

Deconfining Year 4 Evaluation Report

Dr Karolina Bieniek

Wrocław, 01.05.2026



DECONFINING
Arts, Culture & Policies
in Europe & Africa

PART I - Year 4 of the Deconfining project	4
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Methodology.....	4
3.1 Project Objectives and Relevance – Year 4.....	5
3.2 Project Objectives and Relevance – Comparison Year 3 and Year 4.....	8
4. Experience and Impact.....	10
5. Cooperation and Mobility.....	12
6. Quality of Content and Communication.....	14
PART II – Overall Project Reflection	17
7. Overall Project Reflection.....	17
Conclusion.....	20

Executive Summary

This report presents the evaluation of Year 4 of the *Deconfining* project, alongside a summary reflection on its overall implementation. The evaluation is based on 20 responses collected through a questionnaire, supported by qualitative insights from project materials, including interviews and case studies.

The findings confirm that the project achieved consistently strong results in its core areas, particularly in fostering intercontinental collaboration, strengthening networks, and supporting artistic and research-based exchange. Participants highlighted the importance of co-creation and long-term partnerships, with many describing the development of relationships and professional networks as one of the project's most significant outcomes.

The evaluation also shows that the project's impact was primarily relational and process-based. Activities such as residencies, artistic productions, and research collaboration created meaningful opportunities for exchange and learning, contributing to a deeper understanding of intercontinental cooperation and its structural conditions.

At the same time, the findings indicate a more limited and less consolidated impact at the policy level. While the project generated relevant knowledge and critical reflection, its translation into systemic change requires longer timeframes and supportive institutional frameworks.

A key cross-cutting insight concerns the structural barriers affecting intercontinental cooperation. Mobility constraints, particularly visa procedures, as well as financial limitations and geopolitical conditions, were consistently identified as major challenges shaping participation and access. These factors highlight the extent to which project outcomes are influenced by external conditions beyond the control of project partners.

Despite these challenges, the project has established a strong foundation for continued collaboration. Many participants expressed clear intentions to pursue follow-up initiatives, including new partnerships, joint projects, and the development of platforms supporting mobility and knowledge exchange.

Overall, the evaluation demonstrates that *Deconfining* has successfully contributed to building more connected and collaborative cultural ecosystems across continents. Ensuring the long-term impact of these achievements will depend on sustained support, more flexible mobility frameworks, and continued efforts to promote equitable and balanced cooperation.

PART I - Year 4 of the Deconfining project

1. Introduction

This report presents the evaluation of the fourth year of implementation of the Deconfining project, as well as a summary reflection on the project as a whole. It is based on feedback collected from project partners, participants, and associated collaborators involved in different stages and components of the programme.

The purpose of this evaluation is twofold. First, it aims to assess the outcomes and experiences related to the activities implemented in Year 4, with particular attention to the project's core objectives, cooperation formats, and perceived impact. Second, it provides a broader reflection on the entire duration of the project, identifying its most significant achievements, challenges, and lessons learned.

The report focuses on key thematic areas, including project objectives, participant experience, cooperation models, mobility conditions, content quality, and overall project outcomes.

The findings presented in this report are intended to support reflection within the consortium, contribute to accountability towards stakeholders, and inform the design of future intercontinental cultural cooperation initiatives.

2. Methodology

The evaluation is based on data collected through an online questionnaire distributed among individuals and institutions involved in the Deconfining project. The survey was addressed to project partners, participants, and collaborators engaged in the project's activities.

A total of 20 responses were collected.

The questionnaire combined both quantitative and qualitative components, allowing for a combined quantitative and qualitative analysis of the project's outcomes and experiences. The main types of questions included:

- scaled questions (1–7) assessing the project's contribution to its core objectives
- multiple-choice questions identifying key areas of impact and cooperation
- open-ended questions capturing detailed feedback, examples, and reflections

The analysis follows a mixed-method approach:

- quantitative data (e.g. averages, medians, and ranges) are used to identify general trends and levels of assessment
- qualitative data are used to contextualise these findings and provide insight into participant experiences

All qualitative excerpts included in the report are presented as direct quotations from respondents. No paraphrasing or reinterpretation of responses has been introduced, in order to ensure accuracy and transparency.

The structure of the report reflects the organisation of the questionnaire and distinguishes between:

- evaluation of Year 4 activities
- and a broader summary of the entire project duration

This approach allows for both a focused assessment of the final year and a cumulative reflection on the project's overall impact and legacy.

In addition to the questionnaire data, the evaluation also draws on qualitative materials developed within the Deconfining project, including selected interviews and case studies. These materials provide additional context for understanding the project's impact, particularly in relation to artistic mobility, intercontinental cooperation, and structural challenges.

