

**DANSK
KULTUR-
INSTITUT**

**DANISH
CULTURAL
INSTITUTE**

Report
2024





Published by: Danish Cultural Institute
Photos: Danish Cultural Institute or the
credited photographer by the image
www.danishculture.com
mail@danishculture.com

Front and back cover image as well as this page:
Sisters Sensing (The World) by Sisters Hope.
Photo: The Eye Fe Hedda Rysstad

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ANNIVERSARY

Danish Cultural Institute (DCI) was founded in 1940 in response to war and authoritarianism. From the outset, DCI played an active role in the reconstruction of a global community where relations and trust had to be re-established.

Today, the world faces new international challenges, with fragmentation and geopolitical tensions between cultures, countries, and systems of governance.

That is why the need for intercultural collaboration and mutual understanding is growing across the globe - because the major societal challenges of our time cannot be solved by any single country alone.

Denmark needs alliances and connections to the outside world. Drawing on strong Danish traditions of dialogue, civic engagement, and participation, Danish Cultural Institute has from the very beginning created projects that demonstrate how art and culture, in interaction with other sectors, can promote dialogue, understanding, trust, and cooperation across borders.

What can we learn from one another?

That was the question we posed 85 years ago, when Danish Cultural Institute was founded – and it remains just as relevant today. Throughout the years, we have positioned ourselves where Denmark has something at stake – and where we can feel the winds of world history blowing. We have shown how art and culture can build bridges, foster dialogue, and contribute to change – especially in difficult times. Today, we operate in 18 countries, and our mission remains the same: to connect people through art and culture. This is where mutual understanding begins. And this is where we find solutions together.

Camilla Mordhorst
CEO, Danish Cultural Institute



Report: “People-to-People work has never been more important”

Danish Cultural Institute (DCI) celebrates its 85th anniversary this year. Over the decades, we have strived to make a difference — aware that we are but a small piece of a much larger puzzle. We act where Denmark has something at stake — where there is a mutual desire to strengthen relationships and deepen our understanding of one another.

Building interpersonal relations through art and culture is not 'soft work'. It is a crucial strategic investment in peace and stability. The global need for intercultural collaboration continues to grow, as no single country can solve the major societal challenges alone. People-to-people connections offer a counterbalance to polarisation because they are based on direct encounters, curiosity, and cooperation, rather than distance and prejudice. Take the climate crisis, for instance: our office in Brazil engages with cultural and creative expressions to support the transition to a greener world. In China, we create space for difficult conversations on mental health and neurodiversity through exhibitions, workshops, and events. In the Baltic countries, we have long focused on sustainable urban development and the circular economy. In the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood, we promote democratic development and resilient civil societies — especially focusing on youth. The voices of young people must be heard — they are essential to a more stable world. That's why youth are central to our work in India and Türkiye. Whether through jazz camps for girls in India or theatre for children in earthquake-affected areas of Türkiye, the goal is to broaden young people's perspectives and strengthen their ability to express themselves.

A cultural Institute in Nairobi

A strengthened cultural collaboration also contributes to Denmark's alliances and future partnerships in Africa. Our ambition is to establish a cultural institute in Nairobi — one of Africa's largest cultural metropolises and a regional hub for East Africa politically, culturally, and infrastructurally. In our immediate neighbourhood, we have expanded activities in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood, which in recent years has found itself in the crossfire between freedom and autocracy.

Together with the Danish Youth Council, we run two youth houses in Ukraine, and we maintain offices in Moldova and Georgia through the New Democracy Fund. We also work with the independent Belarusian cultural scene in exile from our office in Vilnius. These activities are essential. Conflict and war — hot or cold — will persist, and our neighbouring countries are reaching out for support and cultural exchange, especially for young people during difficult times.

Time for cultural readiness

Culture plays an important role in the broader context of security policy. While Europe braces against external threats, one of our strongest lines of defence is often overlooked, namely culture. At a time when battles over values, identity, and truth are intensifying, we must ask: Should culture be part of our emergency preparedness? War is not only about weapons, but also about narratives, values, and belonging. We see this in Ukraine, where culture is both a target of destruction and a means of reclaiming national identity. Museums, monuments, and theatres are not merely buildings — they are expressions of a nation's self-understanding and legitimacy.

A strengthened cultural community in the EU

In the second half of 2025, Denmark will assume the presidency of the European Union. Danish Cultural Institute is participating in the planning and implementation of the cultural programme in collaboration with Kulturmødet, Grundtvigsk Forum, Ungdomsbureauet, and UngKult. This is an excellent opportunity to show how culture connects us across languages and borders. We look forward to the task.

We bring with us 85 years of experience in cultural exchange and artistic innovation, as this annual report demonstrates — whether in India, Türkiye, Brazil, the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood, or in China, where we celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2025, or in the Baltic countries, where we mark 35 years of presence.

Thanks to an engaged organisation both at home and abroad, to our partners — private and public, authorities, embassies, companies, and foundations. A special thanks goes to the young people and to the artists who are with us.

Camilla Mordhorst, CEO
and Carsten Haurum, Chairman of Board
April 2025



DANISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE

1940-2025

1

1940-1945: A CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN WARTIME

Danish Cultural Institute (DCI) was established in 1940 under the name 'Det Danske Selskab' (The Danish Society) at the initiative of a number of prominent Danes from the cultural, business, education, and scientific sectors, including the world-renowned physicist and Nobel Prize laureate Niels Bohr. The institute was founded as a counter-reaction to the authoritarian political forces of 1930s Europe. Our founder, Folmer Wisti (1908-2001), built DCI on the belief that international cultural cooperation, mutual understanding, trust, and dialogue are essential for peaceful coexistence.

2

1945-1980: POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

Following World War II, DCI expanded with branches in countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Germany, and the United States. This period was marked by cultural reconstruction and European cooperation. Offices were opened in cities like Edinburgh (1957-2015), Brussels (1948-2019), and Zurich (1947-1984).

In 1940, associate professor and philologist Folmer Wisti took the initiative to found Danish Cultural Institute

3

1980-2000: DIALOGUE WITH EASTERN EUROPE

Towards the end of the Cold War, DCI intensified its efforts in Eastern Europe. The institute opened offices in the Baltic countries: Latvia (1990-), Estonia (1990-2014), and Lithuania (1990-2014), as well as in Poland and Hungary.

6

2025-: AFRICA

In 2025, DCI is relaunching its activities on the African continent with projects in Kenya.

5

2018-NOW: EUROPE IN TRANSFORMATION

In recent years, DCI has strengthened its presence in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and the Baltic Sea region—through leading roles in programmes such as the Ukrainian-Danish Youth House in Kyiv (2020-) and Mykolaiv (2023-), the New Democracy Fund (2021-), and ArtPower Belarus (2022-), as well as various EU-funded projects focused on sustainable urban development. These programmes aim to support civil society and democratic development with a particular focus on youth and culture. Offices have also been established in Moldova (2023-) and Georgia (2024-) to support the region's cultural sector and civil society.

4

2000-2018: THE GLOBAL WORLD ORDER

DCI expanded its reach to the BRICS countries, opening offices in China (2005-), Brazil (2008-), Türkiye (2018-), and India (2019-), along with projects in South Africa. These initiatives reflected Denmark's commitment to global cultural exchange and dialogue. In 2003, an office was opened in St. Petersburg, which has been closed since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.



YEARS OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN A CHANGING WORLD



In the early 1990s, Danish Cultural Institute was among the very first international cultural actors with a physical presence in the Baltic States — shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union and following a series of dramatic independence movements. On 23 August 1989, two million Balts formed a human chain across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The chain stretched over 600 kilometres—from Tallinn to Riga and on to Vilnius—as a peaceful yet powerful demonstration to the world of their desire for freedom from Soviet rule. Several historians consider this event as significant as the fall of the Berlin Wall or the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia.

The Cultural Institute's Geographical presence over time

© Saulius Gruodis, Lithuanian State Central Archives/Wikimedia Commons

1945-80	1980-2000	2000-	2020-
DEPARTMENTS	DEPARTMENTS	DEPARTMENTS	PROGRAMMES
Birmingham 1947-54 Glasgow 1947-57 Manchester 1955-57 Edinburgh 1957-2015 Amsterdam 1947-58 Bruxelles 1948-2019 Lyon 1949-69 Rouen 1969-92 Zürich 1947-84	Prague 1947-48 Rome 1948-50 Milan 1951-93 Dortmund 1961-95 Hannover 1995-2002 Bonn 2003-11 Chicago 1947-49 New York 1951-53	Melbourne 1985-88 Salzburg 1985-89 Wien 1989-98 Riga 1990- Tallinn 1990-2014 Vilnius 1991-2014 Kecskemét 1992-2014 Cdansk 1993-96 Cdynia 1996-99	Warszawa 1999-2020 Poznań 1999-2006
		St. Petersburg 2003-2022 Beijing 2005- Rio de Janeiro 2008-2020 Türkiye 2018- India 2019- São Paulo 2021- Moldova 2023 - Georgia 2024 -	The Ukrainian-Danish Youth House in Kyiv and Mykolaiv (2023) 2020- The New Democracy Fund 2021- ArtPower Belarus 2022- Creative Circular Cities 2023-

VISION

To strengthen Denmark's international cultural relations for the benefit of mutual understanding, peaceful coexistence, trust, and dialogue.

Culture *Connects*

MISSION

In interaction with other countries, to promote Danish culture, art, and social life, and to enhance knowledge of foreign cultures in Denmark, thereby fostering mutual understanding and strengthening Denmark's international cultural relations.

APPROACH

We collaborate with Danish and local partners on cultural projects based on cultural rights, artistic expression, democratic dialogue, youth engagement, and sustainability.

Culture *Connects*

CONVERSATIONS ON CULTURE

“

Cultural communities are absolutely essential at a time when we increasingly isolate ourselves — from one another as individuals, between groups in society, and across generations. Culture plays a special role as a binding agent: it gives us the sense of being united in something. Something we rarely experience as a reality in politics, where the focus is often on how we differ.

Moussa Mchangama

Co-founder and senior advisor at In futurum, author of 'Tekster om Hjem'

“

If we are not carriers of culture — as a society or as humanity — it becomes difficult to imagine that we can have a well-functioning democracy. Democracy is essentially about how people understand themselves, their country, their relationship to the rest of the world — and what our community is really made of.

Anja C. Andersen

Professor of Astrophysics at the Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen

To celebrate the 85th anniversary of Danish Cultural Institute, we launched the campaign **CULTURE CONNECTS**, where we interview prominent voices from Denmark and abroad about why culture matters in today's world.

Watch all video interviews on our Instagram profile by scanning the QR code.



