

Together with the regions of Northeast Italy – and since 29 January also as part of an exchange with the cultural organisations of the Euregio Tyrol - South Tyrol – Trentino – the province of South Tyrol has been a candidate for the title of European Capital of Culture 2019. As the bid coordinator Innocenzo Cipolletta explained, the candidacy is a way of establishing culture as means of developing the economy and society.

South Tyrol, Trentino, the Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia regions, and the province and city of Venice have been working since February 2011 on their joint bid for the title of European Capital of Culture 2019. Multilingualism and cross-border cooperation are regarded as one of the central features of the bid, which is why the Euregio Tyrol - South Tyrol – Trentino has also been involved.

At the invitation of the three assessors for culture of South Tyrol, the main cultural organisations and cultural institutions from the three Euregio provinces met at the University of Bolzano to explore the opportunities for cross-border cooperation during a number of workshops.

The workshops were opened by assessor Christian Tommasini, responsible within the South Tyrol government for the Capital of Culture project, Birgit Oberkofler, Secretary-General of the Euroregion, and Peter Paul Kainrath, scientific head of South Tyrol's Bid Committee. Mr Tommasini emphasised that the candidacy of South Tyrol and its neighbouring provinces is a strategic project: "For the first time, we are focusing on culture as a vehicle for the sustainable development of our province. Investment in our bid should also be seen as investment in the province. We expect this project to lead to the creation of quality jobs in the cultural sector, economic growth, and added value for the whole population."

The workshop participants analysed the status of the bid in all cultural sectors: music, literature, theatre, museums, creative businesses, and the independent arts scene. Besides focusing on the Capital of Culture bid, today's exchange of ideas served above all to promote the development of cross-border cooperation in the cultural field. The findings and results of today's deliberations will be set out in a document that will be included in the Bid Book.