3.1 Project Objectives and Relevance – Year 4

As shown in Figure 1, the evaluation of project objectives in Year 4 is consistently strong, with most responses concentrated in the upper range of the scale.

Understanding of confinement patterns across continents

Question 1a: In your view, how well has Deconfining contributed to the following objectives? (Scale 1–7: 1 = not at all, 7 = very well) [Understanding patterns of confinement across continents]

Respondents assessed the contribution of the Deconfining project to understanding patterns of confinement across continents positively. The average score was 5.45, with a median of 6, based on 20 responses. Scores ranged from 3 to 7, indicating a generally strong evaluation of this objective alongside some variation in individual experiences.

The distribution of responses shows that the majority of participants rated this objective at the higher end of the scale, with the most frequent score being 6. At the same time, a small number of lower ratings (3 and 4) contributed to a slightly lower average score, suggesting uneven levels of engagement or exposure to this aspect of the project across the consortium.

This perspective is reflected in qualitative responses. As one respondent noted:

“I think that the experience of deconfining project has really improved our comprehension of the issue of the cross continental cooperation in Culture between Europe and Africa.”

Another respondent pointed to the broader relevance of the project, while also indicating the need for longer-term engagement:

“Overall project contributes to all objectives. However for a systematic and sustainable change longer project and actions are needed.”

Creating and testing new models for intercontinental cooperation

Question 1b: In your view, how well has Deconfining contributed to the following objectives? (Scale 1–7: 1 = not at all, 7 = very well) [Creating and testing new models for intercontinental cooperation]

Respondents evaluated the contribution of the Deconfining project to creating and testing new models for intercontinental cooperation positively. The average score was 5.65, with a median of 6, indicating a consistently strong assessment of this objective across the consortium.

Scores ranged from 2 to 7, pointing to a generally high level of agreement, while also reflecting some variation in individual experiences. The presence of a low score (2) indicates that this aspect of the project may not have been equally visible or accessible to all participants.

Overall, the results indicate that the development of new cooperation models was recognised as a significant component of the project’s activities, with most respondents evaluating it at the higher end of the scale.

This is reflected in qualitative feedback describing specific collaborative processes developed within the project:

“Regarding WP5, and the collaboration with partners from Tunisia, through this project a new model of intercontinental collaboration was explored and tested. The artistic production brought a great amount of knowledge and experience in both European and African theatre sector. One of the most significant moments is the mobility, and artistic residencies without which the moments of (de)confinement were tested. The collaboration brought together different perspectives and developed an artistic product which was a result of joint experience of this process.”

Anchoring long-term change in intercontinental cultural policy

Question 1c: In your view, how well has Deconfining contributed to the following objectives? (Scale 1–7: 1 = not at all, 7 = very well) [Anchoring long-term change in intercontinental cultural policy]

Respondents assessed the contribution of the Deconfining project to anchoring long-term change in intercontinental cultural policy at a moderate level. The average score was 4.7, with a median of 5, indicating a more varied and less strongly consolidated perception of this objective compared to other areas of the project.

Scores ranged from 2 to 6, with no responses at the highest end of the scale. This distribution indicates that while some participants recognised the project's contribution to policy-related outcomes, others reported more limited experience or visibility of this dimension.

Overall, the results point to a less consistent evaluation of policy impact across the consortium, with responses distributed more evenly across the mid-range of the scale.

This perspective is reflected in qualitative feedback highlighting both the scope of activities and the limits of observable policy change:

“Policy recommendations, published during the project's implementation, artistic creations, and touring activities, cover almost all the listed objectives, except anchoring long-term change. The change in this objective can be noticed only after the law system is updated accordingly.”

Addressing equity and justice in cultural cooperation

Question 1d: In your view, how well has Deconfining contributed to the following objectives? (Scale 1–7: 1 = not at all, 7 = very well) [Addressing equity and justice in cultural cooperation]

Respondents evaluated the contribution of the Deconfining project to addressing equity and justice in cultural cooperation positively. The average score was 5.5, with a median of 6, indicating a generally strong and consistent assessment of this objective.

Scores ranged from 2 to 7, reflecting a high level of agreement among respondents, while also pointing to some variation in individual experiences. The presence of lower scores confirms that this aspect of the project may have been perceived differently depending on participants' roles and contexts within the consortium.

Overall, the results indicate that issues of equity and justice were recognised as an important component of the project's activities.

This perspective is reflected in qualitative feedback highlighting both the contribution of the project and existing structural imbalances within the partnership:

“I think the project contributed to most of the objectives but we have to remain humbler about the achievements, all the more since except for Tunisia no partner from an African country could be equally be associated. Even if this could be tackled through the developed projects or the publications produced (to address ongoing challenges, less visible patterns like diasporic communities in Europe etc.)”