“

As a Dane from Southern Jutland, I know very well that it is culture that enables a nation to survive. It was culture that allowed the people of Southern Jutland to resist 56 years of oppression. Similarly, if we look at Poland, which regained independence 100 years ago after being partitioned three times—and where both communists and Nazis later tried to erase Polish culture—Poland has survived. Thanks to one single thing: its culture.

Bertel Haarder

Denmark's longest-serving minister and senior member of Parliament

“

Culture gives society many things, but most importantly, it provides unity in the values we share. Culture also shows that fragility can actually be a strength—it lies at the foundation of everything. Culture is the language of our identity, a sophisticated and beautiful language that expresses who we are. When a society suppresses its culture, it risks losing its sense of self. And not knowing oneself is the greatest danger of lacking culture.

Yaryna Chornohuz

Ukrainian poet and soldier, Ukrainian Armed Forces

STRATEGY

From 2025 to 2028, we will strengthen the role of culture in foreign policy, expand our international presence, and create space for development through collaboration and visibility.

Sharpened Profile

We aim to sharpen our profile and relevance by exploring new geographical areas — currently focusing on the African continent, where Denmark has a particular need to build new relationships through cultural exchange and partnerships.

Strengthened Network

We aim to reinforce our anchoring in the Danish cultural sector: Through collaborations with Danish cultural institutions DCI will enhance its visibility and role as a network facilitator to support international cooperation and ambitions in Danish cultural life.

Advocate for Culture

We aim to strengthen the role of culture in foreign policy by being a clear advocate for the importance of culture in international relations and by documenting culture's capacity to drive societal change.



The image is from a research trip to Kenya in 2024. Here, Danish Cultural Institute met the people behind Kibera Fashion Week, where creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation, green, and social responsibility go hand in hand. Photo: Kibera Fashion Week



WORK PRINCIPLES

IN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP

We create projects and activities in close collaboration with local partners, ensuring that everyone has influence and that the collaboration is based on shared goals and ambitions.

WITH MUTUAL RESPECT

We acknowledge and value different perspectives, values, and cultures. We work towards open dialogue where we listen to and learn from each other.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED

Our work is grounded in professionalism, experience, and insight into cultural and societal contexts, enabling us to act on an informed basis.

CULTURAL RIGHTS-BASED

We believe in the value of every individual's equal worth and right to culture as a fundamental element of their ability to thrive and express themselves. .

THROUGH ART AND CULTURE

We see art and culture as means to build bridges between people, societies, and nations, promoting trust, dialogue, and mutual understanding.

2024

A YEAR IN NUMBERS

118 PROJECTS
REALISED IN 2024

450+ PARTNERS
WORLDWIDE

100 MIO. DKK
IN REVENUE IN 2024

48 EMPLOYEES
WORLDWIDE

85 YEARS
IN THE FIELD

18 COUNTRIES
WHERE WE OPERATE

WHERE WE WORK

With offices and projects in 18 countries, we strive to be close to global developments — right where the exchange of art, culture, and knowledge makes a difference.

18 countries

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Brazil
- China
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Georgia
- Germany
- India
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Poland
- Türkiye
- Ukraine

How we are present

- Project-based
- Local office
- Headquarters



THE SCOPE OF OUR EFFORTS

EVENTS

Our events are typically designed to communicate and inform about the impact of culture and intercultural relations.

FUNDING MECHANISMS

We have administrative responsibility for several funding mechanisms, which, among other things, provide support to independent artists and cultural practitioners in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood.

PROJECTS

Our projects come in all shapes and sizes. From showcasing Danish artists and cultural practitioners, through facilitating major artistic collaborations and developing exhibitions, to extensive strategic initiatives spanning several years.

PROGRAMMES

Our programmes span several years and are created in partnership with a range of partners. These efforts aim to generate long-term positive change through a series of associated projects in areas such as democracy, youth, sustainability, and artistic freedom.

Simon Røn Dalsgaard is Danish Cultural Institute's project coordinator based in Georgia, where we opened an office in the capital, Tbilisi, in May 2024. From this office, our initiatives in the surrounding countries are also coordinated — including Armenia, where Simon is pictured looking out over Lake Sevan.

ArtPower Belarus

Support for free Belarusian art and culture

• Budget: 2,16 mio. EUR (2022–2025)

PROGRAMME

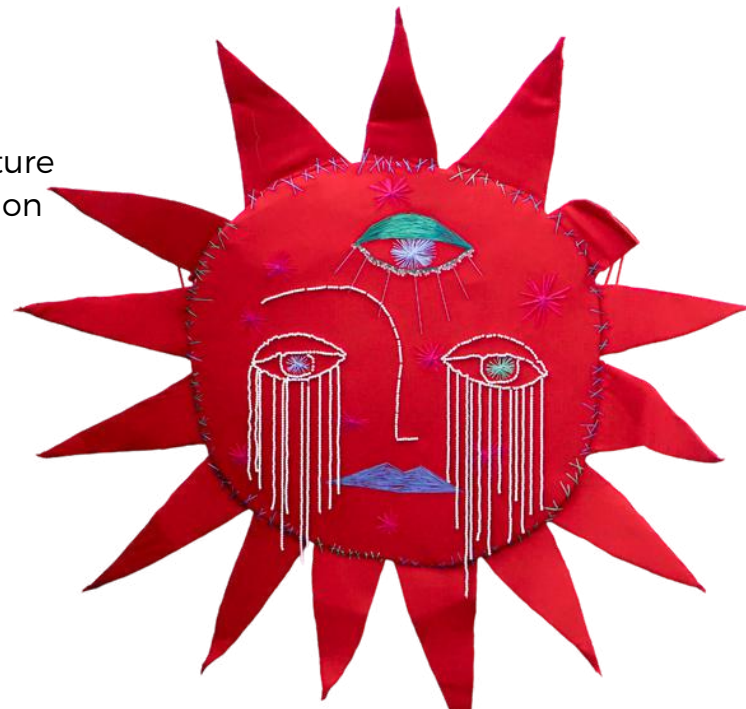
In Belarus, many artists and cultural workers live under severely restricted freedom of expression. Since the political unrest in 2020 and the subsequent harsh repression, many artists now work either in exile or under constant uncertainty. International support is therefore crucial for preserving free Belarusian voices, creativity, and culture.

Danish Cultural Institute is the lead partner in the programme 'ArtPower Belarus: Safeguarding the Belarusian Civic Space Through Culture and Arts', which since 2022 has provided support to free artists and cultural actors both inside and outside Belarus. The programme is funded by the EU and functions as an important platform for artistic freedom of expression and civil society engagement.

ArtPower Belarus supports both established artists and grassroots initiatives, showing how art and culture can contribute to the survival and development of a free civil society. The programme has been extended until 2028.

ArtPower Belarus – By the Numbers:

- Lead partner: Dansk Kulturinstitut
- Partner: Belarusian Council for Culture
- Supported by: European Commission Results (2022–2025):
- 83 creative projects supported
- 57 exchange scholarships awarded
- 231 cultural practitioners directly involved



New Democracy Fund

Resilient civil societies in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood Countries

• Budget: 180 mio. DKK (2023–2026)

PROGRAMME

New Democracy Fund is a programme that strengthens civil societies in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood – a region comprising Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The focus is on human rights, gender equality, and democratic development. Our approach varies: we provide direct financial support to local civil society actors; we facilitate partnerships and networks across the region and in Denmark; and we actively engage in capacity building, i.e. knowledge sharing with local partners. The Fund offers support across six focus areas: culture, youth, media, labour market, gender equality, and green transition. Danish Cultural Institute has been the lead partner in the programme since its inception in 2021.

Moldova

The New Democracy Fund receives an annual special grant of DKK 10 million, earmarked to strengthen civil society and democratic development in Moldova.

New Democracy Fund - By the Numbers:

- Lead partner: Danish Cultural Institute
- Konsortium: 3F, Danish Industry, Danish Youth Council, International Media Support, and Danish Cultural Institute
- Supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 56 projects in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood were supported through in 2024



Ukrainian-Danish Youth House

Turning young people's ideas into action

• Budget: 44 mio. DKK (2022–2025)

PROGRAMME

Ukraine's youth play a pivotal role in the country's future. The Ukrainian-Danish Youth House has been created as a platform where young people from Ukraine and Denmark can meet, collaborate, and strengthen their engagement in civil society. The war has only made this work more vital. With branches in Kyiv and Mykolaiv, the Ukrainian-Danish Youth House provides an open framework for young people's ideas, activism, and communities, while also reinforcing cultural ties with Denmark.

The Youth House has three main strands: it offers open and inclusive spaces for youth-led initiatives – from workshops and art exhibitions to programmes in civic education, project management and international exchanges. In addition, it awards grants to young people who are active in their local communities.

The Youth House also operates in Denmark. Through teaching materials, festival activities and an ambassador corps, Ukrainian stories reach Danish classrooms and the wider public.

Danish Cultural Institute has been the lead partner in the Ukrainian-Danish Youth House since its inception in 2020.

Ukrainian-Danish Youth House

- By the Numbers:

- Lead partner: Dansk Kulturinstitut
- Partner: Danish Youth Council (DUF)
- Physical houses: Kyiv and Mykolaiv
- Supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs



PROGRAMME

Creative Circular Cities

Creativity at the heart of the green transition

• Budget: 4 mio. EUR (2023–2026)

PROGRAMME

How can design, art, and creativity help make cities more sustainable? This question lies at the heart of the Creative Circular Cities (CCC) programme, led by Danish Cultural Institute. CCC is an EU-funded initiative with a budget of €4 million. Since 2023 it has brought together municipalities, business organisations, and NGOs from six cities in the Baltic Sea region: Aarhus, Kiel, Gdynia, Riga, Tallinn, and Turku. In these cities, creative solutions are being tested to make it easier to think and act sustainably – both as citizens and as businesses. Among the initial outcomes are new recycling strategies for bulky waste in Gdynia, circular city gardens in Riga and so-called 'CCC Labs' in several of the pilot cities, where stakeholders from different sectors meet and develop ideas together. The experiences are being compiled in a manual, the 'CCC Starter Kit', designed to inspire and support other cities to follow suit. The CCC project demonstrates that collaboration between municipalities, businesses and creative actors can generate both value and change.

