

# HAPPENING

## CHARTER

This Charter sets out the shared values, ethical commitments and operational principles of HAPPENING Erasmus+ project. It is a public document, applying to all partners, participants, collaborators and stakeholders engaging with the project, both online and offline.

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HAPPENING is built on a simple but demanding conviction: no sustainable transformation of the cultural and creative sectors is possible without ethical practices, genuine inclusion and participation, transparency and shared responsibility. HAPPENING aims to support autonomy, skills, mobility and critical thinking, while contributing to a fairer, more inclusive and environmentally responsible cultural ecosystem.

This Charter reflects our commitment to:

- meaningful participation;
- ethical digital communication and technological practices;
- social and environmental responsibility;
- transparency.

We expect all stakeholders to commit to the same: consortium members and associated partners at European and local levels, participants, invited teachers and/or experts and/or professionals.

### **CORE VALUES**

#### **PARTICIPATION**

We believe culture is not a product reserved for a few, but a shared space of expression, decision-making and imagination. In HAPPENING:

- young people are involved early, continuously and meaningfully;
- participation is not symbolic: it implies real influence on decisions, tools and outputs;
- feedback loops are embedded throughout the project lifecycle.

Participants have the right to understand how their input is used, to withdraw without negative consequences, and to receive feedback – including when not selected to the training programme.

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## **INCLUSION, EQUITY & CARE**

Inclusion is not an add-on, yet a structural principle. We recognise that young people do not start from equal positions. Economic, social, educational, geographical, cultural, health-related or disability-related barriers – often intersecting – shape access to opportunities. Our commitments are:

- to actively include young people with fewer opportunities;
- to adopt an intersectional understanding of barriers;
- to provide safe, respectful and non-discriminatory environments;
- to ensure psychological safety, accessibility and fair conditions in all activities;
- to value diversity as a creative and pedagogical resource, not as a constraint.

### **Discrimination, harassment or any form of violence are not tolerated.**

Any situation of alleged discrimination, harassment or violence will be taken seriously and handled through HAPPENING's Conflicts and Risks Resolution Mechanism, based on transparency, confidentiality, dialogue and due process. If the facts are confirmed, appropriate measures will be taken, which may include the immediate withdrawal of the person concerned from the project.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

During the project, all activities are designed in an accessible way. Participants will be consulted in advance to identify any specific needs (physical, sensory, learning or other), in order to adapt formats, spaces and tools accordingly.

After the project, the Platform remains free, open, multilingual – accessible by design. Materials stay available to educators, youth workers, art schools, and grassroots organisations.

## **ETHICAL DIGITAL & TECHNOLOGICAL PRACTICES**

HAPPENING is a digital project, and we treat digital spaces as social, political and ethical spaces.

## **DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY**

We commit to strict compliance with European data protection standards, including GDPR and child-protection regulations. Key principles:

- data minimisation and clear purpose limitation;
- explicit consent and age-appropriate safeguards;
- transparency on data use and retention;
- users' rights to access, rectification and erasure;
- privacy-by-design and security-by-design in all technical choices.

For more details please see our Privacy Guidelines.

## **DIGITAL ETHICS & USER EXPERIENCE**

We design digital tools that respect users' autonomy and attention. This means:

- no dark patterns or manipulative design;
- clear navigation and understandable interfaces;
- explicit opt-in mechanisms;
- respectful communication and notification practices;
- multilingual and low-bandwidth accessibility where possible.

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## **AI ETHICS & TRANSPARENCY**

If and when AI-based tools are used, they are subject to:

- transparency about their role and limits;
- clear identification of AI-assisted content;
- human oversight and accountability;
- alignment with the EU AI Act and emerging European standards.

AI must support learning and creativity; never replace human agency or critical thinking.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSABILITY**

HAPPENING acknowledges that cultural and digital projects have an environmental footprint. Our commitments include:

- prioritising low-impact digital infrastructure and EU-based hosting when possible;
- optimising code, media and platforms to reduce energy consumption;
- favouring sustainable travel choices and low-carbon events;
- limiting unnecessary material production;
- continuously reflecting on and reducing our environmental impact.

## **LEARNING & EVALUATION**

### **EVALUATION**

Evaluation results in HAPPENING are used to adjust practices within the training modules and the project. We commit to:

- continuous and participatory evaluation, including through the involvement of the participants and partners within an Advisory Board;
- combining qualitative and quantitative approaches;
- documenting successes, limits and lessons learned;
- using the Creative Entrepreneur Compass, a tool developed from the project's first stage, to question evaluation practices within the cultural sector, and provide self-assessment tools for cultural entrepreneurs.

## **RECOGNITION OF LEARNING**

Participants' learning is recognised through:

- Youthpass European certificates, acknowledging non formal and informal learning;
- the Creative Entrepreneur Compass, a self-assessment tool for cultural workers prototyped from the project's first stage and co-developed with the participants during the next stages;
- collective reflection spaces.

## **TRANSPARENCY & SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

HAPPENING is a collective endeavour. All partners and participants commit to:

- acting in line with this Charter;
- communicating honestly about objectives, limits and constraints;
- sharing responsibilities and credit fairly;
- reporting concerns or issues through accessible and safe channels.

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