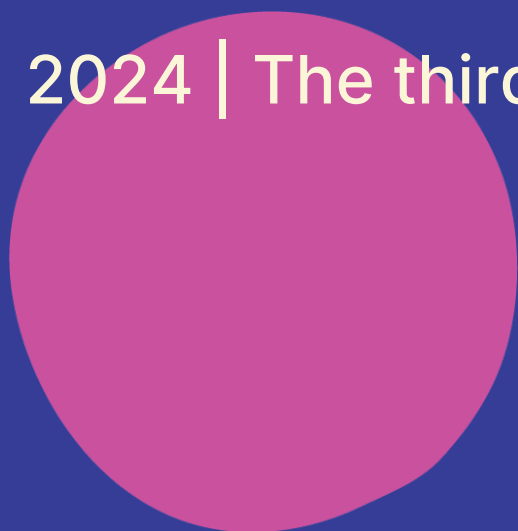




# Culture Next Annual Report



2024 | The third year of the project



Co-funded by  
the European Union

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be documented to ensure transparency and accountability. This is particularly crucial in financial reporting, where even minor discrepancies can lead to significant errors over time.

Furthermore, the document highlights the need for regular audits and reconciliations. By comparing internal records with external statements, organizations can identify and correct any inconsistencies promptly. This practice not only helps in preventing fraud but also ensures that the financial data presented is reliable and trustworthy.

In addition, the document stresses the importance of clear communication and collaboration between different departments. Financial information should be shared and discussed with relevant stakeholders to ensure that everyone has a clear understanding of the company's financial health and performance. This collaborative approach is essential for making informed decisions and achieving the organization's long-term goals.

Finally, the document concludes by reiterating the importance of integrity and honesty in all financial dealings. It encourages organizations to adhere to ethical standards and to be transparent about their financial activities. By doing so, they can build trust with their stakeholders and maintain a strong reputation in the market.

# 2024: The third year of Culture Next

In the third year, Culture Next organized two major conferences: one in Oulu, Finland (February, 100+ participants), and another in Cluj-Napoca, Romania (October, 150+ participants). These events expanded the network, refined training formats, and strengthened connections between local cultural sectors and member cities.

We concluded two thematic working groups: Youth Engagement (hosted by Rouen and Budweiss) and Funding Culture (hosted by Bielsko-Biała). A third, ECoC Reform (hosted by Cluj-Napoca), was launched and completed. Each group held internal meetings, workshops for member cities, masterclasses for external stakeholders, and recorded podcasts.

The first edition of our Mobility Programme featured 18 one-week exchanges hosted by member cities, supported by targeted open calls to align needs and opportunities.

An open call for a Cities Fund for Culture engaged member cities in exploring funding for a shared cultural agenda.

A new Culture Next Mission in Bielsko-Biała, Poland, focused on the European Capital of Culture (ECoC) as a potential European brand.

The SDG Thing pilot measured cultural impacts on SDGs in over ten member cities. The first phase concluded with reports, and we committed to extending the program for two more years.

We maintained regular monthly meetings, board sessions, and management workshops, while externally strengthening ties with major European cultural networks. Highlights included joint events, a Brussels meeting of ten international networks, and participation in the Culture Goal Campaign.

These efforts enhanced training, collaboration, and partnerships, solidifying Culture Next's role as a vital resource for its member cities.

# Member cities at the end of 2024

## Full members (in alphabetical order):

1. Aveiro, Portugal
2. Bielsko-Biała, Poland
3. Braga, Portugal
4. Brno, Czech Republic
5. Burgos, Spain
6. České Budějovice, Czech Republic
7. Chemnitz, Germany
8. Cluj-Napoca, Romania
9. Debrecen, Hungary
10. Dublin, Ireland
11. Elefsina, Greece
12. Faro, Portugal
13. Galway, Ireland
14. Gent, Belgium
15. Jerez de La Frontera, Spain
16. Katowice, Poland
17. Kortrijk, Belgium
18. Larnaka, Cyprus
19. Leeds, UK
20. Leeuwarden, Netherlands
21. Leuven, Belgium
22. Matera, Italy
23. Novi Sad, Serbia
24. Oulu, Finland
25. Plungė, Lithuania
26. Trenčín, Slovakia
27. Valmiera, Latvia

## Observing members (in alphabetical order):

1. Donostia – San Sebastian, Spain
2. Lemesos, Cyprus
3. Molenbeek-Brussels, Belgium
4. Namur, Belgium
5. Niksic, Montenegro
6. Odesa, Ukraine
7. Oeiras, Portugal
8. Plovdiv, Bulgaria
9. Rivne, Ukraine
10. Rzeszow, Poland
11. Timișoara, Romania