CCC - By the Numbers:

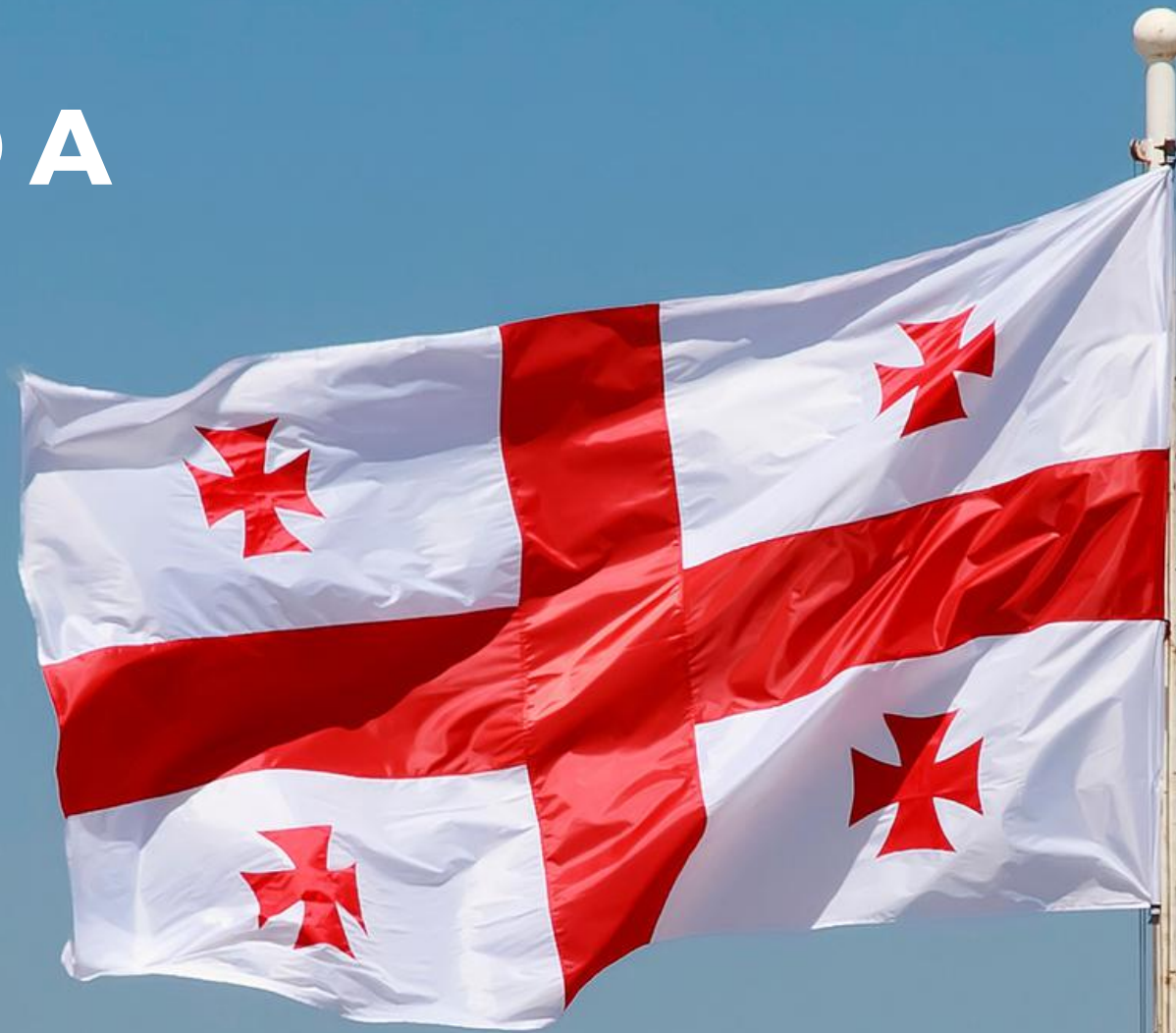
- 6 test cities: Aarhus, Kiel, Gdynia, Riga, Tallinn og Turku
- 14 partners + 23 associated partners
- Supported by EU's Interreg Baltic Sea Region-programme
- Lead Partner: Danish Cultural Institute
- Partners: Lifestyle & Design Cluster (Danmark), Aarhus Municipality – Climate Secretariat, Riga Municipal Agency "Riga Energy Agency", Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture Secretariat, Pomeranian Science and Technology Park Gdynia | Design Centre, Association "Pomorskie in the European Union", Turku Kommune, Valonia / Regional Council of Southwest Finland Valonia, Humak University Of Applied Sciences, Tallinn Business Incubators – Tallinn Creative Incubator, Anschar GmbH, Zero Waste Kiel, Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein



IN 2024 WE OPENED A LOCAL OFFICE IN TBILISI, GEORGIA

“In Denmark, Georgian restaurants are opening, the Georgian artist Pirosmani is being exhibited at Louisiana, and prominent figures from the Danish techno scene now regularly perform in Georgia. At the same time, the Georgians I meet every day draw inspiration from Denmark on topics such as sustainability, gender equality and child-rearing. We feel incredibly welcome here in Tbilisi and have already built up a substantial network of partners.

Simon Røn Dalsgaard
Project Coordinator in Georgia



WHEN ART FOSTERS RESILIENCE IN UKRAINE

24-year-old Nick lives in Kyiv and found his voice through painting after the full-scale invasion began. At the start of the war he helped vulnerable elderly people – but in time art became his most significant contribution to the community. Through his work he expresses incisive political views, while also processing the experiences that come with the realities of war. Art reflects society – yet in wartime it also becomes a battleground. In June 2024 he held his first solo exhibition at the Ukrainian-Danish Youth House, implemented by Danish Cultural Institute and the Danish Youth Council.

“At the Youth House, I presented my first-ever solo exhibition following my art residency. Working on my art there gave me a new-found confidence. For the first time, I treated my art practice as a proper job. It was there that I felt, for the first time, like an established artist.

KESER1

Artist, now running his own gallery in Kyiv called Flowerbed.



Scan the QR code to
watch our interview with
the artist KESER1 in Kyiv,
Ukraine.



WE CONNECT THROUGH ART & CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

In a time marked by division and polarisation, we strive to foster insight, respect and shared narratives between Denmark and the wider world. Cultural encounters open minds and challenge ingrained thinking. Art and culture unlock doors to dialogue and understanding across languages, borders, and viewpoints. We strengthen bonds between people by promoting cultural exchange and intercultural collaboration. Through our projects, we lay the foundations for new communities and enduring relationships among stakeholders in the arts and cultural sectors.

Read examples of our work with art and cultural encounters on the following pages.



In the realm of culture, we focus less on what separates us. Here, we meet as human beings, open our eyes to one another and discover everything we have in common. Here understanding grows, and here community begins

Füsun Eriksen

Country Director, Türkiye
Danish Cultural Institute



ART & CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS



Grundtvig x Türkiye

Türkiye

In the spring, we held a workshop in Istanbul entitled "P4C with Grundtvig's Philosophy" at the Salt Galata art museum. P4C stands for "Philosophy for Children". The aim was to build a bridge between the Turkish education system, N.F.S. Grundtvig's ideas and the P4C method, with a focus on children and young people. Twenty-five participants – students of philosophy and pedagogy as well as educators from various Turkish cities – took part.

P4C is a method designed to stimulate philosophical dialogue among children, teaching them to think critically and reflectively. It is not simply about acquiring factual knowledge, but about encouraging children to ask questions, explore ideas and discuss different perspectives. Through P4C, children develop a deeper understanding of the world around them and learn to communicate their thoughts in an open and collaborative manner. In conjunction with the workshop, we also organised an activity on Türkiye's National Children's Day, in which children from socially disadvantaged areas participated in a P4C workshop in collaboration with the Istanbul Municipality's community centre.



Grundtvigsk Forum

Historical translation of a Danish author



Georgia

In the autumn of 2024, Knud Romer's novel "Den som blinker er bange for døden" was published as the first direct translation of a Danish novel into Georgian. The release marked an opening between two small language communities with strong literary traditions. Danish Cultural Institute supported the publication and spent the autumn promoting cultural and linguistic exchange between Denmark and Georgia. Among other initiatives, we organised translation courses in which Georgian-Danish speakers had the opportunity to develop their skills in close collaboration with professional translators. "When reader and author are united in a novel, it is one of the closest ways we come to one another. To be translated and published in Georgian is like meeting another person in a dream, in a country in another world," says Knud Romer. The novel was translated by Irina Gerkeuli and published by Artanuji Publishing with support from the Danish Arts Foundation and Danish Cultural Institute.



Nordic jazz meets Indian raga



India

Together with the Global Jazz Explorer Institute (DK), we launched a new musical exchange project, bringing Nordic jazz and Indian classical music together and developing them through concert collaborations, education, joint composition, and outreach. The first phase, supported by the Nordic Culture Fund, took place across six Indian states, where a number of Indian and Danish musicians and Indian organisations presented concerts at venues and universities, as well as workshops and masterclasses at music academies and schools. The project lays the foundation for a long-term Nordic-Indian collaboration in teaching, talent development, and concert activity.



Partners

Global Jazz Explorer Institute (DK); Jazz Explorer Trio (DK); SPIC MACAY (IN); Nordisk Kulturfond; Future School of Performing Arts, Goa; Dhvani Academy, Pune; Chinmaya Vibhooty, Music Dept., Pune; University of Madras, Music Dept; Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Mumbai; mfl. [Udvalgte musikere](#); Ashwani Shankar; Sanjeev Shankar; Kala Ramnath, Abhishek Banerjee; Zuheb Ahmed Khan; Lars Møller; Thor Møller; Jonas Johansen; mfl



Edith Buttingsrud & Cisne Negro Ballet



Brazil

Danish choreographer Edith Buttingsrud Pedersen was invited to São Paulo by the Brazilian ballet company Cisne Negro. The result was PASSION, a contemporary dance piece (35 minutes) which Danish Cultural Institute and the Goethe-Institut helped bring to life. Inspired by a novel by the Brazilian writer Clarice Lispector, the performance explores questions of identity, courage, class divide, freedom, and how we might coexist without prejudice and hierarchy. The choreography emerged through an open, investigative process in which the dancers drew on their own experiences and allowed the movement to grow organically as a community. PASSION premiered at SESC in São Paulo in May and is now part of Cisne Negro's repertoire, touring both nationally and internationally.



Partners

Cisne Negro Companhia de Dança, Goethe-Institut, SESC



The Danish Girl and the Thunder Gods



China

The National Museum in Denmark and the internationally acclaimed Chinese comic artist Nie Jun collaborated on an innovative way of presenting museum artefacts. In spring 2024, Nie Jun visited Denmark, exploring the Museum's Daoist collection alongside Danish researchers to reinterpret and communicate some of its Chinese treasures. During his stay, he also went to Suhr's Folk High School to meet Danish young people and gain insight into their lives, and he wandered around Copenhagen — visiting both the more tourist-focussed attractions such as the Round Tower and Tivoli, and the Nordvest district. This experience inspired the creation of the graphic novel "Copenhagen Scroll," named after a unique 1596 painted scroll depicting the Chinese thunder gods on an inspection tour. The book tells the story of a Danish-Chinese girl who finds answers and solace through her encounter with the thunder gods after her parents' divorce. The collaboration culminated in two exhibitions — one at the National Museum in Copenhagen and another at our cultural centre in Beijing over the winter of 2024/25.



