



## **Call for Expressions of Interest for UK Researcher Participation in a workshop on:**

### **Development through the Creative Industries in Turkey**

#### **Introduction**

The AHRC is pleased to announce a call for UK researchers to attend a workshop in Istanbul on 'Development through the Creative Industries in Turkey'. Organised in partnership with the Istanbul Development Agency (IDA), the event will bring together experts from both countries to explore how the Creative Industries play a critical role for growth and prosperity in the Istanbul region.

The event will convene approximately 40 experts from the UK and Istanbul region and draw on a range of disciplinary perspectives including but not limited to design, cultural studies, the creative and performing arts, heritage, history, museum studies and digital humanities. A key aim of this workshop is to enable researchers and key stakeholders from the UK and Turkey to develop new partnerships with a view to longer-term collaboration. Discussions at the workshop will inform an AHRC call for Research Networking projects, which will launch shortly afterwards.

The workshop will run all day on Thursday 17 October, including an evening networking event, and will be preceded by an evening networking event on 16 October. There may be an optional opportunity for attendees to visit some IDA-funded Creative Industries projects on the morning of Friday 18 October (TBC).

The workshop is jointly supported by the IDA and AHRC. The UK funding for the workshop comes from the Newton-Katip Celebi Fund, the aim of which is to develop research and innovation partnerships between the UK and Turkey that promote Turkey's economic development and welfare.

## **Context**

The creative industries continue to grow globally in stark contrast to other sectors during the recent economic downturn, which has highlighted the important contribution that the creative economy can make to the international economic and development agenda. Constituting the key ingredients of job creation, innovation and trade as well as contributing to social inclusion, cultural diversity and sustainable environment, the creative economy sectors can make a substantial contribution to growth and prosperity as well as welfare.

In Turkey, ambition to increase the value added of goods and services produced in the country, the rise of ICT, low-cost digital technology, the use of internet, and the diffusion of arts and culture-related activities through urban and rural areas have increased the potential of the creative industries as a source of growth and a way of diversifying the economy and building resilience to future economic crisis. Also, the policies implemented in the last 15 years have triggered the development of creative industries and have drawn increasing attention from academia, business world and NGOs. These efforts and attention from the related actors placed Turkey in Top 20 Exporters in creative goods in 2012 and also lifted Turkey's global ranking in creative goods export from 16th in 2003 to 14th in 2012 according to UNCTAD statistics. On the other hand, the UK's Creative Economy, which embraces the creative industries and the cultural sector and ranks 3rd in 2012 in creative goods export globally according to the same statistics, is a dynamic and vital part of the UK's economy. It accounts for more than 5% of UK Gross Value Added (higher than Financial Services, Advanced Manufacturing and Construction), nearly 10% of the economy, and is estimated to be growing at a higher rate than any other sector. The sector ranges from major corporations to small and micro enterprises. It is increasingly clear, however that the arts and humanities are a vital element of the Creative Economy, bringing further creativity, insight and knowledge to a sector as rich and varied as it is successful and innovative.

## **Scope of the workshop**

This workshop seeks to facilitate collaboration between academics, businesses, policy professionals, community groups and other organisations, with the aim of promoting a greater understanding of the relationship between cultural and creative organisations as stimulators of economic growth; the factors that lead to high-figure growth in the creative industries; and the social value of the creative and cultural sector. The term 'creative economy' is broadly conceived in this regard to include, for example (but not limited to): the creative and digital industries; intellectual property and copyright; the

creative and performing arts; innovation in cultural content; underpinning skills & capabilities and diversity; emerging urban cultural ecosystems, clusters and inclusive urban development; the museum / heritage sector; design, including urban and user-led design.

Through context setting presentations and focussed discussion on the following four key areas, the workshop will identify ways in which the creative industries can provide a catalyst for growth and prosperity in the Istanbul region:

- 1. Data and knowledge**
  - a. Official data
  - b. Standard definition of Creative and Design Industries
  - c. Field studies and design research
  - d. Models
- 2. Ecosystem**
  - a. Creative/Design hubs
  - b. Networking structures
  - c. Financing
  - d. Collaboration
- 3. Design and Value Added**
  - a. Design culture
  - b. Manufacturing industry and crafts
  - c. Digital design
  - d. Copyright and intellectual property
- 4. Demand for design and creative goods and services**
  - a. Public awareness
  - b. Customer needs
  - c. Tourism and design/creative industries
  - d. City of design image

## **Call for Expressions of Interest**

Expressions of interest to participate in the workshop are invited from UK researchers based at UK HEIs or Independent Research Organisations (IROs) meeting the AHRC's [standard eligibility requirements](#) from all disciplines within the arts and humanities.

Applicants should have a particular research interest in the topics noted above and be able to articulate this in their expression of interest.

Expressions of interest are welcome from researchers at all stages of their careers, including early career researchers. The AHRC expects to support the attendance of around 15-20 UK-based researchers across a range of arts and humanities disciplines, with IDA identifying a similar number of participants based in the Istanbul region.

To apply to attend, please complete the following Smart Survey questionnaire: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ClinTurkeyWorkshopEOI/>.

The AHRC will process the information you send for the purposes of workshop attendance only and the information will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

**Deadline for submission of EoI:** 16:00 (BST) Tuesday 10 September 2019

Expressions of interest will be assessed by the AHRC, against the following criteria:

- Fit to call: the strength of the case made to attend the workshop and ability to support the realisation of its aims;
- Track record: a demonstrable history of research excellence appropriate to career stage;
- Development: the potential of the workshop to add value to the research of the applicant, including the benefits of engaging with a wider network of individuals and organisations from the UK and Turkey, and the potential for those parties to benefit from the experience and perspectives of the applicant;
- Legacy: the ability of the applicant to perceive and articulate the longer-term potential benefits of the workshop, including to their own research, their discipline, and in terms of wider activity.

We will aim to inform applicants of outcomes by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

### **Costs covered**

The AHRC will pay for all transport (standard class), accommodation (to cover the duration of the workshop), visa charges and subsistence costs incurred during the event. Detailed information about logistics and procedures will follow upon acceptance.

**Please note that you are eligible to apply only if you have a valid passport and do not foresee any problems with obtaining a visa, or with being in Turkey for the duration of this event.**

### **Workshop format**

The exact format of the workshop will be determined through consultation between AHRC and IDA. The majority of the workshop will focus on networking, discussion and exploration of the key issues through a series of facilitated breakout sessions.

It is important to note that this workshop is not intended to be a stand-alone event, rather it is an opportunity to network, share experiences and begin discussions that will foster future collaborative activity. As above, it is anticipated that longer term, the workshop will enrich and bring new dimensions to other networks and forums working in this area and involving research collaboration between the UK and Turkey.

### **Contacts**

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