

GENT
UNESCO CREATIVE CITY OF MUSIC
SINCE 2009
Monitoring Repp9

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Ghent was designated 'UNESCO Creative City of Music' in 2009.

The official launch of the title in Ghent took place in 2010 with a program that reached out to as well the political level, the cultural field and a broad audience.

The management of the title is taken care of by the Departement for Culture, Sports and Free Time.

Ghent actively participated in the annual meetings of the network in Enghien-les-Bains in 2017; Krakau-Katowice in 2018; Fabriano 2019. In the latter Ghent also contributed to the musical program with sending the Ghent based band 'Okkupeerder'.

During the 2016 annual meeting in Östersund, Ghent was elected coordinator of the cluster of music cities. Ghent remained coordinator until 2017.

Overarching initiatives that contributed to achieve the objectives of the UCCN in the past four years are: the work done in Ghent on the UN SDG's; the further development of UiTPAS Gent; the 2020 project 'OMG Van Eyck was here', commemorating the Flemish Master and painter of the Ghent Altar Piece Jan Van Eyck; the start of 'Kunstenoverleg' and the projects City Composer and Sound Logo. Important and overarching as well, is the URBACT project REFILL on the reuse of vacant buildings and sites.

In Ghent's strategic planer City Composer and Sproject

4. MAJOR INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL LEV

OMG Van Eyck was here
Commemorating the Flemish Master Jan Van Eyck

Ghent is the city where Van Eyck painted his world-famous masterpiece 'The adoration of the mystic lamb' or 'Ghent Altarpiece' and where for the past six centuries, millions of visitors have gathered from all over the world to admire this painting. In 2020 Ghent is celebrating

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kunstenoverleg Gent</i> <i>Muziekoverleg - GreenTrack</i></p>

'Kunstenoverleg' is an initiative of the cultural sector, supported by the city. It gathers all sorts of cultural actors, in all sorts of disciplines.

The main objective of Kunstenoverleg is to stimulate and facilitate cooperation:

- within the Ghent cultural field;
- amongst culture, the arts and other sectors like tourism, education, economy, urban development, media, etc;
- between the cultural field and public authorities.

Kunstenoverleg is:

- a network for reflection;
- an advisory board;
- a platform for artistic projects.

The 'Muziekoverleg', a structure that was set up amongst all actors in the field of music (see previous monitoring report), is since 2019 incorporated in Kunstenoverleg, as to stimulate crossovers.

The same goes for 'GreenTrack' an initiative of the cultural sector and the Ghent municipality that mainly is dealing with sustainability in culture and in urban life in general.

For more information:

The Wintercircus

In 2022 a new venue for pop&rock will open in the former Ghent Wintercircus, for an audience of about 500. This new venue will fill the existing gap for this genre.

For more information:

<https://sogent.be/projecten/wintercircus>

A prominent role in Ghent's cultural life is played by actors in the field of music. Ghent is home to 29% of all music organizations operating in Flanders. It is a wide range from Flemish

5. MAJOR INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED THROUGH INTER-CITY COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UCCN:

URBACT - project REFILL
reuse of vacant spaces as driving force for innovation on local level

Keywords: developing hubs of creativity and innovation
Broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

From 2015 until 2018 Ghent took the lead of the URBACT project REFILL, reuse of vacant spaces as driving force for innovation on local level.

Project description:

The last years many cities experimented with the concept of 'temporary use' of abandoned and derelict spaces. It has been an important and inspiring source of innovation and change in cities, 84 55rdn,q0.0n ETQq0.(l)Qqs8884(o)13(f)-14(o)13urn 1284 55rceectorfoe,q0.0(u1 0a-4(fba)3(84 5

*Connecting internationally
through music*

Ghent and Tallin are twinned cities. Tallin wants to candidate for the title of UNESCO Creative City of Music. In the past few years exchanges between both cities not only but also in the field of music took place on a regular basis.

The same goes for Kanazawa, another twinned city to Ghent and a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art.

The calls by other UNESCO Creative Cities of Music for exchange or contribution to music projects, where on a regular basis spread amongst the Ghent music actors. The city supported this projects.

Ghent together with Antwerp would welcome in 2020 the 'World Choir Games'. 550 choirs from allover the world would bring some 20.000 participants to both cities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this event is postponed to 2021.

For more information:

<https://www.koorenstem.be/en/news/world-choir-games-will-be-postponed-july-2021>



International work:

- Ghent ECOC 2030:
Ghent will candidate for the title of European Capital of Culture in 2030. Preparations for the bid are ongoing and will include cooperation with the partners of the international networks that Ghent is a member of, such as a.o. the UCCN, EUROCITIES, AVIAMA
- Kanazawa:
Kanazawa is a twinned city to Ghent and UCCN Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art. In 2021 Ghent and Kanazawa will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their twinning. As far as circumstances will allow, cultural exchanges between both cities will support this event
- UCCN:
Ghent will continue to take part in the activities of the UCCN and the subnetwork of music cities

Estimated annual budget for implementing the proposed action plan

Investing in infrastructure:

The total budget for

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

To counter the insulation of elderly residents in retirement homes the municipal department for culture developed the initiative 'UitinGenTV'. The indoor television circuit was used to broadcast on a regular basis a cultural programming. The cultural sector supplied the footage, the department for culture, the department for elderly care and the municipal ICT supplier took care of the selection, the distribution, logistics and communication.