

SMartEu and the AEBR network

SMart has been developing services for creative arts professionals (artists, cultural operators, managers, technicians, etc.) since 1998. It operates tools and services that facilitate administrative and accounting procedures for those who work on a project basis, thus participating in social innovation. Its main service is an online tool that allows CCPs (Creative and Cultural Professionals) to manage the administrative and financial aspects of their projects in a flexible and simplified manner. SMartBe (located in Belgium), was the first SMart entity and offers the widest panel of services. These include providing information on its websites, as well as training, insurance, tailor-made advice, studies, legal advice, crowdfunding and advocacy for its tens of thousands of members.

With its roots in the social economy, SMart functions as a mutual society. It continually pools and reinvests surpluses for the enhancement of existing services and the development of new ones. Members are both stakeholders and governors of the organisation and ensure its democratic governance. They also guarantee that tools meet their needs and follow the sector's evolution.

By becoming active in a number of European countries, SMart aims to deliver solutions adapted to local needs and improve international mobility for creative professionals. The SMartEu network is active in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Hungary and the United Kingdom.

As shown in many studies (and by the European Union working groups on the topic), the main obstacles for the mobility of artists and their work, lie in the administrative burdens and legal constraints linked to the multiple social security and tax systems across Europe. Through its network, knowledge and tools, SMart aims to not only provide contracting and invoicing solutions for mobile creative professionals, but also to provide tools for transnational projects. One of the concrete services being developed is a crowd funding platform intimately connected to the SMart tools. This platform, called *Push* (www.pushcreativity.org), is to be launched in Belgium first, and gradually made international through the SMartEu network.

SMart is eager to collaborate with interested persons and organisations.