

SEARCH FOR PARTNER / PROJECT PROPOSAL

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Description of the City/ Territory:

The city of Manresa, a millenary medium-sized town with a population of 75.475 (2016) and a surface area of 41,66 km², is located in the heart of Catalonia, nearby Barcelona (60 km), between the Pyrenees and the Costa Brava. At the crossroads of two rivers (Llobregat and Cardener) and three strategic communication axes in Catalonia, Manresa has an industrial and commercial tradition. It's the capital of Bages county (175.000 inhabitants) and it plays a very important role of capital status of a wider territory: the so-called Central Catalonia (over 250.000 people).

The city center continues to offer a wide variety of local commercial establishments, which coexists with new trends of commercial distribution. As a capital of the Bages county and, de facto, of Central Catalonia region, Manresa is a great provider of services in fields as health, education, local and regional administration, research centers and enterprises' services.

Manresa is also a vibrant city with lots of cultural and artistic events during the year. It has three theatres, four museums and some auditoriums with regular programming. It celebrates some special and well-known events once a year: Fira Mediterrània (a festival of shows with Mediterranean and traditional roots) in October and Fira de l'Aixada (medieval fair) and the Light Fest in February. In 2018, Manresa will be the capital of the Catalan Culture.

Project Title

Bridges of light

Project details

Within the context of European Year of Cultural Heritage, this project aims to foster artistic lighting works or performances around monumental bridges located in three European cities as an example of European identity and shared values. It will also help to improve networking among artists who participate in the project, as well as creating a sense of belonging to a transnational community of urban lighting developers.

Bridges can be seen as a symbol of respect and welcome of cultural diversity as they are built mainly to overcome physical barriers and improve connection between territories and citizenship. These values are part of our European identity. Heritage also has an intrinsic artistic element which sometimes is not enough perceived.

In the context of this project we would like to put in value bridge architecture through the use of artistic illumination. By the using of artistic ephemeral and/or permanent lighting to highlight monumental bridges in different European cities, we aim also to reinforce European sense of belonging and to show architecture value as well as immaterial values like respect and welcome of cultural diversity associated with bridges.

The project objective is to design artistic lighting around one bridge (the bridge itself and its surroundings) in Manresa and also around bridges of two other European towns. Light design will be developed by European artists that will compete in a lighting design contest. They will be asked to base their proposals in the values of respect and welcome of diversity. The result will be the co-creation of three artistic works that can be shared among cities. Thus, it will help to improve networking between the artists and create a sense of belonging to a transnational community of urban lighting developers.

Main issues

Heritage, monumental bridges, artistic urban lightning, values of respect and welcome of cultural diversity

Specific objectives of the project

- To foster European values of cultural diversity and respect using artistic urban lighting
- To promote cultural and physical heritage associated with European monumental bridges
- To promote transnational mobility of urban light designers and artists
- To create a sense of belonging to a European community of urban light designers and artists

European experience and previous projects

- UrbanWINS (Urban metabolism accounts for building Waste management Innovative Networks and Strategies) – HORIZON2020 Program acting as a pilot city in which the assessment is being carried out using an urban metabolism assessment and participatory methodologies with the aim of improving waste prevention and management in European municipalities.
- Manresa2022 is a project financed by FEDER program with the aim of improving the arrival of Saint Ignatius of Loyola pathway in town. As a result, urban quality in historical center is going to be improved. This project is going to be developed until 2020 and has a budget over 2 million of euros.
- Vi de Tina is a project financed by FEDER program with the objective of recovering agricultural heritage related with traditional wine production. Moreover, “Vi de Tina” wants to recover wine production.
- Eurotowns-European network of 17 small and medium cities, candidate to become European Union cities of excellence, that wants both to contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives and to the achievement of global challenges. It’s a network of cities that want to put at the center of its policies of sustainability, social cohesion, innovation, knowledge and participation of local communities. More info at www.eurotowns.org
- ACTE-European Textile Collectives Association. More info at: www.acte.net
- Network of Cities and Villages towards the Sustainability (Catalonia). More info at www.diba.cat/en/web/xarxasost/inici
- NetwerCH2O - Promoted by Fundació CTM (Technological Centre of Manresa) in consultation with the European Commission, NetwerCH2O is a European organization which fosters supports and improves the application of sustainable practices in the use of water at regional and municipal level.
- Manresa city hall has also participated in INTERREG III and IV and URBACT-REDIS initiatives.

Desired partner profile (country, activity/sector, experience)

2 partners from all EU countries except Spain are searched.

The partners should be municipalities with a monumental bridge which are interested in sharing the contest with Manresa.

One of the partners could also be a light designer association which provides technical support during the process of selecting and evaluating illumination projects.

Programme to be submitted:

Creative Europe

Budget: 360.000€

Grant: 200.000€

Deadline of the call of proposals:

22/11/2017

Deadline of manifestation of interest:

23/10/2017