

Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture Strategy 2023-2026



**Northern
Dimension
Partnership
on Culture**

Towards resilient, sustainable and innovative cultural
and creative sectors in the Northern Dimension

Introduction

The Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC) was established in 2010 as fourth partnership in the Northern Dimension Policy. The members of the NDPC are the European Union and the Ministries responsible for culture in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Russia.¹

1

The European Union, Iceland and Norway have suspended until further notice all activities of the Northern Dimension policy which involve the Russian Federation (March 9th, 2022): <https://ndpculture.org/news/northern-dimension-policy-joint-statement-by-the-european-union-iceland-and-norway-on-suspending-activities-with-russia-and-belarus/>

The NDPC is **a unique cooperation platform** in the Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS)² ecosystem, bringing together both the EU and the non-EU countries and providing an access to a wide pool of expertise and experience related to CCS development across the ND region.

The overall objective of the NDPC is to serve as a **focal point** for CCS networks and projects in the ND area, **initiating both its own as well as complementing other stakeholders' activities**. It acts as a facilitator for new initiatives, thus adding value to other policy areas, bringing together cultural and creative operators and policymakers, providing capacity building for professional development, and providing platform for exchanging good practices and promoting ND area as a thriving cultural and creative hub.

While the NDPC is officially a governmental partnership, it has the flexibility to operate closely with other public and private organisations in setting up new initiatives and form broader alliances. It brings together both the national authorities as well as other non-governmental stakeholders and experts within the CCS and in other related sectors.

2

'Cultural and Creative Sectors' include all sectors whose activities are based on cultural values or artistic and other individual or collective creative expressions. The activities may include the development, the creation, the production, the dissemination and the preservation of goods and services which embody cultural, artistic or other creative expressions, as well as related functions such as education or management. They will have a potential to generate innovation and jobs in particular from intellectual property. The sectors include architecture, archives, libraries and museums, artistic crafts, audiovisual (including film, television, video games and multimedia), tangible and intangible cultural heritage, design (including fashion design), festivals, music, literature, performing arts, books and publishing, radio, and visual arts (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2018%3A366%3AFIN>)

Mission Statement

NDPC strengthens the strategic role of the Cultural and Creative Sectors in sustainable development across the ND area.

Vision Statement

Resilient, innovative and well networked Cultural and Creative Sectors contribute significantly to the overall sustainability and competitiveness of the entire Northern Dimension.

Key challenges to tackle in 2023-2026

Uneven playing field across the ND region and lack of support measures covering the entire region. Different countries in the ND region have different level of CCS awareness and availability of support measures for the sector. This makes mobilising support for CCS development in different countries more difficult.

Aim > to bring together policymakers and other stakeholders from all ND countries and share good practices.

CCS are being significantly impacted by the current crises. The Covid-19 crisis showed the fragility of CCIS and still has long term impact on the sector. The war in Ukraine has placed the entire societies under heavy pressure and also brought about subsequent energy and economic crises. This puts the CCS in extremely difficult position, but also highlights the importance of culture and creativity in finding new solutions to ongoing struggles.

Aim > to support CCS by capacity building and networking as well as by implementing pilot projects linking CCS with other sectors.

Fragmented sectors consisting mostly of micro companies and isolated initiatives. CCS

comprises of predominantly very small companies, which have an impact on their resilience, ability to acquire a critical mass and implement large-scale cross-border projects. There are many smaller scale activities, national initiatives and short-term project-based programmes, but there is a lack of coordination and long-term coherent approach.

Aim > to offer capacity building and networking activities, promote CCS to wider audiences, and to initiate new large-scale cross-border cooperation projects.

Unclear position of NDPC as a centre of CCS development in the region.

Not all Member States are equally committed in developing NDPC, the role of NDPC as adding value to national initiatives and elaboration of regional policy framework have remained ambiguous.

Aim > to activate the Member States, developing an impactful value proposition which engages key stakeholders from the ND region in joint project activities.

Lack of systematic and intended crossovers from CCS to other sectors.

While there are some very encouraging examples of CCS crossovers, there is a lack of systematic approach to enhancing close collaboration between CCS and other sectors.

Aim > implementing crossover pilot projects, raising awareness, measuring impact of CCS to other sectors, sharing good practices, providing capacity building, working together with other regional formats and ND structures.

Priorities for 2023-2026

NDPC is working towards stronger, more competitive and more resilient³ CCS that contribute significantly to the sustainable development of the ND region.

3

Resilience is a strategic capability to survive a crisis and thrive in a world of uncertainty. In addition to getting through crises, resilient organisations also have the foresight to prevent potential crises emerging and an ability to turn crises into opportunities (www.resorgs.org.nz/about-resorgs/what-is-organisational-resilience)

The priorities:

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Focusing on **knowledge brokering**, building stronger links and facilitating dialogue between the Cultural and Creative Sectors and other sectors, particularly with areas covered by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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Supporting creative professionals and organisations to **reach out to and collaborate** with other CCS stakeholders across the ND area. In this way, NDPC adds value to other existing initiatives, programs and projects.

—
Providing **capacity building opportunities** to equip creative professionals with necessary skills and competences to support internationalisation, obtain practical strategic and entrepreneurial knowledge, and create long-lasting networks between professionals.

—
Offering **valuable input and reflection for policymakers** through sharing good practices, co-designing solutions for common challenges, developing strategic dialogue and initiating cross-border projects.

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Involving actively the Member States to act as an **effective mediator** and development centre for CCS in ND region and provide the NDPC and its Secretariat the additional **capacity to deliver** the results foreseen in the strategy.

The key principles for the next period:

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Linking CCS with other areas and adding value to wider goals.

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Finding synergies with other stakeholders and initiatives to maximise the impact.

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Working strategically with limited number of priorities and focusing the resources.

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Engaging with diverse existing partners and networks from across the ND region.

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Undertaking more impactful and long-term activities.

Key goals and measures for 2023-2026

Strategic goal 1:

NDPC is a knowledge broker and accelerator of initiatives linking the CCS with other sectors.

Developing cross-sectorial initiatives with other partnerships and stakeholders and launching projects to highlight the impact of CCS to other areas.

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Collecting and sharing good practices and examples of CCS crossovers with other sectors, and informing the Member States on the role of CCS in a sustainable development agenda.

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Organising seminars, workshops and expert group meetings on exchange between CCS and other sectors based on UN Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for CCS societal, economic and environmental impacts.

—

Involving other governmental bodies, Chambers of Commerce and Industries, and private investors to access the diverse financing sources including private-public funding.

—

Contributing actively into other initiatives with similar aims in the ND regions, organised by such cooperation frameworks as BEAC, CBSS, EUSBSR PA Culture and other relevant ones. Participating in wider European networks with the aim at providing the CCS in the ND region with better opportunities, e.g., KIC Culture & Creativity, Pact For Skills, OnTheMove, Culture Action Europe, European Creative Business Network, New European Bauhaus and more.

Strategic goal 2:

Creative professionals are well-connected across the ND area and equipped with necessary skillset.

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Contributing to the development of a wide network of CCS professionals, policymakers and experts in other fields covering all countries in the ND area.

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Supporting existing projects and initiatives in the region in developing stronger links with stakeholders in other ND countries, facilitating matchmaking of professionals.

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(Co)organising networking events, workshops and expert group meetings to encourage networking and develop new projects.

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Providing high-quality capacity building, including organising the NDPC Bootcamp, focusing on management, strategy, entrepreneurship and internationalisation skills.

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Setting up a mentoring system for project development accelerator to allow professionals to work together with counterparts from other countries.

Strategic goal 3:

NDPC has the organisational capacity to positively impact the CCS development and knowledge-based policymaking.

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Increasing the Secretariat's capacity to initiate and implement projects by stable long-term funding agreements, hiring additional specialists and organising staff training.

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Carrying out communication activities to make NDPC more visible for the CCS across the ND region and highlight exemplary CCS crossovers to wider audiences.

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Engaging the Board of Experts as an advisory body and working with all Member States to motivate them to actively participate in the NDPC's activities.

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Organising knowledge sharing between policymakers from the ND area and support evidence-based decision-making through data collection, as well as informing and engaging NDPC Member States' high-level policymakers.

—

Providing increased visibility for CCS in the ND region and highlighting the important role that CCS play in sustainable development through organizing own events and participating in other key events in the region.

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Contact us: info@ndpculture.org

Meet us:

Grecinieku 9, Riga- 1050, Latvia

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