

Overview: Project groups of the "Europe Bottom-Up" platform

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Project Groups of the "Europe Bottom-Up" Platform

The project groups use the platform to expand their networks, present existing projects and develop new projects together. They can also share experiences, organise events together and promote each other's projects.

The project groups are listed here alphabetically

1. Project Group A Soul for Europe

Coordination SZB: Yolanda Rother

Partners: Kathrin Deventer, Nele Hertling

Mission Statement: The aim of "A Soul for Europe" on the "Europe Bottom-Up" platform is to strengthen Europe with the means of art and to network digitally in the process.

Description: The initiative "A Soul for Europe" is supported by the Strategy Group, a group of 40 Europeans from the European cultural sector. Together they pursue the goal of strengthening Europe from below with the means of art. Their most important project is the "A Soul for Europe" conference. Within the framework of the conference, they bring together personalities from Europe's political, economic and cultural scene every year in order to make the different perspectives on Europe visible and to promote mutual understanding of art and culture.

In addition to the "A Soul for Europe" conference, they organise forums in various European cities to engage in exchange with local communities and strengthen Europe from below. On the platform "Europe Bottom-Up", the initiative builds on its own project, uses the broad network to network with other actors and to promote its approach of using culture to strengthen Europe from below.

2. Project Group Cities and Festivals

Coordination SZB: Sandra Chamier

Partners: Kathrin Deventer, Nele Hertling

Mission Statement: Cities and Festivals pursues the goal of bringing festivals and their host cities, including the responsible city representatives, together on the "Europe Bottom-Up" platform in the interest of Europe.

Description: Festivals in particular have the potential to unite smaller local contexts with larger European themes. Art and the artists, as well as the city and its community, are key to any cultural programme. The Festival Cities Initiatives, founded by the European Festival Association, is a group of festivals and cities convinced of the importance of the relationship and cooperation between a

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city and its cultural partners and civil society actors in the interest of European development. The project group works out these potentials for strengthening the European project and makes them visible. The results of the project group form a basis for developing strategies and concrete formats together with festivals and cities. On the "Europe Bottom-Up" platform, these are intended to give other European cities and their festivals ideas and show possibilities for joint projects.

3. Project Group Co2-neutral cultural work

Coordination SZB: Sandra Chamier

Partners: Daniela Berglehn, Jacob Bilabel, Birgit Heidsiek, Dieter Kosslick, , Christian Thomsen

Mission Statement: In the project Co2-neutral cultural work, positive examples of how emission-free and sustainable cultural work can function are collected on the platform "Europe Bottom-Up".

Description: In this project group, examples and measures for emission-free cultural work are identified and further developed in cooperation with cultural workers and politicians. The initial focus of the content-related work is on the film industry. The driving force behind this project group is the former director of the Berlinale, Dieter Kosslick. The integration of this project group on the "Europe Bottom-Up" platform provides for an extension of the work to other parts of cultural work. The main aim is to jointly contribute to a more climate-neutral development of Europe with concrete activities. All of the platform's activities share the objective of bringing together actors from the cultural sector with local and European politicians and academics. The aim of this project group is now, in the interest of the success of European unification, to practice emission-free cultural work throughout Europe and to propagate the need to work out measures and strategies for sustainable cultural work and to simplify their implementation in cooperation with political actors.

4. Project Group Europe on the Ground

Coordination SZB: Sandra Chamier

Partners: Volker Hassemer, Anke Plättner, Matthias Ruffert and other members of the grassroots group of "We are Europe".

Mission Statement: Europe on the Ground organises citizens' dialogues in various European cities and facilitates an exchange on European issues. In the future, this cooperation will also take place digitally on the "Europe Bottom-Up" platform to share the experience.

Description: The initiative "We are Europe" has set itself the goal of getting young people in particular excited about Europe. It seeks to do this by making well-prepared visits to European cities to talk openly and impartially with the citizens there, with the intention of ultimately giving them a new perspective on the importance of Europe and, in the best case scenario, getting them to participate in its development. On the platform, "We Are Europe" shares the experience of the visits with European partners in order to generate and collect further examples of European dialogue formats. "We Are Europe" also enters into dialogue with interested city governments in order to

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prepare new visits, establish contacts and contribute to strengthening the European project at the local level.