Strengthening intercontinental cultural diplomacy

Question 1e: In your view, how well has Deconfining contributed to the following objectives? (Scale 1–7: 1 = not at all, 7 = very well) [Strengthening intercontinental cultural diplomacy]

Respondents evaluated the contribution of the Deconfining project to strengthening intercontinental cultural diplomacy positively. The average score was 5.3, with a median of 6, indicating a generally strong assessment of this objective across the consortium.

Scores ranged from 3 to 7, reflecting a relatively broad distribution of responses. While most participants rated this aspect at the higher end of the scale, the presence of mid-range scores contributed to a slightly lower overall average.

Overall, the results suggest that cultural diplomacy was recognised as an important dimension of the project, although not experienced uniformly by all respondents.

This perspective is reflected in qualitative feedback emphasising the role of the project in rethinking cultural relations and institutional frameworks:

“Deconfining helps to rethink European cultural diplomacy by supporting inclusive and decentralised artistic practices. By building bridges between institutions in the North and South, it forms part of a broader drive to transform the European Union’s cultural policies and strengthen ties between Europe and the southern shore of the Mediterranean and Africa.”

In your view, how well has Deconfining contributed to the following objectives during Year 4? (Scale 1–7: 1 = not at all, 7 = very well)

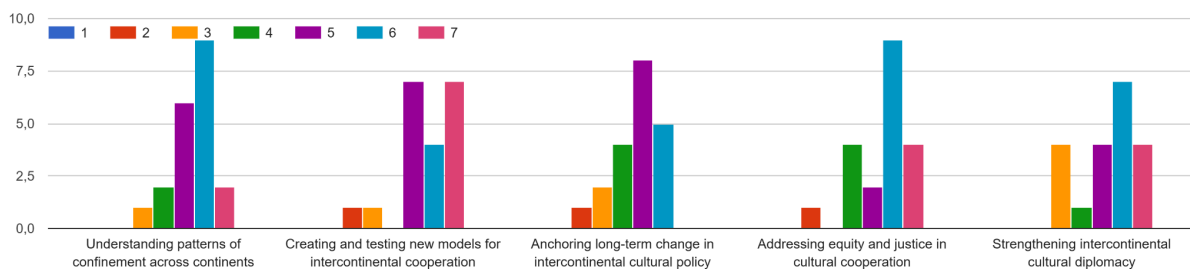


Figure 1. Distribution of responses (scale 1–7) across five project objectives: understanding confinement patterns, intercontinental cooperation models, policy impact, equity and justice, and cultural diplomacy (Year 4).

3.2 Project Objectives and Relevance – Comparison Year 3 and Year 4

This section presents a comparison between the evaluation results of Year 3 and Year 4 of the Deconfining project, focusing on five core objectives. The comparison is based on average scores (scale 1–7) and aims to identify continuities and changes in how these objectives were perceived over time.

Objective 1: Understanding confinement patterns across continents

In Year 3, the average score for this objective was 5.5. In Year 4, the average score was 5.45.

The results remain stable across both years, with only minimal variation. This confirms that the project's contribution to understanding confinement patterns remained consistent over time.

Objective 2: Creating and testing new models for intercontinental cooperation

In Year 3, the average score was 5.8. In Year 4, the average score was 5.65.

The evaluation remains consistently high, with a slight decrease in the average score. This indicates a continued recognition of the project's contribution to developing cooperation models, while also reflecting some variation in participants' experiences in the final year.

Objective 3: Anchoring long-term change in intercontinental cultural policy

In Year 3, the average score for this objective was 4.3. In Year 4, the average score was 4.7.

The comparison shows a moderate increase in the average score. While this confirms a slightly stronger perception of policy-related impact in Year 4, the results remain lower compared to other objectives, indicating that this dimension continues to be less consistently experienced across the consortium.

Objective 4: Addressing equity and justice in cultural cooperation

In Year 3, the average score was 5.5. In Year 4, the average score was 5.5.

The results show no change in the average score, indicating a stable and consistently positive evaluation of this objective across both years.

Objective 5: Strengthening intercontinental cultural diplomacy

In Year 3, the average score was 5.4 . In Year 4, the average score was 5.3.

The evaluation remains stable, with a slight decrease in the average score. This indicates that the perception of the project's contribution to cultural diplomacy remained strong, while showing minor variation in the final year.

Summary of comparison

Overall, the comparison between Year 3 and Year 4 indicates a high level of continuity in how the core objectives of the Deconfining project were evaluated. Most objectives maintained similar average scores, with only minor variations observed.

