space, a restaurant, bookstore, daycare, some 2,400 square meters of exhibition space, an 8,000 square-meter rooftop, and a training center. Thanks not only to its size but also to the number and variety of spaces, La Friche provides workspace to artists, in addition to allowing numerous projects to develop at the same time. Sculptors, actors, painters, photographers, dancers, and producers can have the time and space they need for writing and creating.

[CHRONIQUES](#) is one of the leading organisations dedicated to digital arts in France, whose ambition is to propose a new outlook on societal transformations incurred by the digital revolution through the unique viewpoint of arts and creation. They accompany artists, encourage contemporary artistic forms using new technologies, and run a wide range of educational and cultural engagement activities with different audiences, aiming at accompanying a conscious and creative appropriation of digital tools. Community building is at the heart of CHRONIQUES’ activities, which is constantly testing new forms of co-curation and community involvement processes. CHRONIQUES is a resident at La Friche La Belle de Mai.

La Friche and CHRONIQUES have teamed up with [Terrains Vagues](#) and [Pepins Production](#), two local associations specialised in architecture, urban greening and co-design. Over the next few months, the Marseille team will take over a garden located in Crimée street that embodies aspects that the project seeks to explore: commoning areas, greening spaces and the different relationships with non-human beings. During the co-design workshops, the inhabitants and users of the garden are engaged into collective activities and create cooperation dynamics that will perdure even after the end of Future DiverCities project.

Challenges of the partner

- The question of legacy
- To continue the current implementation after the project
- To address the expectations regarding the narrative aspect and the sense of community fostered in the garden through the project activities.



Marseille has seen recent major problems of space management, with deadly collapses of dilapidated buildings, and the city has very important regeneration plans. The pilot site is in the neighborhood of La Belle de Mai where La Friche and Chroniques are located, right in the city centre. The approach on Commoning aims at creating citizen-led processes, fostering citizens participation and a form of renewed collective ownership of the area, whilst exploring positive applications of the Nudge theory.

Needs of the partner

- To narrate the first phase of implementation as well as the second one.
- To document commoning practices in creative ways
- To make participants tell their story to foster their engagement in the implementation and its legacy.
- To highlight the notion of care in the space and the need to preserve it for all living beings

Profile of the ECHN member

It would be interesting to collaborate with another initiative that has:

- A creative vision for the implementation of commoning practices, reflected in the project's execution.
- A unique approach to narrating and documenting the project on-site, with the involvement of beneficiaries and other associations participating in the commoning dynamics.
- Fluency in French is preferred but not required.

What will you gain from this exchange?

The Future DiverCities partner proposes to the ECHN member:

- Exchange best practices and experiences while meeting a variety of stakeholders from the creative and social sectors collaborating on common initiatives.
- Connect with various workers from La Friche and its vibrant creative and cultural ecosystem.
- Gain the opportunity to engage in a grassroots project that actively experiments with innovative practices in methodology, local actor synergies, environmental awareness, and artistic creation.
- Attend the activities organised in the garden in April 2026

The pilot project in Marseille sits at the intersection of creativity and urban planning, where the preservation and enhancement of green spaces through artistic practices promotes citizen engagement and contribute to a sustainable vision for urban spaces.