# Our year in numbers

**35**

Member cities

**20**

Cities in the  
Mobility Programme

**3**

Thematic Working  
Groups

**6**

Policy papers

**1**

Culture for SDG  
guide

**1**

ECoC research  
report

**2**

International  
conferences

**1**

Interactive platform  
for CN Members

**1**

AI tool for ECoC  
bidbooks  
exploration

**193.5k**

Reach on social  
media

**3.4k**

Website visitors



# Project activities

## #1 Conferences

### **The 12th Culture Next Conference (Oulu, Finland)**

*February 28 - March 1, 2024*

The event brought together 25 cities to discuss the 2024 network agenda regarding SDGs, Thematic Working Groups, and the Mobility Program, among others. It was an opportunity to discover Oulu as the European Capital of Culture for 2026 and to interact and connect with local actors.

### **The 13th Culture Next Conference (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)**

*October 13-16, 2024*

Representatives from 50 European cities convened to explore the transformation of culture into the 18th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and the reform of the ECoC program. The conference featured panel discussions, meetings with local artists, cultural tours, and events showcasing the connections between culture, well-being, and resilience.

## #2 Collaboration and exchange

### **Thematic Working Groups**

*Throughout the year*

Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) are collaborative spaces aimed at tackling major issues in the cultural sector. They bring together member cities to brainstorm solutions in three main areas: getting young people involved in cultural activities, finding new ways to fund culture, and reimagining the future of the European Capitals of Culture program. These groups not only promote teamwork and development within the network but also strengthen ties with local communities.

In 2024, within Culture Next we organized three TWGs. Each TWG delivered one workshop for capacity building dedicated to members of Culture Next only (whether they are full members or observing) and a masterclass for the broader audience.



## The Mobility Programme

*March - September 2024*

The Mobility Programme is designed for cultural professionals in member cities. It creates well-thought-out partnerships that allow for sharing ideas, experiences, and practical solutions. By working together across borders, cultural workers can learn and grow, boosting the capabilities of host organizations and sparking innovative cultural projects.

Focusing on sustainability, open access, and gender equality, the program encourages responsible practices, like eco-friendly travel options and digital tools for planning and assessment. These mobility chances act as a springboard for organizational growth and personal development, helping to connect with other cultural spaces and broadening the network's reach throughout the European cultural scene.

### **Mobility pairs:**

- Rouen (FR) -> Budweis (CZ)
- Burgos (ES) -> Chemnitz (DE)
- Budweis (CZ) -> Dublin (IE)
- Brno (CZ) -> Faro (PT)
- Oulu (FI) -> Leeuwarden (NL)
- Valmeira (LV) -> Elefsina (GR)
- Trencin (SK) -> Gijon (ES)
- Gijon (ES) -> Larnaka (CY)
- Chemnitz (DE) -> Debrecen (HU)
- Cluj (RO) -> Braga (PT)
- Elefsina (GR) -> Cluj (RO)
- Dublin (IE) -> Leuven (BE)
- Belfast (UK) -> Brno (CZ)
- Leeuwarden (NL) -> Leeds (UK)
- Plunge (LT) -> Valmeira (LV)
- Matera (IT) -> Larnaka (CY)
- Larnaka (CY) -> Trencin (SK)

### **Bilateral mobilities:**

- Cluj-Napoca (RO) -> Leeuwarden (NL)
  - Leeuwarden (NL) -> Cluj-Napoca (RO)
  - Elefsina (GR) -> Faro (PT)
  - Faro (PT) -> Elefsina (GR)
  - Budweis (CZ) -> Chemnitz (DE)
  - Chemnitz (DE) -> Budweis (CZ)
- 




## #3 Tools and papers

### **Culture for SDG Guide**

*Throughout the year*

Developed across several SDG Labs and working sessions, with the coordination of Dr Beatriz García, Associate Director at the Centre for Cultural Value and Lead Expert for Culture & SDGs within Culture Next, the digital tools developed by Polyloop, and the involvement of 10 member cities, the guide explores how culture can become the 18th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).


The paper offers details about the Culture Next Evaluation Framework, followed by the experience of each of the cities involved in the pilot, as well as a cross-analysis of the obtained data. The results are meant to offer cities a unified set of metrics to evaluate the qualitative and quantitative impact of culture on sustainable development. This initiative transforms culture into a concrete tool for influencing cultural policies at both European and global levels.



### **The Polyloop tool for Culture Next**

*Throughout the year*


Developed in parallel with the Culture for SDG Guide, the Polyloop tool allows people to have an in-depth exploration of the ECoC bidbooks by asking questions in a similar format to the already well known Chat GPT. The platform can be a useful tool for researchers, professionals and the broad audience.



