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About

EU National Institutes for Culture - EUNIC

16–19 Minuten

EUNIC baut einen kollektiven Ansatz für internationale Kulturbeziehungen unter seinen Mitgliedern auf, um das Vertrauen und das Verständnis international durch Kultur zu stärken. EUNIC setzt sich für die Rolle und Anerkennung von Kultur als Kernbestandteil der internationalen Beziehungen ein.

Die Arbeit von EUNIC ist tief in den Prinzipien der internationalen kulturellen Beziehungen verwurzelt, einem werteorientierten Ansatz, der die Zusammenarbeit anregen und darauf abzielt, für beide Seiten vorteilhafte Beziehungen zu schaffen, die auf Respekt, Solidarität und Engagement für die kulturelle Vielfalt basieren. Wir streben danach, faire Partnerschaften aufzubauen und aufrechtzuerhalten, indem wir gegenseitiges Zuhören und Lernen praktizieren und gemeinsam mit dem Engagement für kulturelle und zivilgesellschaftliche Akteure Co-Creation und gemeinsamen Kapazitätsaufbau betreiben.

EUNIC vereint sowohl staatliche als auch nichtstaatliche Organisationen mit unterschiedlichen Mandaten und operativen Realitäten in einer Praxisgemeinschaft. Als ein führendes und vielfältiges Netzwerk von Akteuren der internationalen Kulturbeziehungen aus Europa erkennen wir unsere

Positionspolitik in einem globalen Kontext und die Bedeutung der Ausgewogenheit der lokalen Bedürfnisse, Kontexte und Realitäten in Partnerländern und den Bedürfnissen und Interessen unserer Mitglieder.

EUNIC steht für einen bereichsübergreifenden Ansatz für Kultur. Die vielfältige und fachliche Expertise und Aktivitäten unserer Mitglieder individuell und als Netzwerk erstrecken sich über breite Definitionen der Kultur. Die EUNIC verkörpert daher ein transversales Verständnis von Kultur, das (aber nicht beschränkt auf) langjährige Erfahrung in den Bereichen Kunst, Kreativwirtschaft, Mehrsprachigkeit, greifbares und immaterielles Kulturerbe, Jugend, Geschlecht, Vielfalt und Inklusion, nachhaltige Entwicklung, Kulturtourismus, digitale Kultur und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit umfasst (aber nicht beschränkt).

Die Zwecke der EUNIC sind in der Satzung wie folgt definiert:

- um zusammen zu arbeiten
- Förderung der kulturellen Vielfalt und des Verständnisses
- Stärkung des internationalen Dialogs und der kulturellen Zusammenarbeit
- Ein Partner der EU bei der Festlegung und Umsetzung der EU-Kulturpolitik zu sein
- für den Wert der kulturellen Beziehungen einzutreten und sich im Rahmen dessen für eine starke und unabhängige Stimme für den Kultursektor einzusetzen
- Forschung betreiben und bewährte Verfahren austauschen

[EUNIC-Statuten in französischer Original- und englischer Übersetzung](#)

Die hier veröffentlichten überarbeiteten Statuten wurden durch den Königlichen Erlass genehmigt und beim Brüsseler Unternehmensgericht hinterlegt und in den Anhängen des belgischen Amtsblatts (Moniteur Belge) veröffentlicht. EUNIC ist nach belgischem Recht (VAT BE 0473.098.395) als internationale gemeinnützige Vereinigung (AISBL) registriert.

Im Mai 2025 hat die EUNIC einen neuen strategischen Rahmen für 2025-2029 verabschiedet.

Die drei Kernsäulen des Rahmens sind:

- EUNIC ist ein Tunnetzwerk: Tag für Tag rund um den Globus schaffen wir Zusammenarbeit zwischen Menschen und Menschen durch Kultur.
- EUNIC ist ein befürwortendes Netzwerk: Wir unterstützen die Europäische Union dabei, eine herausragende Rolle als internationaler Akteure in den kulturellen Beziehungen zu entwickeln.
- EUNIC ist ein Lernnetzwerk: Gemeinsam schaffen wir Peer-to-Peer-Kapazitätenaufbaumöglichkeiten und eine Plattform für strategische Reflexionen.

[EUNIC Strategischer Rahmen 2025-2029](#)

EUNIC ist eines der europäischen Netzwerke, die durch das Programm Kreatives Europa der Europäischen Union unterstützt werden. Seit 2014 profitiert sie kontinuierlich von dieser Unterstützung.

