



December 2018

RCIA Newsletter no.4

Two trips around the sun for RCIA, we've emerged wiser, and readier to tackle regional CCI policies for a more competitive economy. From two inspiring study visits, two round tables, and thought-provoking discussions to keep us decidedly busy in the last semester, here's a look back at all our activities as well as our hopes for the year ahead.

A lot of achievements, a lot more to come!

A note from the RCIA coordinator, Christina Koch

This year has been full of activities related to exchanging many good practices from all partners' regions and discovering new opportunities for learning from other related projects. Our project partners have achieved a deep dive on regional development by co-learning and collaborating brought about through the policy round tables and staff exchanges that have been held thus far and are better equipped to move to the next phase of the project. We've also been fortunate to have dedicated stakeholders who are as invested emotionally as the partners of RCIA, making the tough tasks ahead much easier to achieve. We are now entering a crucial phase, where we will use all these learnings to draft our local action plans in the upcoming months.

Ending the second year is a good chance to reflect on all our milestones, learnings and more importantly, chart a course for all that lies ahead. Now is the time to direct our focus on the future and what we can all do to shape it. With support and commitment from each of you, I am sure we can succeed in creating valuable and visible change in our regions. I therefore hope that you will continue to enable us as you always have.

On behalf of the whole RCIA partnership I wish you all a great new year and happy holidays!



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Christina Koch

Management of EU projects, Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH



The first RCIA Policy Round Table took place in Austria!

“Participating as an expert in the Austrian Policy Round Table in Vienna on October 1st, 2018 was a very gratifying experience. Not only could I freely give my opinion in a very frank and constructive way, but I was also surprised about the seriousness of the AWS/Austrian Government representatives team and the whole working session. AWS was smart and generous enough to be able to share the Creat(iv)e Growth programme with all the experts, be open-minded and humble to listen to our comments and advice. Furthermore, we devoted over 5 intense hours to make a really detailed discussion about the mentioned programme, going from the more strategical approach down to very technical and tactical issues such as de minimis, or the eligible costs, just to mention a couple of them.” - Edgar Garcia Casellas, Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies (Catalunya/Spain)

On 1st October 2018 the first RCIA Policy Round Table took place in Vienna, and included representatives from Denmark, Austria, Belgium and Spain. After some welcoming words, a brief introduction to the RCIA Project and an overview to the concept of the Policy Round Table, aws gave an overview to Austrian challenges and objectives, leading to the main focus at the Policy Round Table: the Creat(iv)e Growth Programme. You can read the full agenda [here](#).

To know more about the first RCIA Policy Round Table, read the article [here](#).



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RCIA on Policy Learning!

RCIA was represented by our Polish partner, Diana Ciszewska at the 'fostering entrepreneurship and business creation' policy learning event organized by Interreg Europe in Sofia. She was part of an interactive workshop and her presentation highlighted a good practise from Poland, and touched upon areas such as promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship and promoting the economic image of Lublin. You can read more about the event [here](#).



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Interreg projects are highlighted in Wallonia!

Between 1st - 2nd of November 2018, the partners and stakeholders of the CREADIS3 Interreg project discovered Walloon creativity, with the objective of drawing inspiration from meeting, benchmarking, testing and capitalizing on a sector with major economic potential! This project also aimed at boosting the creative and cultural industries sector. CREADIS3 is an initiative of several European regions that have capitalized on the potential of creative and cultural industries as vectors of economic development.

Read more [here!](#)



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Second Staff Exchange - Austria Once Again!

Representatives from RCIA partners in Poland, (City of Lublin) and Latvia, (Development Finance Institution Altum) took part in the 2nd RCIA Staff Exchange to the Austria Wirtschaftsservice between 2nd-4th October 2018. In addition to the project partners, representatives of the Ministry of Culture from the Czech Republic participated.

The aim of this exchange was to gain a detailed insight into the development and implementation of the Austrian Creative Industries Strategy and to participate in the 8th European Creative Industries Summit 2018.

Read more [here](#).



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RCIA in Riga!

The sixth RCIA study visit took place in Riga between June 5th -6th 2018, where the partners and stakeholders had a new opportunity to exchange experiences and share knowledge in the area of CCI policies.

Thematic Groups presenting their best practices and knowledge sharing amongst partners were on top of the agenda at the sixth RCIA study visit to Latvia. Over the two-day trip, 8 RCIA partners partook in conversations on key issues such as financial instruments for creative businesses which influence regional development, and went on a study trip to Riga's National Library and the RTU Design Factory You can read more about the study visit [here](#).



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RCIA's Greek tale – Our Seventh Study Visit!

While the world might know Greece as a vacation heaven, the RCIA project partners know it to be a launchpad of creativity receiving media coverage on [YouTube](#) and news posts by agencies such as [Lamia Report](#) and [Digital Star](#).

The [seventh RCIA study visit to Greece](#) took place between 19th-20th September 2018 at Kamena Vourla. Attended by project partners from nine countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Romania, Greece, Latvia, Italy, Poland and Spain), the study visit covered a broad range of topics central to policy development and included an excursion to [Thermopylae's Innovative Centre of Historical Information](#).



RCIA visits Fabra i Coats Art Factory!

On 1st December 2018, RCIA project members visited the Fabra i Coats Factory. Fabra i Coats is only one out of 11 art factories, which are part of a network of Art Factories, a municipal programme based on the transformation of old disused industrial buildings to turn it into new spaces destined to culture an artistic expression. The majority is specialised in different artistic disciplines as theatre, dance or visual arts. Fabra i Coats has the particularity of being the only multidisciplinary factory and is directly managed by the ICUB.

You can read more about the visit [here](#).



The RCIA Library!

We are still collecting some of the most interesting and relevant publications and reports on the creative industries, so you don't have to look further for them! Our partners regularly contribute with exciting updates to the library on all matters ranging from access to finance, handbooks, studies and reports. Find it [here!](#)

News from the Project Partners:

The backbone of the RCIA project are the project partners and their local stakeholder groups. Read a selection of testimonies, and what local stakeholder group discussions organized from July to December 2018.

The impact of the Austrian's Local Stakeholder Group becomes tangible!

Austria held its local stakeholder group meeting on 29th November 2018, where



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participants discussed the outcome of the policy round table which was held on 1st October 2018 and shared their thoughts on its implementation. You can read more [here](#).



Stakeholder testimony from Dr. Robert Zajkowski (Poland)!

A key ingredient to making RCIA a success is our stakeholders' inputs and advice. It is only with their support and commitment that we can succeed in creating valuable and visible change. [Here](#) we've passed the word on to one of our stakeholders from Poland, Dr. Robert Zajkowski.



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