



European International Seminar

How can **Erasmus+** and **Epale** support cultural centers as places for **adult education, active citizenship and inclusion**

Louvain-la-Neuve,
Belgium

24- 27 November 2026

Martin's Hotel

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Context of the seminar

The Right to participate in cultural life is part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 27). However, participating in cultural life is still a challenge, especially when it comes to inclusion, and access to all adults to culture.

In Belgium (FR), a decree on Cultural Centers aims to develop and support the work of cultural centers in order to help people exercise their right to culture, with a focus on equality and empowerment.

This decree specifies that cultural centers activities have to :

- increase people's ability to analyze, discuss, imagine, and take action, especially through participatory methods,
- seek to involve cultural actors from their local environment in designing and carrying out medium- and long-term cultural projects,
- be part of local or sector-based cooperation networks.

The decree also clearly links the missions of cultural centers to education and lifelong learning. The decree defines lifelong learning as "an approach that aims to encourage critical thinking about society, support democratic and collective initiatives, develop active citizenship, and promote social, cultural, environmental, and economic rights. It seeks both individual and collective empowerment, with a focus on active participation and cultural expression".

Cultural centers exist all across Europe but the way they are called, or their scope and their role can vary depending on the country. They can be called cultural centers or houses, sociocultural centers, community art centers, ...

Context of the seminar

Depending of the countries:

- *Cultural centers focus on community participation and social projects whereas in other countries they are more focused on heritage and local identity.*
- *Cultural centers have more structured policies linked to cultural rights and public funding whereas in other countries they are more dependent on project funding and partnerships.*

However, despite differences, most European cultural centers share common values: access to culture for all, participation and inclusion, support for creativity, democracy and citizenship.

In link with these common values, these centers play an important role in the adult education landscape as places for formal, informal and non formal adult education.

European collaboration can play an essential role with regard to these missions and challenges. Indeed, Erasmus+ program and Epale platform can help in improving knowledge, motivation and inspiration for the staff working in cultural centers, acquiring new experience abroad, testing new materials and developing cooperation with European partners.

Expected results

During the seminar, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Network with pairs working in cultural centers all around Europe.
- Discuss common challenges faced nowadays by cultural centers, as places for adult education.
- Discover what Epale and Erasmus+ can offer in terms of European cooperation and continuous training.
- Get inspired by good practices examples implemented by cultural centers from different countries.
- Discover the role of cultural centers in Belgium and Europe and visit local projects.
- Make links between their work/missions and two main priorities of the Erasmus+ program: Inclusion & Diversity - Participation.

Additional information

Please note that the seminar will focus on cultural centers as places for Adult Education (formal, non formal, informal) and activities/strategies implemented in that regards.

Through workshops, participants will have the opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics, such as:

- What are cultural rights?
- Cultural centers as a place of participatory action and empowerment.
- How to work in partnership with local organisations?
- How to foster the right to culture and access (economic, physical, geographic, time-related and intellectual) to culture for all?
- Cultural action as a tool to reduce inequalities.
- How to launch a cultural action project that answers social challenges.
- Freedom of creation and expression.
- Strengthening active, responsible, critical, and supportive citizenship.
- How to maintain cultural centers work in a context of economic crisis.

Profile of participants

Any participant working in a cultural center or any stakeholder involved in a cultural center, interested in the role of cultural centers as places for adult education, and willing to initiate Epale and/or Erasmus+ projects in his/her center.

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Participants wishing to share a good practice implemented in their cultural center, a project or an approach they are proud of can bring material (poster, resource, presentation, ...). An informal and interactive moment is foreseen during the seminar for this inspiring exchange of practice session.



Programme (draft)

Day 1 : Tuesday 24 November 2026

- From 15:00 ● Check-in at the hotel & Welcome desk
- 16:00 ● Official opening of the seminar
- 16:30 ● Ice-breaking activity
- 16:45 ● Speed-dating session
- 17:30 ● Practical informations
- 17:45 ● Free time
- 19:00 ● Dinner at the hotel



Programme (draft)

Day 2 : Wednesday 25 November 2026

- 9:00 ● Introduction to the day
- 9:15 ● Energizer activity
- 9:30 ● Panel discussion
- 10:30 ● *Coffee break*
- 11:00 ● Good practices presentations/fair, by participants
- 12:30 ● *Lunch*
- 14:00 ● Erasmus+ & Epale opportunities for cultural centers: presentation & Examples
- 15:30 ● Coffee break
- 16:00 ● Thematic workshops
- 17:15 ● *Free time*
- 18:00 ● Departure for cultural activity
- 20:00 ● Dinner in town



Programme (draft)

Day 3 : Thursday 26 November 2026

- 9:00 ● Departure by bus for the study visit
- 10:00 ● Study visit at a local cultural center
- 12:30 ● *Lunch*
- 14:00 ● Second part of the study visit
- 15:30 ● Back to the hotel & Thematic workshops
- 17:30 ● *Free time*
- 19:15 ● Dinner at the hotel



Programme (draft)

Day 4 : Friday 27 November 2026

- 9:00 ● How to launch an Erasmus+/Epale project: first steps
- 9:30 ● Practical workshop on Erasmus+ projects/Epale platform
- 10:30 ● Evaluation and final words: what do I want to take back home?
- 11:00 ● End of the seminar



Practical Information

The seminar will gather 70 participants from all around Europe and the working language of the seminar will be English.

Participants should first check with their national agency to see if places have been reserved for their country, via the [Salto platform](#).

The selection process is carried out directly by the [National Agency](#) of the applicant's country.

Want to know more about Erasmus+ & Epale opportunities for adult education?

- [Erasmus+, what's in it for me? New opportunities start here : adult education](#)
- [EPALE - Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe](#)