The strongest and most consistently evaluated areas across both years include:

- understanding confinement patterns
- intercontinental cooperation models

- equity and justice in cultural cooperation

The objective related to policy impact remains the lowest-rated area, despite a slight increase in Year 4, indicating that this dimension continues to require further development and long-term structural support. The comparison confirms a clear pattern: while the project maintains consistently strong results in collaborative and practice-based areas, policy-related impact remains less consolidated across both years.

Summary of Findings – Project Objectives & Relevance

The evaluation of how the Deconfining project contributed to its core objectives in Year 4 shows consistently strong results, alongside differences in how specific objectives were experienced.

Across all five objectives, respondents provided generally high evaluations, with average scores ranging from 4.7 to 5.65 on a 1–7 scale. The highest scores were recorded for creating and testing new models for intercontinental cooperation (5.65), followed by addressing equity and justice in cultural cooperation (5.5) and understanding patterns of confinement (5.45). These results indicate that the project's strongest perceived contributions lie in its collaborative frameworks, knowledge exchange, and relational approaches to cultural practice.

The objective of strengthening intercontinental cultural diplomacy (5.3) was also evaluated positively, although with slightly more variation in responses, suggesting that its outcomes may have been experienced unevenly across different contexts and roles within the project.

The lowest average score was observed for anchoring long-term change in intercontinental cultural policy (4.7). While still within a moderate range, this result confirms a less consolidated perception of policy-related impact. As reflected in qualitative responses, this may be linked to the longer timeframes required for structural or legislative change, as well as to differences in participants' exposure to policy-oriented activities.

The comparison with Year 3 results indicates a high level of continuity across all objectives. Most scores remained stable, with only minor fluctuations observed. A slight increase in the assessment of policy impact indicates a growing awareness of this dimension, although it continues to be less strongly recognised than other areas of the project.

Overall, the findings suggest that Deconfining has been most effective in fostering intercontinental collaboration, expanding professional networks, and supporting shared understanding across contexts. At the same time, areas such as policy impact and long-term structural change remain more complex and less uniformly experienced, pointing to the need for continued engagement beyond the project's timeframe.

4. Experience and Impact

Scope of the section

This section summarises participant reflections on how involvement in the Deconfining project during Year 4 influenced their professional practice and institutional activities. The analysis is based on responses to the following questions:

- How has your participation in Deconfining during Year 4 influenced your work?
- Please share one example of impact.

All responses in this section are based on qualitative input provided by participants.

Summary of responses

As shown in Figure 2, the most frequently reported impacts relate to the development of new networks, participation in intercontinental activities, and collaborative work. The responses indicate that participation in the project generated multiple types of impact, often overlapping across individual and institutional levels, including knowledge exchange, increased visibility, and access to new contexts.

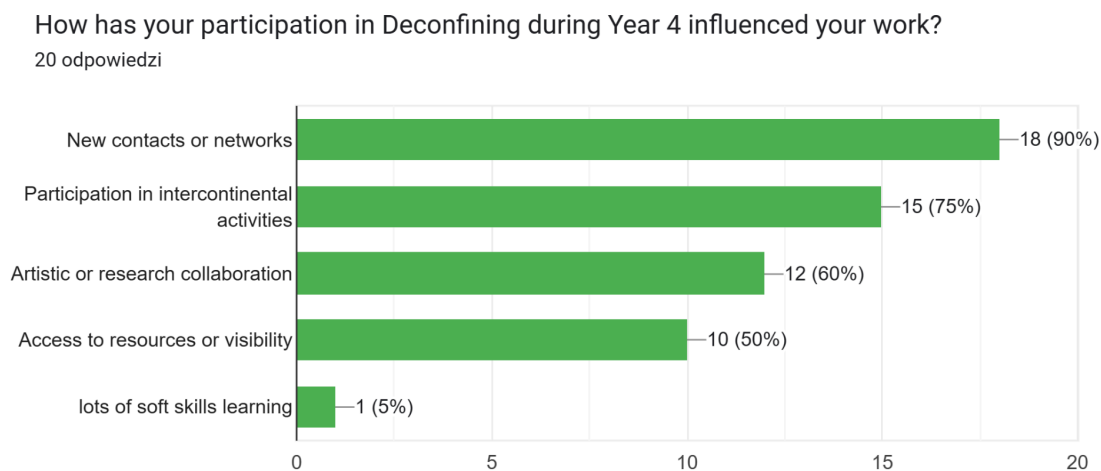


Figure 2. Reported impact of participation in Year 4, including development of networks, participation in intercontinental activities, collaboration, and access to resources (multiple responses possible).