Partners

Nationalmuseet (The National Museum of Denmark)



A European network for performing artists



Europe

"Moving Identities" is a three-year exchange programme that brings together a European network of organisations working in the performing arts. Its focus is on European identity today, and its aim is to connect performing artists, venues, and organisations across borders in an inclusive and environmentally friendly way. Between and during the residencies offered, the programme provides mentoring schemes on topics such as internationalisation, audience development, sustainability, and touring. To increase representation in the performing arts, the programme links venues throughout Europe that support artistic development.



Partners

CKI - Center for Kunst og Interkultur, Bæredygtigt Kulturliv NU (Sustainable Culture NOW), HIMHERANDIT, Internationales Theaterinstitut (ITI), UP (Udviklingsplatformen for scenekunst), Davvi, Kunstplaats Vonk, Söltumatu Tantsu Lava (STL), HELLERAU, Nau Ivanow, Vaba Lava. The project is supported by the EU.





WE PROMOTE A DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

We work to strengthen democratic culture through art, culture, and active citizenship.

In a democratic society, people take part in the community, exchange views, and hold those in power to account. It is this participation and dialogue that allow democracy to flourish. Culture plays a vital role in fostering inclusion and understanding across differences. It builds bridges, broadens perspectives, and strengthens the ties between people and institutions.

Through partnerships and exchange projects, we promote artistic freedom, civic engagement, and new voices in public debate – contributing to the development of open, resilient, and participatory democracies.

Read examples of our work with democratic culture on the following pages.





Cultural life withers in totalitarian environments, while it thrives in democratic ones. Freedom is like oxygen for the arts. When free thought is forbidden, a society's creativity is stifled, along with its ability and willingness to think critically and imagine a different future. That is why an active and free cultural life is a fundamental building block in any democratic development.

Henriette Borg Reinholdt
Regional Director
EU's Eastern Neighbourhood Countries,
Danish Cultural Institute

A DEMOCRATIC CULTURE



Photo: Martin Thaulow, Good People

Armenia: Landscapes of Memories

📍 Armenia

Through art and culture, Danish Cultural Institute works to convey complex stories and strengthen connections across borders and lived experiences. One example of this was the exhibition "Armenia – Landscapes of Memories", presented at the 2024 People's Meeting (Folkemødet) under the auspices of the New Democracy Fund. The project was part of our work with democracy and cultural heritage in collaboration with partners in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood.

The exhibition was created by photographer Martin Thaulow in cooperation with the Armenian organisation Cultural & Social Narratives Lab (CSN Lab), offering a nuanced insight into contemporary and historical Armenia. Through portraits and personal testimonies from Armenians across the country, the exhibition illustrated how cultural traditions, geopolitical dynamics, war, and social change have shaped modern Armenia.

Literature professor Tigran Amiryan contributed an essay that placed Armenia's collective memory in perspective – from the 1988 earthquake and the dissolution of the Soviet Union to the Karabakh conflict and the 2018 Velvet Revolution.

The exhibition was well received and demonstrated the power of art to foster reflection, dialogue, and understanding in the encounter with both past and present.

🤝 Partners

In collaboration with: Good People and Cultural & Social Narratives Lab (CSN Lab)

Resilience through Photography

📍 China



Although gender equality is a fundamental human right and essential for a cohesive society, women around the world still face deeply rooted inequality and continue to be underrepresented in public life. Together with Dutch colleagues, we curated an exhibition highlighting how women facing oppression in various parts of the world demonstrate remarkable – and inventive – resilience in response to their circumstances. Entitled “Resilience”, the exhibition showcased the work of 17 international photographers documenting sexism, gender-based violence, reproductive rights, and access to equal opportunities. At the same time, it explored how women’s liberation and gender equality have left their mark on 21st-century photojournalism.



Partners

Embassy of the Netherlands in China, World Press Photo, Amsterdam , People’s University, Beijing

A vibrant cultural life equals a strong civil society

📍 Türkiye

Throughout 2024, we continued our involvement in the CultureCIVIC programme as part of our long-term efforts to strengthen cultural infrastructure and support civil society actors in Türkiye. The ambition is to reach beyond Türkiye’s traditional cultural hubs, thereby increasing civic engagement, cultural dialogue, and capacity building within the Turkish arts and culture sector. CultureCIVIC supports projects and individuals that promote cultural dialogue, tolerance, freedom of expression, non-discrimination and LGBT+ rights, social cohesion, individual freedoms, and democratic processes.

In 2024, the final reporting and closure processes for CultureCIVIC Vol. 1.0 were completed in close collaboration with project partners and team members. At the same time, preparations for CultureCIVIC Vol. 2.0 were set in motion. Danish Cultural Institute was appointed as both an advisory and jury member for the new programme round.



Partners

Anadolu Kültür, Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV), Institut Français de Turquie, and the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Istanbul.

Culture and Decolonisation

📍 The EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood Countries

In 2024, Danish Cultural Institute, together with partners in the New Democracy Fund, focused on the role of culture in democratic development processes through a webinar series on decolonisation in the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood. The target audience included artists, academics, students, and cultural actors, all of whom played an active role in the discussions.

A total of five webinars were held, featuring experts from Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, and Moldova. Topics ranged from war documentation in contemporary art to linguistic colonialism and art as a form of resilience. Each session was met with great appreciation from participants, and several students later reached out to pursue the themes further in their theses.

The success of the project was largely due to the strength of the New Democracy Fund’s network and the ability to bring voices together across borders in a digital space. Previously, these themes were confined to small, closed academic circles; now, they were brought into the wider public sphere. The initiative demonstrated how culture can foster critical dialogue, strengthen reflection, and thereby contribute to vibrant democratic development across regions.

Latvia’s People's Summit

📍 Latvia



When societies face major challenges and global issues, it is through open dialogue that we can find solutions that reach beyond national borders. That is why we took part in the democratic festival LAMPA (Latvia’s People’s Meeting), engaging in a series of forward-looking conversations – not least regarding Belarus’s role in the Baltic region.

Together with partners such as the Belarus Research Network, we organised a debate exploring historical relations and democratic development as foundations for future cooperation. Insightful contributions – including from Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, leader of the democratic movement in Belarus – made it clear that there is strong potential to strengthen ties between Belarus and the Nordic countries, with culture serving as a bridge-builder.

On the festival’s second day, we turned the spotlight on food waste as a shared cultural and societal challenge. The discussion highlighted the need for systemic solutions, public awareness, and a renewed understanding of food as a valuable resource. Creative approaches such as fermentation were showcased as examples of how sustainable practices can shape food culture and inspire cross-border action.

Armenia: Landscapes of Memories

📍 Armenia & the People's Summit on Bornholm



Photo: Martin Thaulow, Good People

A GREEN CULTURE

The climate crisis is not only a technological challenge – it is also a cultural one. If we are to change our relationship with nature, we must also change our stories, values, and habits. Art and culture can offer new perspectives and engage us emotionally and socially in the changes that are needed.

Through art, games, film, and communication, people come together across countries and generations. The cultural space allows for dialogue, imagination, and collective action – and can therefore be a driving force for a more sustainable future.

Read examples of our work on the role of culture in the green transition on the next page.



I see culture as a driving force towards a greener and more sustainable world, and I sense a growing interest in the cultural dimension of the climate struggle. That gives me hope. Through culture, we can create experiences that foster mutual understanding and raise awareness of the state of our planet.

Anders Hentze
Country Director, Brazil
Danish Cultural Institute



A GREEN CULTURE



Culture in Play at COP16

Columbia

With the game-based climate learning initiative PoN as a key driver, our Brazilian office played a constructive role at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) in Cali, Colombia. The participation provided a valuable opportunity to establish major partnerships in this important neighbouring country. A cooperation agreement with the Colombian Ministry of Environment was signed by COP President and Minister of Environment, Susana Mohamad. The PoN game was included as educational material in the Colombian biodiversity quiz run by the World Wildlife Fund, with over 100,000 schoolchildren participating. In addition, the office held a well-attended PoN presentation followed by a panel discussion and a collective thematic event, "Environmental Education as a Motor for Social Change," together with six other creative environmental education initiatives, moderated by UNICEF. The event led to the formation of the Latin American Alliance for Environmental Education.

Partners

Colombian Ministry of Environment, WWF, Goethe-Institut, UNICEF, Merete Hansen

Botany and the History of Science in Tranquebar



India



The Natural History Museum of Denmark (SNM), together with our Indian office and the Tranquebar Association, opened a permanent exhibition at the new Danish-Indian Cultural Centre in Tranquebar, Tamil Nadu. The exhibition (in English and Tamil) gave the Indian and international public access for the first time to the extensive historical botanical material from Tranquebar held by the Natural History Museum in Copenhagen.

The exhibition showcases SNM's historical plant collections and botanical illustrations from Tranquebar and tells the story of the Danish colony's role as a centre for botanical research and scientific exchange in the 18th and 19th centuries. The project connected cultural heritage with green education and contemporary environmental perspectives through a three-day botany workshop for pupils and teachers from four local schools, led by Indian botanists from the Institut Français in Pondicherry. The children collected, identified, and prepared plant specimens, which are now part of the exhibition. In this way, historical and modern approaches to natural science are brought together, enhancing awareness of Tranquebar's botanical legacy.



Partners

The Natural History Museum of Denmark, Institut Français, Pondicherry, Tranquebar Association

Animated Documentary

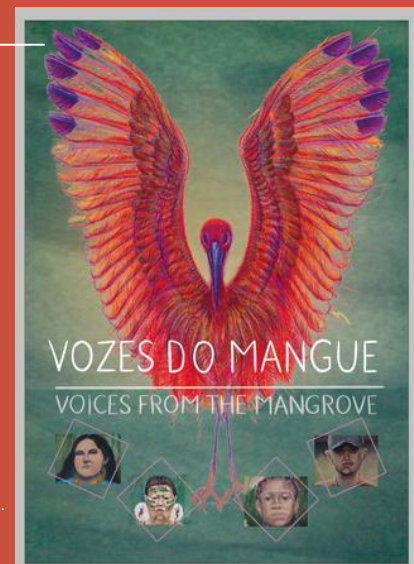


Brazil

The Animated Documentary initiative uses animation and illustration as a starting point for conversations about biodiversity, climate, responsibility, and dialogue between the Global North and South.

