

BEDA European Centre of Competence (ECC)

The Bureau of European Design Associations (BEDA) exists to ensure permanent liaison between its Members and the authorities of the European Union in order to communicate and promote the value of design and innovation to the European economy.

Today, BEDA boasts 42 members from 24 member states in Europe. Members can be design promotion centers and other publicly funded organisations that promote design nationally or regionally as well as professional and trade associations for designers from across Europe.

Background & Purpose

BEDA has defined as one of its goals to establish a number of European Centres of Competence (ECC) based in different cities across Europe among its members, emphasising the rapid change towards a knowledge society but at the same time respecting the various cultural backgrounds and heritages in Europe.

Each BEDA European Centre of Competence (ECC) acts as a knowledge unit focusing on a design specific topic which could fuel innovation and enable transformation. Possible areas of competence are Design and Sustainability, Design for All, Design and Business, Design(er's) Statistics and Measurement, Design Education, Designmanagement, Design in Service Innovation etc.

The main idea behind this is to identify member associations/organisations, who thanks to their own resources and interests, combined with public or other funding, are able to substantiate that they already have, or are about to develop special knowledge and competence within areas, which are on the one hand useful and interesting to BEDA members' professional tasks and on the other hand support BEDA's mission to act as liaison towards the EU.

The mission of a BEDA European Centre of Competence is to be an expert in/for a specific discipline, to be known for its activities in a special design field, to research and develop knowledge on this design specific topic and to be prepared to disseminate and share results through conferences, publications, etc.

Objective & Benefit

The BEDA European Centres of Competence will in accordance with a signed contract with BEDA, allow BEDA to collect and disseminate among its members specific findings, data and knowledge in order to increase the overall competence of the members in a more profound and quicker way than they would have been able to do as individual members on their own.

In this way, BEDA will be able to contribute in a positive and relevant way to its members professional competence.

Furthermore, the knowledge developed by the BEDA European Centres of Competence may also be useful in BEDA's work and lobbying towards the European Commission, as well as in its commitment with all the international, national and regional organisations and with public service, companies, designers, students, teachers, universities, companies and the communities at large.

In addition to contribute to the increased professional knowledge and competence of BEDA's members, the active use of this knowledge will improve the overall perception of design and designers as a tool and as agents of change and innovation for European industry and services, and for improvement of the daily life of Europe's citizens.

The BEDA European Centres of Competence by themselves will raise their profile through the granted label within their local/regional/national bodies as their standing has been evaluated as one of high professionalism and quality with high standards within their selected topic. They will be seen by BEDA as their knowledge centre and communicated as such towards the relevant units within the European Commission.

As the BEDA European Centres of Competence must be self financed, they have a good chance to be co-financed locally by cities they are situated in, by public or private funds or even be co-financed by the EU.

Organisation & Contract

Each BEDA European Centre of Competence is a or will be led by one of BEDA's member organisations or is in contracted partnership with a BEDA member, and under the overall supervision of the BEDA Board.

Each BEDA European Centre of Competence operates in a specific field of design according to the idea 'one centre one area of design'. This means that there will be only one centre working on a specific topic at a time, for a minimum period of two years. After two years the allocated centre may re-apply to continue as a BEDA European Centre of Competence in competition with other applicants within the same field of competence.

BEDA members or contracted partners having a serious interest in becoming a BEDA European Centre of Competence, shall file an application with the BEDA Board, preferably supported by at least one other BEDA member, stating the particular field of interest, activities, resources and funding available, and the expected outcome resp. relevant findings and knowledge which is expected to be obtained within the two years' period.

Following an application* and in case where the BEDA Board is convinced that the application is bona fide, a contract will be issued with said member/applicant for an initial period of two years. The applicant is prepared to pay an annual endorsement fee to BEDA.

A BEDA European Centre of Competence shall present to the BEDA Board, and subsequently to the General Assembly a written (evaluation) report on the Centre's activities and findings to be disseminated to the members. This report will form the basis upon which the BEDA Board will decide whether the BEDA European Centre of Competence will continue after two years or whether the contract with BEDA will be given to another applicant.

Successful applications will constitute BEDA's official list of BEDA European Centres of Competence, which will be published on the BEDA website. Applicants gain the right to officially use/carry title and provided label 'BEDA European Centre of Competence' and may use those for local, regional or national fund raising activities.

Application Form / Contract for a BEDA European Centre of Competence

Name of Organisation

Contact Person / Project leader / Name

Address

Postal Code City

Country

Telephone Fax

Email Web

BEDA Member Yes No* but interested to become a member

* Partner Organisation

* Contact details

Supported by the following BEDA member(s)

Area of interest/Competence

Details

- Applicant's previous accomplishments within specified area of interest.

- Resources allocated to competence area/project, including specified public and other funding.

- Planned activities

Signature of the Applicant Date

Signature of BEDA Board Date

European Centre
of Competence

BEDA

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