### **The Role, Impact and Future of ECoC**

*Throughout the year*

Working with most of the 34 member cities of Culture Next, the research explored the following:

- Considerations on and recommendations for an enhanced European Capital of Culture Programme which can deliver step-change and sustainable legacy for all cities involved in the programme – including candidate cities, ‘winners’ and ‘losers’.
  - How Culture Next is valued by member and associate cities which have participated in Culture Next activities. This includes perceptions of the role and impact of Culture Next for different types of cities across Europe.
  - Aspirations for and recommendations on how Culture Next can be more impactful and of value to participating cities.
- 



## Policy papers

*Throughout the year*


The Culture Next Policies and Advocacy Taskforce (PATF) is an initiative meant to develop organically a network of individuals, organizations, and cities connected with Culture Next which would become able to work as an international trans-sectoral group.

The PATF was initiated in Aveiro, Portugal on 12 October 2022, when essential objectives, key principles, and general formats were discussed. At the end of 2024, the work of the PATF resulted in 6 policy papers on topics that have been at the core of the Culture Next activities throughout the years, and two digital tools:

### **Papers:**

1. Role, Impact, and the Future of European Capital of Culture
2. Maximizing the Legacy of the European Capital of Culture: Recommendations for Long-term Impact
3. The Challenges of Monitoring and Evaluating Culture
4. Culture: The Hidden Catalyst for Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals
5. Financing cultural activities
6. A place at the table: engaging young people in the culture sector

### **Tools:**


1. ECoC Archive: Bid books & Monitoring Documents
  2. Culture for SDG Measurement System
- 

## #4 Meetings

### **Culture Next Management Meeting (Talinn, Estonia)**

*January 28, 2024*


The Culture Next management team met in Talinn to discuss and plan the agenda for 2024 and the future of the network for the following years.



### **Culture Next Meeting (Barcelona, Estonia)**

*September 3, 2024*

Culture Next has met in Barcelona to discuss operative matters on the ongoing initiatives and actions during 2022-2024 and the upcoming new cycle of activities during 2025-2028.



## Culture Next meeting in Brussels with the European Commission and relevant cultural networks

*November 28, 2024*

A delegation of the Culture Next network met with the representatives of DG Culture within the European Commission, responsible for the Creative Europe programs and for the European Capital of Culture Projects, to discuss the network's work and its contribution to the formulation of future regulations related to the European Capitals of Culture program.

The network also organized an informal meeting of European cultural networks for an information session on the next activities on the agenda and an open dialogue on how they can support, align, or complement each other's actions.

The informal gathering brought together ten major international cultural networks: Culture Action Europe, European Network for Cultural Centres, ENCATC, Eurocities Culture, European Cultural Foundation, European Festivals Association (EFA), Global Cultural Districts Network, International Federation of Libraries, Trans Europe Halles, and UBC – Union of Baltic Cities. This was an opportunity for representatives from these organizations to engage in a meaningful exchange about shared priorities and collaborative opportunities. The networks expressed unanimous support for a proposal to establish a mobility program for network managers, an idea advanced by Culture Next. Encouragingly, the European Commission committed to further exploring this initiative.



# Communication strategy: results

193.5k

Reach on social media

2.7k

Content interactions

3.4k

Website visitors

5.5k

Profile visits

14k

Webpage views

70+

Dedicated posts

## Highlights

- Initiating the **Culture Next Newsletter**, an every-two-months internal communication initiative meant to keep members connected to news, events and opportunities from within the network.
- Activating the **Culture Next LinkedIn account** to be able to reach a broader audience, from various working industries.
- Activating the **Culture Next X (Twitter) account** to be able to communicate ideas and messages that could be of relevance for trending topics.
- Launching a **dissemination campaign** to communicate the results of the Culture Next project implemented between 2021-2024.
- Establishing an **exclusive international media partnership** with ECoC News.
- Meeting with **10 other European cultural networks** to establish connection and nurture potential opportunities for further collaboration.

# Media appearances and articles

## **Culture Next: Shaping the Future of European Cities Through Culture**

Read the article [here](#).

## **Culture Next: viitorul oraşelor europene prinde formă**

Read the article [here](#).

## **Culture & Capitals, The 13th Culture Next Conference**

Read the article [here](#).

## **13th Culture Next Conference**

Read the article [here](#).

## **Culture Next Conference, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

Read the article [here](#).

## **Culture Next - A network of cities for culture and sustainable development**

Read the article [here](#).

## **Culture Next Network and SDG Lab**

Read the article [here](#).