These areas of impact were frequently reported in combination, indicating that the project's impact was multidimensional and that its key dimensions are closely interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

Key areas of impact

A central aspect of the reported impact concerns the development of networks and long-term professional relationships. Participants repeatedly referred to the importance of establishing

new contacts across continents and maintaining ongoing collaboration with partners from different institutional and cultural contexts. In some cases, this was described in very direct terms, such as “Networking,” while other responses highlighted more complex processes of building connections and sustaining them over time.

Closely linked to this is the role of artistic and institutional collaboration. Respondents provided multiple examples of joint productions, co-creation processes, and partnerships between organisations in Europe and Africa. These collaborations often resulted in tangible outputs, such as performances, exhibitions, or touring activities, but were also valued as processes of shared learning and experimentation.

Another significant dimension of impact relates to knowledge exchange and learning. Participants emphasised that the project contributed to a deeper understanding of intercontinental cooperation, particularly in relation to mobility, access, and structural conditions shaping cultural exchange. This learning was described as both practical and reflective, often emerging through direct collaboration as well as through dialogue with other participants.

In addition, respondents pointed to increased visibility and access to new audiences and contexts. Participation in the project enabled institutions and individuals to expand their reach, engage with new partners, and position their work within broader international frameworks. In some cases, this also translated into increased attendance, new collaborations, or extended dissemination of artistic and research outputs.

Summary of findings

Overall, the responses indicate that the impact of the Deconfining project in Year 4 was primarily experienced through relationships, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. These forms of impact are closely interlinked and often reinforce one another, creating a cumulative effect that extends beyond individual activities.

At the same time, the qualitative data suggests that these impacts are process-based and ongoing, rather than fully consolidated within the project timeframe, and are likely to continue developing beyond the duration of the project.

5. Cooperation and Mobility

Framing of the questions

This section summarises participant reflections on the most effective forms of cooperation within the Deconfining project in Year 4, as well as the main barriers affecting mobility and participation. The analysis is based on responses to the following questions:

- What forms of cooperation were most effective for you in Year 4?
- What were the biggest barriers to mobility or participation (if any)?

All responses in this section are based on qualitative input provided by participants.

Forms of cooperation

As shown in Figure 3, artistic exchange and institutional networking emerge as the most effective forms of cooperation in Year 4. The responses also indicate that cooperation within the project was multi-layered, typically combining different formats such as research collaboration, policy discussions, and peer learning or mentoring.

What forms of cooperation were most effective for you in Year 4?

20 odpowiedzi

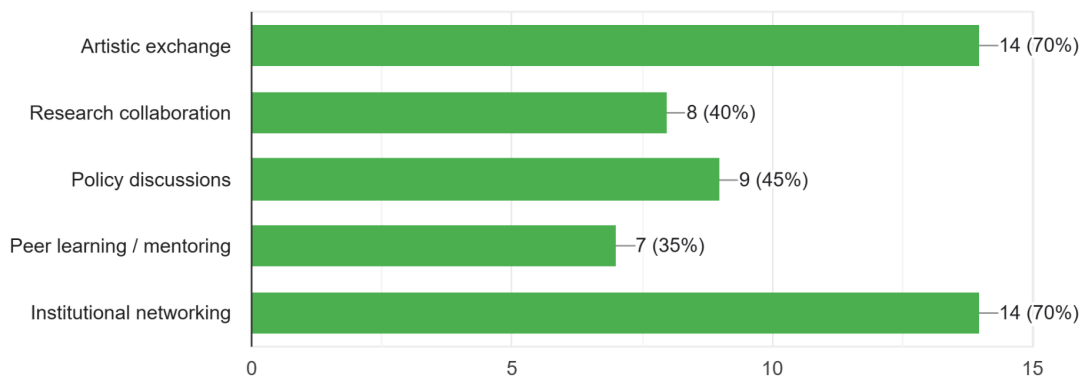


Figure 3. Most effective forms of cooperation in Year 4, including artistic exchange, institutional networking, policy discussions, research collaboration, and peer learning (multiple responses possible).

Rather than functioning as separate modes of engagement, these forms of cooperation were often intertwined. Participants described experiences in which artistic collaboration was closely linked to knowledge exchange, or where institutional networking supported both research and policy-oriented activities. This suggests that cooperation within the project operated as a hybrid and process-based model, rather than a set of discrete formats.

Mobility and participation barriers

Alongside these positive experiences, respondents consistently identified a range of barriers affecting mobility and participation. These challenges were not described as isolated or individual, but as structural conditions shaping the implementation of intercontinental cooperation.