Die EUNIC-Mitglieder schließen sich in 143 Clustern in 109 Ländern weltweit zusammen. Cluster sind die Zweigstellen des Netzwerks, die dort gegründet wurden, wo mindestens drei Full

EUNIC-Mitglieder vertreten sind. Cluster engagieren sich in kulturellen Beziehungen und schaffen gemeinsam mit Partnerorganisationen Aktivitäten. [Diese Karte zeigt die globale Präsenz von EUNIC.](#)

In EUNIC-Clustern arbeiten Kollegen finden wichtige Dokumente und Leitlinien im [EUNIC-Ressourcenzentrum](#).

EUNIC's General Assembly is composed of all members and is the governing body of EUNIC, steering the network strategically. The General Assembly approves new Full and Associate Members, elects the Board of Directors, and confirms EUNIC's activity plan and budget. It also formally approves new EUNIC clusters. The General Assembly meets twice a year and is chaired by the President of EUNIC.

[General Assembly Meeting Reports](#)

Executive decisions are taken by the Board of Directors, meeting four times a year. The Board members are elected for a period of two years by the Full Members of EUNIC, with the possibility of re-election for another two years.

The EUNIC President chairs the General Assembly and the Board of Directors and represents the network, serving a period of one year. Gitte Zschoch, ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, is the current President of EUNIC.

Gitte Zschoch, has been Secretary General of ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen since October 2021. From 2018 to 2021, she was also Director of the EUNIC network.

She previously worked for the Goethe-Institut in Seoul, Tokyo and Johannesburg in a number of different roles, as Deputy Head of

Communication at its Munich headquarters, and most recently as founding Director of the Goethe-Institut in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Gitte Zschoch studied Comparative Literature at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich and Modern Korean Literature at Seoul National University in Seoul, South Korea. She chairs the Advisory Board of the Akademie Schloss Solitude Stuttgart and is an Expert Member of the Committee for Culture and Media of the City of Stuttgart's municipal council.

She has been a Member of the EUNIC Board of Directors since June 2025 and has been President of the EUNIC Board of Directors since December 2025. She will hold this office until December 2026.

[Former EUNIC Presidents and Board Members.](#)

The Director of EUNIC is responsible for the daily management of the network, delivering the EUNIC strategy and heading the EUNIC office. The Board of Directors also delegates some of its tasks to the Director. The Director is selected by the Board of Directors following an open call (both within the network and externally).

Andrew Manning became Director of EUNIC in August 2021. Prior to EUNIC, Andrew was the Secretary General of the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO) and international Advisor for the Nordic region at BOZAR, the Centre for Fine Arts Brussels. Andrew has previously worked as Head of Arts at the British Council in France as well as roles with the BBC and British Council Brussels. Andrew has a degree in French language and Literature from the University of Oxford.

Former EUNIC Directors

Gitte Zschoch, Goethe-Institut, 2018-2021

Andrew Murray, British Council, 2015-2018

Helena Kovarikova, Czech Centres, 2012-2015

Andrew Manning is the first Director not seconded by a EUNIC member. In cases where the Director is seconded from a EUNIC member organisation then EUNIC compensates that member for the staff costs of the Director.

The EUNIC office is the secretariat of the EUNIC network, based in Brussels. The secretariat supports EUNIC members in the delivery of collaborative work worldwide, advocates for European cultural relations, and facilitates knowledge sharing and capacity building between the people of the network. The office was established in 2012.

[Contact the team](#)

EUNIC is funded by proportionate **membership fees**.

EUNIC's **worldwide activities** are financed by contributions of members' local branches and partners and the EUNIC Cluster Fund.

The **Cluster Fund** is the network's most important internal financial instrument and is financed by voluntary contributions by EUNIC members. It supports activities inside and outside the EU with currently around 300,000 euros annually. Since its establishment in 2012, 206 Cluster Fund projects have been financed with a total budget of 1.6 million euros. In 2023, 18 members contributed to the fund with a total of 330,700 euros. Including contributions by EUNIC members locally and by partners, the total budget of project selected for 2023 was more

than 780,000 euros.

In 2014, EUNIC first received funding as European network from the **Creative Europe** programme, which was renewed in 2017, 2021, and 2025. [European Spaces of Culture](#) was co-funded by the Directorate-General Education, Youth, Sports and Culture of the European Commission as a Preparatory Action from 2019-2023 and was continued with a Creative Europe grant for 2024-2025.

