

Commission launches new edition of the Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor 2019

Today, the European Commission released the second edition of its [Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor](#), a tool designed to benchmark and boost the creative and cultural potential of European cities, which is vital to driving economic growth and social cohesion. After the success of the first edition in 2017, the 2019 release presents an updated portrait of Europe's cultural and creative richness in an extended sample of 190 cities in 30 countries, including Norway and Switzerland. The Monitor was created by the [Joint Research Centre](#), the Commission's science and knowledge service, and is accompanied by a revamped online tool which enables cities to add their own data for more in-depth coverage and benchmarking.

Tibor **Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth, Sport, and responsible for the Joint Research Centre said: *"The first edition of the Cultural and Creative City Monitor proved to be a success, enabling cities across Europe to boost development by better harnessing their cultural assets. I am confident that the second, expanded edition will be equally useful for city authorities, the cultural and creative sectors, and citizens themselves. The Monitor is an excellent example of how the Joint Research Centre can empower policy-makers and help improve citizens' quality of life through concrete, evidence-based tools."*

Key findings of the second edition include:

- Paris (France), Copenhagen (Denmark), Florence (Italy) and Lund (Sweden) rank top in their respective population groups, with Lund being a 'new entry' among the top cities compared to the 2017 edition.
- Jobs in the cultural and creative sectors have been growing particularly in cities in the North and East of Europe, with an average yearly increase of around 12% in Budapest (Hungary), Tallinn (Estonia), Vilnius (Lithuania), Krakow and Wroclaw (Poland) and Tartu (Estonia).
- Macro-regional performance shows that Northern Europe does best. Western Europe leads on 'Cultural Vibrancy', very closely followed by both Northern and Southern Europe. Western Europe is also the top performer on 'Creative Economy', with northern Europe coming close behind. The best job creation dynamics are found, on average, in Northern and Eastern European cities.
- In the analysed city-sample, cultural venues are generally a 30-minute walk away (or just 5 minutes by bicycle) from where European citizens live and are highly accessible by public transportation.

- Future EU Cohesion Policy funds could further support socio-economic convergence and territorial cohesion by focusing on creative jobs and innovation, transport connections and governance – the areas where the biggest gaps remain.
- Leading cultural and creative cities are more prosperous: there is a positive and significant association between the Cultural and Creative Cities Index scores and the cities' income levels.

The first edition of the Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor has inspired local governments across Europe. For instance, Madrid (Spain) used evidence included in the Monitor to understand which cultural and creative assets, such as monuments, museums, cinemas, theatres and art galleries, the Spanish capital should focus its branding strategy on to improve its international ranking. As a result, Madrid published a new leaflet "Madrid – Facts and Figures 2018" promoting the city's rich cultural venues. The Monitor also helped Győr (Hungary) analyse future investment needs and provided evidence to support the city's decision to adopt a 2019-2028 cultural and creative economy strategy which identifies key measures to be implemented such as the creation of creative spaces for artists and a design incubation centre. Umeå (Sweden) used the tool to raise awareness among local stakeholders of the role cultural investments have to play in fostering sustainable growth.

Background

Launched in July 2017, the Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor uses quantitative and qualitative information to measure cities' cultural and creative potential. The Monitor's quantitative information is captured in 29 individual indicators relevant to nine policy dimensions, which reflect three major facets of a city's cultural and socio-economic vitality:

- "Cultural Vibrancy" measures a city's cultural 'pulse' in terms of cultural infrastructure and participation in culture.
- "Creative Economy" captures the extent to which the cultural and creative sectors contribute to a city's economy in terms of employment and innovation.
- "Enabling Environment" identifies the tangible and intangible assets that help cities attract creative talent and stimulate cultural engagement.

New features of the 2019 edition include:

- 22 European cities from 14 Member States have been added, taking the total to 190;
- New sources of web data (OpenStreetMap) have been used to better grasp Europe's cultural vibrancy in a more dynamic way;
- Novel findings from the spatial analysis of cultural venues help to put the social inclusion perspective at the core of the research alongside economic wealth;

The Monitor supports EU policy on culture: it was a basis for the economic impact assessment underpinning the [2018 'New European Agenda for Culture'](#), and is one of the actions included in the '[European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage](#)' to help ensure that the [European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018](#) has a lasting impact.

The Monitor is expected to be updated every two years.

For more information

[Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor website](#) (including full report, online interactive tool, factsheets and infographics)

[Memo](#)