





# INTRODUCTION

Future DiverCities is a four-year programme funded by Creative Europe. Ten European partners in Europe and Canada, all key players in the field of urban engagement and new artistic forms, are working together to encourage and support creativity and innovation within the cities and urban spaces of Europe and beyond. Building and supporting new networks and communities in a changing European landscape - both digitally and politically - Future DiverCities is a unique European wide programme and initiative that aims to establish alternative creative urban ecosystems. Built on a foundation of collaborative creative values, Future DiverCities looks towards a collective culture using new creative economies, fostering cultural entrepreneurship and economic diversity, socially, economically and technologically.

Using intercultural collaboration in socio-cultural and digital contexts, Future DiverCities aims at harnessing the collective imagination of citizens in shaping and co-creating their city. At the core of the project is urban city space, its cultural diversity and all the voices of the city. Through arts interventions, citizens workshops and digital innovation, we want to invite the citizens to join in making a city where all the voices are heard.

Future DiverCities views the city as the experimental zone for creative economies, social change and cultural innovation. The city is rapidly compiled of a complex, culturally diverse mix of interconnected communities, existing at a local, national, international, and digital level. We believe that art and culture are the tools for challenging preconceptions and assumptions about these communities, able to encourage citizens to see things in a different way, support the development of stronger communities, and contribute toward the concept of "happy cities". It is at the forefront of enabling an innovative dialogue between citizens, the private sector, the public space, and cultural production; bringing citizens into direct contact with artistic processes, opening up art and culture to interdisciplinary fields.

## **Future DiverCities objectives:**

- 01 .** To foster creativity in the urban context, exploring what creation means in cities where citizens become co-creators.
- 02 .** To promote and support the role of the artist in transforming the urban social ecosystem, and as a creator of positive social change, contributing to social and cultural capital.



# DELIVERABLES

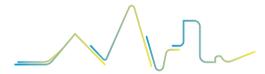
Future DiverCities is a holistic programme looking at the ever-changing role of art and creative work in the urban context. The programme consists of a range of activities designed to explore and show how artists and creatives can propose innovative ways to build and fashion our future cities. Exploring themes such as mobility and space in the city, civic use of open data, sustainable living, hospitality, cultural and urban commons or digital products such as our DiverCities app, we explore innovative and efficient responses to the current and future needs around urban transformation.

The programme is created with **design thinking methodology** at its centre. Using collaborative design, and methods centered on the user and audience, it aims to develop citizen participation and 'connect' the creative work with the cities, their cities.

The project activities are supported by an on-going **Action-Research** programme which ensures an agile development and an effective transfer of results.



The Digital Calligraffiti workshop week in Berlin, Germany. Part of Lab #3 © Jana Lopez



Project deliverables include creative and artistic “labs”, digital innovative products, research and training programme on social innovation, seminars and conferences for artists, policy makers, members of the local communities, the public and more.

## Labs and urban creative interventions

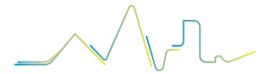
Creative and artistic labs act as research sessions and creative spaces for experimentation and collaborative artwork. Labs explore the various ways artists and creatives can respond to specific urban challenges, and involve established practicing artists, residents and various communities in the creative process.

With focused artistic interventions, Future DiverCities wants to increase public awareness on urban topics through artistically occupied settings.

**Future DiverCities digital products** aim at examining the digital sharing of multimedia content in Europe, contributing to a smart culture with creative digital tools benefitting the urban ecosystem, and supporting alternative economic models which give open and free access to content for users but also guarantee fair remuneration of authors.



