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Networks of Cooperation: Sustainable Structures for Ukrainian Cultural Actors in Europe & Beyond

Kunsthhaus Graz

as well as other venues

The conference is organized as a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (BMWKMS), Creative Europe Desk Austria, and Office Ukraine (Vienna/tranzit.at and Graz/rotor), in cooperation with the Kunsthhaus Graz and Creative Europe Desk Ukraine

 Federal Ministry
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kunsthhaus
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Networks of Cooperation: Sustainable Structures for Ukrainian Cultural Actors in Europe and Beyond

15–16 October 2026

Kunsthhaus Graz and various cultural venues in Graz

Office Ukraine – Support for Ukrainian Artists, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport and the Creative Europe Desk Austria are pleased to invite you to the international conference »Networks of Cooperation: Sustainable Structures for Ukrainian Cultural Actors in Europe and Beyond«, taking place from 15–16 October 2026 at Kunsthhaus Graz (Austria), in cooperation with Kunsthhaus Graz and the Creative Europe Desk Ukraine.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the cultural sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience, adaptability, and solidarity. Across Europe and beyond, institutions, initiatives, and individuals have mobilised rapidly to provide support, develop new collaborative formats, and sustain cultural production under conditions of crisis.

As this initial phase of emergency response evolves, a shared challenge emerges: How can we transform short-term support into durable, structural cooperation?

This conference seeks to address precisely this question by bringing together key actors from across Europe and Ukraine to:

- Consolidate transnational networks and partnerships
- Strengthen access to European funding frameworks and cooperation programmes
- Foster capacity building across institutional and independent cultural sectors
- Develop sustainable models for long-term collaboration within a European context

We particularly aim to connect:

- Ukrainian cultural institutions and independent initiatives
- European cultural organisations and networks
- Funding bodies and policymakers
- Researchers and experts working at the intersection of culture, society, and policy

A central focus of the conference will be the role of European cooperation frameworks—especially the Creative Europe programme—as well as existing collaborative projects which will serve as reference points for discussion and future development.

> [Registration form](#) <

Registration will be open until 14 September 2026.

15 October

Kunsthaus Graz and various cultural venues in Graz

»FACING THE CHALLENGES«

10:00 Registration of participants

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11:00 Opening remarks

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11:30 Keynote address

A lecture on Ukraine as a society refusing imperial subordination and offering Europe a new political and cultural imagination, where justice becomes the foundation for a shared democratic future.

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12:30 Lunch

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14:00–17:30 Parallel working groups

Working group 1

SUPPORT STRUCTURES AND COOPERATION MODELS

Building on the experiences of support initiatives and institutions of different sizes and structures, from emergency response to long-term frameworks, to develop good-practice models, operational recommendations, and pathways for improved access to European cooperation programmes.

HOST: Alona Karavai (Curator and cultural manager; Insha Osvita; Khata-Maysternya; proto produkciia; Asortymentna Kimnata; art media post impreza)

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Working group 2

CREATIVE EUROPE AND OPPORTUNITIES OF
THE EUROPEAN FUNDING ECOSYSTEM

Exploring how Creative Europe and other relevant European funding programmes can be made more accessible, connected, and responsive to the needs of Ukrainian cultural and creative actors and their European partners.

HOSTS: Elisabeth Pacher (Head of Creative Europe Desk Austria; Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport of the Republic of Austria), Mykola Uliianov (Head of Creative Europe Desk Ukraine; Ukrainian Cultural Foundation)

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26

Working group 3

ARTISTIC PRODUCTION, VISIBILITY, AND PUBLIC SPACE

20
26

Exploring and strengthening sustainable artistic visibility, cultural presence, and participation in public and European spaces under conditions of war and displacement.

HOST: Tatiana Kochubinska (Independent curator; member of the curatorial team of The International Coalition of Cultural Workers Against the War in Ukraine)

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Working group 4

COOPERATION WITH DIASPORA

Exploring sustainable cooperation models between the Ukrainian artistic diaspora in Europe and artists and cultural institutions in Ukraine that foster long-term integration into European cultural frameworks.

HOST: Ilona Demchenko (Cultural manager and curator; programme director of the Jam Factory Art Center)

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18:00 Plenary session: presentation of results and discussion

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19:00 Reception and artistic programme in cooperation with Kunsthaus Graz

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16 October
Kunsthaus Graz

»F U T U R E P E R S P E C T I V E S«

08:30 Registration of participants

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09:00 Keynote address

A lecture placing today's support for Ukrainian cultural actors within Europe's histories of war, displacement, and humanitarianism in the twentieth century, showing how emergency aid can become sustainable cooperation.

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09:30–10:45

Roundtable
FUNDING STRUCTURES

Exploring the structural barriers faced by civil society, NGO and diaspora initiatives in arts and culture, how to effectively integrate those initiatives into long-term European funding programmes such as Creative Europe, discussing how to access and foster institutional partnerships, capacity building, and practical support pathways.

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10:45–11:00

Break

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11:00–12:15

Roundtable
STRENGTHENING COOPERATION

Examining how organisations supporting the Ukrainian cultural sector across Europe can strengthen cooperation, improve coordination and visibility, and develop shared, transferable approaches that sustain the long-term cultural, civic, and social infrastructure for Ukrainian artistic communities.

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12:15–13:15

Closing remarks

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13:15

Lunch

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