



Cultural & Creative Industries

A Sector at the Heart of Transformation

June 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Céu Filipe



Across Europe and beyond, creative professionals, organisations and SMEs continue to shape our societies in meaningful ways.

From design and architecture to media, heritage, and the performing arts, these sectors are not only drivers of innovation and economic growth, but also essential contributors to identity, inclusion and dialogue. At the heart of our work lies a simple commitment: **to empower these actors to connect, collaborate and thrive internationally.**

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this edition of the **Enterprise Europe Network Group of Experts for Cultural & Creative Industries newsletter**. More than a collection of updates, this publication reflects the energy, resilience and diversity of the cultural and creative ecosystem that the Enterprise Europe Network is proud to support.

This newsletter is designed by EEN Advisors with you in mind! Within it, you will find insights into our activities, opportunities for collaboration, and examples of how the Network is supporting cultural and creative businesses in **navigating international markets**. More importantly, you will encounter the stories behind this work — the entrepreneurs, creators and organisations whose ambition and creativity inspire what we do.

And what better way to illustrate this than through real experiences? Here are the voices of companies that have benefited from the support of the Enterprise Europe Network. Their journeys demonstrate how **tailored guidance, strategic connections** and cross-border cooperation can unlock new opportunities and foster sustainable growth.

“I really appreciate all of your help and support in visiting the factories and honestly could not have done it without you! Thank you so much for contacting the factories today and outlining the next steps, this is all new to me so I really appreciate your guidance.” **Síofra Caherty, Jump The Hedges, Ireland**

“Presenting Marias Paperdolls project to the EEN Advisors during their meeting in Portugal in 2023, opened the door to new opportunities, including training students at AMD Akademie Mode & Design in Düsseldorf and encouraging them to rethink creative processes and waste management practices.” **Cláudia Nair, Marias Paperdolls, Portugal**

“Today I’m very happy that we should now confirm 3 partnering agreements together! A big thank you from our side, it was really a great pleasure to work with you.” **Paola Tolin, EEN Advisor at Torino Chamber of Commerce (Italy)**

“Supporting Marias Paperdolls reinforced the importance of collaboration between countries. The workshop inspired students to see waste not as a problem but as potential for creativity and change.” **Ekaterina Karpushenkova, EEN Advisor at ZENIT GmbH (Germany)**

These voices demonstrate that our support goes beyond services and programmes. It is about people, their ideas, their challenges and their successes. In the Network, we are committed to strengthening this community, facilitating meaningful partnerships, and ensuring that the CCIs remain a vibrant part of Europe’s future. **This is EEN in action!**

Together, we’ll continue to build bridges, share knowledge and support the creative potential that defines our sector.

The Enterprise Europe Network Group of Experts in Cultural & Creative Industries is proud to present to you the latest issue of its newsletter and hope you will **enjoy reading it!**

First Things First- Updates and News

Below is a concise overview of **key EU and international developments** shaping policy, funding, and practice in the cultural, creative, and arts-for-health sectors, along with strategic documents and **flagship initiatives** guiding the work of the Cultural and Creative Ecosystem in 2026:

[First draft of Code of Practice on marking and labelling of AI-generated content](#)

The European Commission has presented the first draft Code of Practice for labelling and marking AI-generated content, aimed at strengthening transparency, user trust, and the implementation of the AI Act across the EU.

[2026 Annual Work Programme for the Creative Europe Programme](#)

Strategic document outlining the priorities, funding strands and actions of the Creative Europe Programme for 2026, reinforcing European support for culture, creativity, the audiovisual sector and transnational cooperation.

Author: [European Commission](#)

[13 sites to receive the European Heritage Label](#)

The EC has awarded the European Heritage Label to 13 new sites representing European values, history and integration, including one in Portugal, reinforcing its cultural heritage's visibility and significance within the EU.

[Towards the Culture Compass: A Sector Blueprint](#)

Strategic document outlining an integrated vision for European cultural policy under the Culture Compass initiative, focusing on artistic freedom, working conditions and sustainability.

Author: [Culture Action Europe](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? (2019) Key global evidence base on arts, culture and health

<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/329834>

[European Union – New European Agenda for Culture](#)

Culture as a driver of wellbeing, inclusion and sustainable development

<https://culture.ec.europa.eu/policies/strategic-framework-for-eus-cultural-policy>

[EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026](#)

Cross-sectoral cooperation, culture–health–social innovation

<https://culture.ec.europa.eu/culture/culture-policies/work-plan-for-culture-2023-2026>

[Regional Policy & Practice \(Emilia-Romagna, Italy\)](#)

Regional strategy integrating culture, health and social policies

<https://assr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/innovazione-sociale/partecipazione-e-sviluppo-di-comunita>

[I Fiori di Asclepio – Coltivare il Benessere attraverso la Cultura](#)

International dialogue initiative on cultural welfare (conference programme, speakers, methodologies)

[Welfare culturale. I fiori di Asclepio: Coltivare il Benessere attraverso la Cultura- INDUSTRIE CULTURALI CREATIVE](#)

[Programma Mattone Internazionale Salute \(ProMIS\)](#)

National programme supporting international cooperation in health and social innovation

<https://promisalute.it>

Open and upcoming calls and funding opportunities

[CREA-MEDIA-2026-FILMOVE | Films on the Move](#)

This call focuses on the pan-European distribution of non-national European films, through promotional campaigns and release strategies in cinemas and/or online, to increase reach and visibility.

