The Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor is a new tool to benchmark the performance of European cities compared to their peers using both quantitative and qualitative data. It provides a common evidence base at city level that helps decision-makers learn from each other and inspires fit-for-purpose policies to boost economic growth and job creation, foster social development and citizens’ well-being, and strengthen resilience. This year’s first edition covers 168 cities in 30 countries, selected from about 1000 cities in Eurostat’s Urban Audit on the basis of their verifiable engagement in promoting culture and creativity. Being included in the Monitor is thus in itself an acknowledgement of the importance these cities attach to culture and creativity.

The Monitor’s quantitative information is captured in 29 indicators. These are grouped into 9 dimensions reflecting 3 major facets of cities’ cultural, social and economic vitality: ‘Cultural Vibrancy’, ‘Creative Economy’ and ‘Enabling Environment’. In addition, qualitative evidence helps illustrate what cities are good at.

**Selected cities**

- Seven European Capitals of Culture Winners: Avignon, Lille, Marseilles and Paris - shortlisted: Bordeaux, Lyon and Toulouse
- One UNESCO Creative City: Saint-Étienne
- Two cities hosting at least two international cultural festivals: Montpellier and Nantes

**Key findings**

Paris records an excellent performance on all the 3 facets measured by the Monitor and particularly on ‘Cultural Vibrancy’ and ‘Creative Economy’, where it ranks first in the XXL group of 21 ranked cities. Also, Paris occupies either 1st or 2nd place in all the dimensions underpinning these facets. Paris was one of the first cities to acquire the title of European Capital of Culture, in 1989, for its uncontested cultural richness and creative atmosphere. Today, the French capital is still a creative hub, particularly in fashion design, architecture, performing arts, publishing and advertising.
Toulouse ranks 17th in the XL group of 34 ranked cities on ‘Creative Economy’ thanks to its score on Creative & Knowledge-based Jobs (9th). Toulouse, which was shortlisted to become a European Capital of Culture in 2013, is preparing new initiatives for support the creative economy – for instance, a new district for creative start-ups is expected to be set up by Toulouse Métropole in the near future.

Montpellier ranks 15th in the L group of 36 ranked cities on ‘Creative Economy’ due to its good performance on New Jobs in Creative Sectors (14th). The city is known for its world-famous contemporary dance festival Montpellier Danse which attracts every year thousands of spectators and more than 300 companies from all over the world.

Avignon records nearly equal performance on ‘Cultural Vibrancy’ (20th in the S-M group of 64 ranked cities) and ‘Creative Economy’ (19th) due to its good performance on Cultural Venues & Facilities (14th) and New Jobs in Creative Sectors (8th). The city, which was a European Capital of Culture in 2000, hosts the Festival d’Avignon – one of the most important contemporary performing arts events globally.

Did you know that…?

Lyon hosts several international cultural events, such as the Festival of Lights (three million visitors in four days every year), the Biennale of Dance, and the Lumière Film Festival organised by the director of Cannes Festival. Lyon is a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts.

Nantes has considerably invested in culture and creativity in the last 20 years. Culture abounds in the city, with its rich architectural heritage and numerous museums, theatres, venues and events. One of them is the Machines de l’île project where ‘mechanical beings’ are brought to life.

Saint-Étienne was the first French city to join the UNESCO network of Creative Cities of Design, and only the second European city, after Berlin. In 2005, La Cité du Design was officially launched to promote design for social change and economic dynamism.