



Call for Nominations

ELIA Seeks Members for the Global Connectedness Working Group

Deadline: 18 March 2026

ELIA calls upon its members to propose candidates to join the newly constituted Global Connectedness Working Group. The Working Group seeks to select seven colleagues from seven ELIA member institutions to fill its available seats.

Aim of the Working Group

The mission of the ELIA Global Connectedness Working Group is to support ELIA members in making sense of, navigating, and shaping global connectedness as a current reality of higher arts education.

Acting as an expert and advisory body, the Working Group curates knowledge from the ELIA community and feeds insights into ELIA's strategy, programmes, and advocacy initiatives. It also offers members orientation, shared frameworks, and clarity within their own institutional contexts.

As a distinct community and a connector in service and support of other ELIA communities, the Working Group aims to build bridges across membership, disciplines, and regions. It cultivates dialogue, reciprocal learning, and critical reflection that deepen understanding of global perspectives and strengthen engagement across the network.

Working Group Focus Areas

Shared Understanding and Language

Developing and maintaining a critical, inclusive, and accessible lexicon within arts, creative, and cultural education around global connectedness that supports mutual understanding and challenges dominant or exclusionary narratives.

Community and Dialogue

Creating spaces for dialogue, peer learning, and knowledge exchange across local, regional, and global contexts, grounded in member needs and bottom-up contributions.

Reflexion and Inquiry

Developing an understanding of the needs in different geographic areas in relation to higher arts education, and what it means to be global in the context of ELIA, member institutions, and other constituencies.

Ethical and Decolonial Perspectives

Supporting reflection on power relations, historical legacies, and positionality from the standpoint of arts education and creative practice in global connectedness, and encouraging practices based on reciprocity, co-creation, and joint capacity building.

Socioecological Interdependence

Examining how climate change, mobility, digital exchange, and migration shape global relationships in artistic and cultural practices, highlighting care, reciprocity, and shared responsibility in higher arts education and research.

Strategic Connection and Advocacy

Contributing to ELIA's strategic development by articulating global perspectives across community, connection, and advocacy; fostering strategic global partnerships; and supporting context-sensitive, collaborative forms of advocacy that amplify diverse voices, strengthen alliances, and enhance ELIA's presence in global discourse beyond Europe.

[Read the Global Connectedness Working Group Mandate here>](#)

Who Can Apply

General Eligibility

We welcome applications from individuals affiliated with ELIA member institutions who bring relevant expertise, experience, or strong interest in the focus areas of the Global Connectedness Working Group (as outlined above).

Applications are encouraged from individuals across all institutional roles—including leadership, academic staff, professional services, and policy or international office staff—who are motivated to contribute actively to the Group's work.

To ensure meaningful diversity, **the selection process will take into account country of origin and country of residence, as well as ethnic and cultural background**, alongside professional experience and expertise.

Selection Criteria

In alignment with ELIA's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policy and the mission of the Global Connectedness Working Group, the selection process will aim to compose a group that reflects plurality, ethical responsibility, and a diversity of perspectives and contexts relevant to global connectedness in higher arts education. As the Working Group is being newly constituted, selections will be made to ensure a broad and balanced foundation from the outset.

The selection process will be guided by the following criteria:

1. Global and Regional Representation

In line with the Group's global outlook, particular consideration will be given to applicants who contribute to broader international representation. The Working Group aims to include members from at least three continents outside Europe, to strengthen the geographical diversity and global composition of the group.

European-based applicants are particularly encouraged when they bring a strong global connectedness perspective, such as sustained engagement with international, transnational, or cross-regional collaboration, or experience grounded in non-European contexts.

Consideration will be given to both country of origin and country of residence, recognising that global connectedness is shaped by mobility, migration, and transnational experience.

2. Diversity and Positionality

In line with ELIA's commitment to care, equity, and plurality, the selection will take into account a range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, generations, and lived experiences. Attention will be paid to applicants' awareness of contextual complexities and positionality, and their capacity to navigate diverse perspectives with care and reflexivity in collective work.

3. Institutional and Disciplinary Contexts

Members will be selected to reflect the diversity of ELIA's membership, including different types of higher arts institutions (e.g. small/large, applied/research-oriented) and a range of artistic, creative, and cultural disciplines, supporting exchange across varied institutional realities.