Eighteen Danish animation and illustration students from The Animation Workshop in Viborg worked intensively over three weeks with twenty Brazilian film students from Instituto Querô in Santos, Brazil. The collaboration resulted in two illustrated documentary films and four animated campaign films, all highlighting the unique potential of young people from the North and South co-creating new audiovisual climate narratives. The films will be launched in the course of 2025. The project is part of Animated Engagement.

The films will be launched in the course of 2025. The project is part of Animated Engagement, a collaboration between The Animation Workshop (TAW) and the Danish Cultural Institute, supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' GLOBUS funding scheme. The project also builds a bridge between Viborg and Santos – two UNESCO Creative Cities.



Partners

The Animation Workshop, Instituto Querô, Viborg Municipality, Santos Municipality

My Nature-Art School



Türkiye



The My Nature-Art School project was launched at the Elgiz Museum in Istanbul, where children had the opportunity to connect with nature through art. In collaboration with Danish artists Marika and Freja from Seidler's SENSORIUM, children took part in workshops creating artworks using clay, plaster, and natural materials. Each workshop began with interactive storytelling to spark the children's imagination and sense of nature.

The activities continued in Çanakkale as part of the biennial. At the Güneşane Foundation near Assos, children from the villages of Behramkale and Paşaköy took part in theatre games and art activities inspired by the sounds and materials of nature. They explored a farm, collected organic materials, and created unique pieces. The aim was to nurture children's creativity and strengthen their relationship with their surroundings.



Partners

Elgiz Museum, Seidlers SENSORIUM

SustainArtability



Latvia



SustainARTability was a two-week residency programme for art students from Latvia, other EU countries, and the United Kingdom. It was organised by EUNIC in Latvia and the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia, in collaboration with the Art Academy of Latvia.

The programme culminated in the exhibition NO WHITE FLAGS, shown at the DUO art hall in Riga. Here, students presented personal reflections on sustainability through sculpture, weaving, film, text, and painting, developed under the guidance of Latvian artists Kristians Brekte and Ieva Stalšene. The works in the exhibition reimaged the white flag of surrender as a powerful symbol of resistance, ecological awareness, and hope. The project fostered cultural dialogue across borders and demonstrated how art can inspire shared visions for a sustainable future.



Partners

Art Academy of Latvia, EUNIC Latvia, Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia



Botany and the History of Science in Tranquebar

A CULTURE WITH ROOM FOR ALL

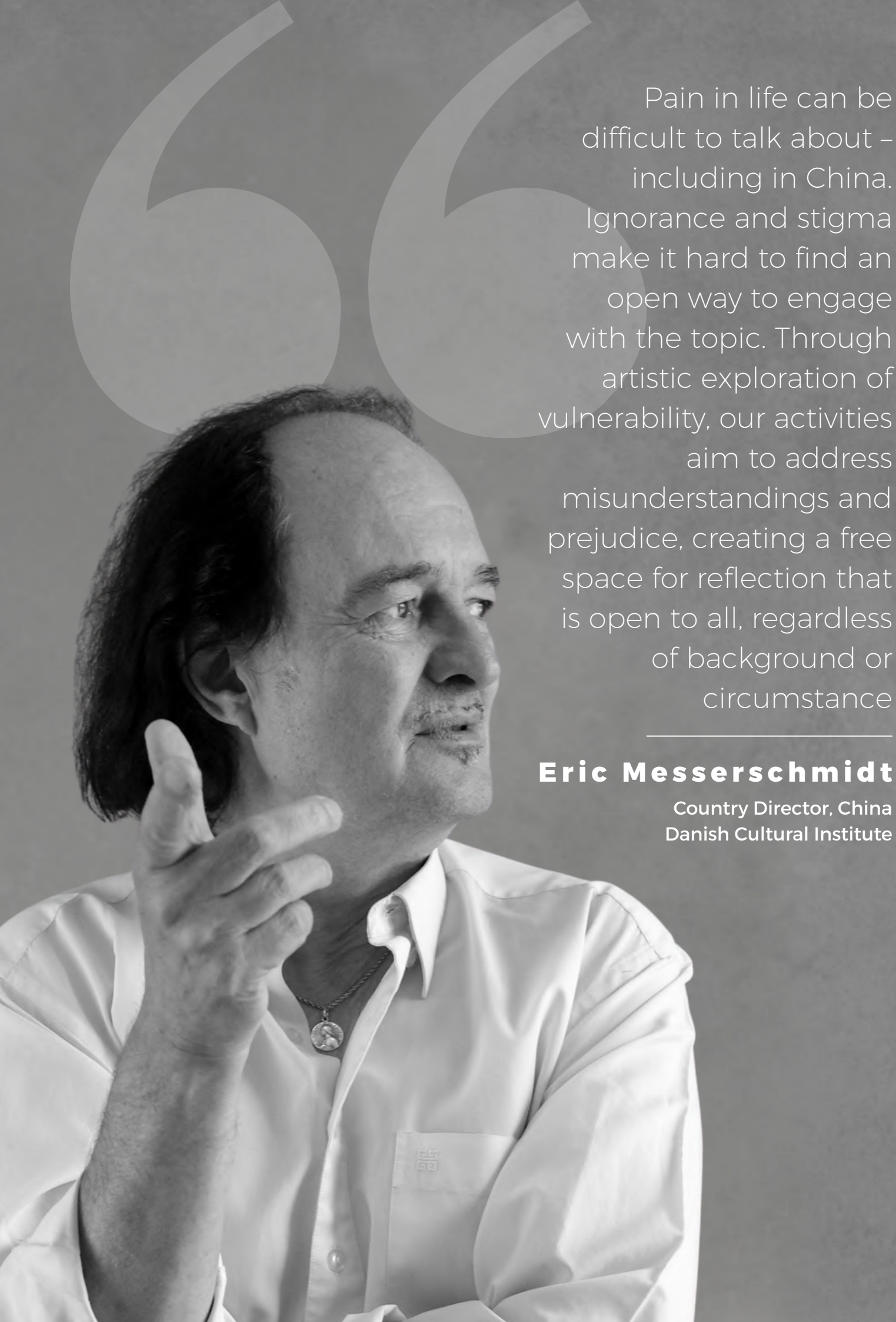
Art and culture create space for new narratives about mental health and neurodiversity – making it possible to talk about difficult topics in ways that open up and connects us.

We live in a time shaped by speed and performance. Cultural experiences can offer us moments of pause and reflection – and opportunities to meet one another with curiosity and understanding.

That's why we actively work to ensure that our programmes are accessible to everyone, regardless of physical or mental barriers – and to support a future where diversity is a strength.

Read examples of our work on diversity on the next page.





Pain in life can be difficult to talk about – including in China. Ignorance and stigma make it hard to find an open way to engage with the topic. Through artistic exploration of vulnerability, our activities aim to address misunderstandings and prejudice, creating a free space for reflection that is open to all, regardless of background or circumstance

Eric Messerschmidt

Country Director, China
Danish Cultural Institute

A CULTURE WITH ROOM FOR ALL



Brainstorms

China

Our brain is a tangled network of neurons and blood vessels, yet each of our individual thought patterns forms a unique structure that shapes our consciousness, personality, and way of thinking. This makes the brain the most complex organ in the human body – and one of the most important. That's why it was the focal point of the "Brainstorms" exhibition at our cultural centre in Beijing. The exhibition featured 150 embroidered brains, each accompanied by a personal mind map, created by local Chinese participants. Brainstorms ran for over six weeks from October 2024, alongside a series of workshops on neurology and mental health, held in collaboration with Lundbeck China. Following the exhibition, Lundbeck requested to receive the exhibition materials – the embroidered, self-portrait-like brains from "Stitch Your Brain" (read more about this project on the next page) – for internal use.

Partners

Lundbeck China, World Mental Health Day, Duguo Yiyu Huanzhe Shequ, Beijing, Central Academy of Dance

A Therapy Garden in Ukraine



Ukraine



Ukrainian society is experiencing a major collective psychological trauma. According to the WHO, 10 million people – a quarter of Ukraine’s population – are at risk of developing a mental health condition as a result of the war, ranging from stress and anxiety to more severe disorders such as depression and PTSD. In 2024, together with the Danish Embassy in Ukraine, we were involved in the opening of the therapy garden “Nordic Therapy Garden” in Ukraine, an initiative by Danish urban planner Mikael Colville-Andersen – supported by House of Europe.

The therapy garden covers a 4,500 square metre, previously unused woodland area next to Pavlov Psychiatric Hospital in Kyiv, where, among others, soldiers from the war are treated for PTSD – and now have the opportunity to complement their treatment with professional therapy sessions in the garden. Therapy gardens represent a so-called holistic approach to trauma treatment. This includes the individual’s entire life situation in the treatment process – that is, mental, biological, cultural, social, and environmental aspects.



Partners

Mikael Colville-Andersen, House of Europe, Danish Embassy in Ukraine

Stitch Your Brain



China



Two months of open workshops on neurology and brain health formed the basis of “Stitch Your Brain”. Participants were invited to embroider a self-portrait of their brain as an honest reflection of their mental state. This creative method was chosen to test the effects of hands-on craftsmanship on mental well-being – as a counterbalance to our fast-paced, digital world. The resulting 140 embroidered self-portraits formed a collective landscape created by both neurodivergent participants and those without a formal diagnosis. Everyone used identical embroidery templates and kits – making the brains uniform in structure but uniquely shaped by individual life experiences.

The embroidered brains were featured in the “Brainstorms” exhibition.



Partners

Working group including artist Mu Chenyang, psychotherapist Zhao Huan, art healing tutor Han Jiayi, three members from the Central Academy of Dance, and Duguo Yiyu Huanzhe Shequ, Beijing

Slow Art for a Fast World



China



At a time when busyness has become the norm and mental distress is a growing challenge, we turned our attention to the necessity of slowness. In April 2024, we opened the exhibition “SLOW” at our cultural centre in Beijing – a powerful reminder of the value of slowing down.

The exhibition featured Danish weaver and textile artist “Martin Nannestad Jørgensen” in his first solo show in China, the culmination of 15 years of artistic work.

Through 11 monumental woven works – some taking more than 18 months to complete – Martin invited the audience into a world where time itself is a quality. “SLOW” offered an artistic counter-image to the accelerated rhythm of modern life and opened a space for reflection on the need for presence, contemplation, and mental sustainability in one of the world’s busiest cities.



