CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

taking space

making space

15 — 16 April
Nida Art Colony of Vilnius
Academy of Arts, Lithuania
The first ELIA EDI Platform Meeting will take place from 15-16 April 2024 at Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts in Lithuania. This two-day gathering invites ELIA members from all artistic disciplines and designations to engage with issues of equity, diversity and inclusivity in Higher Arts Education.

Under the theme: taking space - making space, ELIA’s EDI Working Group invites you to engage with questions of who, historically, has taken space, who has been denied space, and who is creating space in higher arts education today? Through which frame do we perceive the space we’re in? As faculty, artists, administrative staff and students from different backgrounds and disciplines, how do we navigate and situate ourselves in spaces, within and around our art academies?

Experience an interactive programme examining the physical and socio-political dimensions of space. Be inspired by the unique landscape of the Curonian spit, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join us in Nida.
Space(s) have both physical as well as socio-political meanings:

**Physical space(s):** Art academies must provide accessible physical space(s) for students to work, study and imagine. However, not all spaces are equally accessible for everyone. For example, the case for students and staff members with visible and invisible disabilities.

**Social-political space(s):** Art academies must foster an inclusive and welcoming environment where persons from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences can feel like they belong. This involves breaking down barriers that exist based on race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and more.

We want to unravel the entanglements that form the environments we are surrounded by to understand the impact space(s) have on forming artistic and political imaginations by looking at specific cases and sharing experiences. What are the threads of entanglements that need to be addressed separately but in relation to each other to transform physical and social and political spaces in our institutions?
Call for contributions taking space — making space

What we are looking for

We invite proposals for interactive workshops (up to 60 minutes in duration) on the following 3 EDI perspectives in Higher Arts Education:

1. Institutional / governmental / structural / facilities / EDI officer perspective
2. Academic / curriculum / artistic / education / research perspective
3. Student perspective

With your contribution, you are invited to reflect on one of the following questions, or use them as inspiration to formulate your own:

Where and how much space do you make for equity, diversity, inclusion in your everyday work: institution forming / curriculum making / communication?

Who do you make space for and who do you take it for?

How do you make space for students to have a voice and a seat at the table when it comes to shaping a more equitable, diverse and inclusive arts school, academy or arts university?

As a student, how can you exercise your agency and take space that was not evident to be accessible to you because of established structures? What are the conditions for taking space - making space? When? Who?
Call for contributions: taking space — making space

Please visit the EDI Platform Meeting 2024 webpage for the latest updates. Please submit your application by filling out this form. All submissions should be related to the theme and include:

- Presentation title
- A short, written description (max. 300 words)
- Descriptive biography of the presenter(s) (max 150 words, including relevant URLs)
- Technical requirements
- Contact details

Applicants should provide the required information in the submission form available on the EDI Platform Meeting website.

The working language of the EDI Platform meeting is English.

**Please note the deadline for submissions is 22 January 2024.**

Submissions not making use of the online form, or presented in a language other than English, will not be considered. All submissions will be reviewed and selected by the EDI Working Group. The selection will reflect a balanced division of regions, countries, disciplines, expertise, and backgrounds. The selection will take place in the end of January 2024; applicants will be informed about the results in February 2024.

For further information, please visit the EDI Platform Meeting website or contact ELIA Web and Community Officer, Amalia Smyrnioti, email: amalia.smyrnioti@elia-artschools.org

Who can apply?

Colleagues affiliated with ELIA member institutions. Everyone is welcome to apply, and no prior experience is required. Student participation is also welcome. We encourage ELIA member institutions to support their students’ submission(s).

In particular we invite:

- individuals affiliated with ELIA member organisations who have specific expertise in the topic (EDI officers, diversity officers, etc.)
- individuals affiliated with ELIA member organisations who have a particular interest, experience and/or engagement.

How to apply?

Please visit the EDI Platform Meeting 2024 webpage for the latest updates. Please submit your application by filling out this form.
About the ELIA EDI Working Group

ELIA rejects racism and systemic discrimination on the basis of gender, sexuality, religion, race, class, ethnicity, age, and ability – to name some categories – both of which influence our education institutions. Visible effects of this are the relative homogeneity of the student populations in the arts schools in the Global North, the oftentimes conservative hiring strategies for the faculties, a lack of diversity in senior management positions, and the glass ceiling that still effectively exists within higher arts education institutions today.

Established in 2021, the EDI Working Group aims to promote better practice, strategies and initiatives that help ELIA members to:

- Address equity, inclusion, and diversity within their institutions.
- Raise awareness among leadership, staff and students.
- Connect to other relevant organisations/parties dealing with EDI.
- Help ELIA raise its voice against discrimination in the higher arts education sector.