

CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

Fixed term opportunity for academics and professional cultural practitioners to join **CONTESTED DESIRES: Constructive Dialogues Ethics Advisory Group** June 2024 until December 2026

Fixed fee €4500

Application deadline 28 June 2024

CONTESTED DESIRES: Constructive Dialogues (CDCD) is a three-year arts and heritage programme engaging contemporary artists to consider the problematic legacy of European colonialism.

From the Greeks, to the Romans, the Ottomans to the Venetians, from the seafaring nations of Northern and Western Europe embarking on crusades and trade missions, Europeans have exploited, imposed and foraged cultures and communities to build their Empires. This legacy presents a complex cultural heritage, often **contested** through the narratives, perspectives and lived experiences we encounter. A legacy of individuals, communities and nation states constructing their identities through a mosaic of cultural choices and **desires**.

CDCD aims to challenge the destabilising and divisive impact of the current political landscapes of Europe and beyond, where the response to the complexities, diversity and expansion of our communities continues to be met with fear-mongering, discrimination and exclusion.

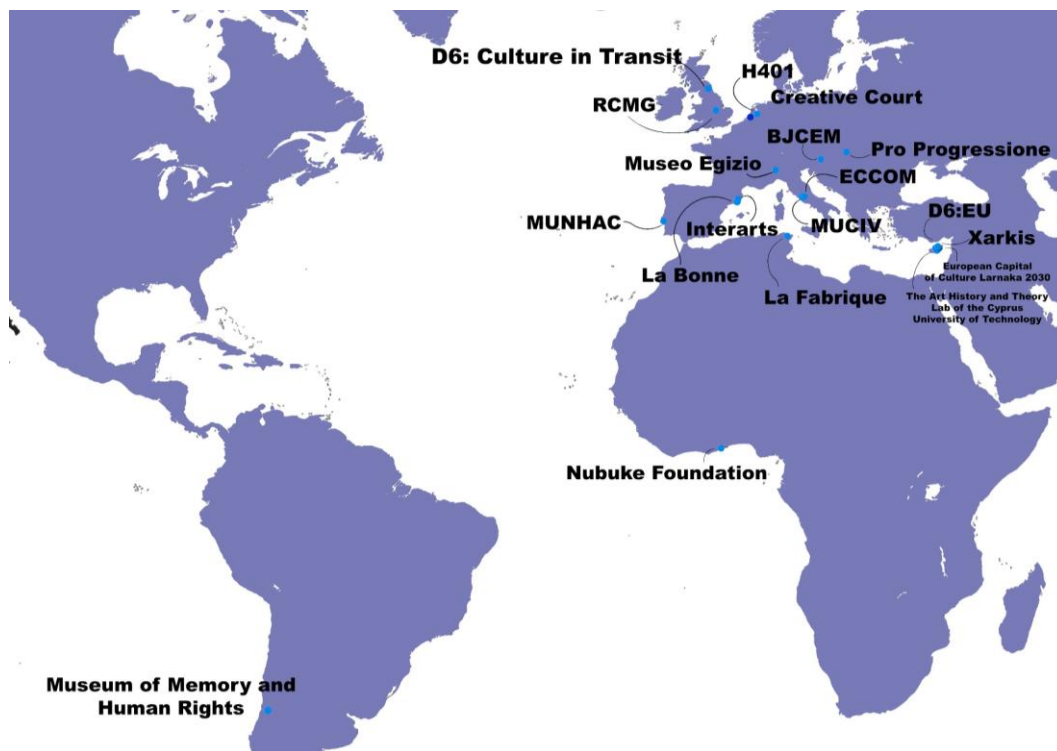
This transnational, multi-partner project will explore how artists and cultural organisations can work with communities to build a shared understanding of the colonial past and what it can mean to different citizens in our multicultural societies.

Working across the Netherlands, Italy, Ghana, Tunisia, Chile, Hungary, Slovenia, Portugal, Cyprus, Spain and the UK, **CDCD** will dig deep to explore, and reveal the links between our shared colonial history and our cultural identities today from diverse perspectives. Heritage held in museum collections and represented across heritage sites and public spaces will provide rich starting points for artistic research and interaction. Together, we will build bridges for intersectional conversations and creative interactions to mindfully explore heritage and decoloniality and new forms of expression we can look towards.

CDCD is supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

WHO IS INVOLVED

CDCD connects 19 innovative organisations globally, representing museums, research centres, universities and independent cultural producers. They are: **ECCOM** (Italy), **BJCEM** (Belgium), **Creative Court** (The Netherlands), **D6:EU** (Cyprus), **D6: Culture in Transit** (UK), **European Capital of Culture Larnaca 2030** (Cyprus), **H401** (The Netherlands), **Interarts** (Spain), **La Bonne** (Spain), **La Fabrique** (Tunisia), **Museo Egizio** (Italy), **Museo della Civiltà** (Italy), **MUHNAC - University of Lisbon** (Portugal), **Museum of Memory and Human Rights** (Chile), **Nubuke Foundation** (Ghana), **Pro Progressione** (Hungary), **RCMG - University of Leicester** (UK), **Technical University of Cyprus** (Cyprus), **Xarkis** (Cyprus).



CDCD will engage 22 international artists to travel, create and exhibit significant new artwork at 11 global visual arts residencies and exhibitions; six international exhibitions; a joint residency and festival in rural Cyprus; and online through 22 new digital commissions.

Each artist's journey will begin from September 2024. As a starting point they will all their research with two questions as a point of provocation and reflection:

What are the impacts of colonial heritage on contemporary society that interest you?

How can your art practice create points of contact and connection for constructive dialogues?'