Administrative Arrangement: Partnership agreement with the EU

In 2021, EUNIC and the European External Action Service (EEAS) approved a joint statement, re-confirming their commitment to strengthening their collaboration.

In 2017, EUNIC signed a partnership agreement, an Administrative Arrangement, with the European Commission – represented by the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC) – and the European External Action Service (EEAS). In the Arrangement, the three parties agreed to initiate joint pilot activities to enhance cooperation between EU Delegations and EUNIC clusters.

The EU strategy on international cultural relations, the *Joint Communication 'Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations'*, was published in 2016. It identifies EUNIC as one of the implementing partners of the EU's cultural relations approach.

Joint activities between the EU and EUNIC

A first joint pilot activity resulting from the Administrative Arrangement was the publication of the *Report on the current state of the partnership between EUNIC clusters and EU Delegations*,

based on the experiences of collaboration in 14 countries worldwide.

Furthermore, EUNIC, the EEAS and the Commission have co-hosted joint sessions on the role of cultural relations in EU foreign policy during regional seminars in North Macedonia (2018), Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea and the Philippines (2019). During the Covid-19 pandemic, they were co-hosting webinars on cultural relations for colleagues working in EU Delegations and in the EUNIC network.

To further facilitate cooperation between EU Delegations and the EUNIC network, the *Joint Guidelines: EUNIC – European External Action Service – European Commission partnership* were co-authored and published. These guidelines advise colleagues working in EU Delegations and EUNIC clusters worldwide on how to design effective working relationships in order to deliver cultural relations projects.

Joint cultural relations projects and programmes between EUNIC clusters and EU Delegations have been implemented in amongst others Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Jordan, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

European Spaces of Culture

In 2018, EUNIC was granted the Preparatory Action **European Spaces of Culture**, initiated by the European Parliament and implemented through EUNIC's network, EU Delegations and local stakeholders. The project tests new models of European collaboration in culture. After its Preparatory Action phase, the programme is continuing with follow-up funding from Creative Europe.

[Read more about the programme on the website.](#)

Further reading

- [Joint Communication: Towards a strategy on EU international cultural relations, 2016](#)
- [Administrative Arrangement: Partnership agreement between EUNIC, the European Commission and the European External Action Service, 2017](#)
- [Report on the current state of the partnership between EUNIC clusters and EU Delegations, 2018](#)
- [Joint Guidelines: EUNIC - EUNIC – European External Action Service – European Commission partnership, 2019](#)
- [European Spaces of Culture](#)

2025

For the first time facilitated EUNIC presence at COP

2025

Africa-Europe Spaces of Culture launched

2025

Strategic Framework for 2025-2029 adopted

2024

EUNIC Sustainability Toolkit published

2023

European Spaces of Culture continues after Preparatory Action

2023

EUNIC's Climate Culture(s) Creative Lab in Berlin

2022

The Ukrainian Institute joins EUNIC as Associate Member

2022

Ten-year anniversary of the EUNIC Cluster Fund

2022

Fair Collaboration non-toolkit published

2021

Joint Statement on Cultural Relations with EEAS approved

2021

Network grows to be active in more than 100 countries

2021

Conference "European Spaces of Culture: Taking EU cultural relations to the next level"

2021

New membership policy approved, officially including Associate Members at the global level

2020

Joint Statement "For the future: Make cultural relations count in a post-crisis global society" approved by all 36 EUNIC members

2020

Strategic Framework 2020-2024 adopted

2019

Joint Guidelines on the Partnership between EUNIC, the European Commission and the European External Action Service published

2018

European 'Houses' of Culture Preparatory Action grant received

2017

Creative Europe programme funding received for the period of 2017-2021

2017

Administrative Arrangement signed, a partnership agreement between EUNIC, the European Commission and the European External Action Service

2016

Network grows to 100 clusters worldwide

2015

First Strategic Framework adopted

2014

EUNIC brings together members from all EU Member States

2014

Creative Europe programme funding received for the period of 2014-2016

2012

EUNIC Cluster Fund created

2012

EUNIC office in Brussels installed

2010

Network grows to 50 clusters worldwide

2010

Integration of ministries for Member States without cultural institutes

2006

EUNIC network created by six EU cultural institutes: Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, British Council, Danish Cultural Institute, Goethe-Institut, Institut français and SICCA, the predecessor of DutchCulture