



Capitals of Culture Working Together

A programme by:



With the support of:



Capitals of Culture Working Together

FINAL EVENT - WEBINAR 28 APRIL 2026

14.00-17.00 CEST

Registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Gac0JT30R56bg1XcNYZ1Tg>

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Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish.

Background

Since 2023, the UCLG Committee on culture coordinates the “**Capitals of Culture Working Together**” programme, funded by the European Commission and promoted by the European Parliament, and connects regional and continental “Capital of Culture” initiatives, offering spaces for dialogue, cooperation and innovation. The overall objective of the programme is “To establish a global common frame of cooperation and understanding on cultural policies and inter-cultural exchanges between local actors and authorities”; with these specific objectives: (1) To share the experiences and models of towns which have invested in the cultural dimension in order to develop and “transform” their city and to increase the economic and social welfare of their citizens, with specific reference to the European Capitals of Culture (ECoC) initiative’s impact;

(2) To contribute to establish solid connections and partnerships between Cities from the EU partner countries, starting from the African ones, and from the European Union, and (3) To widen the understanding of the contribution of cultural policies within a territorial approach to local development, with specific attention to the strengthening of the concept of citizenship among youth and to increase the attractiveness of intermediate cities.

The programme has been developed with these **4 axis**: (a) the support to **the organisation of meetings** of Mayors of cities towards the objective of facilitating the launching of similar "Capital of Culture" initiatives, with specific attention to the African and Latin American continents, bringing specific expertise and experiences from the rest of the world, (b) the support to the drafting of **adapted structured methodologies**, starting from the one for the "African Capital of Culture", including selection process and impact measurements tools, and analyzing possibilities for similar initiatives in other continental spaces (like Mercosur, Latin America, Middle-East or Asia-Pacific), (c) the engagement with **a selected number of strategic cities** to localise the SDGs with cultural policies, through Seven Keys workshops, online webinars and a Culture Capital – Culture Goal report, and (d) the participation to and animation of "**cultural dimension of development**" within major international "City and Regions" Fora and events.

This final webinar

The final webinar will explain the main outcomes of the programme developed between 2023 and 2026, and explore a second phase.

Objectives

The objectives of this webinar are:

- a) Explain the programme in the frame of the global conversation on culture and development
- b) Explain the results of the programme related to Capacity-building, Architecture and Advocacy
- c) Boost the specific connections among cities that hold the titles in 2026, 2027 and 2028, and beyond.
- d) Explore the possibilities for a second phase of the programme

Agenda

14.00. **Presentation of the webinar**, by Jordi Pascual, ASG, UCLG

14.05. **The frame of the programme in the global conversation on culture, local authorities and development**

- María Victoria Alcaraz, Director General for Cultural Cooperation, City of Buenos Aires, and Co-President of the UCLG Culture Committee
- François Menguelé, Secretary General, UCLG-Africa
- Armelle Guyomarch, INTPA G2, European Commission

14.20. **Capacity-building: tools, youth and cities in action.** The Seven Keys, the Youth Lab and the Culture 21 Plus, by Valeria Marcolin, Co-director, Culture et Développement.

- Hugues Gervais Ondaye, Cultural Advisor to the Mayor, Brazzaville
- Kelly Diapouli, Elefsina 2023 and Lamaca 2030, European Capitals of Culture
- Ebyte Emine, Councilor for Cooperation, Region of Nouakchott

14.40. **Architectures.** The first steps of the new initiative "African Capital of Culture"

- Rahmatouca Sow, UCLG-Africa

14.50. **Advocacy.** The report "Culture Capitals for the Culture Goal", by Sylvia Amann, director of Info-Relais.

- Stephen Wyber, Director of Policy, International Federation of Libraries' Associations and Institutions – IFLA
- Marie-Julie Desrochers, Secretary-General, International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity - IFCCD
- Babylas Ndiaye, President, Arterial Network
- Yves Zimmerman, Director of Agenda 2030, City and Metropolis of Strasbourg

15.10. **Initial balance of achievements.**

- Giorgio Ficarelli, Active Exp, former Head of Culture Section at DG DEVCO, European Commission
- Marie Imbert, DG-EAC, European Commission
- Jorge Rodríguez, Coordinator, Technical Secretariat, Mercociudades
- Maria Sofia Alvarez Perez, ParlaSur's Head of Department "Inter-Institutional Relations"
- Emmanuelle Robert, Programme Specialist, Culture Sector, UNESCO

15.45 **Short break.**

15.50. **Cities in action**

- Hugues Gervais Ondaye, Cultural Advisor to the Mayor, Brazzaville, African Capital of Culture, 2026 – 2027
- Juan Miguel Moreno Calderon, Director, Cordoba 2027, Mediterranean Capital of Culture and Dialogue
- Anna Hořejší, Creative Director, České Budějovice, European Capital of Culture, 2028
- Mauricio Castro, Director of Culture, Concepción, and co-presidency of the Culture Unit, Mercociudades
- Ștefan Teisanu, Secretary General, Culture Next Cities Network
- Alessandro G. Lamonica, Public Policies Manager, Anna Lindh Foundation

16.20. **Voices from the field: Cities vision for the future**

- Yarri Kamara, Cultural Policy researcher and writer, member of the UNESCO 2005 Convention Expert Facility
- Stellan Kemunto, Director for Culture, Nairobi
- Raoul Rugamba, Director, Africa in Colors, Kigali
- Michel Vallée, Director, Culture pour Tous Network
- Lucina Jiménez, Director General, Secretary for Culture, Government of Mexico
- Felipe Ochoa, Director for International Relations, Cuenca, Ecuador
- Eva Ramírez, Director of Cultural Cooperation, Quilmes, and co-presidency of the Culture Unit, Mercociudades

16.50. **Towards 2030, and beyond, conclusions, and gratitude.**

17.00 **End of the webinar.**

CONTACT

Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat of the UCLG Culture Committee should you need any additional information.

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