Deadline: 16/07/2026

[CREA-MEDIA-2026-DEVMINISLATE | European Mini-Slate Development](#)

The Creative Europe MEDIA Strand will open funding for the development of mini-slates of audiovisual projects, enabling independent production companies to develop several projects simultaneously, thereby strengthening their creative capacity and international positioning. The scheme covers fiction, animation and documentary, promoting innovation and high-quality storytelling.

Deadline: 17/09/2026

[CREA-MEDIA-2026-CINNET | Networks of European Cinemas](#)

The Creative Europe MEDIA Strand supports networks of European cinemas in promoting and circulating non-national European works, encouraging audience development and cooperation among exhibitors. The call aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the exhibition sector and enhance cultural diversity in access to cinema.

Deadline: 09/07/2026

[HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-02 Boosting creative startups for disruptive innovation](#)

Deepen the knowledge of the most important factors that favour the scaling up of creative startups in Europe and unleashing their potential for disruptive innovation, with a particular focus on those factors that distinguish them from startups in other sectors, by two options:

Option a: Boosting the growth of creative startups into scaleups.

Option b: Boosting creative startups or scaleups with a potential for disruptive innovation.

[Horizon Europe Cluster 2 calls](#)

The launch of the [EIT Culture & Creativity calls](#) is currently awaited, with approximately 100 million euros this year.

Deadline: 16/09/2026

Different [cascade funding opportunities](#) are also expected to open soon.

[EU–Japan Fest | Mobility Support 2026](#)

The [EU–Japan Fest Japan Committee](#) supports artists, curators, producers and organisations in developing cultural projects between Japan and European Capitals of Culture or cities within the Culture Next network. The support is intended for research, planning and collaboration travel, with funding ranging from JPY 50,000 to 150,000.

Deadline: 15/08/2026

[Goethe-Institut | Mobility Grants for Artists and Cultural Professionals](#)

Mobility programme for artists and cultural professionals from Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, covering visual arts, music, audiovisual, heritage, design and architecture. European entities may apply when they have an existing partnership with an African organisation or professional. Funding can reach up to €4,000 per mobility.

DEADLINE 1: 15/09/2026

DEADLINE 2: 15/12/2026

Upcoming Events

Business, creativity, and culture brokerage events

[@GITEX AI EUROPE 2026](#) | 30 jun-3 jul 2026

B2B event hosted bringing together companies, startups, researchers and organisations across technology and creative sectors. Integrated within one of Europe's leading events on AI and digital innovation, it offers pre-scheduled one-to-one meetings where participants can showcase creative and digital solutions, explore emerging technologies, and build cross-border partnerships.

[Global Sustainable Fashion Week \(#GSFW\)](#) | 14 – 16 Sept 2026

10th Anniversary Milestone of the GSFWeek, specifically focusing on International B2B Matchmaking Days, coorganised by the *National Fashion League Hungary* and *Enterprise Europe Network*.

The B2B will take place online between 14th and 16th September.

Main Event Venue: Múzikum Club & Bistro, Budapest (17–18 September 2026).

[AAIC- Applied Artificial Intelligence Conference 2026](#) | 24 Sept 2026

The Applied Artificial Intelligence Conference (AAIC) 2026 is Austria's leading international conference dedicated to the practical application of AI in business and industry. Hosted in Vienna, the event brings together companies, researchers, policymakers, investors, and technology providers to explore real-world AI solutions, implementation strategies, and emerging trends.

[Virtual Brokerage Event @ Innovation Village 2026](#) | 5 Oct 2026

The Virtual Brokerage Event @ Innovation Village 2026 is an online matchmaking initiative aimed at fostering collaboration among companies, research organisations, public authorities, and investors engaged in innovation across three strategic sectors:- Energy Transition, Aerospace Tourism & Cultural Heritage.

[Stay Healthy Vilnius B2B Meetings](#) | 16 Oct 2026

Lithuanian Exhibition and Congress Centre LITEXPO, Vilnius Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, and Enterprise Europe Network Lithuania invite you to the "Matchmaking Stay Healthy Vilnius 2026" B2B sessions in Vilnius, held במסגרת the "Stay Healthy Vilnius 2026" wellness exhibition. The meetings aim to foster cooperation, knowledge exchange and partnerships in health, wellness, and the link between health tourism and culture, focusing on physical and emotional well-being and their interconnections.

[Dronetech World Meeting 2026 B2B Hybrid Matchmaking Event](#) | 19 Oct 2026

The Dronetech World Meeting trade fair are organised for the 11th time with a great history of joining in an international group of investors, entrepreneurs, scientists and enthusiasts of everything related to the latest unmanned technology, including photography, aerial imaging and cinematography.

[CONTACT "denkmal" & "MUTEC"](#) | 6 Nov 2026

The matchmaking is aimed at exhibitors and visitors of the fair coming from all sectors related to the preservation of cultural heritage, restoration and renovation of buildings as well as museum and exhibition design. That covers R & D, architects, planner, designer, investors, curators, builders, fitters specialised craftsmen, distributors of related products or representatives from conservation authorities.