The **CDCD** programme will also deliver an integrated capacity building including the facilitation of the **CDCD Ethics Advisory Group**; four Capacity Building workshops in Italy, Cyprus, Spain and the

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Netherlands exploring decolonial approaches to participatory practice, environment, gender and social inclusion; five seminars; a podcast series; an international conference and a publication.

This ambitious programme of work has been developed from a pilot CONTESTED DESIRES (2019-22).

THE ROLE OF CDCD ETHICS ADVISORY GROUP

CDCD is seeking to recruit four International Experts to form the **CDCD Ethics Advisory Group**. This group will also include a representative from each partner organisation (please see: **WHO IS INVOLVED** on page 2). The management of the group will be overseen by D6:EU (leading **CDCD's** Artistic and Creative Activities).

Experts and partners will meet regularly to think deeply about questions relating to the practice of the programme and ensure that problems are addressed openly with a process of resolution in place. Ethical questions will arise from artists, partners and others that will direct the course of dialogue and collective learning in response to the expanse and sensitivities of the subject matter, and the ambition and complexity of the programme itself. It is imperative that the **CDCD Ethics Advisory Group** be cognisant and willing to learn the subtleties of varied geo-political contexts and the agency of the voices within the project.

Examples of ethical issues that may arise:

- How do we work equitably and ethically with artists and communities in local contexts around the legacy of European colonisation?
- How do we acknowledge and better understand positions of privilege and power within this work?
- How do we make difficult conversations places of contact rather than conflict?
- How do we give meaningful agency to voices that challenge uncomfortable truths?
- Who do we need to protect?
- How do we confront feelings of complicity or discomfort?

It is anticipated there will be perspectives and methodologies that are specific to certain contexts and areas of knowledge where we are building an understanding of the ethical issues that surround them. This programme is about constructive dialogues around difficult and complex topics, often around the unsaid and unknown. Our intent is to consider the work of the CDCD Ethics Advisory Group through an action learning approach, addressing the inherent difficulties, differences and trajectories of issues of consideration and importance.

Through a series of working group meetings and attendance of activities as part of **CDCD**, the **CDCD Ethics Advisory Group** will discuss and document learning throughout with the aim of producing a concise Ethical Framework at the end of the programme. This will be a public document, shared with target audiences at the end of the programme.

KEY TASKS & OUTCOMES

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The **CDCD Ethics Advisory Group** will undertake the following tasks collectively, online and in person:

- Participation and rolling Chair across six working group meetings across the programme aligned with key project activities;
- Support towards producing the agendas and identifying appropriate information to inform working group meetings;
- In person participation in capacity building workshops and the final CDCD conference;
- Further conversations/ meetings as support/ guidance that may arise as part of the programme which are unforeseen/ urgent (enabling clear communication pathways for artists and partners to speak freely about their concerns);
- Participate in the wider CDCD evaluation.

The **CDCD Ethics Advisory Group** will produce the following outcomes:

- Define a guiding set of principles and working processes for the group across the first two working group meetings;
- Develop an ethical framework as an informed guide supporting models of practice led by artistic research, dialogue and audience engagement within heritage settings. The development, production and completion of this framework will be overseen by D6:EU. The **CDCD Ethics Framework** will launch in October 2026.

CDCD ETHICS ADVISORY GROUP SCHEDULE

The working meetings will take place during the following times:

June/ July 2024: Introductory online working group meeting (1), duration 2.5 hours

25 - 26 October 2024: Working group meeting (2) as part of 2-day Capacity Building workshop focussed on participatory practices in Rome, Italy.

23 - 24 January 2025: Working group meeting (3) as part of 2-day Capacity Building workshop focussed on environmental impact and colonisation in Larnaca, Cyprus.

July 2025: Working group meeting (4) as part of 2-day Capacity Building workshop focussed on gender identities in Barcelona, Spain.

January 2026: Working group meeting (5) as part of 2-day Capacity Building workshop focussed on social inclusion in the Netherlands.

September 2026: Working group meeting (6) as part of final artistic residency and festival in Cyprus.

It is essential for the International Experts to attend all scheduled online meetings and proposed activities in person. CDCD will cover travel, accommodation and subsistence for in person meetings, there is a fixed budget

across the programmes, so some in person meetings may be subject to review based upon actual costs. Please note, some dates and information in the schedule may be subject to change.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT PROFILE

We are seeking four International Experts who work in the cultural field of academia and professional cultural practice (including visual artists) with intersectional expertise across one or more of the following areas:

- Arts, heritage and culture (socially engaged approaches);
- Heritage (Colonial and decolonial specialisms/ collections);
- Constructs of identity (nationalities, ethnicities, gender, race)
- Environmental and climate justice;
- Anti-racism.

A willingness to share knowledge and develop processes is essential to support the varied needs. experience and approached partners in relation to embedding ethical practices. Experience of developing ethical frameworks is desirable as is evidence of international working.

As the lead partner for CDCD, ECCOM will administer the contracts for the International Experts. The fixed fee will be paid across four instalments of €1125 in July 2024, January 2025, June 2025 and January 2026.

TO APPLY

We welcome Expressions of Interest from individuals based across all global locations, with a particular interest in reaching out beyond European institutions and contexts.

Essential criteria includes:

- A proficiency in the English language;
- An ability to evidence their desire, suitability, experience and knowledge to the role of an International Expert;
- Committed to participate in all **CDCD** activities connected to the role.

We invite Expressions of Interest for this role to be submitted by 28 June 2024 (11:59 CET) via email to Clymene Christoforou (Director of D6: EU) via clymene@d6.eu

The Expression of Interest should include the following:

- A one page letter explaining your interest and suitability for the role;
- A CV with links to relevant material.

Short-listed applicants will be invited to have an informal conversation with D6: EU and two CDCD partners in the first week of July 2024.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the role before 28 June, please contact Clymene via clymene@d6.eu at your earliest convenience.