

AGENDA

ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR CULTURE AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY SECTOR

Venue: **HOTEL NARTEL**

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25 – 27 November 2024

Cultural and creative industries (CCI) hold immense potential for economic growth and job creation. However, clear information on financial opportunities and access to financing mechanisms for CCIs remain significant challenges for startups, SMEs, and individuals in this sector. This workshop aims to bridge these gaps by empowering participants with essential knowledge and practical skills to successfully navigate and access relevant funding resources.

25 November 2024, Monday

10.00 - 10.30 | Registration & Welcome Coffee

10:30 - 11:00 | Introduction to the objectives of the workshop and the panel facilitated by **Uros Citakovic**

11:00 – 11:30 | Introduction to key results of CC4WB in supporting access to finance for CCI – **Liridon Blakaj AICS**

11.30 - 13.30 | Overview of KIESA’s support for startups and SMEs in the creative sector by **Kreshnik Thaqi**.

Insights into USAID-funded grant programs managed by CDF, discussion on eligibility criteria, application processes, and examples of successful projects funded by CDF by **Artan Avdiu**.

Overview of EBRD’s Programme and other initiatives enhancing access to finance for small businesses by **Leonora Kusari**.

Insights into Creative Europe grants, discussion on eligibility criteria, application processes, and examples of successful projects by **XYZ**.

Introduction to WBF’s role in supporting regional cooperation within the CCI sector with a focus on presenting WBF grant opportunities and initiatives for cultural and creative industries across the Western Balkans by **Dafina Beqiri**.

13.30 - 14.30 | Lunch and Networking - an opportunity for participants to connect with speakers and other stakeholders informally

14.45 - 16.00 | Interactive Session - Comparing Financial Mechanisms for CCI - Structured discussion on the various types of financial mechanisms presented (grants, loans, crowdfunding, angel investors) where participants are encouraged to share their perspectives on the advantages and limitations of each type of funding.

26 November 2024, Tuesday

10.00 - 10.30 | **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

10:30 - 13:00 | Crafting business plans that attract funding for CCI projects facilitated by Ravik Mima.

13.00 - 14.00 | Lunch and Networking - an opportunity for participants to connect with speakers and other stakeholders informally.

14.00 - 15.30 | Pitching techniques making CCI business plan speak to funders by Ravik Mima.

15.30 - 16.00 | Closing remarks with summary of key takeaways from the workshop

27 November 2024, Tuesday

10.00 - 10.30 | Meeting with participants

10:30 - 11:30 | Departure to Prizren

11.30 - 13.00 | Introductory session at Innovation and Training Park Prizren by Hans Juergen Cassens.

13.00 | Leaving for Prishtina

This workshop is supported by the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS) Office in Tirana, within the framework of the EU-funded "Culture and Creativity for the Western Balkans" (CC4WBs) project. Over a 48-month period, the CC4WBs project aims to improve the performance of the cultural and creative sectors in order to enhance skills, knowledge, access to financial aid to increase competitiveness and sustain co-production and circulation of goods and services in the Western Balkans



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