## **Matera 2019 at the conference of the European network Culture Next**

Read the article [here](#).

## **Culture Next: viitorul oraşelor europene prinde formă prin cultură**

Read the article [here](#).

## **The 13th conference of Culture Next, capitals of culture confront (1)**

Read the article [here](#).




## **The 13th conference of Culture Next, capitals of culture confront (2)**

Read the article [here](#).



## **Culture Next meets in Brussels**

Read the article [here](#).




## **Immie Jonkman: "Harnessing the power of culture for a united Europe"**

Read the article [here](#).



## **Culture Next embarks on 2025 with an expanded membership representing more European countries**

Read the article [here](#).



## **Registrations open for the 13th Culture Next conference! Cluj-Napoca, 16th-18th of October, 2024**

Read the article [here](#).



## **Culture Next Mobilities: Brno in Faro, spring of 2024**

Read the article [here](#).




## **Culture Next Mobilities: Elefsina in Cluj, late spring 2024**

Read the article [here](#).



## **Thematic Working Group #2: Art branding as a financing strategy**

Read the article [here](#).



## **100 city representatives joined the 12th Culture Next Conference in Oulu, Finland**

Read the article [here](#).

# Our team



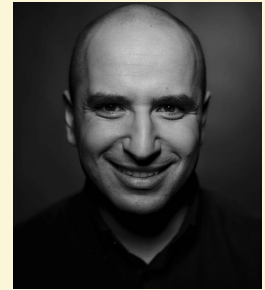
**Ștefan Teișanu**  
Secretary General



**Rarița Zbranca**  
Cultural Policies Lead



**Meda Corovei**  
Financial Manager



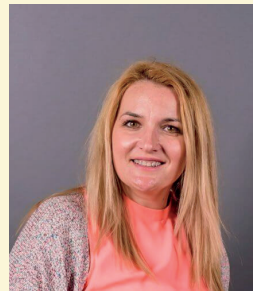
**Bruno Inacio**  
Membership  
Coordinator



**Andras Farkas**  
Project Coordinator



**Darius Mîndroc**  
Project Coordinator



**Ana Zotea**  
Finance Support



**Lorena Copil**  
Communications  
Coordinator



**Paul  
Bucovesan**  
Art Director



# Board members



**Angeliki Lampiri**

Director of Cultural  
Training, ELeusis 2023  
ECoC



**Carlos Martins**

Board Member, Aveiro



**Henri Turunen**

Executive Producer, Oulu  
2026 ECoC



**Immie Jonkman**

CEO Leeuwarden Fryslân  
2028



**Pam Johnson**

Head of Culture  
Programmes Leeds City  
Council



# Photo gallery





# Stay in touch



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[https://www.facebook.com/  
CultureNextNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/CultureNextNetwork)



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400073



*Culture Next is a project co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Creative Europe. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial statements. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses, income, and any other financial activity.

The second part of the document provides a detailed breakdown of the accounting cycle. It outlines the ten steps involved in the process, from identifying the accounting entity to preparing financial statements. Each step is explained in detail, with examples provided to illustrate the concepts.

The third part of the document focuses on the classification of accounts. It discusses the different types of accounts, such as assets, liabilities, equity, revenue, and expense accounts, and how they are used to record and summarize financial transactions.

The fourth part of the document covers the process of journalizing and posting. It explains how transactions are recorded in the journal and then posted to the ledger accounts. This process is essential for maintaining the double-entry system and ensuring that the books are balanced.

The fifth part of the document discusses the preparation of financial statements. It outlines the steps involved in calculating the net income, preparing the income statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flows. It also discusses the importance of these statements in providing a clear picture of the company's financial performance.

The sixth part of the document covers the closing process. It explains how the temporary accounts (revenue, expense, and dividend) are closed to the permanent accounts (assets, liabilities, and equity) at the end of the accounting period. This process is necessary to reset the temporary accounts for the next period and to update the equity account.

The seventh part of the document discusses the importance of adjusting entries. It explains how these entries are used to record accruals, deferrals, and other adjustments that are necessary to ensure that the financial statements are accurate and reflect the true financial position of the company.

The eighth part of the document covers the process of reconciling the books. It explains how the company's records are compared to external statements, such as bank statements and supplier invoices, to identify and correct any discrepancies. This process is crucial for maintaining the accuracy of the accounting records.

The ninth part of the document discusses the importance of internal controls. It outlines the various measures that can be implemented to prevent and detect errors and fraud, such as segregation of duties, authorization, and regular audits.

The tenth part of the document covers the final steps of the accounting process, including the preparation of the final financial statements and the closing of the books. It emphasizes the importance of accuracy and transparency in all aspects of the accounting process.

