

In January 2019 a group of cities and organizations from different countries across Europe came together in Faro (Algarve, Portugal). These cities and organizations all have in common that they have policies that seek to develop the roofs on their cities or organize initiatives that seek to draw attention to these underused spaces in cities.

Representatives of these organizations agree that Rooftops are urban areas under-explored and underused by people and cities. Our purpose is to contribute to a greater use of these spaces.

Why rooftops?

- Rooftops are excellent spaces to foster a sense of community. We claim that we should look at these as community's shared spaces.
- Cities are getting warmer. The average temperature of cities across Europe is rising every year. We will work to raise awareness for people to look at rooftops as spaces able to contribute to a greener, more environmentally friendly city with the potential to make a significant contribution to reduce temperatures.
- The cost of energy and its excessive consumption has led to major energy deficits directly contributing to drain the planet's resources. The commitment to alternative energies is key to ensure a sustainable future. Rooftops are spaces of excellence to establish energy efficiency projects. We want to encourage the use of these spaces for this purpose;
- Local production systems have the means to ensure, in micro environments, better nutrition. With urban gardens gaining space throughout Europe, we believe that rooftops are a great space for putting them into practice;
- The skyline and landscapes have always fascinated people. We want to encourage the establishment of living spaces on rooftops (bars, restaurants, spaces for socializing and sharing) thus enhancing these images that have always captivated us;
- We want to enlarge the cultural and creative potential that rooftops have. From cinema sessions to exhibitions or presentations from various artists rooftops are great spaces for cultural expression and well being.

All of these assumptions led to the emergence of new rooftop festivals and new ideas for urban public policy throughout 2019. This contact between these organizations has led to the establishment of partnerships, greater common knowledge and a deeper understanding of how we would like to collaborate.

ERN - European Rooftop Network was born in 2019 in an informal way. As an open network that seeks to bring together city councils, associations, NGOs, companies and the social and cooperative sector. Since January a number of new cities have been awakened to this reality. This network, through its active members, has been sought-out by new partners around the world.

From this will, a group of cities agreed to unite around an application for the Creative Europe program; a fund managed by the European Commission that seeks collaboration between agents from different countries.

As we understand this project in a global context that looks to unite and join and not exclude, we understand that it would be important to establish this MOU as a way of setting big goals for all cities and organizations that want to share this path - inside and outside the Creative Europe application.

Thus, the cities and organizations present at the 2nd European Rooftops Meeting in Rotterdam agree to develop initiatives to achieve the following objectives:

- **Increase the mutual knowledge of each city's reality, exchanging experiences and promoting the visit of cultural and environmental agents, urban planners, architects and political leaders;**
- **Encourage other cities to create initiatives to promote rooftops;**
- **Changing the mindset of the public, organisations and authorities towards what is possible on rooftops;**
- **Work with other networks to create the necessary means in pursuit of this network objective;**
- **Develop rooftops as social/creative/inclusive and meaningful meeting spaces;**
- **Develop rooftops as cultural spaces and artistic/creative media;**
- **Pilot creative rooftop-projects with focus on social, economic, environmental sustainability;**
- **Establish a European-wide network with a global reach of rooftop festivals + EU-rooftop roadmap + Disseminating/new members.**