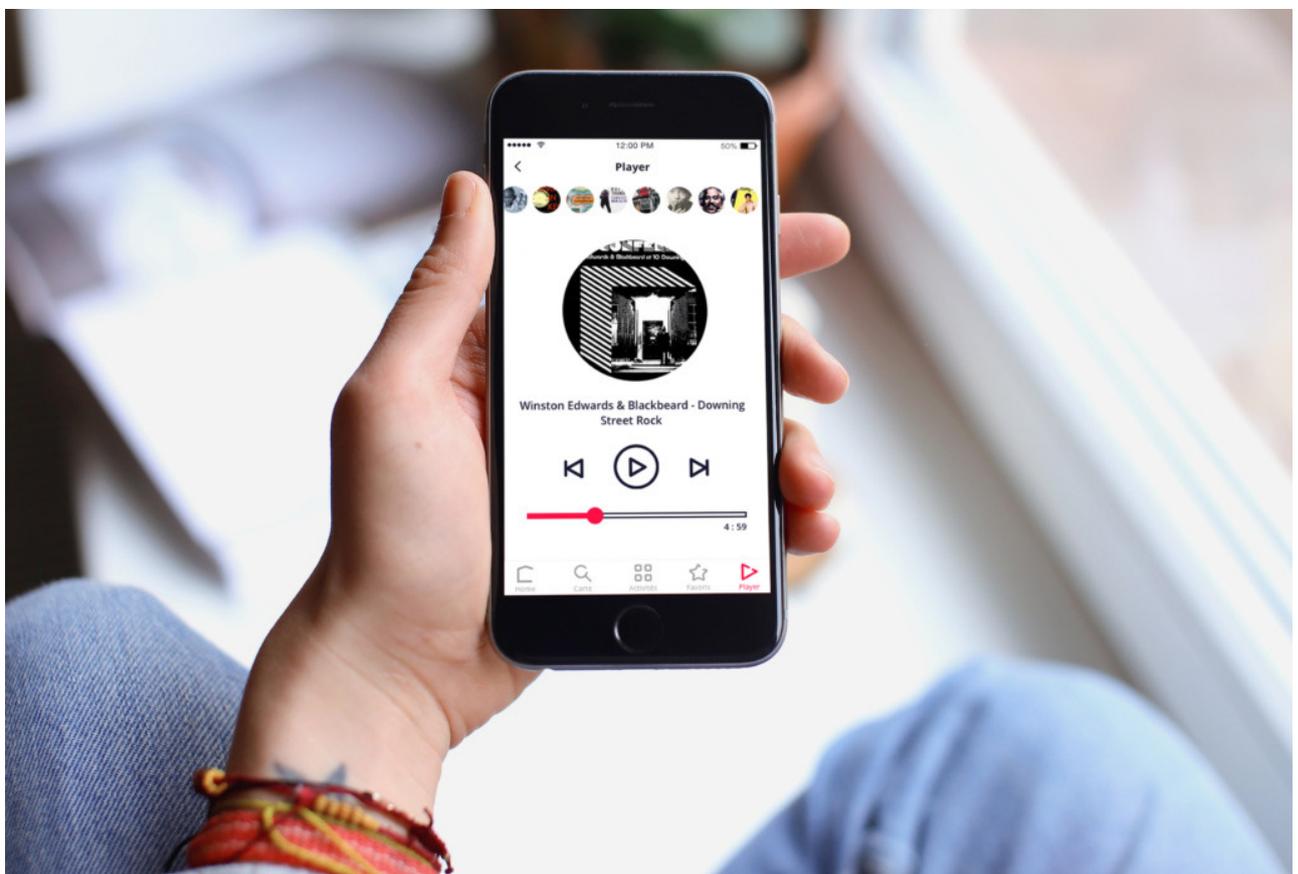
Overmapping workshops in Kuopio, Finland. Part of Lab #1 © Virna Setta



**Future DiverCities Creative Social Innovation** programme aims to train a generation of artists and social players across European cities to deliver long-term community projects that can empower individuals, improve lives and strengthen communities. The programme focuses on work with marginalised urban communities, starting with a study phase (2016-2017) identifying the target groups in the partnership cities and learning from the local social players. The methodology is built on the analysis of the European good practices in order to design and deliver in 2018-2019 an advanced training that will incorporate new skills and creative approaches.

## Seminars and dissemination toolkits

Seminars invite artists, EU partners, policy-makers, creative organisations and stakeholders from across the sector to exchange on Future DiverCities thematics and results to share perspectives and influence future-thinking. We want to create a strong new vision, consisting of as many points of view as possible, exploring key topics that support the conditions for a sustainable and creative urban development such as inclusive approaches to cultural innovation, alternative economic models or citizens participation, and analysing the learnings into dissemination toolkits.



The Divercities app created by ID Lab © Elodie Gautier



# BENEFICIARIES

- 01 .** Creative Professionals are the projects drivers, strengthening local, regional, and international networks.
- 02 .** Local Communities who are socially/economically struggling in the cities.
- 03 .** Marginalised Groups such as refugees and new migrants.

# RESULTS

- 01 .** New art works and new ways of thinking that reflect how artists and citizens can connect and work together to impact positively upon the city.
- 02 .** Artists, partners and audiences gain practical experience about design thinking and new participative methodologies.
- 03 .** A better understanding of the potential for alternative and fair systems of digital artistic distribution in Europe and how to improve the current landscape.
- 04 .** The establishment of a body of artists, cultural and educational practitioners in six European cities, equipped with skills and experience on how to engage purposely with populations at risk and facing extreme urban challenges.
- 05 .** Case studies and knowledge shared with the wider professional sector in order to emphasise how creativity and the arts can contribute towards urban transformation impacting upon social inclusion.