Upcoming Events

CCI-related conferences, summits, festivals, and fairs in your countries

[Bienal Climática](#) | 12 jun – 20 sept 2026

First edition of the Climate Biennial, held in Avilés, Asturias, **Spain**, dedicated to the relationship between art, industry and territory. Under the theme “Rehearsing the unexpected”, the event proposes an artistic and interdisciplinary reflection on ecological transition, climate emergency and social transformation.



[ICCC'26](#) | 29 jun – 3 jul 2026

International conference dedicated to computational creativity, bringing together research, artificial intelligence, art, design and technology. The 2026 edition takes place in Coimbra, **Portugal**, fostering academic and interdisciplinary debate on creative systems.



[FMM Sines](#) | 17 – 25 jul 2026

A leading festival dedicated to world music, with concerts held in Porto Covo, **Portugal**. The programme brings together diverse geographies, musical traditions and contemporary expressions within an open and inclusive cultural context.



[Curtas Vila do Conde](#) | 17 – 26 jul 2026

International Film Festival in **Portugal** dedicated to short films, featuring competitions, retrospectives, cine-concerts and professional programming. A national and European reference point for emerging filmmakers, experimental cinema and contemporary audiovisual creation.



[Bienal de Cerveira](#) | 18 jul – 30 dec 2026

The 24th International Art Biennial of Cerveira presents the theme “Territories Without Borders”, proposing an artistic reflection on geographical, social, political and mental boundaries in contemporary creation.



[Düsseldorf Fashion Days](#) | 22 – 27 Jul 2026

The Düsseldorf Fashion Days (DFD) is a major B2B fashion event held twice a year in Düsseldorf, **Germany**, serving as a central platform for the fashion industry. It brings together designers, brands, retailers, buyers, showrooms, and trade fair organisers to present new collections and drive order business, while also offering space for dialogue, networking, and trend consultation.



[International Symposium on Museology and Conservation](#) | 23 – 25 jul 2026

International symposium on museology and conservation, organised by MUDE in Lisbon. The programme addresses conservation practices, curatorship, collections storage, sustainability and emerging challenges in museology.



[gamescom](#) | 26 – 28 Aug 2026

Gamescom is the leading fair for gaming in Cologne, Germany and the world's largest trade fair dedicated to computer and video games.



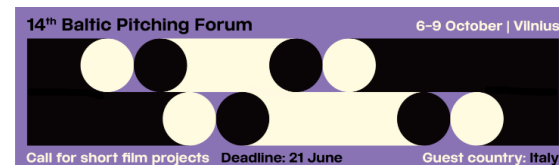
[Baltic Pitching Forum](#) | 6 – 9 Oct 2026

This is the leading short film industry event in the Baltic region, bringing together emerging short film talents from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

This year's guest country is Italy.

Calling for film projects: Fiction, Animation, Hybrid (live-action + animation)

Application deadline: **21st June**



[ART&TUR – International Tourism Film Festival](#) | 27 – 30 Oct 2026

This renowned event celebrates creativity in tourism audiovisual production, promoting **Portugal** as a hub for tourism communication while fostering dialogue between international professionals, filmmakers and institutions.

Through screenings, conferences and networking, ART&TUR brings together filmmakers and tourism stakeholders, serving as a key meeting point for those shaping tourism through storytelling and visual culture.

ART&TUR is part of [CIFFT- the International Committee of Tourism Film Festivals](#), the world's leading network of tourism film festivals.

Deadline for submission: 30th June 2026 here: <https://filmfreeway.com/ARTTUR>



[Porto/Post/Doc | Porto Industry Days 2026](#) | 19- 28 nov 2026

Porto/Post/Doc – Film & Media Festival is an international festival held in Porto, dedicated to exploring the relationship between cinema and contemporary culture. Its programme combines documentary and fiction films, exhibitions and discussions, focusing on pressing social, political and artistic themes while promoting critical thinking and dialogue between filmmakers and audiences.

Applications are now open for the **Industry Screenings, Co-Production Meetings and Arché Porto activities**, part of Porto Industry Days 2026. The initiative supports **audiovisual projects in development, pre-production or post-production**, fostering connections with producers, distributors, programmers, sales agents and other industry professionals. In 2026, the Industry Screenings and Co-Production Meetings are open to projects produced within the European territory. **Deadline to submit applications: 15/07/2026**

[Aristides de Sousa Mendes International Film & Human Rights Festival](#) | Nov- Dec 2026

Aristides de Sousa Mendes' morally justified disobedience, which saved thousands, is a timeless paradigm of Human Rights in action. The festival is a space for cinema, reflection, and civic participation, where moving images serve as instruments of living memory, denunciation, care, reparation, and imagining more just futures.

Winners will join an exclusive programme of roundtables, workshops, and networking on Human Rights in November–December 2026 in Lisbon, Porto, and Carregal do Sal.

Applications must be submitted by 15th August 2026 through the FilmFreeway platform at the following link: <https://filmfreeway.com/AristidesdeSousaMendesFilmFestival>

Rules & terms are available at: <https://www.sousamendesfilmfestival.org/>



EEN CCI-related events featuring participation or presentations by the CCI team

SPAIN

19th January – [Information session on European programmes supporting culture, creativity, and social inclusion](#)
Programmes presented included Erasmus+, CERV, Creative Europe and EIT Culture & Creativity.

