



European Network for Culture on Waterfronts



R//C Network Description

The River//Cities Platform Foundation (R//C) is a network of 25 cultural organisations and stakeholders (educational, urban planning, environment, regional development, etc.) from 16 countries, which work in their cities to interact with, and develop their waterfronts as cultural spaces. R//C members belong to over 30 other European networks enabling outreach to over 300 cultural actors across all of Europe.

The aim of the R//C is to increase the impact of culture on the sustainable development of urban waterfronts for the benefit of their citizens. We work through cross-sectorial cooperation. Our activities explore and link European and local perspectives by sharing experiences and formats, developing artistic and educational programmes and disseminating the results.

R//C has been established in 2006 in Warsaw. Since the beginning it has been managed by the Board on voluntary basis, the activities financed by the contributions from partners and the projects e.g. Rivers of Change (2007-2009), Flows of Identity (2009-2010), Culture for Waterfronts (2011-2013), Rivers of Opportunities (2013-2015) or Baltic Audience Links (2016-2017).

R//C 2021: Strategic Vision

In 2021, the R//C will be Europe's leading network increasing the impact of culture on sustainable development of urban waterfronts for the benefit of the citizens. With over 100 members from cultural and creative industries, regional development and urban planning professionals as well as policy makers, it will develop competences of its members and facilitate European collaboration to enrich members' activities and knowledge by capacity building. Thus R//C will become a European point of reference on urban waterfronts use for culture, internationally promoting and providing data, knowledge and expertise to stakeholders.

The long-term aim of R//C is to support and strengthen its members in Europe and by 2021 to consolidate their position on the forefronts of participatory culture in Europe. By working with culture on waterfronts we will also contribute to sustainable development of cities and communities, focusing on:

- Opportunities for urban development
- Education towards audience development
- Developing cooperation in innovative formats
- Strengthening the perception and the role of culture through trans-sectorial exchange



R//C Thematic Areas

Culture promotion and community involvement in urban waterfronts developments:

- Addressing complex issues arising during waterfront urban developments - identifying good practices, joint activities and campaigns,
- Promoting better inclusion of culture and community in the European waterfront developments, incl. joint mapping exercises,
- Developing audiences for waterfront cultural heritage for better involvement of residents in cultural activities,
- Promoting integration of refugees and migrants to their new home communities and the society at large.

Capacity building and Innovation in cultural activities on waterfronts:

- Exploring new cultural formats to be used on waterfronts,
- Generating new knowledge through joint projects and initiatives,
- Facilitating development of new products linking waterfronts, tangible and intangible, historical and natural heritage and new digital tools,
- Supporting members and policy makers in analyzing impact of culture on waterfronts – both intrinsic and economic value of culture.

Addressing sustainability challenges:

- Identifying key risks associated with sustainable development for waterfronts and joint elaboration of response strategies and policies,
- Increasing awareness of climate change challenges through cultural activities on waterfronts,
- production of knowledge resources.

Methods and Tools

**Exchanging and developing ideas, approaches and concepts
–R//C will play a role of a platform for members to exchange information and to generate knowledge together:**

- Data collection, analysis, producing knowledge for the R//C network and stakeholders,
- Identifying problems and opportunities, crossing visions, producing solutions, new forms of cooperation.

**Facilitating European cooperation of members –
development of joint projects with and for members adding
European dimension to activities of members:**

- Initiating opportunities and elaborating joint R//C project proposals with members,
- Supporting proposals lead by R//C members thus enforcing the proposals value,
- Co-producing events.

**Disseminating opportunities for European collaboration -
opportunities for collaboration across Europe among
members, interested stakeholders and European regions
(tailored newsletters, social media, etc.):**

- Content sharing – new content from members, e.g. documentaries, apps or online tools,
- Providing expert engagement – seminars, workshops, juries of cultural and urbanistic competitions,
- Cultural planning – opportunities for designing waterfronts, tourism promotion, cultural heritage preservation and community involvement aspects.



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