The most frequently mentioned barriers relate to visa procedures and administrative restrictions. Several responses refer to these issues in direct terms, such as “Visa restrictions” or “Visas and travel/security restrictions,” while others describe more complex procedural challenges, including difficulties in accessing embassies, long waiting times, and uncertainty in planning travel. In one response, this is described as “the procedure for obtaining visas (...) was quite complicated,” highlighting both the administrative burden and the need for coordinated support between partners.

Financial constraints represent another recurring challenge. Respondents refer to “Not having funds,” “Funding, late planning,” or “visas and budgets,” pointing to the limited resources available for mobility and the impact of budgetary constraints on participation. In several cases, these financial limitations were linked to the project’s initial design, which was shaped during the COVID-19 period and placed a stronger emphasis on digital formats than on physical mobility.

A third group of challenges relates to broader geopolitical conditions and structural inequalities. Participants referred to “Difficult political situations,” “wars and riots,” or “economic or political confines,” indicating that mobility was often affected by factors beyond the project’s control. These conditions not only limited travel but also created uneven opportunities for participation across different regions.

This broader dimension is captured in one of the responses, which frames mobility as a systemic issue rather than a purely logistical one: “Mobility is one of the most pressing barriers and challenges (...) there is still a need to create balance, fairness, and access.” This perspective highlights the extent to which mobility constraints are embedded in wider political and institutional contexts.

Summary of findings

Overall, the responses show that cooperation within the Deconfining project was diverse, hybrid, and strongly rooted in artistic, institutional, and knowledge-based practices. Participants engaged simultaneously in multiple forms of collaboration, reflecting the project’s interdisciplinary and intercontinental structure.

At the same time, mobility and participation were consistently affected by structural constraints, particularly visa procedures, financial limitations, and geopolitical conditions. These barriers shaped not only the feasibility of travel but also the balance of participation across the consortium.

The findings therefore indicate that while the project successfully enabled intercontinental cooperation, it operated within conditions that were uneven and often difficult to navigate, pointing to ongoing challenges related to access, resources, and structural equity.

6. Quality of Content and Communication

Framing of the questions

This section presents participants’ evaluation of the quality of content produced within the Deconfining project in Year 4, as well as their assessment of communication and dissemination practices. The analysis is based on responses to the following questions:

- How do you evaluate the quality of content created in Year 4?
- Please elaborate
- Were you satisfied with the communication and dissemination during Year 4?

- If not, what could be improved?

Quality of content

The evaluation of content quality in Year 4 is consistently positive. All respondents assessed the quality as either “Good” or “Excellent,” indicating a strong and widely shared perception of the value and relevance of the project’s outputs.

How do you evaluate the quality of content created in Year 4? (e.g. workshops, publications, exhibitions, events)

20 odpowiedzi

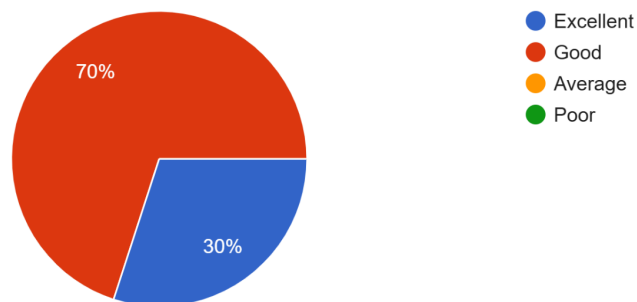


Figure 4. Evaluation of the quality of content created in Year 4, including workshops, publications, exhibitions, and events.

Participants frequently emphasised the quality of both artistic and research-based work, pointing to its relevance, methodological rigor, and engagement with the project’s core themes. As one respondent noted, “The content produced in Year 4 was of excellent quality, both in terms of relevance and execution,” highlighting the alignment between the project’s objectives and its outcomes.

At the same time, several responses stress the importance of the project’s process-oriented approach. Rather than focusing solely on finished outputs, participants valued the space created for experimentation and development. This is reflected in the observation that the project placed “emphasis on process over polish—creating space for ideas to evolve,” suggesting that the quality of content was also linked to the conditions under which it was produced.

However, some respondents pointed to areas for further improvement, particularly in relation to timeframes and coordination. References to the need for “longer periods of cooperation” or a “more consistent and systematic timeline” indicate that while the quality of outputs was high, the processes supporting their development could be further strengthened.

Communication and dissemination

The evaluation of communication and dissemination is overwhelmingly positive, with the vast majority of respondents expressing satisfaction with how information was shared and activities were communicated.

Were you satisfied with the communication and dissemination during Year 4?