11th March – [Horizon Europe Cluster 2 Info Day](#) and workshop on how to prepare a successful EU proposal, including proposal review sessions. More than 140 participants attended the event in person.



BELGIUM, GERMANY AND FINLAND

[SustainableSolutionsMatch](#)

This international B2B online matchmaking platform brought together companies, research organisations and other stakeholders to collaborate on practical solutions for a more sustainable and circular economy.



PORTUGAL

[S+T+ARTS ECHO Session | Online](#)

On 30th January 2026, an online session was dedicated to presenting opportunities within the European S+T+ARTS programme.

During the session, funding opportunities and collaboration prospects between artists, researchers, technology companies and cultural organisations were presented, highlighting the potential of artistic residencies and interdisciplinary projects to foster innovation driven by creativity.

The initiative was organised by AEP – Portuguese Business Association, within the framework of the Enterprise Europe Network, in partnership with S+T+ARTS ECHO, and with the support of the Cultural & Creative Industries Cluster, INOVA+ and Ars Electronica.



[SustainableSolutionsMatch 2026 | Pitching Session](#)

The SG Cultural and Creative Industries organized and AEP – Portuguese Business Association moderated a pitching session running alongside the B2B SustainableSolutionsMatch 2026.

The session focused on **Innovating with purpose: AI, circular design and smart solutions from the creative industry**, with seven SMEs presenting purpose-driven innovations in design, fashion, event management and urban systems that combine AI, circular design and smart technologies.

14:30 - 15:30	<p>Innovating with purpose: AI, circular design and smart solutions from the creative industry</p> <p> Video conferencing Pitching session </p> <p>A vibrant showcase of creative entrepreneurs using AI, sustainable materials and circular design to rethink how we produce, consume and build cities.</p>
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AUSTRIA

[Creative Industries Meets Industry 2026](#)

27–29 January 2026

CIMix is an international platform that brought together music, innovation and technology, gathering professionals, artists and decision-makers to discuss new business models, artistic mobility and European cooperation in the music sector.



GERMANY

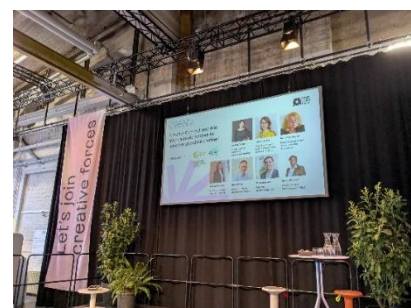
Online event on EU funding for the region organized on January 19th together with the regional ministry

Presentation of EU funding at even Creative Connect (organised by the regional Chamber of Industry and Commerce) on February 11th

<https://www.ihk.de/schleswig-holstein/produktmarken/branchen/creative-connect>



Session during the **German Creative Economy Summit** on April 29th presented the Network and EU funding possibilities for CCI <https://german-creative-economy-summit.de/programm/creative-connections-wie-internationale-netzwerke-neue-perspektiven-eroeffnen/>



[Kulturtræf K26](#)

Kulturtræf 2026 is an international cultural networking event held in Haderslev, Denmark. This year, the event took place on 3rd June, presented EU funding for CCI and brought together professionals from Southern Denmark and Northern Germany to strengthen cross-border cultural cooperation.



ITALY

From Books to Screens: CNA Emilia-Romagna and [Emilia-Romagna Film Commission](#) Foster New Creative Synergies at [Bologna Children’s Book Fair](#).

CNA Emilia-Romagna and the Emilia-Romagna Film Commission fostered **dialogue between the publishing and audiovisual sectors through a “Book to Screen” initiative** focused on adapting children’s literature for film and television.

Held at the TV/Film Rights Centre, it connected publishers, producers and creative companies, reflecting the growing trend of books as sources for screen and transmedia content.

As part of a wider regional strategy to strengthen cultural and creative industries, the initiative showcased successful projects supported by the regional Audiovisual Fund and highlighted the Bologna Children’s Book Fair as a key global marketplace for rights and multimedia development.

Bringing together professionals across sectors, CNA Emilia-Romagna also contributed to discussions on best practices, financing and collaboration, demonstrating how coordinated regional action can enhance innovation and competitiveness in Europe’s creative industries.



BULGARIA

[RFW Ruse Fashion Week](#)

On 2nd and 3rd April, the foyer of Ruse Central Railway Station was transformed into a fashion stage for the runway shows of the second edition of [RFW Ruse Fashion Week](#), organised by Bulgarian fashion portal [Fashion.bg](#), a client of the Enterprise Europe Network.

This year, 20 designer collections from Bulgaria, Belgium, Italy, Romania, Turkey and China were showcased at the catwalk.

The fashion designer from Italy, Rosy Signorello (Aladino’s Fashion), was selected thanks to the B2B event Torino Fashion Match, organised by the EEN, where Fashion.bg participated in 2025.

Ruse Fashion Week 2026 presented Spring-Summer 2026 collections and focused on promoting sustainable fashion. **Silvia Kabaivanova**, organiser of Ruse Fashion Week, emphasised: "This year’s participants were selected after analyzing a number of factors: garment durability, emotional value, made-to-order production, preservation of traditions, circular design and materials, ethical production processes, customer education, and transparency. Ruse Fashion Week positions sustainability as a shared journey rather than a barrier to creativity. These principles encourage designers to develop their potential while following a sustainable and responsible approach to fashion."

