

The TEH start-up program was a unique experience for us. It was a big chance to be part of this program at the right moment of our centre's development.

The first step of the program was the visit of Irena Boljunčić Gracin and Chris Keulemans to Cluj. They showed their true interest in understanding in depth the situation and give their support. The process itself of trying to explain and answer their questions was an opportunity for us to rethink some of our ideas that maybe were forgotten or simply taken for granted in time. After a long time of involvement in this project a distant view was more than welcomed to identify what we are still missing or should improve, but also to be more aware of our strong points.

During their stay we organized several meetings with some relevant cultural actors from the city and the municipality, which were a way of reconfirming the partnerships that we already have or a step towards new ones.

The regular Skype sessions that followed this visit made us feel we have a real support, with valuable feedback and advices in taking some decisions and planning our future strategy. These tailored sessions were at times a moral support as well, when the combination of enthusiasm, hopes and dreams of the beginning were shaded by uncertainties.

The conference was another significant moment when we met the other members of the network and we found out more about the network itself. We felt connected with many participants, with whom we share the same goals and deal with similar issues. It was an opportunity to find out more about their approaches and be connected on an international level with like-minded people willing to share their experience.

There we met the other two start-ups from the programme. Even if the context of each initiative is very different, it was inspiring to see the same determination to contribute to the local community, through art. Also, with the Anibar Association we got further into the programming issues, having the same type of space and focus on films.

The workshop with Luca Kövécs and Dori Albert from Bakelit Centre (Budapest) was focused on the community building around the cinema ARTA. Our space was closed down some years for renovation, so bringing back the public is a present challenge. When Luca and Dori came, we were at the point of defining the approach of our first public events, which would be the first steps in building our community while we are still under construction. During the workshop we took some important decisions about how we will proceed.

This combination of dedicated face to face and Skype sessions, with the big network conference and the tailored workshop makes this programme quite unique. I really hope that the program will continue and other centres will benefit as well from it.

When we applied to the program we did not know what to expect, but everything that followed was a great, pleasant surprize. We feel that this is only the begining of our centre and of our future collaborations with the TEH network.