# PROJECT CURATORIAL THEMATICS AND ACTION RESEARCH



**June 2016/2017**  
**#FutureDiverCitizens**

Year 1 examines the role of the “DiverCitizen”. A DiverCitizen is identified as an individual who is representative of diverse contemporary culture. S/he is the subject of diverse places, socio-cultural conditions, and our current digital culture. We seek to encourage DiverCitizens to become “active” participants in shaping their cultural landscape, and to become engaged citizens questioning what the digitisation of our societies means.



**June 2017/2018**  
**#FutureDiverSocieties**

The second year explores the conditions of “societies” in technologically developed contexts today: What are the kinds, roles and significances of “societies” existing today and how can we grasp them as “diverse”? The labs will look at how to create conditions of participation and incubate new forms of creative societies, taking into account thematics like the notion of belonging, inclusion vs. exclusion, heterogeneity and complexity vs. homogeneous narratives, and conditions for allowing for multiple truths.



**June 2018/2019**  
**#FutureDiverSystems**

This phase will focus on the ecosystems that make up the city, both in the physical and digital world - the DiverSystems in which DiverCitizens and DiverSocieties participate. DiverSystems will explore the conditions of the living ecosystem, the conditions for creative systems to emerge, develop and sustain. Under this theme we investigate how new ideas and engagement with diverse communities can help us move closer to virtuous change in our current ecosystems.



**June 2019/2020**  
**#FutureDiverCities**

The final phase is a conclusive examination of the main critical issues concerning Future DiverCities, its conditions of co-existence and co-experience, in specific political, economic, cultural and social circumstances. FutureDiverCities focuses on the urgencies relating to near-future prospects for the diverse and intelligent city, currently furthered by smart city imperatives and homogenization of narratives in technological culture. Under this theme we bring the concepts of the DiverCitizen, DiverSocieties and DiverSystems into perspective of their critical-constructive participation in the creative processes that make our Future DiverCities.



# PROJECT PARTNERS

Future DiverCities is a network and coalition of art and cultural organisations with unique and complementary competencies. They are all specialists in their own fields, from community engagement and audience development, to art and technology.

## SOCIAL INNOVATION COMPANY

**Superact | Exeter - Bristol, United Kingdom**  
[www.superact.org.uk](http://www.superact.org.uk)

A UK based not-for-profit organisation using arts and music to engage disadvantaged and disenfranchised communities at a local level in order to achieve positive social impact within the areas of health & well-being, employability & skills development and community development.

## FESTIVALS AND/OR ARTS CENTRES IN DIGITAL ART, PERFORMING AND VISUALS ARTS

**ANTI Festival | Kuopio, Finland**  
[www.antifestival.com/en/](http://www.antifestival.com/en/)

ANTI Festival is a free contemporary arts festival held annually in Kuopio, Finland, hosting innovative artistic projects that explore the urban space.

**Kontjener | Zagreb, Croatia**  
[www.kontejner.org](http://www.kontejner.org)

An NGO dedicated to the critical questioning of the role and meaning of art, science, technology and the body in contemporary society through curatorial work, artistic productions, and theoretical contextualisation.

**Seconde Nature | Aix-En-Provence, France**  
[www.secondenature.org](http://www.secondenature.org)

A French not-for-profit organisation creating concerts, exhibitions, conferences and festivals that promote digital and electronic arts.

**La Chambre Blanche | Quebec, Canada**  
[www.chambreblanche.qc.ca](http://www.chambreblanche.qc.ca)

An artist run centre dedicated to the experimentation of visual and digital arts, and new technologies.



**BEK | Bergen, Norway**  
[www.bek.no](http://www.bek.no)

A Norwegian non-profit organisation running as a resource centre for work in the arts and technology, aiding artistic and scientific research and development.

## **URBAN ART PRODUCTION COMPANY**

**Public Art Lab | Berlin, Germany**  
[www.publicartlab-berlin.de](http://www.publicartlab-berlin.de)

A Berlin based body of experts from across urban planning, new media art, and IT, encouraging audiences to participate in the creative process and experience their daily environment from different perspectives.

## **TECH COMPANY**

**1D Lab | Saint Etienne, France**  
[www.en.1d-lab.eu](http://www.en.1d-lab.eu)

1D is a French cooperative developing digital environments, new ecosystems, and remuneration methods for clients and artists in a variety of cultural contexts.

## **CITY MAKING AGENCY**

**CitiLab | Cornellà/Barcelona, Spain**  
[www.citilab.eu](http://www.citilab.eu)

An experimental centre for social and digital innovation, and active dissemination of technological culture.

## **CITY COUNCIL**

**Liepaja City Council | Liepaja, Latvia**  
[www.liepaja.lv](http://www.liepaja.lv)

Liepaja is one of the leading cities in Latvia, and has implemented a "creative economy", establishing the Creative Industry Cluster, a virtual creative industry cooperation platform.



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