Starting on 28th March with a creative workshop for students, it also featured a CreativeLab workshop for emerging designers held on 1st April at PGO "Nedka Ivan Lazarova", led by top designer Ivan Donev.

The event gathered in total more than 400 people as an audience at the different events and around 2000 online viewers of the live broadcasting on Facebook.

The efforts of designers and brands in the field of sustainable fashion were recognized with the presentation of the Sustainable Fashion Award by the **Bulgarian Fashion Association**, chaired by Silvia Kabaivanova.



HUNGARY

The Journey from EEN Company Missions to the founding of a Cluster: The Story of the Hungarian Design & Build Alliance

“As an EEN Creative and Cultural Industries Sector Group (CCI SG) member, I work closely with numerous creative companies” says Melinda Czagány, coordinator of the Hungarian EEN consortium. Recognising that traditional EEN B2B matchmaking opportunities can be scarce in this specific sector, Melinda decided to take a proactive approach and support her clients by organising targeted company missions. This sparked a highly successful annual mission series: **Berlin in 2023, Brussels in 2024, and Copenhagen in 2025**. These missions were made possible through the valuable collaboration of local CCI Sector Group colleagues and the Hungarian consortium partner, Enikő Schmidt from the Pécs-Baranya Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PBKIK).



The impact went far beyond exploring international expos. The participating companies forged tight-knit business relationships, gained immense international experience, launched new joint projects, and even developed shared product lines. As a direct result of this ongoing EEN cooperation and professional support, the **Hungarian Design & Build Alliance (HDBA)** was officially founded on 2nd April 2026, with 18 founding members, a number that continues to grow.



The **HDBA Cluster** brings together over twenty complementary companies and operates through a project-based, high value-added collaboration model, enabling it to deliver complex turnkey “Design & Build” solutions managed by a single, integrated team from concept to completion.

Its core mission is to align the expertise of its members, develop export-ready project packages, and identify international business opportunities. Looking ahead, the alliance is working towards achieving **Certified Cluster status**, supported by expert guidance from PBKIK (Pécs), whose experienced cluster management and EEN advisory role provide practical insight into the accreditation process.

Bringing together over twenty complementary businesses, the HDBA operates on a project-based, high-value-added collaboration model. It can deliver complex, turnkey "Design & Build" solutions, where a single, unified team manages everything from initial design to final execution. The cluster’s primary mission is to synchronize the professional competencies of its member companies, develop export-ready project packages, and identify international business opportunities.

Next Milestone: Achieving Certified Cluster Status

The journey doesn't stop here. We are actively supporting the alliance in reaching its next major milestone: obtaining the **Certified Cluster** title. To facilitate this, we brought in our consortium partner (PBKIK – Pécs), which already hosts two established clusters within the chamber. Since their cluster managers also serve as EEN advisors, they were able to provide first-hand, detailed guidance on the entire accreditation process.

Within the **EEN Client Journey framework**, this support will continue through strengthened international networking, including planned B2B meetings and company visits at the CCI SG event in Brno in September 2026, alongside partner matchmaking via the EEN database, new international company missions building on previous successes, and targeted capacity-building activities such as training, R&D and funding advisory, and sustainability services to support long-term growth.

LITHUANIA

Talent, Creativity and the Future of Innovation: EEN CCI at the Culture Forum 2026



The Lithuanian National Culture Forum 2026, held in May under the theme **“Creativity: Talent in Focus”**, brought together cultural and creative industries professionals, creators, educators, policymakers and other stakeholders to explore how talent and creativity can be fostered in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world.

At the Creators' EXPO, representatives introduced the activities of the Enterprise Europe Network and Cultural and Creative Industries Sector



Group and showcased how EEN supports SMEs through international partnerships, access to funding, innovation opportunities and skills development.

International experts and cultural leaders discussed the factors shaping talent development, highlighting the growing importance of systems thinking, AI, artistic freedom, multidisciplinary approaches and future skills. The discussions underscored the vital role of culture and creative industries in driving both societal development and economic growth.

Link to the discussion in English: <https://youtu.be/fQF7Wz8V4WQ?si=psF3ei3HQroVBemX>

FRANCE

‘Réseau Excellence’: showcasing France’s Living Heritage Companies

Réseau Excellence is the national federation uniting regional associations of Entreprises du Patrimoine Vivant (EPV), companies recognized by the French State for exceptional craftsmanship. It connects networks across France to foster cooperation, promote know-how, and strengthen the visibility of these artisanal and industrial leaders. A national board coordinates initiatives and ensures strong representation within France’s creative and industrial ecosystems. Created in June 2024, the [EPV Nouvelle-Aquitaine Association](#) — part of Réseau Excellence — brings together regional EPV-labelled companies to foster collaboration, enhance visibility, and support business development. Its missions include promoting the EPV label, building partnerships, defending members’ interests, and contributing to regional dynamics in the Leather, Luxury, Textile, and Craft sectors. It also encourages joint projects, participation in flagship events, and the growth of know-how tourism.

As France's third-largest region in number of EPV-labelled companies, Nouvelle-Aquitaine hosts more than 150 enterprises that preserve exceptional craftsmanship — from leather and textiles to porcelain and fine food traditions, forming a living source of cultural and creative vitality for the region.

