







#### **European Capitals of Culture**



- European Union programme, established in 1985
  - Awarded to 60 cities in 30 countries between 1985 and 2019
- Started as a recognition of established European cultural capitals, but only showed its capacity to make a marked difference by linking cultural objectives with broader social and economic objectives.
- From 2000, growing emphasis in the development of integrated strategies for city cultural management
  - Bridging cultural & economic sectors
    - Glasgow 1990, Liverpool 2008, Essen for the Ruhr 2010
  - Bridging city & region
    - Lille 2004, Luxembourg GR 2007, Ruhr 2010, Marseille-Provence 2013
  - Bridging event and physical / infrastructural developments
    - Genoa 2004, Pécs 2010, Tallinn 2011
  - Bridging cultural and social advancements
    - Bruges 2002, Lille 2004, Liverpool 2008, Istanbul 2010, Marseille-Provence

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## **European Parliament funded study**



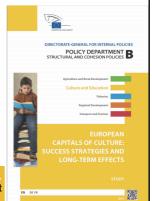
#### Study objectives

- To examine and interrogate the wealth of published material produced about respective ECoC hosts cities, in order to:
  - identify the most common strategies for success;
  - collate and review evidence of impacts and long-term effects from a cultural, economic, social and policy point of view;
  - understand the main recurrent challenges.

#### Study chapters

- History and development
- Bidding approaches
- Delivery approaches and success strategies
- Short- and long-term effects
- Challenges and areas of opportunity
- Conclusions and recommendations

Garcia, B. et al. (2013) European Capitals of Culture. Success Strategies & Long Term Effects. European Parliament





# 60 ECoC host cities in 34 years



1985-1996

- Athens 1985
- Florence 1986

Amsterdam 1987

- 12 hosts
- Paris 1989 All Member States
- Berlin 1988
  - Glasgow 1990
- Madrid 1992
  - Antwerp 1993
  - Lisbon 1994
  - Luxembourg 1995

Dublin 1991

Copenhagen 1996

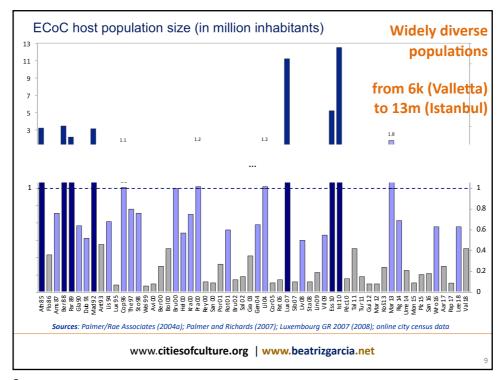
1997-2004

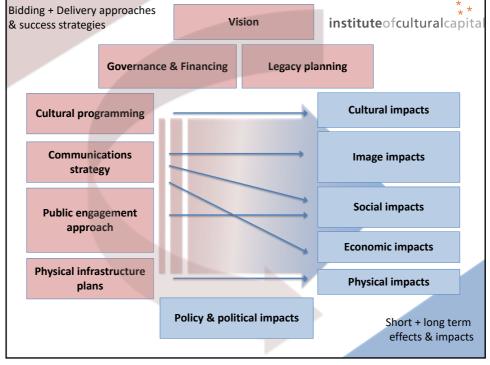
- Thessaloniki 1997
- Stockholm 1998
- Weimar 1999
- Avignon, Bergen, Bologna, Brussels, Kraków, Helsinki, Prague, Reykjavík, Santiago de Compostela 2000
- Rotterdam & Porto 2001
- Bruges & Salamanca 2002
- Graz 2003
- Genoa & Lille 2004

2005-2019 •

10 new members

- Cork 2005; Patras 2006
- Luxembourg GR & Sibiu 2007
- Liverpool & Stavanger 2008
- Linz & Vilnius 2009
- 29 hosts Essen-Ruhr, Pécs & Istanbul 2010
  - Tallinn & Turku 2011
  - Guimarães & Maribor 2012
- Marseille-Provence & Košice 2013
- Riga & Umeå 2014
- Mons & Plzeň 2015
- San Sebastián & Wrocław 2016
- Aarhus & Paphos 2017;
- Valletta & Leeuwarden 2018
- Plovdiv & Matera 2019







## **ECoC Bidding approaches**



- Growing profile of the bidding process, involving fierce national competition in recent editions.
- · Common objectives:
  - raising the capacity/ambition of host cultural sector
  - raising profile & cultural appeal of city
  - using ECoC as catalyst for economic & social goals
- Bidding strengths:
  - broad stakeholder consultation & support
  - adequate levels of investment
  - high quality artistic programme

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### **ECoC Delivery strategies**



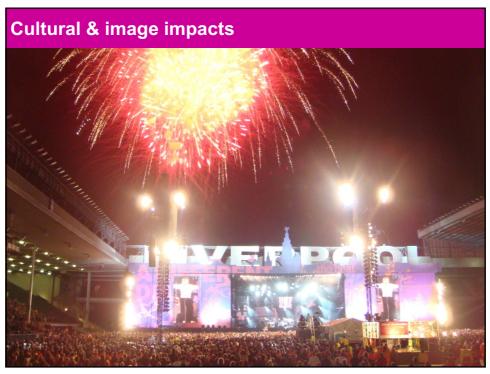
Greater professionalisation of the hosting process over time leads to common strategies for success:

- Developing a **vision to transform the city** by using the ECoC as a catalyst for cultural, social & image change.
- Facilitating cross-sector agendas targeted at positioning host city and/or surrounding region.
- Creating a balanced range of **themed activity** to assist in the distribution of resources & marketing coordination.
- Growing **grassroots** activities & targeting engagement with **diverse** audiences; strategic **social** programmes.