Partners

Martin Nannestad Jørgensen

Culture as hope and healing



Türkiye



In November 2024, Danish Cultural Institute contributed to promoting mental health among children in the earthquake-affected Southeastern Anatolia and in Istanbul through the project “Common Language of Art” as part of the Atta Festival. The theatre company Madam Bach performed the play Bloom for children aged 3–6 in the cities of Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Diyarbakır, before continuing on to Istanbul.

The performance created a sensory and interactive universe where children, through music, movement, and play, built habitats for insects, birds, and other animals. After each performance, the children took part in creative workshops that allowed them to explore the themes of the play through artistic expression.

The project provided access to cultural experiences for children in particularly vulnerable areas and demonstrated how culture can foster community, hope, and creativity as an essential part of mental health and well-being.



Partners

Madam Bach



SLOW



Danish Cultural Center, Beijing, China

WE ENGAGE YOUTH IN THE WORLD

We work to give young people a more curious, outward-looking, and hopeful perspective on the world. One way to achieve this is by strengthening children and young people's democratic and artistic confidence. Through art and culture, they gain tools to express themselves, think independently, and engage with the world with open eyes. We believe that true participation begins with being taken seriously.

When children and young people are actively involved in cultural projects, new communities and ideas emerge. They contribute to a more diverse and democratic society – here and now. Children and young people are not only shaping the future. They are also part of the solutions we need today.

Read examples of our work with children and young people on the next page!



When children work creatively and experimentally with professional artists or scientists, a sense of focused energy, shared joy of creation, and mutual respect arises. The children are driven by curiosity and experiment their way to new insights. They overcome the fear of failure and gain the courage to explore the world and their own abilities.

Bente Wolff

Country Director, India
Danish Cultural Institute



CHILDREN & YOUTH



JazzCamp for Girls in Kolkata

India

In collaboration with JazzDanmark and the Indian partners Meta Arts and littlei, we held the first edition of JazzCamp for Girls in Asia – a format developed by JazzDanmark to inspire girls to play improvised music and to improve gender balance in the music scene. Girls from two schools in Kolkata participated in a four-day workshop at the Calcutta School of Music, led by two Danish and two Indian professional jazz musicians. The participants showed significant development – both musically and personally – and gained the courage to explore jazz's open forms of expression. The project strengthens young girls' confidence, musical identity, and access to creative communities, and stands as a strong example of how cultural exchange and gender-inclusive pedagogy can go hand in hand. The instructors also performed as the band The Calcutta-Copenhagen Connection at the Kolkata JazzFest.

Partners

JazzDanmark, Kolkata JazzFest, Anne Efternøler, Premjit Dutta, Debjit Mahalanobis, Cecilie Strange, littlei, Meta Arts, South City International School, Kolkata, Future Hope School, Kolkata), Calcutta School of Music.

Animated Learning

Brazil



Animated Learning is part of the initiative Animated Engagement, where the collaboration between the two UNESCO Creative Cities, Viborg (Denmark) and Santos (Brazil), was truly brought to life. Student teachers from VIA University College worked closely for two weeks with nine Brazilian pedagogy students from three local universities. The course was facilitated by The Animation Workshop's Animated Learning Lab and introduced animation-based learning and pedagogical practice within an intercultural climate perspective. Themes and techniques were put into practice through workshops with students at a public school situated in a socially and climatically vulnerable area. The initiative generated strong local interest and was presented to pedagogy students from the participating universities at a joint event at Unisantos, with the involvement of the Santos Municipal Education Department.

Partners

VIA University College Region Midt, Santos Kommunale Undervisningssekretariat, TAW, Unisantos, Univesp and São Carlos Føderale Universitet.

World Children's Day

China



Since its establishment in 2015, our cultural centre in China has continuously collaborated with LEGO on activities for local families. This time, we organised a project to mark World Children's Day, focusing on the potential of play and collaboration among children—especially for those living outside the affluent urban centres. Our exhibition spaces were transformed into six small workshops, each presenting a short story about play and learning tailored to particularly vulnerable groups, which visitors could explore. Throughout the exhibition period, we hosted various workshops and talks, all of which were well attended.

Partnere

Lego China, Beijing First Light Children Service Center, Beijing Normal University

The Little Mermaid was performed near the frontline

Mykolaiv, Ukraine

On June 1st – International Children's Day – the Mykolaiv Drama Theatre, located just 30 km from the frontline, performed a child-friendly version of Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid to a full house. The theatre, which was bombed in 2022, had been rebuilt and provided the setting for a powerful experience about longing, courage, and sacrifice – a striking example of how the themes of the classic fairy tale speak directly to the Ukrainian reality.

Partners

Mykolaiv Drama Theatre



BIOFONIA

Brazil

BIOFONIA is a work by Danish composer Mathias Madsen Munch, created for a young Danish audience. With a captivating blend of music and animation, children are invited on a journey into the Latin American rainforest, presented as both an acoustic sanctuary and a centre where nature, culture, and worldviews collide. The first movement (8 minutes) is inspired by the Atlantic rainforest and the Indigenous peoples and cultures who live there, represented by the Guaraní people. The music is composed for marimba and orchestra, with Danish percussionist Ronni Kot Wenzell as soloist. The Danish Cultural Institute's intercultural facilitation enabled an artistic collaboration with the Guaraní vocal ensemble Coral Guaray Oua. BIOFONIA premiered at the Viborg Animation Festival in September. The second movement, AMAZONICA, to be composed in 2025, will explore the Amazon rainforest and some of its many peoples and cultures. Mathias Madsen Munch's activities are supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the OpEn grant, as well as by the Danish Arts Foundation.

Partners

Mathias Madsen Munch, Ronni Kot Wenzell, OUROS ANIMATION (Rikke Planeta, Philip Piaget, Inez Kristina), Remulus, Viborg Animationsfestival, The Animation Workshop, The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Danish Arts Foundation.

**The Little Mermaid
was performed near
the frontline**

📍 Mykolaiv, Ukraine



A BETTER URBAN CULTURE

Culture is a key to creating cities that both embrace people and meet the challenges of the future. When art, architecture, and local narratives are considered from the outset, it strengthens the connection between people and places.

Culture opens the door to new communities, creates space for dialogue, and connects what we build with the lives being lived. Urban development is not just about bricks and mortar – it's about creating a sense of belonging and sustainable communities we can see ourselves in.

Read examples on the next page of how we work with culture as a driving force in urban development.



When we place culture at the heart of urban development, we create much more than physical structures. We shape communities with roots, responsibility, and hope. True sustainability only emerges when people can see themselves and their values reflected in what is built around them.

Anna Enemark

Regional Director, Baltic Sea Region
Danish Cultural Institute



URBAN CULTURE



Cities Built for Living

Baltic Sea Region

How can citizens' perspectives be better integrated into urban development? The "Liveability – Designing Public Services for Resilient Neighbourhoods" project trains public administrations in new ways to involve citizens in creating liveable and attractive urban environments shaped around people's needs. Eleven organisations, including Danish Cultural Institute, and six municipalities across the Baltic Sea region – Kiel (DE), Gdynia (PL), Guldborgsund (DK), Kolding (DK), Pori (FI) and Riga (LV) – are collaborating on the project.

As part of this effort, Danish Cultural Institute organised two public debate events in Copenhagen in 2024 with a focus on human-centred urban planning. Among the participants was the internationally acclaimed architect Jan Gehl, who shared his perspectives on urban quality of life and its challenges. These debates brought together experts and citizens to discuss how cities like Copenhagen can evolve in a more inclusive and sustainable direction.



Partners

Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Schleswig-Holstein e.V. (DE), City of Kiel (DE), Business Kolding (DK), Guldborgsund Kommune (DK), City of Pori (FI), Riga City Council (LV), City of Gdynia (PL), Gdansk University of Technology (PL), Nextlearning e.V. (DE), Estonian Academy of Arts (EST)

More Creativity in Smaller Towns

📍 The Baltic Sea Region

The project BSR Cultural Pearls aims to enhance the overall quality of life for individuals living in smaller towns around the Baltic Sea. The approach is to support civil society's engagement in urban development by connecting local communities with national and international networks. These new connections have led to the development of action plans for the participating towns, which are now striving to become so-called "Cultural Pearls." Outstanding initiatives are recognised with the annual Cultural Pearls Award, given to municipalities that have strengthened their resilience, overall quality of life, and urban appeal. In 2024, one of the Danish Cultural Institute's key contributions was the conference Culture for Resilience Forum – a gathering of cultural actors, experts, activists, municipal and NGO representatives, as well as all project partners and participating towns.

Partners

Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) – lead partner; Alytus municipality (LV); ARS BALTIC (DE); Baltic Sea Cultural Centre (PL); Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein (DE); Loov Eesti/Creative Estonia (EE); Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture; Regional Council of Ostrobothnia (FI); Ministry of Justice, European Affairs and Consumer Protection of Land Schleswig-Holstein (DE); Varde Municipality (DK); Vidzeme Planning Region (LV), BSR Cultural Pearls is co-funded by the EU Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme.



The City as an Artistic Well-being Laboratory

📍 China

VOur cultural centre hosted a major conference on how artistic interventions can help create more attractive and liveable cities. The programme included over 25 presentations using the Pecha Kucha format, where each speaker presented with twenty PowerPoint images. Among the many exemplary models highlighted by Chinese architects were Folkehuset Absalon in Copenhagen and several public spaces in the Danish capital. The event was live-streamed to several thousand viewers who were unable to attend in person at the cultural centre.

Partners

Pecha Kucha Beijing, various local architecture studios, Shen Xiaobo (PhD student at Roskilde University)



Safeguarding a Culture in Motion

📍 The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood Countries

EU4Culture is an EU-funded programme working with the cultural and creative sectors in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood countries. Its goal is to support the development of culture as a driver of growth and social development across the region, with a particular focus on cities outside the capitals. The overarching aim is to strengthen the role of cultural and creative industries in each partner country by developing and implementing cultural development strategies. Danish Cultural Institute's role in the programme is to provide support and training in each participating country. In November 2024, Danish Cultural Institute took part in the final conference in Chisinau, Moldova, where key outcomes from the four-year project were celebrated. The programme has resulted in the creation of cultural strategies in 14 cities and supported over 400 artists through mobility projects.

Partners

Goethe-Institut, lead partner, and Czech Centres, Institut Français (Georgia)



Çanakkale Biennial / Kirstine Roepstorff

📍 Türkiye

The 9th edition of the Çanakkale Biennial focused on Youth Culture and the Art-Technology Connection, exploring how technological developments influence visual culture and artistic boundaries. The biennial addressed how young people use technology to create new ways of understanding and shaping urban space. The exhibitions showcased how digital tools, gaming culture, and communication platforms contribute to defining today's urban life and youth culture. Our Turkish branch collaborated on Kirstine Roepstorff's work Through the Mosaic Eye in the Çanakkale region (Adatepe), which demonstrated how art can challenge and expand the city's visual landscape. The branch also supported video installations by Jane Jin Kaisen, offering insights into how technological perspectives can transform our understanding of urban spaces.