5. Project Group European Capital of Culture ECOC

Coordination SZB: Yolanda Rother

Partners: Cluij Cultural Center, Ulrich Fuchs, Nele Hertling, Carolin Hochleichter

Mission Statement: The European Capital of Culture project serves to network cities that have applied to become European Capitals of Culture, as well as those that have. This enables them to exchange information about their cultural concepts and to benefit from each other's plans.

Description: Every year, the European Union awards the title of European Capital of Culture. Cities applying for the title of European Capital of Culture develop ideas for a European cultural policy-driven urban development strategy. Through this project group, the cooperation of the European Capitals of Culture is to be strengthened and the strategies developed there are to be made usable for a culture-driven urban development policy. Together with the successful applicants, but also with those who were unsuccessful in the national selection, methods of such urban strategies based on cultural policy are to be highlighted and further developed. In this way, a set of instruments will also be developed for those cities that do not apply to be cultural capitals, but nevertheless want to pursue ambitious urban development policies. After all, it is about developing strategies that ultimately ensure that Europe's cultural potential is used for local and national and ultimately European development policy.

6. Project Group European Perspectives on Local Histories

Coordination SZB: Anna Rehbein

Partners: Hella Dunger-Löper, Christian Johann

Mission Statement: This project aims to strengthen the cooperation of local history initiatives in the interest of Europe on the "Europe Bottom-Up" platform.

Description: This project promotes the networking of local European history associations and initiatives in order to strengthen Europe from below. In addition to the exchange and mutual sensitisation for the European aspect of the work of the initiatives and associations, the focus is on the joint realisation of concrete projects. After all, anyone digging at Europe's feet will not only come across local history, but always European history as well. Over the past centuries, one can perceive a pronounced mutual influence between regions and nations, whether in the darkest times of recent history, the Second World War, or in the countries' striving for more freedom and independence in the Eastern Bloc. Yet these aspects are too rarely the focus of local face initiatives. The platform "Europe Bottom-Up" enables an exchange between the members of the project group.

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7. Project Group Social Initiatives for Europe

Coordination SZB: Sandra Chamier

Partners: Brigitte Russ-Scherer

Mission Statement: Throughout Europe, pro-European initiatives are to network and exchange information in this project; cooperation is to be facilitated by digital possibilities.

Description: This project group encourages social initiatives to network and exchange in order to strengthen Europe together. The most important concretisation of this exchange of experience is the idea of an analogue as well as digital "market place", which has already been realised several times and which serves both internal cooperation as well as making it visible to the outside. Together, this project group will consider how the cooperation of social initiatives can be enabled and facilitated through Europe-wide exchange. The corona pandemic, with the rise of digital means of communication, has already significantly expanded the possibilities. One task on the platform will be to address Europe-wide local initiatives and encourage them to participate. The Cities for Europe network can serve as a multiplier here and act as an extended arm towards the local initiatives.

8. Project Group Local Democracy as a Model for European Democracy

Coordination SZB: Sandra Chamier

Partners: Helga Fassbinder, Ulrich Fuchs, Josef Lentsch, Cornelia Poczka, Anett Szabó

Mission Statement: The project aims to strengthen democracy in Europe and to network different initiatives in the field. The aim is to collect examples of what local democracy and co-determination can look like.

Description: The initiative wants to focus more on the potential of local democracy initiatives for Europe. Together with local actors, it will exchange examples of democratic practices in European cities. In this way, citizens' initiatives and mayors will have the opportunity to learn from each other and to network. MEPs should be made aware of the importance of democratic practices in cities and encouraged to support them. After all, the practice of everyday democratic culture is one of the cornerstones of the EU. As a contribution to "Europe Bottom-Up", European examples of successful and exemplary local democratic practice are to be collected and processed. Good as well as bad examples are to be presented in order to learn with and from each other. In this way, case types of exemplary democratic practice will also be presented on the platform as abstract structural examples and thus stimulate discussions on content. Competitions and awards, such as the nomination of the European Capital of Democracy on the initiative of a Viennese project, will also be communicated and advertised.