EEN contact: Valerie Mandon – valerie.mandon@limoges.cci.fr

Discover the new 'Cité du Cuir' in Saint-Junien, Nouvelle-Aquitaine | France

Located on the banks of the Vienne River, the *Cité du Cuir*, launched in December 2025, is a unique cultural hub dedicated to showcasing France's renowned leather and glove-making heritage. As an immersive museum and creative space, it highlights centuries-old craftsmanship through a curated exhibition pathway that traces the transformation of raw skin into finished leather and reveals the precise techniques of master glovers.

Beyond its museum experience, the Cité du Cuir offers creative workshops, demonstrations, thematic guided tours, and temporary exhibitions, welcoming both the general public and professionals. It also serves as a meeting point for designers, artisans, researchers, and students, supporting collaborative projects and the development of the regional leather industry. A dynamic space for culture, innovation, and savoir-faire, the Cité du Cuir stands as a key resource for the creative and cultural industries.

EEN contact: Valerie Mandon – valerie.mandon@limoges.cci.fr

Business Profiles – Let's get visible

[BOES20260601020](#) - **Spanish** board game publisher seeks international distributors and publishing partners for global expansion.

[BOIT20260511002](#) - SME from **Italy** is offering specialised live and digital training services for fashion and creative industries.

[BOCZ20260429003](#) - **Czech company** offers virtual reality education platform for immersive classroom learning under commercial agreement with technical assistance.

[BRBE20260429015](#) - **Belgian SME** seeks European manufacturer for children's wooden and MDF play furniture and modular dollhouses under supplier agreement.

[TODE20260326024](#) - **French retrogaming** SME seeks suppliers of vintage video games, consoles, accessories and collectible figurines (1980–2014).

[BOIE20260210021](#) - **Irish Cultural technology company** specialising in creating digital, location-based cultural experiences which transforms regions into open-air galleries are seeking to identify European partners for collaboration.

[RDRES20260410013](#) – A **Spanish SME** AI-driven Gamified Cultural Heritage Experiences Platform for Rural Destinations.

[BODE20260408012](#) - **German MedTech leader** in gamified rehabilitation, operating internationally, seeks strategic distributors for therapy solution.

[BOFI20260305021](#) - A **Finnish reflective outdoor** jewellery manufacturer is searching for distributors.

[RDRFR20260403010](#) - **French CCI start-up** is looking for research and business partners for the Creative Europe Calls.

[TOGR20260330006](#) - Teacher training methodology in active and communicative teaching of Ancient **Greek** as a living language with integrated classical culture.

[BRIT20260323011](#) – From **Italy**, an International development of the pedagogy of the mask – Hosting and co-creation partnerships.

[RDRGR20260312003](#) - Creative Europe CREA-CULT-2026-COOP-2 – **Greek university** seeks cultural and research partners from the Black Sea region for a transnational cultural cooperation project.

[BOPT20260330036](#) - **Portuguese circular** fashion and social inclusion **initiative** seeks brand and corporate partners to co fund textile repair programmes and social employment schemes.

Business Profiles – Let's get visible

[BOCZ20260213019](#) - Digital Product Passport (DPP) Platform for Textile Industry - **Czech Republic**- Seeking Pilot Customers.

[BOBG20260512013](#) - **Bulgarian digital agency** is offering from domain registration to website creation services for business clients.

[BOPT20260330037](#) - AI-powered e-learning provider based in **Portugal** specialised in virtual assistants for training seeks end-clients, nearshoring partners and resellers.

[BOBG20260414005](#) - **Bulgarian company**, manufacturer wood products, is searching for distributors and sales agents in EU to offer and distribute educational toys- a children's wooden constructor, made of health-safe materials.

[TODE20260326024](#) - **German deep-tech company** offering an AI-powered, on-demand platform for personalized fashion production is looking for brand partners for pilot projects and long-term commercial and R&D collaboration.

[BODE20260408012](#) - **German MedTech leader** in gamified rehabilitation, operating internationally, seeks strategic distributors for therapy solution.

[TODE20260417001](#) - **German company** offering WebAR solutions for smart tourism and cultural heritage promotion seeks research and commercial partners.

[TODE20260424001](#) - **German company** offering an open source solution for the creation of VR training application is looking for research and commercial partners.

[BOPT20260401016](#) - **Portuguese storytelling-driven audiovisual** production company seeks partners to co-produce an international science documentary and collaborate on high-quality content creation.

[BOLT20260220003](#) - **Lithuanian creative studio** offering scalable cultural route concept combining art and immersive technologies, seeking international funding and implementation partners.

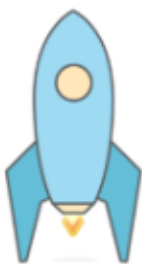
[TOFR20260407026](#) - A **French workshop specialising in the design**, creation and restoration of stained glass is looking for partners under commercial or outsourcing agreements.

[TOFR20260318037](#) – A **French Visual project** management platform for creative studios seeks beta testers in animation, VFX and video games.

[BOFR20260121010](#) - A **French development studio offering** an augmented reality app dedicated to art and culture is looking for cultural institutions for business partnerships.

Much more cooperation opportunities are available on the Enterprise Europe Network!

Find them here: [Partnering Opportunities](#)



CCI SG meeting: Barcelona meeting recap and upcoming meeting in Brno



Organised by ACCIÓ, the [Cultural & Creative Industries Sector Group meeting, held in Barcelona on 3–4 February 2026](#), brought together European experts to discuss new opportunities for collaboration, innovation and internationalisation in the cultural and creative industries.

