

**OPEN  
CALL**



Open call Nr. 01/23

**Soft Skills Academy II –  
Civil society projects**

**European workshop for culture and democracy**

**Kulturhauptstadt  
Europas Chemnitz 2025 GmbH**



## Soft Skills Academy II – Civil society projects

(Open call Nr. 02/23)

### Introduction: C the Unseen – Europäische Macher:innen der Demokratie / European Makers of Democracy

How can taking part in culture and civic participation strengthen social cohesion? The central element of the Capital of Culture programme is to inspire as many people as possible to become “makers” – creative, self-effective people who contribute their skills and knowledge to shaping their social environment. This creative and entrepreneurial potential often lies hidden in Chemnitz and the region, but it is waiting to be discovered and experienced on closer inspection. The makers become European makers of democracy when they, together with others, use this potential to create something and take care of their fellow human beings, while treating each other with respect and seeing otherness as enriching for civil society.

### The open call

Democracy does not simply exist – democracy is made, and our understanding of it is actively negotiated on an ongoing basis. In Chemnitz, as in other regions of Europe, notions of democracy are often questioned in public in particular; on the other hand, its relevance is rarely the subject of discussion in everyday life, e.g. in our families, when playing sports, at school or when meeting friends.

The Soft Skills Academy takes a constructive approach to working on the unifying idea of democracy using artistic and cultural tools – in the Academy, people talk to each other, listen to each other, think together, exchange ideas, discuss, debate and work together on the implementation of new projects, methods and concepts.

Kulturhauptstadt Europas Chemnitz 2025 GmbH (KHS GmbH) invites all stakeholders working in the field of culture and democracy education in Chemnitz and its 38 partner municipalities and communities to actively participate in the project. From 2023 to 2025, this will include regular

networking opportunities for stakeholders, a curated discourse programme as well as opportunities for cooperation and competence development.

The open calls for the Soft Skills Academy call on stakeholders to present a wide range of cultural or artistic projects that are positioned at the interface with involvement in civil society. In a first phase, referring to *open call no. 01/23: Soft Skills Academy I*, projects ideas were given the chance look for international partners for collaboration. In a second phase, *open call 02/23: Soft Skills Academy II* invites ideas from the first phase but also new ideas to be implemented as pilot projects in 2023/24 and with the outlook of being developed further for 2025.

These two application periods are considered to be a development and test phase for prototypes. To implement the prototypes and further develop them for the Capital of Culture programme in 2025, the open call for the Change Maker programme will be launched from 2024 in a new procedure based on the results of the Soft Skills Academy.

### Who or what do we support?

KHS GmbH is not a patron in the classical sense. We see ourselves as a partner and supporter, as a motivator and an impulse booster for various projects. These can be planned and developed as part of the preparation for the Capital of Culture year in Chemnitz and the partner municipalities and communities and ultimately contribute to the grand idea of implementing the programme.

All entities mentioned under item 12 of the *Principles Governing Participation* (initiatives, associations, institutions, companies or private individuals, etc.) that are based in one of the 38 partner municipalities and communities of the European Capital of Culture Chemnitz 2025 may become direct cooperation partners of KHS GmbH in the context of the open calls.

Project partnerships with others are expressly welcomed. These may already exist or be entered into during the competition period. In particular, *open call no. 01/23 Soft Skills Academy* can be understood as motivation to actively seek international partners, in order to further develop projects with them for *open call no. 02/23 Soft Skills Academy II* and the Change Maker programme building on it in 2024.

Support is granted to non-commercial project ideas that deal with questions, methods and strategies for promoting and teaching democracy or that come from the following fields: visual and performing arts, literature, music, film, radio, photography, architecture, peace and remembrance culture, media, new media, related forms and interdisciplinary projects as well as activities in sports, civil society and popular culture.

The focus will be on activities that address and implement diversity, sustainability, inclusion and multi-generational work.

### Cooperation financing and capacity development opportunities

In *open call 02/23: Soft Skills Academy II* any research and travel costs, accommodation costs, seminar and conference fees, entrance fees, translation costs and material costs incurred following selection and during the term of the project will be reimbursed by KHS GmbH of up to a maximum of €10,000. Details are recorded in a cooperation agreement and follow the KHS GmbH guidelines for cooperations.

The stakeholders will be supported in preparing a project plan by the capacity development programme of KHS GmbH within the framework of the open call.

The following must be provided during the course of the project:

- A project plan for a project that can be implemented in 2025
- A final report on the content
- A cost statement including all supporting documents.

### Schedule

The schedule for *open call 02/23: Soft Skills Academy II* is the following:

- 2 June to 18 August 2023: submission of project plans
- September 2023: assessment and decision making
- October 2023 to April 2024: implementation of pilot project

### Submission

You can participate in open call no. 02/23 directly via our submission platform.

<http://soft-skills-akademie-i.mein-wettbewerb.de/>

In case of technical questions with regards to the submission platform please write via e-mail to: [support@zauberberg-medien.de](mailto:support@zauberberg-medien.de)

Please download the template for the *cost and financing plan* – necessary for submission – under <https://chemnitz2025.de/en/allgemein/opencall/>

Your project ideas will be handled confidentially and your submitted documents will be stored and processed by us for the sole purpose of selecting the projects.

Please read our *privacy policy* regarding the open calls under <https://chemnitz2025.de/en/allgemein/opencall/>

### Counselling & information events

Open call Nr. 02/23 is accompanied by information events before and during the call process:

- 13 June 2023 / information event at the office of KHS GmbH as part of Information Café (Hartmannstraße 5, 09111 Chemnitz (Germany), starting at 6 p.m.)

For further information and queries regarding open call Nr. 02/23 please contact the following staff member of KHS GmbH:

- Mr. Pascal Anselmi

Office hours for individual counselling:

- From 19 June 2023 onward, every Monday between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Please book an appointment via the scheduling automation platform [Calendly / https://calendly.com/softskillsakademie/beratung-ausschreibung-nr-02-23](https://calendly.com/softskillsakademie/beratung-ausschreibung-nr-02-23)