9. Project Group Cultural Organisations and Artists for Europe

This project is funded by the Federal Foreign Office.

Coordination SZB: Yolanda Rother

Partners: Christiane Lötsch, Renate Luksch, Yves Mettler, Miguel Ramos

Mission Statement: In this project group, cultural organisations and artists network with each other and publicly declare their support for Europe.

Description: In recent years, the European project has lost support. The growing populism throughout Europe, coupled with Euroscepticism, is challenging the European Union. It is therefore all the more important that not only politicians promote the European project, but especially the EU citizens themselves and their organisations. For it is they who make Europe and should help shape it. This includes all areas, especially the initiatives based in culture. That is why we invite cultural organisations to see themselves as participants in an "Alliance for Europe". An Alliance for Europe under whose name they run their events, so that Europe is always in their thoughts. The point is to set an example by publicly declaring one's support for Europe. The platform suggests that other areas should be encouraged to form similar alliances.

10. Project Group Migration Policy

Coordination SZB: Yolanda Rother

Partners (requested): Wolfgang Kaschuba, Daniel Rapp, Brigitte Russ-Scherer, Mike Schubert

Mission Statement: Further information to follow

Description: Further information to follow

11. Project Group Performing Europe

Coordination SZB: Anna Rehbein

Partners: Georg Blokus, Georg Kentrup, Manuel Moser

Mission Statement: The project brings together different actors from the fields of theatre and youth work. This group represents European values and plans various artistic actions.

Description: PERFORMING EUROPE is a trans-European action network of children's and youth theatres, participatory theatre collectives and progressive theatre makers as well as artistically and politically active children and young people. Beyond national borders and languages and independent of class, education and status, origin and skin colour as well as gender, sexuality and disabilities, they stand together for a "Europe of the future for all". To this end, PERFORMING EUROPE organises itself across national borders in order to make a joint cultural contribution to the socio-ecological transformation towards a Europe of democracy and solidarity. The group wants to publicly stand up for European values and carry out various artistic actions and performances to strengthen the European spirit.

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12. Project Group Cities for Europe

Coordination SZB: Sandra Chamier

Partners: Rafal Dutkiewicz, Ulrich Fuchs, Volker Hassemer, Ursula Kleuters, Hendrik Kloniger, Bernhard Schneider, Yuriy Vulkosky

Mission Statement: "Cities for Europe" is a network of pro-European mayors on the continent. Its aim is to promote pan-European exchange and thereby strengthen Europe.

Description: Under the title "Cities for Europe", European mayors and city governments are joining forces with the aim of strengthening Europe "from below". The aim is to orientate municipal practice with concrete examples towards the benefits for European development, to exchange experiences and to win further cities for a "Europe Bottom-Up" attitude. The central focus should be on the fact that the cities also align their normal municipal tasks with the goals of the common Europe. A primer for a culture-driven urban development policy for applicants for the title of European Capital of Culture, written some time ago on the initiative of Bernhard Schneider (architect and urban planner and member of the Board of Trustees of the Architecture Prize Berlin e.V.) and Yuriy Vulkovsky (Foundation for Urban Projects and Research), is to be expanded in such a way that it can serve as a guide for cultural policy-oriented urban development for every city. This guide is to be made available on the platform for interested parties. In addition, the guide can be supplemented and further developed with tips and best-practice examples.

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Partners:

Cities for Europe



Contact

Yolanda Rother

Projektmanagerin Europa

S T I F T U N G
ZUKUNFTBERLIN

Fon +49 30 26 39 229 29

rother@stiftungzukunftberlin.eu

stiftungzukunftberlin.eu | facebook.com/stiftungzukunftberlin | [@szukunftberlin](https://twitter.com/szukunftberlin)

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