

## SHIFT Letter of Intent on Climate Action

This letter of intent describes the joint ambition of the nine cultural networks and platforms (hereafter referred to as networks) which make up the SHIFT Culture Erasmus+ co-funded project to systematically reduce the ecological footprint of their organisations and activities and to improve their resilience in the face of climate change, working on both mitigation and adaptation. This ambition will be a legacy outcome of the SHIFT Erasmus+ co-funded strategic partnership (2019–2021) [2019-1-DE02-KA202-006440]. The outcome of this cooperation will be shared with other cultural networks.

The undersigned European and international cultural networks recognise the ecological footprint associated with operating a cultural network. We are committed to minimising this footprint, optimising environmentally sustainable practices, and acting as an example of good practice for other networks and our members, while also recognising the different contexts in which they are evolving. It is our aim to contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals in this certification scheme:

- 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12 Responsible Production and Consumption
- 13 Climate Action
- 14 Life below Water
- 15 Life on Land
- 17 Partnerships for the Goals

The goal of our cooperation is to develop and implement a framework consisting of environmental guidelines for cultural networks. This framework will be specific to the work of cultural networks and implemented through a data-driven certification scheme. The guidelines will cover the main areas of environmental impact and opportunities for action when it comes to cultural networks:

- business travel
- accommodation
- events (including venues, catering, conference materials, publications, travel and waste)
- office use
- organisational carbon footprint budgeting
- social contributions and measures which build awareness
- sharing this work with the wider cultural community

The guidelines will be developed in the period between September 2021 and January 2022. Following the final implementation of these guidelines, networks will join the certification scheme and prepare for an initial audit in December 2022. The undersigned commit to being part of the certification scheme for a period of at least four years (2022 - 2026), barring unforeseen circumstances. A contract will form the legal basis for the certification process.

The affiliated partners intend to become ambassadors of the project and of environmental sustainability in general. Each network commits to working with our membership regarding these topics; each individually in the way that is most fitting for their community. All SHIFT partners are committed to the development of the guidelines and will work together to achieve the proposed results within the given time frame. This commitment includes but may not be limited to forming a 'green team' within each organisation, sustainable purchasing, developing climate adaptation measures, establishing an environmental policy, and contributing to the communities we come into contact with in our work.

Participation in the certification scheme will entail a data-driven, biannual external audit and annual refresher training sessions. Whenever possible, audits will be conducted by local auditors to reduce the carbon footprint of the certification scheme.

The content of the guidelines will be publicly accessible in order to inspire peer organisations as part of the outcome of the SHIFT Culture project. The possibility to carry the actual certification label will only be available to those organisations which successfully submit to the audit process and refresher training sessions. Other cultural networks (national or international) will be able to join the initiative and acquire certification following completion of the development phase.

The SHIFT environmental certification scheme will be self-funded by the partner cultural networks, which will contribute an annual fee to cover management, auditing, and refresher training.

In this project, SHIFT partners have chosen to work together with two organisations selected for their expertise in certification (Green Leisure Group, Netherlands) and in connecting art and sustainability (Creative Carbon Scotland). Partners will seek endorsement of the guidelines by recognised European specialised organisations active in the area of creative climate leadership work. Implementation of the certification scheme will be governed and evaluated by an independent certification organisation.

Signed on 2 November 2021

## SHIFT Culture partner networks



*A Regional Group of the  
International Music Council*



**ON  
THE  
MOVE**

