

The logo for CONNECT INTERNATIONAL. The word "CONNECT" is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a blue circular icon with a white horizontal line through its center, resembling a network node or a stylized eye. The word "INTERNATIONAL" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font directly below "CONNECT".

CONNECT
INTERNATIONAL

The title "ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW" is displayed in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The word "ORGANIZATION" is contained within a solid blue horizontal bar. Below "OVERVIEW", there is a thin blue horizontal line. The background features a network of glowing blue nodes and lines, and a faint globe at the bottom.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The website address "www.connect-international.com" is written in a white, sans-serif font at the bottom center of the page. The background consists of a dark blue field with a network of glowing blue nodes and lines, and a faint globe at the bottom.

www.connect-international.com

Experience

During the ten years of our existence as a network, we have carried out activities that have been funded by various European Commission programs (ERASMUS+, Europe for Citizens, Creative Europe), the Council of Europe youth sector, the European Youth Foundation, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty, numerous local authorities, and national ministries. Our work was also recognized by the ERASMUS+CSC program in 2020, when we were awarded a one-year operation grant as well as by the Council of Europe operation grant in 2022.

Over the last 10 years, CI has implemented over **35 projects** and carried out over **70 activities** clustered around our work's pillars. As an ENGO, we focus our activities on raising capacities and developing members of our network but also have programs and goals supporting other stakeholders working in the field of digital rights or contributing to the digital agenda. Over **10,000 people** were involved in our project activities and we reached millions through various communication channels. Our work is entirely evidence-based and delivered through non-formal education methodology. This implies that before any of our projects' activities are carried out, we conduct extensive need analysis. When we carry out activities, we make sure that they are always inclusive and participatory, ensuring that project outputs are the result of group work. In our daily work, we employ seminars, trainings, stakeholder meetings, hackathons, festivals, living libraries, workshops, online events, and other formats that encourage debate and active participation.

Our structure

Our structure is based on **democratic principles**, and the Organization is entirely governed by its members. The **General Assembly (GA)**, the Organization's highest decision-making body, is composed of all full-members of CONNECT. The **Executive Board (Board)**, which is made up of professionals from different areas of Europe who bring a different set of experience and perspectives to CI's work, puts GA's **strategies and standards into action**.

CONNECT's General Assembly has approved a 5-year strategy which includes a series of actions clustered around phases on how to leverage our mission to fulfill the organization's vision. The strategic and work plan are managed in two steps (program and project management), ensuring that each activity contributes to the fulfillment of our strategic goals. These programs are overseen by a group of people from MOs and Board Members (Working Groups), who ensure that everything is carried out in accordance with the strategic objectives. In each program, we develop particular projects to assist us in achieving these objectives. Working groups decide who will be the project manager for certain projects, and this is subsequently provided to the Board for approval. Project managers ensure that the project runs well and that the objectives are met. CI also has a pool of experts and trainers that come from across Europe and are bringing different expertise needed in our work.



References

Quality of our work is proven by the implantation of successful projects. Some of them were **declared as best practice** projects by ERASMUS+ and are **quoted in yearly reports of European Youth Foundations**. It is not just projects that confirm our work value; we also receive recognition from institutions by receiving structural support and by being nominated by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Committee of Ministers' Advisory Council on Youth as one of 10 organizations to contribute to the development of Council of Europe's Youth policy. To learn more about our work and access our publications visit connect-international.org/work

Who are we?

CONNECT International (CI) is a Brussels-based international network founded to serve as a hub for various stakeholders working on the digital agenda and in the field of digital rights. We are guided by a mission to create innovative European projects in order to ensure mainstreaming of digital rights and digital agenda with young people and other active citizens.

CONNECT started operating as an informal network in 2012 and grew in profile and experience until it was officially registered in 2017. Our growing international network currently has **29 NGO members and 16 stakeholder members from 31 countries.**

Our members believe that partnerships and networks are vital agents of change. The network is led by an experienced team of professionals, and it brings together members and partners working in the aforementioned fields. All member organizations are involved in the everyday work of the CONNECT, through delegated responsibility for the implementation of activities in their area of expertise.



Within its innovative European projects and activities, CONNECT International brings together individuals and organizations focused on its four strategic goals/pillars:



Digital Citizenship – Developing digital tools aimed at improving the efficiency of democratic institutions, strengthening decision-making processes, and fostering youth participation to make democracy more efficient and resilient, in a way that reflects the needs and desires of young people.



Digital Rights – Ensuring protection and respect of human rights in the virtual space through work on human rights education and promotion of the equal application of the Human Rights Convention in the digital world.



Digital Access – Supporting free and open access to the Internet as a key to the personal, social, and economic development of individuals and societies in the 21st century through online education, increasing digital literacy and building skills.



Digital Innovation – Actively engaging in and supporting innovative practices, ideas and ICT development as a tool for improving the way we work, learn, communicate, access public services, and entertain ourselves.

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