

escuela de atención mutua

Laboratory for listening,
thinking and acting on
crossborders between
education and culture

*participant's
guide*

*June
8th - 23rd*

online

Cultural and Creative Spaces and Cities Project
in collaboration with Medialab Prado

hablarenarte:



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Our age should be, as the Renaissance was, and even more than it, an opportunity for widespread problematization. Everything remains to be thought. Everything is about to begin. Everything, in fact, has already begun, but without us knowing it. We are in the stage of modest, invisible, marginal, scattered preliminaries. (...) It is about recognizing them, making their inventory, collecting them (...) to open up a plurality of reform paths.

Edgar Morin, *La Voie: Pour l'avenir de l'humanité*

Escuela de atención mutua, (school of mutual attention) is a space we open for meeting and exchanging knowledge and questions, building new and inventive bridges between the cultural ecosystem and the education community.

The workshop happens in an exclusive online platform. For 15 days, several cultural agents will exchange and share inputs on such challenges to devise a series of recommendations and concrete proposals. To that end:



We have invited local and international representative agents from both fields, as well as strategic agents working in institutions, to generate a space for debating that will analyse and problematise the relations between art and school, proposing newly sustainable, significant, and sensible collaboration to the identified needs.



We put the listening in the centre of this activity, meaning it is the catalyst of the care we are looking for, facing the critical setting we are living right now



We will present a publication that will include the materials created during the workshop as well as a toolkit with recommendations and strategies.

On the first stage, we will establish a working group comprised of local agents from Madrid and Spain. We will then create a think-tank to co-create significant and sustainable cultural policies. Through this invitation we would like to engage CCSC partners interested in deepening these matters, ideally professionals who have already worked in the frame of culture and pedagogy. Through two working sessions, we will be able to build different levels of collaboration by putting in dialogue the local experience and several European contexts.

Starting with questions posed by our local participants, we are now inviting you to join a *non-trivial* game answering to those challenges. Then, we will meet to reflect, devise and share outcomes and further policies recommendations.

What can the cultural community learn from the educational ecosystem? How can we develop such a relationship in a more meaningful, long-lasting and collaborative ways?

The school opens as an invitation to review our processes from a critical perspective, responding to new demands and challenges in the wake of the current crisis, focusing on children and teenagers. The main goal is to work on a creative exercise that will allow us to design significant collaboration towards the construction of a new culture more sensible of education and a new school format more sensible of culture.

The project aims at the creation of significant and sustainable public policies that give an active voice to children and teenagers in the designing and co-creation of culture. Its results will be part of a compendium of cultural policies proposals that *hablarenarte*, in the framework of CCSC, will present to the policy CCSC researchers.

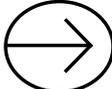
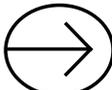
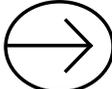


Impact and formalization

Both the cultural and educational sectors are, at the moment, redefining their own identity, formats, objectives and ways of doing. It is an ideal time to reclaim cultural and artistic practices as an educational tool and explore new possibilities for peer-to-peer collaboration between education and culture.

The project also aspires to transcend a merely local impact. To do so, it seeks the materialization of ideas that can generate new working possibilities.

The proposal will be formalized in a publication which will include:

-  The materials gathered from the workshop
-  A recommendations and strategies toolkit
-  A shared resource repository for projects, initiatives and tools
-  A series of commissioned texts

1. Project Framework

Cultural and Creative Spaces and Cities (CCSC) is a research and co-design project that involves seven European cities and about thirty internationally renowned cultural, grassroots, artistic and academic organizations. For two and a half years, the project connects citizen initiatives and cultural spaces with local policymakers through different participatory processes, where the framework of thought is rooted in community-thinking and common proposals. Each Urban Lab, as nodes of the project, faces this challenge from its local perspectives and particularities.