20 odpowiedzi

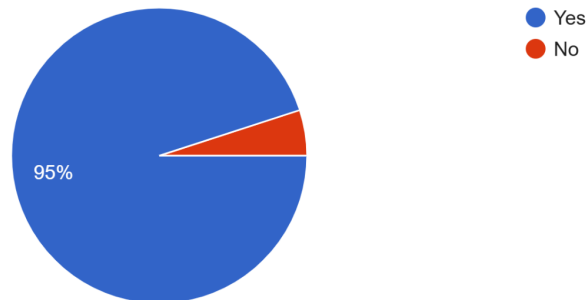


Figure 5. Satisfaction with communication and dissemination during Year 4.

At the same time, qualitative responses reveal a more nuanced picture. While communication processes were generally perceived as effective, not all participants felt they had a full overview of the project's outputs or activities. One respondent noted that "the content I'm familiar with was ok, though I've only seen a fraction of what was created," while another pointed out that "even as a project partner I don't have an overview of the project's outputs."

These responses reveal a clear gap between communication processes and the overall visibility of project outputs. In other words, information was shared, but not always in a way that enabled a comprehensive understanding of the project as a whole.

Summary of findings

Overall, the findings confirm that the Deconfining project maintained a high level of content quality in Year 4, with strong recognition of its artistic, research, and collaborative outputs.

At the same time, the responses reveal a clear gap between effective communication processes and full visibility of project outputs. This suggests that future projects may benefit from stronger mechanisms for consolidating and presenting results in a more accessible and comprehensive way, particularly for internal stakeholders.

PART II – Overall Project Reflection

7. Overall Project Reflection

This section presents a reflective overview of the Deconfining project across its full duration, based on participant responses concerning outcomes, value, sustainability, challenges, and recommendations for future initiatives.

Overall impact and most important outcomes

Looking across the entire duration of the project, respondents consistently describe its impact as relational, collaborative, and process-based. The most important outcomes are linked to the development of intercontinental networks, artistic co-creation, and knowledge exchange, which together contributed to new forms of cooperation between institutions and individuals across Europe and Africa.

Participants frequently emphasised the importance of partnerships and long-term relationships, describing the project in terms such as “quality of the partnership, co-creation and cooperation, and knowledge transfer” or “networks and friendships created and expanded.” These responses indicate that one of the project’s most significant achievements lies in building connections that extend beyond individual activities.

At the same time, respondents highlighted the importance of intellectual and policy-related outputs. The project generated a substantial body of research, publications, and reflections, described in one response as “a colossal and necessary piece of work,” pointing to its potential relevance for broader cultural and policy discussions.

Artistic production also emerges as a central outcome, particularly where it involved co-creation across different cultural contexts. Respondents referred to performances, films, and exhibitions that brought together diverse artistic practices and perspectives, contributing to both innovation and mutual understanding.

Value of the programme and key elements

As shown in Figure 6, intercontinental networking is identified as the most valuable element of the project, alongside artistic production and mobility-related activities. Other important components include research collaboration, policy dialogue, and publications or platforms. What stands out, however, is not only the value of these elements individually, but the way in which they were combined.

Which elements of the project were most valuable for you or your institution?

20 odpowiedzi

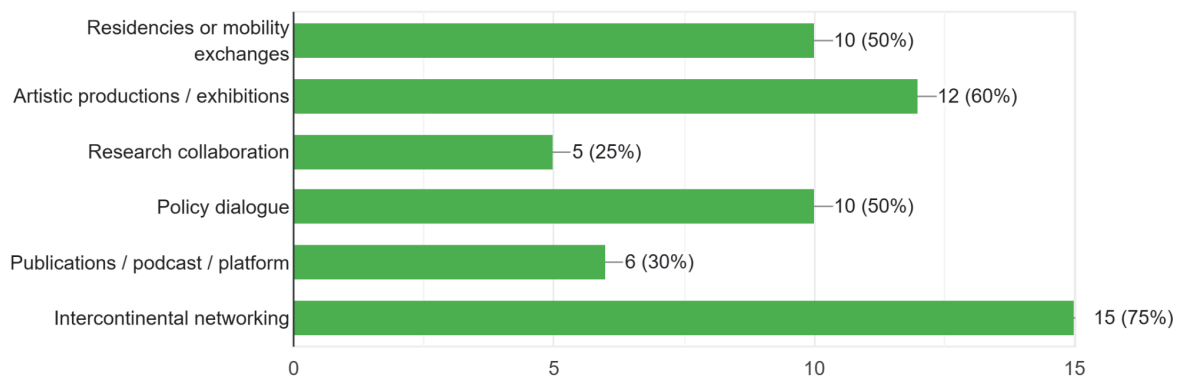


Figure 6. Most valuable elements of the project for participants and their institutions, including networking, artistic production, mobility, policy dialogue, and research collaboration (multiple responses possible).