The programme included visits to companies and innovation ecosystems, notably a visit to [GRUP MEDIAPRO](#), highlighting the potential for cooperation between technology and audiovisual production.

Participation in [Integrated Systems Europe](#) also provided an opportunity to explore trends in immersive technologies and digital communication.

The meeting reinforced the Network’s commitment to supporting European creative SMEs through new partnerships, joint initiatives and market opportunities within the European CCI ecosystem.

The city of **Brno**, in **Czechia**, will host the next Sector Group meeting on **17th and 18th September** this year. [KUMST](#), a creative hub supporting entrepreneurs and professionals in the cultural and creative industries through incubation, collaboration and innovation programmes, will be at the centre of this gathering of the Cultural & Creative Industries group of experts.

Important note: The registration deadline for the meeting is set on the end of July!

Register via link: [CCI SG Onsite meeting in Brno](#)

CCI Sector Group in Action | Relevant connections

EEN CCI Sector Group Collaboration and Local Ecosystem Engagement Lead to a Successful International Heritage Partnership

At the meeting of the EEN Cultural and Creative Industries Group of Experts in Barcelona, members exchanged not only general sector updates but also concrete **European project opportunities and partner needs**. During this meeting, the French EEN colleague presented an **emerging consortium idea looking for cultural heritage pilot sites- HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-02 – Boosting creative startups for disruptive innovation**.

After the meeting, the discussion was followed up with a specific request, which the Hungarian EEN office forwarded to its local cultural and creative industry ecosystem. Thanks to the office's **close cooperation with regional stakeholders** and its **creative industry cluster**, suitable **potential partners could be identified quickly**. Based on these recommendations, Zsolnay Heritage Management Nonprofit Ltd. in Pécs was contacted directly.

This marked the starting point of the cooperation between the two EEN offices and their clients. The case shows how **a personal meeting can create momentum that continues after the event and turns an initial discussion into a concrete partnership process**. It also highlights the **strong added value of CISG members' embeddedness in their local creative industry ecosystems**. Because the advisers know their regional actors, institutions and development priorities, they can connect international opportunities with the right local partners efficiently and credibly. The result was a meaningful cross-border cooperation opportunity linking a **French innovation project with a Hungarian cultural heritage organisation**.

Culture as Infrastructure for Wellbeing and Sustainable Growth

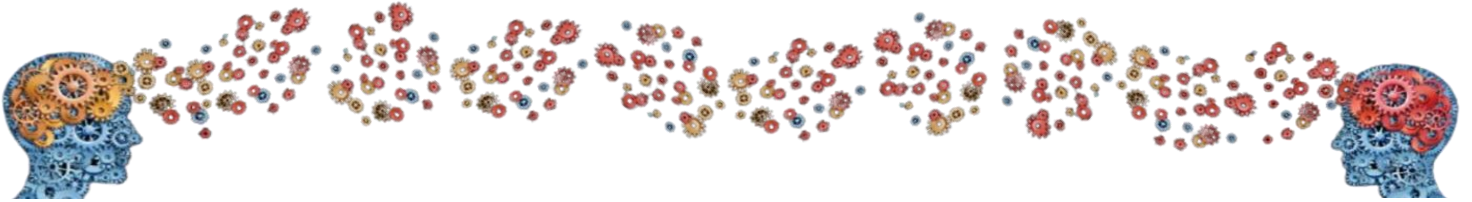
During the meeting of the EEN Group of Experts for Cultural & Creative Industries – Subgroup Access to Finance in Barcelona, CNA Emilia-Romagna presented an **innovative regional approach that positions culture as a strategic infrastructure for wellbeing and sustainable growth**. The presentation highlighted the “I Fiori di Asclepio” initiative, developed within the regional cultural welfare strategy, showing how culture can connect public health systems, social services and creative ecosystems, generating both social impact and new funding opportunities for CCIs.

The Emilia-Romagna model relies on strong public leadership and cross-sector collaboration, reframing culture as a preventive investment that enhances wellbeing, strengthens communities and supports more efficient welfare systems. A central focus was its financial dimension: by aligning cultural activities with public-interest objectives, the model enables access to non-traditional funding sources such as health budgets and social innovation funds, opening the way for blended finance mechanisms.

The presentation also referred to growing international recognition of the link between culture and wellbeing, alongside practical tools such as social prescribing, co-design processes and professional training for cultural operators. The Emilia-Romagna approach was highlighted as replicable, as it is policy-driven and allows creative SMEs to operate across culture, health and social innovation. It ultimately demonstrates how **investing in culture can generate public value, social resilience and new economic opportunities for the creative economy**.

For more information: **Institutional & Policy Frameworks**

Success stories



Success stories highlight the potential for collaboration and innovation in the CCI Sector. Stay tuned for more inspiring stories and opportunities to elevate business to new heights, reshaping creative ecosystems.