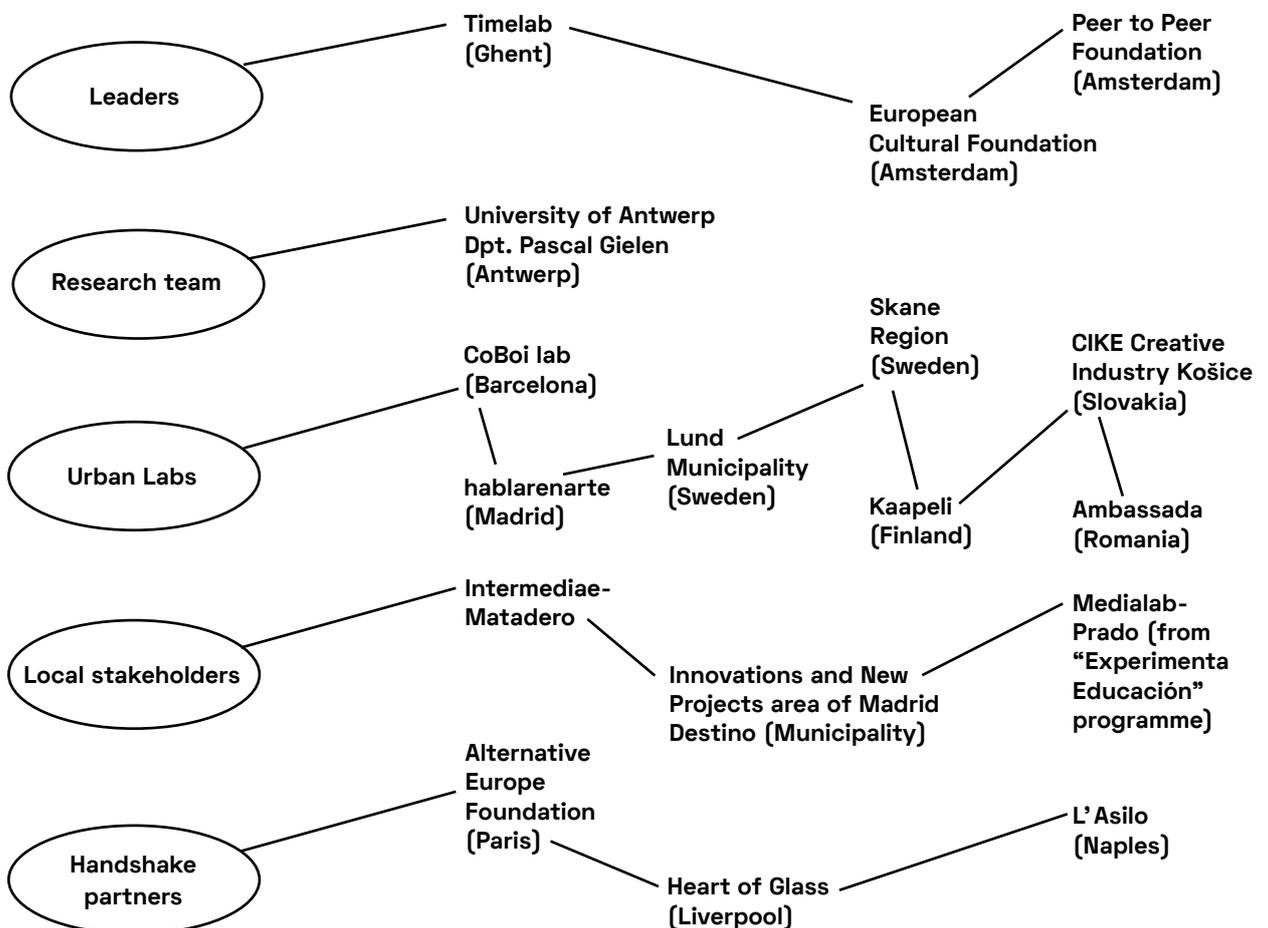
As for hablarenarte, we are one of the seven Urban Labs that participate in the European project. We work at a local level together with stakeholders, citizen initiatives and cultural institutions involved with participatory education. We work at the local level together with citizen and cultural institutional initiatives linked to participatory education from the challenge of promoting child listening mechanisms to generate more horizontal spaces, where its protagonists take an active role in the construction of their structures.

The main objective is to highlight those grassroots

artistic and cultural initiatives that actively transform public spaces and cities, and based on their praxis, to present a compendium of recommendations and proposals to be implemented in the EU.

CCSC addresses some of the most urgent contemporary urban challenges by developing, testing, and validating methods for local governments to engage stakeholders interested in the designing of cultural policies. As a result, civil society and public administration authorities will develop new public policies for the improvement of our cities.

A consortium of ten international organizations participate in the project:



2. Escuela de atención mutua

Learnings, unknowns and tools for the cultural participation of education and the educational implication of culture. Concept of the meeting

Attend: from the Latin *attendere* 'tend the spirit towards' (stretching towards).