Participants repeatedly emphasised that the project’s strength lies in the integration of practice, reflection, and exchange. Residencies created space for experimentation, mobility enabled direct engagement with different contexts, and policy dialogue connected artistic work to broader structural questions. Together, these elements supported both professional development and institutional positioning, while also contributing to a deeper understanding of intercontinental cooperation.

Sustainability and future directions

A clear majority of respondents expressed interest in continuing collaboration beyond the project’s duration. Planned follow-up actions include maintaining partnerships, developing new project proposals, expanding research and publication activities, and creating platforms that support mobility and knowledge exchange.

Examples such as follow-up Creative Europe applications or the development of an “Africa Mobility Infopoint” platform indicate that the project has already generated concrete initiatives aimed at sustaining its impact.

At the same time, respondents note that the continuation of these activities depends on external conditions, particularly funding frameworks and mobility infrastructures. This highlights the extent to which sustainability is not only a matter of intention, but also of structural support.

Challenges and risks

Across responses, several recurring challenges emerge, most of which relate to structural conditions rather than individual factors. Mobility restrictions—particularly visa procedures—are consistently identified as one of the most significant barriers, affecting both planning and participation. These challenges are often compounded by financial limitations,

administrative complexities, and broader geopolitical conditions, including political instability and security concerns.

In addition to these external factors, respondents also point to organisational challenges, such as changes in staff, communication gaps, or coordination across diverse institutional and cultural contexts. In some cases, these issues were further intensified by unforeseen risks, including disruptions caused by political situations or difficulties in implementing planned activities.

Taken together, these responses indicate that intercontinental cooperation operates within a complex environment shaped by both structural inequalities and external uncertainties.

Recommendations for future projects

Participants provide a range of recommendations for future intercontinental cultural cooperation projects, which converge around several key themes.

A central recommendation concerns the need to ensure more balanced and equitable partnerships, as reflected in calls for “equal engagement of the partners” and greater attention to structural asymmetries. Closely linked to this is the importance of improving planning and coordination mechanisms, including clearer structures, better resource allocation, and more realistic timelines.

Another recurring theme is the need to address mobility challenges more effectively, for example by involving public institutions earlier in the process or by developing tools that facilitate access to information on visas, funding, and administrative procedures.

Finally, respondents emphasise the importance of long-term approaches to cooperation, including sustained networking, continued dialogue, and the development of platforms that support knowledge exchange beyond the duration of individual projects.

Summary of Part II

Overall, the findings indicate that the Deconfining project has successfully established a strong foundation for intercontinental cooperation, particularly through its focus on networks, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

At the same time, the responses highlight a clear distinction between the strength of relational and collaborative outcomes and the constraints imposed by structural conditions, including mobility, funding, and geopolitical factors. This suggests that while the project has generated meaningful and lasting connections, their long-term sustainability will depend on the development of more supportive frameworks for intercontinental cultural cooperation.

Conclusion

The evaluation of the Deconfining project confirms that it has successfully established a strong framework for intercontinental cultural cooperation, particularly through its focus on artistic collaboration, network-building, and knowledge exchange. Across all sections of the report, participants consistently highlight the value of relationships developed within the project and the importance of co-creation as a central working method.

The findings indicate that the project achieved its strongest results in collaborative and practice-based areas, where direct engagement between partners enabled meaningful exchange, experimentation, and the development of new professional connections. These outcomes are closely linked to the project's process-oriented approach, which prioritised dialogue, shared experience, and the integration of artistic and research practices.

At the same time, the evaluation reveals more limited and less consolidated impact at the policy level. While the project generated relevant research, publications, and reflections, their translation into long-term structural change remains dependent on external factors and longer timeframes.

A recurring theme across the report concerns the structural conditions shaping intercontinental cooperation. Mobility constraints, visa procedures, financial limitations, and geopolitical factors are consistently identified as key challenges affecting both participation and the balance of collaboration. These findings highlight that the effectiveness of such projects is closely tied to broader systemic frameworks, which remain uneven and difficult to navigate.

Despite these constraints, the project has created a durable foundation for future collaboration. Many participants express a clear intention to continue working together, building on existing partnerships, developing new initiatives, and expanding networks established through Deconfining.

Overall, the evaluation suggests that the project's most significant contribution lies not only in its outputs, but in its ability to generate sustained relationships, shared knowledge, and new ways of working across continents. Ensuring the long-term impact of these achievements will require continued support, more flexible mobility frameworks, and a sustained commitment to equitable and balanced cooperation.