Porcelain of Limoges: first European geographical indication, Nouvelle-Aquitaine | France

The European Union has granted its first geographical indication (GI) for a craft and industrial product under the new Craft and Industrial GI scheme. France's Limoges Porcelain, situated in the French South West EEN consortium, is the first product to receive EU-wide protection, highlighting the strong connection between its quality, reputation, and place of origin. This recognition helps safeguard the product against imitation and misuse. Since December 2025, the EU has expanded GI protection beyond agricultural products to include craft and industrial goods. The scheme is based on the CIGI Regulation, which came into force in 2023 and is managed by DG GROW. Its objectives are to preserve traditional craftsmanship and industrial expertise, support local employment and regional development, and promote authentic European products. The initiative has attracted significant interest, with 74 applications submitted by Member States. Registered products include a variety of crafts such as ceramics and textiles.

More information: <https://porcelainedelimoges.fr/en/>

EEN contact: Valerie Mandon – valerie.mandon@limoges.cci.fr

ACCIO advisory support provided to Bmat | Spain

ACCIO provided advisory support to [BMat](#), a music company specialising in indexing music usage and ownership data, in the context of the CREA-CROSS-2025-INNOVLAB call. Through EEN legal services, ACCIO assisted the company in reviewing its consortium agreement. In addition, ACCIO supported six companies in building international partnerships and preparing European project proposals. To date, two proposals have been selected, three were not successful, and the results for the remaining proposals are still pending. These collaborations involved partners from France, Denmark, Belgium, Finland and Germany.

re.store®: Turning textile waste into social value through circular textiles and inclusion | Portugal

When sustainability meets social innovation, new opportunities emerge, as shown by re.store®, a Portuguese brand transforming textile offcuts leftovers and waste into high-quality products while creating fair employment for vulnerable groups. The initiative has already diverted 10 tonnes of waste from landfill and generated over €72,000 for social partnerships, delivering measurable impact on people, communities and the environment. Supported by AEP through networking and partnership development, the brand also gained European recognition after winning first place in the National Prize for Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship 2025. Its journey highlights how small, purpose-driven businesses can scale their impact through the right support and international visibility.

More information: [Home Page- re.store®](#)

EEN contact: Ceu Filipe – ceu.filipe@aeportugal.pt

From Consulting to Creativity: how EEN advisors helped create the “Pink Soup Postcard” | Lithuania

When “[Urban Food](#)” introduced its Quick Pink Soup—an instant version of Lithuania’s traditional cold beetroot soup—the product stood out but needed a more distinctive format for international promotion. With support from the Enterprise Europe Network, the company created the “Pink Soup Postcard”, a compact, travel-friendly tasting package that doubles as a creative souvenir. Launched in just one month, it gained strong visibility through Lithuanian embassies and international events, including a biotechnology exhibition in Switzerland and trade fairs in Japan. The concept helped position the product as a recognisable ambassador of Lithuanian culture. This case shows how creativity and strategic support can transform a local speciality into a product with global appeal while enabling SMEs to access new markets.



Breton Film Industry Confirms Its Dynamism in 2025 | France

In 2025, the Breton film and audiovisual sector once again demonstrated its vitality, defying a challenging national cultural landscape. With 111 films supported by the Region and 192 projects facilitated by the Accueil des Tournages (Location Support Office), Brittany solidified its reputation as a hub for cinematic and audiovisual creativity.

A Thriving Animation Sector | France

Brittany’s animation industry continued to shine, with nearly a dozen films backed by Bretagne Cinéma selected for national and international festivals. Notable titles included *Amélie et la métaphysique des tubes*, *Les contes du pommier*, *Olivia*, *Le secret des mésanges*, *Atomik Tour*, *Le Signal*, and *Carcassonne-Acapulco*. These selections underscore the region’s ability to produce high-quality, diverse content that resonates on the global stage.

Unmasking Unquiet Truths: How Marias Paperdolls and the EEN inspired a new generation of sustainable creators in Germany | Portugal

Marias Paperdolls, a Portuguese sustainable art brand founded by Cláudia Nair Oliveira, aimed to expand internationally and access new collaboration and funding opportunities. Despite its strong creative identity, it faced challenges in European networking and partner engagement. The Enterprise Europe Network, through AEP and ZENIT GmbH, supported the brand with tailored networking, mentoring, and access to programmes such as Culture Moves Europe. This led to the delivery of the “Unquiet Truths” workshop in Germany, engaging design students in sustainability through creative reuse. The initiative became a meaningful educational experience and strengthened the brand’s international presence. It also opened new opportunities for European collaboration.

More information: [Home Page- re.store®](#)

EEN contact: Ceu Filipe – ceu.filipe@aeportugal.pt

International Appeal | France

The region’s appeal extended beyond France, attracting international productions, particularly from Germany. In 2025, Brittany hosted the filming of *Commissaire Dupin* and *Les Mercredis à la mer*, further cementing its status as a prime location for European co-productions.

A Skilled and Growing Industry | France

Brittany boasts a highly qualified workforce, with over 1,040 professionals (including technicians and actors) and 152 service providers capable of supporting fiction film and audiovisual productions. This ecosystem ensures that the region remains a competitive and reliable destination for both domestic and international projects.

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We hope you find this newsletter informative and inspiring. Don't miss out on the upcoming events, success stories, and partnering opportunities in the CCI SG. Stay connected with the [Enterprise Europe Network](#) to unlock the full potential of your business in this dynamic sector.

For more information and to stay updated on the latest news, events, and opportunities, visit [our website](#) or reach out to us directly. We look forward to supporting your journey in the Cultural & Creative Industries.