1. Voluntarily apply mental activity or the senses to a certain stimulus or mental or sensitive object.
2. Be present at.

We are currently going through fraught times, and the future is drawn as a big question mark.

The pandemic crisis has exposed the structures of our professional sectors and keeps pushing us to rethink, redefine, reinvent ourselves. We need to learn new ways of operating, connecting and adapting to a new and uncertain scenario.

But it has also revealed the undeniable interdependence between all parties of our globalized society, the immeasurable value of the common and the urgency to think about alternatives to the "normality", focusing in collaborative, solidarity and reciprocal processes.

And for this, it is necessary to explore new communication channels. 5,000 years ago the Indo-Europeans merged the words "ko" (living together) and "mei" (exchange), making "communication" a social asset to expressing the "establishment of oneself and being together exchanging."

Now that schools and cultural institutions need each other more than ever, we consider enabling space and time for mutual attention, to meet and share bits of knowledge, an

essential task. Drive through roads not yet travelled, creating new paths between the cultural ecosystem and the educational community.

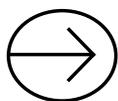
In what aspect does the school challenge the cultural institution? And vice versa? How can we promote channels that contribute to cooperation, and participation, in a two-way and horizontal learning process between the cultural and educational sectors?

Together we will start a situated creativity exercise from which to plan innovative alliances that seek to rethink our relationships and explore the challenges that arise from strong perspectives.

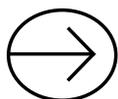
In that sense, we are engaging local and international agents who are already dealing with collaboration logics beyond the conventional formats, and we invite you to work on a reflection around the needs, desires, questions, challenges and limitations from your experience, as a basis for a purposeful exercise in the future.

Such processes although not new stand now as incredibly relevant since they allow us to investigate new forms of management that will let us organize our new life together.

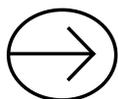
2.1. Objectives



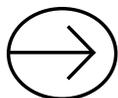
Generate a group of thought between representative art and education agents to problematize the pre-existing collaborative proposals between art and school.



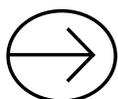
Review the pre-existing conditions from a critical and claiming perspective, one that transcends formats and that is situated on the opposite side of the dominant logics of the cultural sector (School learns / benefits from innovative strategies brought by the cultural/artistic agent who teaches), attentive to the new needs and challenges posed by the current setting and putting the child/adolescent at the centre.



To create positive imaginations of possibility and ask how they can transcend from the specific project to stable collaboration from a truly horizontal and collaborative perspective.



To explore the challenges, difficulties and findings of permeable culture/school projects in order to find stable and useful mechanisms for joint action as well as synthesize learning that favours and promotes new, more horizontal processes.



To generate a series of recommendations and tools that will allow other agents from related areas to deepen their practices, as well as enable such practices to happen on an international level, laying the foundations for improvement of cultural policies at the European scale.

2.2. Participation guide

Methodology

Non-trivial is a mediation and cooperative research method designed and facilitated by Sofía de Juan. It starts from a situated proposal and understands the working groups as a learning, research and thinking community.

This collaborative conceptualization tool takes the critical analysis of the participants' experiences and projects, embracing their curiosity, their doubts, problems and limitations as a starting point towards innovation. It is an opportunity to reflect on our concerns and practices, and learn from other experiences and points of view to create new ones.

Non-trivial is a playful take on the creation of cultural and educational practices and policies. A game that starts from the lack of certainty working as a trigger to design coherent possibilities on keys aspects related to each particular challenge.

The meeting is based on significant topics for the invited community. It follows through shared learning, valuing the empirical knowledge, skills and ways of doing of each one of the research group' participants. It contextualizes the working methodology to specific contexts aiming at the formulation of recommendations.

Communication and teamwork tools

The hablarenarte.com/atencionmutua platform will gather all practical information for the development of the activity. It is for internal use only and its keys will be provided on June 8th.

There you will find guides, work spaces and links to:

- Shared projects repository
- Non-trivial card game
- Videoconference space



Calendar and stages of the workshop

1

FIRST CONTACT AND CONTEXTUALIZATION

Mo. 8th → Wed. 10th June

How | The first stage consists of the individual and free management of the context resources and the familiarization with the working tools.

Where | www.hablarenarte.com/atencionmutua

What | On the general platform, you may find information about the project and its participants, as well as the working tools that we are using (with their respective instructions).