Partners

Kirstine Roepstorff





EU4Culture, closing conference

 Moldova

Sensuous World Tour: A Strategic Collaboration between Sisters Hope and Danish Cultural Institute

Danish Cultural Institute and the performance group Sisters Hope have launched a multi-year strategic collaboration. The project “Sensuous Society – Beyond Economic Rationality” explores sensuousness across continents and examines how we are connected across cultural boundaries.

Sisters Hope is an award-winning performance group with the ambition to make the sensuous and poetic accessible to as many people as possible. Through their projects, they explore different aspects of a “Sensuous Society” – a potential new world that takes the aesthetic dimension as its starting point and organising principle.

A Global Relay

The partnership between Sisters Hope and the Danish Cultural Institute is unfolding as a global relay, which began in China in 2024.

In January 2025, the group travelled to São Paulo, Brazil, and later in 2025, the tour will continue to Georgia. The tour is adapted to each country and shaped in collaboration with local partners.

In each country, Sisters Hope, in cooperation with Danish Cultural Institute, will create a 12-hour performative walk at a specially selected location. Each hour features a stop where an artistic ritual is performed, inspired by the local context. In addition, connections will be established with local art and curatorial communities to foster new cultural collaborations.



Sisters Hope visited China from 22 April to 2 May 2024, where their 12-hour performative walk took place in the Aranya area, where the Great Wall of China meets the sea. Photo: The Eye Fé Hedda Rysstad

CULTURAL EVENTS WITH A GEOPOLITICAL PULSE

Culture is not a refuge from global conflict, but a way to understand it. Through six events in 2024, we explored how art and culture can spark dialogue about war, freedom, and identity in a time of geopolitical unrest.

AFRICA STRATEGY, GEORGIAN TECHNO AND UKRAINIAN COMMUNAL SINGING

📍 The People's Summit, Bornholm

For the third year in a row, Danish Cultural Institute partnered with DIPD as stage co-host of "The International Arena" at the People's Meeting (Folkemødet). The stage brought together over 75 panellists from 12 different nationalities for 32 events, ranging from debates and discussions on geopolitics and cultural exchange to music and art as political tools.

Highlights included discussions on techno as a political movement in Georgia and Armenia, the Eurovision Song Contest as a geopolitical mirror, and a newly written communal song created in collaboration with young Ukrainians about life in the shadow of war. The role of culture in building trust between Europe and Africa was also explored.

The International Arena also featured a morning session with Mykolaiv's mayor, Oleksandr Syenkevych, where the situation in Ukraine was discussed alongside, among others, the Speaker of the Danish Parliament, Søren Gade.

"VOICES OF DIGNITY": GHITA NØRBY, CLAES BANG, AND SOFIE GRÅBØL ON STAGE FOR UKRAINE

📍 Copenhagen

On 24 February 2024, Danish Cultural Institute, together with Ukraine House in Denmark, Goethe-Institut Dänemark, and Mungo Park, marked the two-year anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine with the event "Voices of Dignity: Poetry and Music from Ukraine."

Six Ukrainian authors and poets – Kateryna Kalytko, Iya Kiva, Halyna Kruk, Iryna Tsilyk, Iryna Shuvalova, and Oleksandr Mykhed – performed their works in Ukrainian, while Danish actors such as Ghita Nørby, Sofie Gråbøl, and Claes Bang read the Danish translations. The evening was

accompanied musically by Olesya Zdorovetska. The event served as an international statement of support for Ukraine's arts and cultural life.



BELARUSIAN CHOIR ON TOUR IN DENMARK: SONGS FOR FREEDOM

📍 Copenhagen, Aarhus, N. Mors

In August 2024, Danish Cultural Institute invited the Belarusian choir Volny Chor to Denmark for the first time on a tour featuring powerful songs of freedom. The tour brought the choir to Copenhagen, the Culture Meeting on Mors, and Aarhus – highlighting the role of culture in the fight against oppression. The first stop was Johan Borups Folk High School in Copenhagen, where Volny Chor sang of hope and courage at a time when over 1,400 political prisoners were incarcerated in Belarus, and thousands of artists were living in exile. The choir had to perform wearing masks to protect their identities – at least 30 of its members had been arrested since 2020.

UKRAINIAN ART AND CULTURE FILLED THE CEREMONIAL HALL

📍 Copenhagen University

On 24 August 2024, we marked Ukraine's 33rd Independence Day with a moving afternoon in the Ceremonial Hall of the University of Copenhagen, attended by over 220 guests. Through music, poetry, and readings, Ukrainian artists such as Myroslav Laiuk, Kateryna Kalytko, and the band Pyrih i Batih created a powerful connection between Ukraine and Denmark. Their works were brought to life in Danish by actors Esben Smed and Kirsten Olesen, who gave voice to the Ukrainian texts. In collaboration with the People's University (Folkeuniversitetet) and Ukraine House in Denmark, we highlighted the role of culture in times of war – and how art carries a nation's identity and resilience.



CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE SHADOW OF WAR

📍 Ukraine Recovery Conference, Berlin

On 12 June 2024, culture made a significant mark for the first time at Europe's largest conference on the reconstruction of Ukraine – the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin. Amid the devastation of war, with over 400 cultural sites already documented as destroyed, the importance of culture was recognised as a vital part of resilience. Our CEO, Camilla Mordhorst, moderated the conference's first culture-focused session, emphasising that cultural heritage cannot wait to be protected until the war is over – it must be saved now. Together with international cultural and political leaders, it was affirmed that culture is an inseparable part of Ukraine's identity – and a target of war that the world must defend.



UKRAINIAN LITERATURE AS A 'WITNESS OF WAR'

📍 Culture Summit Mors

At the 2024 Culture Meeting on Mors, Danish Cultural Institute, in collaboration with Ukraine House in Denmark, highlighted the role of art and culture in times of war and crisis. Under the theme Music, Courage and Resistance, we hosted talks, readings, and concerts that demonstrated art's ability to carry hope, comfort, and bravery through even the darkest of times. During the event "Poetry from the Frontline", Ukrainian author Myroslav Laiuk read his work – with Danish actor Asger Kjær voicing the translation – offering a powerful reminder of literature's vital role as a witness to war. In the talk "Art, Courage and Music", participants including Elisabeth Linton, Head of Opera at the Royal Danish Theatre, and members of the Belarusian Volny Chor discussed the power of music in times of crisis.



A Member of EUNIC – the European Network of National Cultural Institutes

We are living in a time that calls for international cooperation. The climate crisis and today's volatile geopolitical landscape create an increasing need to focus on building trust and dialogue across Europe. If we are to emerge stronger on the other side, it is crucial that we continue to insist on conversation – even across differences. But dialogue is not easy, and it doesn't happen by itself – and this is precisely where art and culture play a vital role. In the space of art and culture, we can often look beyond our differences and meet each other as human beings. It may sound lofty – but I know it works. We have 85 years of experience in the field.

Camilla Mordhorst

CEO, Danish Cultural Institute

NATIONAL
INSTITUTES
FOR
CULTURE



EUNIC

What is EUNIC?

All European cultural institutes – including Danish Cultural Institute, the Goethe-Institut, Institut Français, and the British Council – are united in the network EUNIC (EU National Institutes for Culture).

EUNIC operates in more than 100 countries, working with arts, culture, and language to foster trust and mutual understanding between Europeans and countries across the world. The network advocates for a stronger role for culture in international contexts. As the EU's strategic partner, EUNIC is actively involved in shaping European cultural policy.

As a member of EUNIC, Danish Cultural Institute has access to a broad network of cultural partners working on art and culture projects aligned with shared agendas such as democracy, sustainability, equality, peace, stability, and diversity.

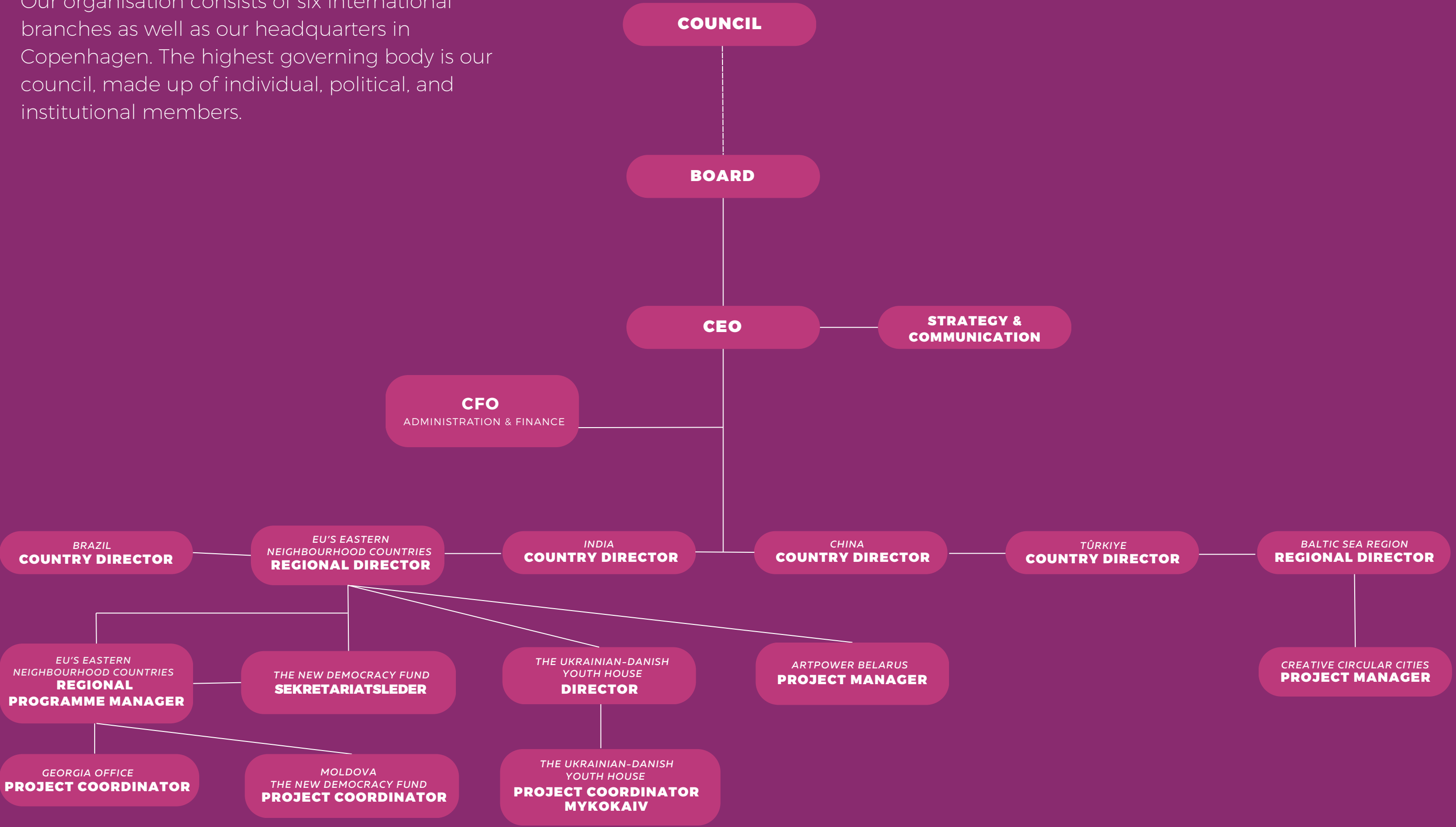
In a time marked by geopolitical tensions and democratic backsliding, EUNIC's efforts to strengthen cultural cooperation across Europe are more important than ever – especially in light of Denmark's EU Council Presidency in the second half of 2025, where culture can play a key role in promoting unity and shared values.



