

Cultural Creative Spaces & Cities

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Commons Sense: Let's Create a Bottom-Up European Democracy

Digital Co-Creation Lab
29-30 June 2020



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

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Proposal Submission Instructions

Dear team,
please use this format to deliver your proposal. We ask you to provide an analysis and a concrete proposal for each of the subtopics of the challenge you chose to focus on. Finally, we ask you to write 5 keywords for each subtopic (slide 12). If you think that one or more of the subtopics is not relevant, you can provide an alternative solution (and keywords) to the challenge, giving a reason why you deem the original subtopic not relevant.

Any doubts?
Check the [guidelines!](#)


Co-Creation Lab Proposal

Challenge Nr 3:
Building spaces of encounter between local and EU level

Team:
2

Names of team members:

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3.1 Concrete proposals to bring Europe closer to citizens and cultural operators – Organisation of the ‘homes of commons’: how can homes of commons act as effective tools to decentralise EU institutions and foster a dialogue with the local contexts? How can homes of commons communicate and collaborate simultaneously with EU institutions, local authorities and citizens?


There are a lot of (similar) local facilitators that function as local homes of commons (e.g.: local urban labs, colab quarter, citizens lab, Coboilab, Forum Apulum,) ; they give space to local initiatives and have social impact. But they are not visible enough to each other and especially not to the EU institutions. They lack an international network and formal legitimation, as they are usually on voluntary basis.

What we are looking for is a way to be acknowledged by (European) policy makers and to connect to each other. There are a lot of networking sites (e.g.: creative europe desks, european culture foundation), but they are not accessible for and visited by all smaller grassroots initiatives, especially outside of big urban areas. And most of all, they are not updated and decentralized.

As facilitators, we feel like communication and collaboration is not searched for actively enough by EU institutions and that communication and collaboration are not a (financial) possibility for citizens and local grassroots organisations. We also all speak different languages, as an example policy makers communicate differently from scholars, but we found that local facilitators train themselves in learning to communicate in different social settings by spending time in different parts of their community.

There is much willingness from us to do this on a EU or global level as well. We would like to be the connection between the local environment we know so well and the EU institutions.






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More than spaces, we could imagine new threads. It would consist in scouting « local » facilitators in charge of animating and accompanying «**local ecosystems**» (composed of cultural managers, facilitators, policy makers, change makers, ONG representatives, artists, entrepreneurs and of course citizens).

Through a way up to define, this European platform of facilitators could offer to :

- Connect local ecosystems with broader environments through an online space with periodic physical meetings.
- Meet up through digital video presentations or in real life meetings to present themselves and their local situation.
- Learn through digital (online and mobile learning, Mooc) and on-site training (peer-to-peer learning, social learning, learning by doing), sharing an ever-evolving toolbox (methods of design thinking, group facilitation techniques, design of prototypes, art of hosting, gamification, etc.), exchanging stories, experience feedbacks, skills, good practices) (similar to the travel grants provided by Erasmus+)
- Every partner within the platform solve and facilitate their local challenges with the support of their local stakeholders, European peers using shared tools (using Open Innovation tools, e.g.: OpenIDEO without the competitive factor).



3. 2 Concrete proposals to bring Europe closer to citizens and cultural operators – Agenda of the homes of commons: what should be on the agenda of homes of commons, in order to facilitate the links between the EU and the local level? What function should homes of commons have (advocacy, information, co-creation, local participation...)?

The issue with the current funds is that they stimulate competition and require co-funding, both of which create an even larger gap for small local facilitators. With this comes a risk for EU institutions to be perceived as funders and not partners outside of the big urban areas. That is why, through a platform which will bring together local facilitators around EU, the role of the homes of commons could not only be of "provider", but of partner, co-creator and connector for ideas and people.

Thus it will help initiatives grow by providing resources, information, possible partners and know how from their peers all over EU. By including all the local facilitators as equals in the conversation, and providing them with access to other good practices around EU, the homes of commons will use the potential which already exists, that of people who are already engaged civically in their communities.

This platform could create a shared language and give inspiration to local communities. And maybe the biggest take away from this will be to provide the environment for a better mutual understanding of the common problems, but also of common solutions, that we as a world share.

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- The platform stimulate its members to create shared challenges to be solved locally in a non competitive way with the support of EU institutions, local and national institutions and existing networks of facilitators (similar to Creative FLIP)
- The decision making process to propose the challenges is distributed and decentralized between the partners (e.g.: Loomio)
- An individual partner can propose a challenge or a project to encourage the contribution (knowledge and tools) from facilitators and peer-partner who belong to the platform.
- The governance system is co-created by the facilitators who are part of the platform.
- Funders give control to the network of facilitators to manage the resources needed to implement the solutions generated and the resources should be redistributed using a consent decision making process (similar to l'Ecole Libérée)
- A model of governance allows local european realities to be equally relevant.
- It allows everyone to have agency and decision making power to manage resources.

The function of this homes of the commons is to stimulate co-creation & local participation, with four main goals:

1. See and be seen by other organisations and institutions (visibility)
2. Interlink these different practices across Europe (connectivity)
3. Map practices based on CHALLENGES to provide feedback and knowledge on social life (research)
4. Work together on challenges and implement solutions in the local environment (action & learning)



Our 5 Keywords

Challenge Nr 3: Building spaces of encounter between local and EU level

Please insert here 5 keywords that best describe your proposal.

Visibility, connectivity, research, action, learning

You should also post these on menti.com. The code for menti.com will be announced on Slack.

Done!