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Press Release

06.10.2022

**Kutaisi hosted the 2nd regional conference to strengthen cooperation between EU4Culture network cities**

**On 6-7 October 2022, in Kutaisi, Georgia, the EU-funded project EU4Culture organised the 2nd Regional Network Conference to facilitate cooperation between the 14 non-capital cities and towns from five Eastern Partnership countries that prepared their Cultural Development Strategies.**

The event focused on the facilitation of networking between [the cities that joined the “EU4Culture Cities Network”](https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/latest-news/eu4culture-to-launch-cities-network-to-build-collaboration-in-culture-and-creative-sectors/) and explored grounds for further cultural cooperation between them. Mayors and other representatives of the cities, project partners and international experts participated in the conference.

Conference networking sessions and panel discussions highlighted the benefits for the cities of regional cultural cooperation, encouraged them to identify common areas of interest and plan future joint activities. At the conference, the EU4Culture winner cities that have received **EU funding of up to** **€300,000** to implement the Cultural Development Strategies presented their strategies.

EU4Culture facilitates cooperation between non-capital cities from the Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. For this purpose, the project established the **“EU4Culture Cities Network”**. The network brings together 14 cities that received EU4Culture support to prepare Cultural Development Strategies and serves as the platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration between them.

 *"EU4Culture Cities Network is a unique cooperation platform for the cities to share experiences and generate new ideas that will enable them to develop joint cultural partnerships. The EU supports cultural exchanges because they contribute to preserving our capacity to unleash the power of creativity to invent our future.”* –Highlighted Christophe Masson, Team Leader Inclusive Societies, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) European Commission

The EU-funded EU4Culture project supports the cultural and creative sector with a special focus on non-capital cities and towns in the Eastern Partnership countries. The project is implemented by the Goethe Institut (lead), Institut Francais Georgie, Danish Cultural Institute and Czech Centers.



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