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## **Cultural & image impacts**

- Significant effect on the city's cultural vibrancy by
  - strengthening both formal & informal networks,
  - opening up possibilities for new collaborations,
  - encouraging new work to continue
  - raising the capacity and ambition of the cultural sector
- Image renaissance for low (or negative) profile cities
  - attracting considerable media attention and enhancing local, national and international perceptions.
- Expansion of national ECoC related news cycle
  - Media interest in the ECoC and what it stands for has grown over time and covers a broader time spectrum, beginning at bid stage.
- Digital and social media dominance
  - Post 2010 hosts claim online news impacts above any other media.

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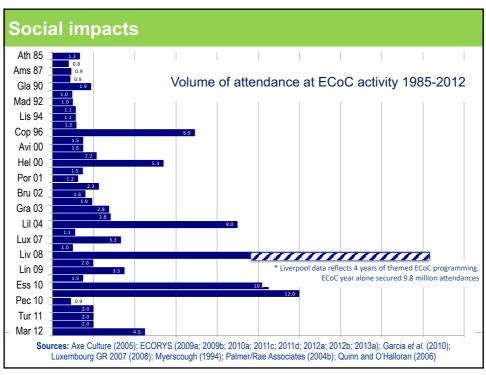
### **Social impacts**

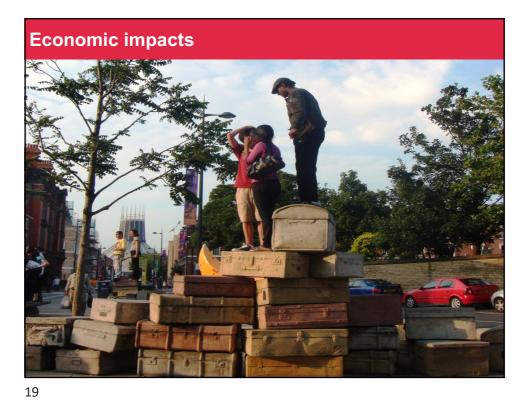
- Improved local perceptions of the city
  - Many recent editions claim that 50% to 90% of their local population feel that their city is a 'better place' after having hosted the ECoC.
- Fostering local pride and a 'can do' attitude
- Increases the volume and diversity in cultural audiences during the ECoC year.
  - Hosts as diverse as Helsinki 2000, Luxembourg GR 2007, Liverpool 2008, Essen for the Ruhr 2010, Guimarães 2012 and Maribor 2012 claim that over half of their local population engaged with their ECoC programme.

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## **Economic impacts**

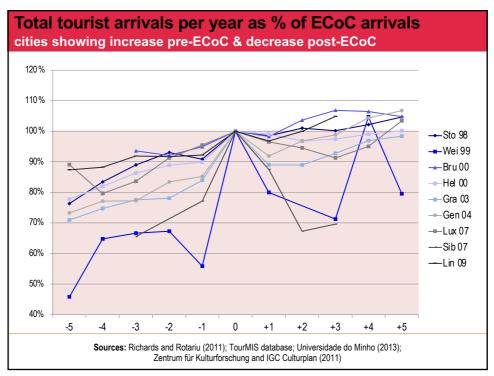
#### Immediate impacts

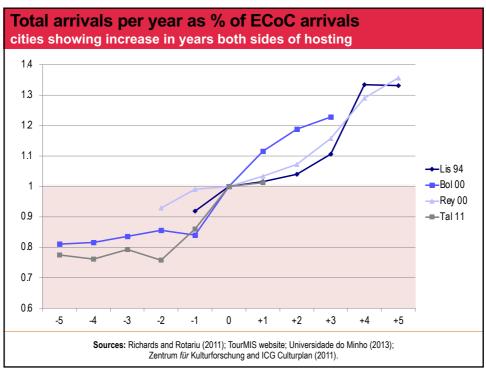
 Considerable effect on immediate to medium-term tourism trends, which, in turn, can have a significant impact on the city's economy.

### Long-term effects

• Cities undergoing major repositioning during or post ECoC can sustain **growth in tourism visits and expenditure** in the long term.

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#### **Conclusions**



- After three decades, the ECoC Programme is one of the most visible and prestigious EU initiatives.
- It has become a key platform for city positioning and a catalyst for economic and cultural regeneration.
- Immediate cultural, social and economic impacts are common and the capacity to secure long-term effects, has grown in key areas such as urban image change and tourism development.
- This evidence of the stronger commitment towards sustainable legacy planning and ever more defined and locally sensitive vision statements.

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