EUNIC – THE EU'S CULTURAL INSTITUTES IN FRONT OF COPENHAGEN CITY HALL IN 2023

ORGANISATION CHART

Our organisation consists of six international branches as well as our headquarters in Copenhagen. The highest governing body is our council, made up of individual, political, and institutional members.



ACCOUNTING

(DKK)			
	2024	2023	2022
INCOME			
State Grant, operation	16.100	15.400	14.800
Grant and donations for activities	83.944	67.466	54.301
Other income	384	98	418
Total income	100.428	82.964	69.519
EXPENSES			
Wages and salaries	21.118	17.579	16.222
Other operating expenses	3.738	4.381	6.471
Activity expenses	75.321	60.713	45.374
Total costs	100.177	82.673	68.067
Operating Result	251	291	1.452
Financial Income	2.418	2.687	799
Financial Expenses	-1.401	-1.130	-2.355
RESULT FOR THE YEAR	1.268	1.848	-104

DANISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN GROWTH

In 2024, Danish Cultural Institute reached a turnover of over DKK 100 million. The operating result for the year ended with a modest surplus of DKK 250,972. Financial items showed a surplus of DKK 1,017,232. From 2020 to 2024, DCI's turnover increased from DKK 29.0 million to DKK 100.4 million – a growth of DKK 71.4 million. This financial growth has enabled us to expand our activities and reach, while building a robust and stable economic foundation.

The full financial report is available at www.danishculture.com

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Liberal Alliance / NN
Social People's Party / Maria Frej
The Alternative / Sascha Faxe
The Citizens' Party / NN
The Conservative Party / Tove Videbæk
The Danish People's Party / Merete Dea Larsen
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THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS IN 2024

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Brazil

Adriani Maffioletti • Aldeia Tekoá Itapuã • Arte no Dique • Asbjørn Nørgaard • Biche Cultural Center, Colombia • Carlos Hamilton Feltrim • Cisne Negro Ballet Company • CISU • Coral Guaray Oua • DANIDA • Danmarks Ambassade i Brasilien • Danmarks Ambassade i Colombia • Danmarks Generalkonsulat, São Paulo • Dansk-Brasiliansk Handelskammer • Edith Buttingsrud Pedersen • Uddannelsesafdelingen, Santos • EU's Delegation til Colombia • EUNIC Global • EUNIC São Paulo • Fábrica de Cultura Iguape • Fábricas de Cultura HQ • Frederik Lassen • Gabriel Mendes • Goethe-Institut Bogotá • Goethe-Institut SP • Guto Santos – Arkitekt • HackTown Festival • Ilex Games • Illumina Music Festival • Instituto Procomum • Instituto Querô • Instituto Querô • Instituto Socioambiental • Jahzara Onã • Jesper Rhode Andersen • Kristian Bugge • Leticia Leite • Lu Cruz • Lucas Maragutti • Marcela Fulô • Martins Fontes Skole, Santos • Mathias Madsen-Munch • Merete Hansen • Morten Thorning • Paulo Fehlauer – Garapa • Rasmus Lützen • Rebecca & Gabriella de Carvalho e Silva Fuglsig • Ronni Kot Wenzell • Santos – UNESCO Creative City of Film • São Carlos Föderale Universitet • SESC São Paulo • Simon Johansen • Sisters Hope • Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen • SPCINE • Statens Kunstfond • Tainá Félix – Game e Arte • The Animation Workshop • Brasiliens Miljø- og Klimaministerium • Colombias Miljø- og Klimaministerium • The Tremolo Beer Gut • UNICEF • UNISANTOS Universitet, Santos • UniVesp Universitet, Santos • VIA University College, Region Midt • Viborg – UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts • Virada Sustentável São Paulo • World Wildlife Fund •

EU's Eastern Neighbourhood Countries

10.11 Mentorship program • 3F • ActionAid in Ukraine • Agency of Regionalne Development • AIESEC • AIESEC in Ukraine • All Ukrainian Youth Center • All-Ukrainian Yoth Center (Kyiv) • Ambassada Kultury (Belarus) • AMER network • Association of communities of Kyiv region • Association of Ukrainians in Denmark • aWAre Zone • Belarusian Council for Culture (Belarus) • Belarusian Helsinki Committee (Belarus) • Bevar Ukraine • Black Sea national University named by Petro Mohula • Borys Hrinchenko National University • Bur • Cars for Ukraine • Center of Contemporary Art - Tbilisi (Georgien) • CentreUA • CF Dity maybutnie natsii • CF Starenki • CF Udonation • CF Zaporuka • Chai Khana (Georgien) • Chaszmin.com.ua • Chernihiv youth center • Coalition of the Independent Cultural Sector of the Republic of Moldova (Moldova) • Contact2 you (theater for youth and children) • Council of Europe • Crimea SOS • Cukr (Sumy) • Cultural and Social Narratives Laboratory (Armenia) • Culture and Management Lab (Georgia) • Danish Entrepreneurs • Danish Institute for Parties & Democracy (DIPD) • Dansk Industri • Dansk Røde Kors • Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd • Debate Club • "Апологетика" • Den danske ambassade i Georgien • Den danske ambassade i Moldova • Den danske ambassade i Ukraine • Department of Societal Communications (Kyiv City Administration) • Department of Youth Politics Sumy • DIPD • Docudays film festival • European Democracy Youth Network • European Students Network Kyiv • Foundations of Regional Initiatives FRI • GO NaRivnykh • GoodPeopleForChange.org • Grants and Opportunities Telegram Channel • GurGury • Gwara Media (Kharkiv) • Happy Monday • Hawrylyshyn foundation • House of Europe • Hromadske Mykolaiv • Insha Osvita (Also for Mykolaiv) • International Center for Peace and Integration (Georgia) • International Media Support • Internationals People's College (Denmark) • IREX • Isar (for conferences) • IZOLYATSIYA Platform for Cultural Initiatives (Ukraine) • JCI Youth • KFUM / KFUK / YMCA • Kharkiv MeetDocs Film Festival • Kolo Nordic • Krogerup Højskole • Kultura Medialna NGO (Ukraine) • Kyiv City Youth Council • Kyiv Palace of Children and Youth • Kyiv Respect Club • Kyiv TV channel • Kyiv Vechirniy • Kyiv Youth Center • KyivArt Telegram Channel • Ladyzhyn AMER branch • Legal development network • Linza Agency • Lost Farm Festival • Lviv Culture Hub • Maibutnii school • Ministry for Youth and Sports, Ukraine •

Ministry of Economics of Ukraine • Vlasna Sprava Youth program • Moim Ridnym (Sumy) • Molodist Film Festival • Molodvzh (conferences) • Mykhailo Boichuk Kyiv State Academy of Decorative Applied Arts and Design • National Academy of Managerial Staff of Culture and Arts of Ukraine • National Bohomolets Medical University • National resistance NGO • National Scout Organization Plast • National Youth Council of Moldova • National Youth Council of Ukraine • NGO "Покоління Ю" • NGO 10th of April (Dnipro) • NGO 10th of April (Mykolaiv) • NGO Action Office • NGO ANTS • NGO Enlightened Initiative • NGO Legal development network • NGO Nova United (Poltava) • NGO Re:Dim • NGO STAN • NGO To Be • NGO Women's League • NGO БеЗ ПРОБЛІВ • Teenside • NYCU • OK youth space • Paragraph Youth Center • Pechersk Youth Platform • PEN Belarus (Belarus) • PEN Georgia (Georgien) • PERSHI (project by YEP) • Pixlab • Porichka • Regional Youth Center Poltava • Regional youth council in Mykolaiv region • Repair Together • Repower NGO • Rising leaders for the future youth club • Rubryka • SD Platform • ShoTam • Solidarna Molod • SpivdDia for Kids • Spivdiia Career • Start Now NGO • Students Brotherhood of Kyiv • Sumy Region Youth Council • Suspilne Culture • Suspilne Culture (more acts related) • Suspilne Mykolaiv • Svidomi.in.ua • Teach For Ukraine • Teen` (career trainings for youth) • The Danish Foreign Policy Society (U35) • The European-Ukrainian Hub • the Ukraine House in Denmark (ad-hoc events) • Bloom • Tvory network of youth spaces in Lviv • Tyt-Hub • UActive • uBoost • Udenrigsministeriet • Ukrainian Dialogues • Ukrainian Future, Junior Academy of Sciences • Ukrainian Leadership Academy • Ukrainian Red Cross Society Youth Program • Ukrainian Students for Freedom • Ukrainian Students League • Ukrainian Volunteers Service • Ukrainian Youth Fund • UMSA-Kyiv • Ungdommens Demokratihus, Copenhagen • United Nations Development Program (UNDP) • Urban Reform • UrbanRukh (Mykolaiv) • UReport • Veteran Hub • Vidnova.ua • War Childhood Museum Ukraine • World Wide Words • YC Seven Hora • YEP Incubator • Young European Ambassadors • Youth affairs council under the President of Ukraine • Youth Center Chernihiv Region • Youth Up NGO • Zminotvorci • **Гогольфест • Молодіжна платформа • Олександр Туз (?) • Просвіта NGO • ТиКиїв • Якого біса (медіа)**

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China

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Türkiye

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Baltic Sea Region

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