

ECoC-SME aims to improve local entrepreneurship policies by promoting the participation of SMEs and prospective entrepreneurs in the European Capital of Culture mega-event and its legacy.

Five cities and regions. Five European Capitals of Culture. And five policy instruments. Calling for new actions to induce SME growth and innovation.

We started pooling our ideas in June 2019 and have already found much inspiration from our exchanges in order to develop novel practices and improve policies in our regions.

See how we work, how we think, what we have learnt, and get inspired yourselves!

The ECoC-SME project, 6.2019 - 1.2020 Timeline of policy learning events facilitating multi-level exchanges

JUNE 2019 JULY 2019 AUG. 2019 SEPT. 2019 OCT. 2019 NOV. 2019 DEC. 2019 JAN. 2020

Interregional and local workshops are our essential project activities. Our [first interregional workshop](#), in **Leeuwarden**, June 2019, reviewed regional needs and potentials and prepared us for the first local learning labs. *In our first months we have looked for ways to engage the young in entrepreneurship using the development energies of the "European Capital of Culture".*

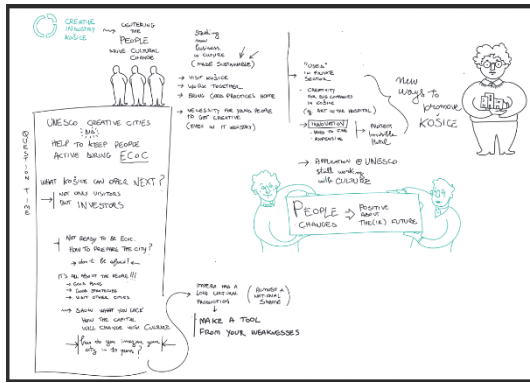
One of the [11 Fountains](#), Leeuwarden.



Local learning labs discussing about youth and entrepreneurship were held with stakeholders during Sept.-Oct. 2019 in [Leeuwarden](#), [Matera](#), [Rijeka](#), [Timisoara](#), and [Kaunas](#).

Read about what each region has learnt so far in the first chapters of our [ECoC-SME book-in-the-making!](#)





[Our second interregional workshop](#) focusing on youth and knowledge sector engagement, as well as the project's [first international public event](#) were organised in **Matera**, October 2019. **Browse the presentations and the photos in our [project's library!](#)**

Another round of local learning labs discussed results from interregional exchanges and identified potential good practices during December 2019 - January 2020 in Leeuwarden, [Matera](#), Rijeka, [Timisoara](#), and Kaunas. **Read about what each region has learnt so far in the first chapters of our [ECoC-SME book-in-the-making!](#)**

Our future events

Local learning labs will continue their work in Leeuwarden, Matera, Rijeka, Timisoara and Kaunas. During February-May, several such workshops will discuss ways to motivate and mobilise private entrepreneurship during the preparations, event year and the legacy period of ECOC and about practices to induce SMEs creative, cross-sectoral partnerships, their collaboration with non-profit sectors, and internationalisation. We will continue to publish news and results from these events on our [ECoC-SME website](#).

Our next interregional workshop will take place in Rijeka, Croatia in May 2020, and we are planning to hold an open session focussing especially on the theme of cross-sectoral cooperation. Visit our [website](#) for more information on that coming soon.

ECoC-SME will also be represented at the Interreg Europe programme's "[Europe, let's cooperate! interregional cooperation forum](#)", held on 9 June 2020 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.



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