4. Institutional Roles and Perspectives

To ensure a mix of strategic, operational, pedagogical, and practice-based viewpoints, the Working Group will seek balance across institutional roles, including leadership, academic staff, and professional or policy-related positions.

5. Expertise and Motivation

Applicants should demonstrate experience, engagement, and/or sustained interest in areas related to global connectedness—such as international collaboration, ethical or critical approaches to internationalisation, ecological responsibility, mobility, or decolonial perspectives—and show clear motivation to contribute actively to dialogue, reflection, and shared learning within the Group.

Group Composition and Governance

ELIA's governance rules for Working Groups will apply to the Future Readiness Working Group

The Working Group itself reflects global diversity in its composition, ensuring that perspectives from different regions and contexts inform its work.

The Working Group will be co-chaired by:

- Simone Pilon, Berklee Valencia (Representative Board)
- Juan Pablo Aschner, Universidad del Rosario, Faculty of Creative Studies

The minimum term for participation in the Working Group is two years, and the maximum term is 6 years.

The Working Group may not incur any costs unless it has received prior approval from the ELIA Executive Group for such expenditure. Travel and accommodation costs incurred by the members of the Working Group need to be primarily covered by their own institutions. A letter of support from their institutions is required to apply, indicating the approval of the applicable time and cost of investment.

For the 2026-2028 period, a fixed budget has been allocated to cover travel and accommodation expenses for Working Group members attending the group's annual in-person meetings, up to a specified amount.

The Working Group is supported by the ELIA Team, which handles scheduling meetings, taking minutes, and organising events.

The Working Group reports to the ELIA Executive Group.

Role of the Working Group Members

The ELIA Global Connectedness Working Group sets its priorities in line with ELIA's values and strategic missions, as well as relevant developments and challenges affecting the membership. It develops a two-year activity plan to achieve its objectives.

The Working Group is an official Working Group of ELIA and serves as the governing body of the Global Connectedness Community Hub, directing and steering the hub, and fostering dialogue and active engagement. Its members are dedicated volunteers from the ELIA membership who are particularly attuned to the focus of the Working Group. The Group is also tasked with translating global connectedness into ELIA's structures and practices, particularly related to the membership processes and practices.

The Working Group's primary responsibilities include representing the interests of the Global Connectedness Community Hub across Europe and globally; addressing key topics and issues

related to global connectedness; contributing to the development of ELIA's strategy, advocacy actions, and programmes; and, in collaboration with the ELIA Team and the ELIA Representative Board, conceiving, developing, and delivering activities and events that activate global connectedness within the ELIA membership. This includes but is not limited to hosting online, hybrid, and in-person gatherings, participating in ELIA's signature events, and, where relevant, establishing taskforces to work on specific topics such as strategy and long-term planning.

The Working Group meets online every two months, with an estimated average time investment of four to six hours per month, depending on planned activities. Once every year or two, the Working Group will meet in person, based on the needs of the Working Group and the members' availability, to manage and collaboratively develop Working Group deliverables (e.g. research, surveys, policy papers, and events).



Working Group members are expected to contribute to collaborative work beyond plenary meetings and are encouraged to host physical meetings of the Working Group at their institutions.

Participation in the Working Group is voluntary and unremunerated. Any intellectual property created as part of the Working Group is owned by ELIA, with contributing members retaining the right to use such material for their own research and teaching purposes.

Selection Process

Candidates will be selected based on their applications by a selection committee consisting of the ELIA Representative Board and staff, with the nominated candidates being formally approved by the Executive Group.

Key Dates

- Deadline: **18 March**
- Notification of first selection: **24 March**
- Follow-up interviews: **26/27 March**
- Onboarding session for successful candidates: online on **16 April, 16:00–17:30 CEST**

Please note that future meetings of the Working Group will be scheduled accordingly, with due consideration and respect for all time zones represented within the group, in order to promote inclusive and equitable participation.

[APPLY HERE>](#)

For questions or additional information, contact Amalia Smyrnioti, ELIA Community Manager, at amalia.smyrnioti@elia-artschools.org.