A guide
dossier will be
received by
mail

2

NON-TRIVIAL GAME

Th. 11th – Tu. 16th June

How | Online trivia game. 15 questions (5 per 3 thematic group) will be displayed to be answered by all the participants flexibly and anonymously.

Where | The questions will be arranged as a game on our online platform and can be answered with a simple click.

What | The game displays all the questions selected by each group so that everyone can answer them proactively with ideas, tricks and tips to tackle those challenges.

🕒 1 h aprox.
(Flexible timetable)

individual
work at
[hablarenarte.com/
atencionmutua](http://hablarenarte.com/atencionmutua)

3

CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL REFLECTION

Tu. 23rd June

How | Group videoconference to share our conclusions and reflections with the general group.

Where | It will be the last virtual closing meeting. We will do it through our Jitsi room and we will work on our Miro board.

What | We will share conclusions from local participants and then analyze the most relevant recommendations. Finally, we will briefly reflect on potential levers and strategies for the sustainability of these proposals and the listening experience of the meeting.

The entire process, the reflections and recommendations provided will be reflected in a publication in a toolkit format and will be proposed from hablarenarte-CCSC to the European Commission.

🕒 2 h aprox
(4 PM – 6 PM)

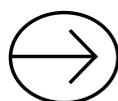
Online
meeting with
the group

3. Materials

Participatory repository. Online materials (projects, texts, videos) * mostly in Spanish

Attendees will have at their disposal the open access, for the entire duration of the workshop (June 8 – 19), the download links to the support material. These materials will help us to build knowledge around the discussed topics, not only during but also after the meetings.

Commissioned texts

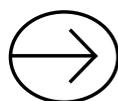


“Participative Democracy: A Tautology?”

Pascal Gielen & Hanka Otte (University of Antwerp) [English], in: *ART AS A CRITICAL ALLY. Commoning Politics and the Issue of Participative Democracy*.

The collaboration between the research team of the University of Antwerp (Belgium) and CCSC, starts from the powerful idea of connecting the radical knowledge of common goods and ways of self-organization with the will to transform the inertia of our cultural structures towards more territories horizontal and mutual learning. How does the tradition of self-organization help us contextualize our framework of thought at this time? This article problematizes, from three case studies, the incidence of collaborative practices in relation to the institutional dimension and analyzes this dialogue. These reflections help to lay the foundations to generate new ways of understanding collaborations, those that we are trying to imagine and in which, perhaps, the experiences of another sector can contribute significantly.

IMPORTANT:
DO NOT SHARE
OUTSIDE THE
GROUP. This text is for internal use and has been generously loaned by its authors, who will publish it in the coming months. Thank you!



“Interpreting mutual attention”

Audio-correspondence [Spanish] between Javier Rodrigo (Transducers) and Sofía de Juan.

We have started a conversation with Javier Rodrigo through the exchange of voice notes and questions on WhatsApp, which deepens, through etymology, in the framework of thought of this meeting space and which has been held daily for a week.

Transductores Collective pedagogies and spatial policies, is a cultural project that has been working for years on the research and activation of initiatives operating between artistic practices, political intervention and education, focusing on the work of transdisciplinary collectives.

4. About

This workshop is created in collaboration between:

hablarenarte / Sofía de Juan

Facilitation:

hablarenarte / Sofía de Juan

About hablarenarte

Non-profit organization based in Madrid conceived as a laboratory for the production of projects and social innovation. Founded in 2002, hablarenarte forms an ecosystem of independent and sustainable cultural projects that are committed to hybridization and collaboration as the cornerstone of the organization. hablarenarte's programmes have their roots in the fields of contemporary creation, mediation and social innovation, and are developed through a wide variety of international networks and projects.

In short, we work generating contexts of possibility in dialogue with several cultural and artistic agents from local to international level, and in tune with the problems and emergencies that affect us both collectively and individually.

Contact

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About Medialab Prado

Medialab Prado is a citizen laboratory that functions as a meeting place for the production of open cultural projects. Anyone can make proposals or join others and carry them out collaboratively. The activity is structured in working groups, open calls for the production of projects, collaborative research and learning communities around very diverse topics.

We have had the invaluable assistance of Jan Bosowski for the programming and ideation of the School for mutual attention platform and of Diego Calvo Cubero, who has carried out the design and graphic identity of the project.

hablarenarte: