



June 2017

RCIA Newsletter no.1

Welcome to the first newsletter of the RCIA – Regional Creative Industries Alliance project!

We want to keep you informed about how RCIA advances on the road towards better regional policies dedicated to creating a modern business ecosystem by using the transformative power of creative SMEs as a key competitiveness factor.

How and when we started cooperation?

The kick-off meeting took place in Vienna on 1-3 March 2017. Besides laying a solid foundation for an efficient management and agreeing on the strategy of how to communicate to the targeted stakeholders, but also to the wider public, the partners focused on starting the real work on policies. The first step was to gather a first insight on what policy good practices are there in their regions to be shared and the second step to cluster them in a structure that shall make the exchange on these practices efficient from a transferability perspective. [Read more](#)

Wallonia was home to the partners' second meeting and study visit on May 22-24

The visit was thematically planned around the project's objective "*To develop/adapt/improve the eco-system from classic spatial cross-collaboration into a holistic approach*".

To get a head start on experiencing the creative initiatives of Wallonia and the work of the regional stakeholders, the partners attended the Walloon Creativity Week launch event at the [Albert Jacquard college](#) in Namur. Aside from a well conducted programme with talks from Mr Jean-Claude Marcourt, Walloon economy Minister and Jean-Paul Erhard, Managing Partner of Peoplesphere the RCIA partners were greeted with a merge of RCIA and Creative Wallonia in the shape of a flag. Read [the full summary](#)

RCIA Library

In the spirit „Discover, learn and share“ the project partners put together a collection of publications on CCI policies that they identified so far as being relevant to their work. Visit our virtual library [here!](#)

News about RCIA activities in the partner regions:

The RCIA partners were busy setting up their Local Stakeholder Groups, a „think-tank“ approach including relevant representatives of various types of organisations related to the design, implementation and impact of CCI policies in the regions.

[Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH - Austria](#)

Following the personal invitations issued by Austria Wirtschaftsservice, coordinator of the RCIA project, 20 of the most relevant stakeholders for the Austrian creative industries policies gathered on 15 May 2017 in Vienna. The aim of the meeting was to learn about the RCIA objectives and explore the potential of interregional exchange and learning for policy improvement. [Read more](#)

[Barcelona Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Navigation - Spain](#)

On the 11th of May took place at the Barcelona Design Hub building the first meeting of the local stakeholder group of the Regional Creative Industries Alliance (RCIA) project, which was organized together with BCD-Barcelona Design Center, which also presented the Interreg Europe project, Design for Innovation.

The meeting was attended by 14 people from different institutions and organizations linked to the cultural and creative industries in the region, namely the Government of Catalonia, Barcelona Provincial Council, Barcelona City Council, General Council of Chambers of Commerce of Catalonia, Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, BCD- Barcelona Design Center and the Technological Center Eurecat. [Read more](#)

[Joint Stock Company “Development finance institution Altum” - Latvia](#)

The RCIA regional stakeholder group meeting in Latvia was organized by the project partner SJC “Development finance institution Altum” on May 12, 2017 in Riga.

The meeting gathered 15 people in total, representing Altum, the ministries of Culture and Finance, municipalities and regional planning institutions, business incubators and co-working spaces, and associations of start-ups and business angel investors.

During the meeting, Altum introduced the participants with the RCIA project, its general goals and activities, and its implication for the region and plans to develop a new policy instrument for the benefit of CCI and cross-sectoral companies in Latvia. In addition to that, Altum shared with group the good practices and experiences learned from the first project meetup in Austria, particularly the financing schemes implemented by the lead partner aws. [Read more](#)

[North-West Regional Development Agency - Romania](#)

30 local and regional stakeholders have agreed to be part of the 5 years Regional Consortia for Creative Industries in the Northern Transylvania. First meeting took place in Cluj-Napoca on the 18th of May, hosted and chaired by the North-West Regional Development Agency team.

Local public authorities, chambers of commerce, universities, business associations and clusters, companies, hubs and NGOs acting in the cultural and creative sectors of the North-West Region of Romania have been informed on the objectives and tasks to be performed together in the next years within the Regional Creative Industries Alliance. [Read more](#)

[City of Lublin - Poland](#)

Following the personal invitations issued by Strategy and Investor Assistance Department of Municipality of Lublin, the project partner in Regional Creative Industry Alliance, about 40 of the most relevant stakeholders for the Lublin creative industries policies gathered on April 28, 2017. The aim of this meeting was to learn about RCIA objectives and to establish, formally, Local Stakeholder Group in Lublin. The participants represented nine sectors of creative industries: architecture, design, book and publishing, music, radio & TV, advertisement, games and software, and performing arts. [Read more](#)

[Region of Central Greece - Greece](#)

On 16 June 2017, the Region of Sterea Ellada (Central Greece), held its first RCIA Local Stakeholder Group meeting in Lamia.

The Local Stakeholders Group meeting was kicked-off by Mr. Themis Cheimaras who greeted the participants and proceeded with the introduction of the project and its main objectives. The stakeholders defined the main related issues in the region and developed ideas of actions for the policy improvement. They had the opportunity to discuss about the “good practice” examples shared by the partners from other European regions and they will participate to the next RCIA project meetings and study visits. Moreover, stakeholder involvement was analyzed and the relative contribution of each stakeholder was highlighted. [Read more](#)

