



GCDN WORKGROUPS – LAUNCHING MAY 2024

Dear GCDNers,

As you know, this year we are initiating a series of Network-only activities to create more year-round peer networking and exchange. The first is a program of workgroups which will provide an opportunity for collaboration between members and contribute to the deeper understanding of issues of broad, shared interest.

We propose the following areas, based on the GCDN's updated intellectual agenda:

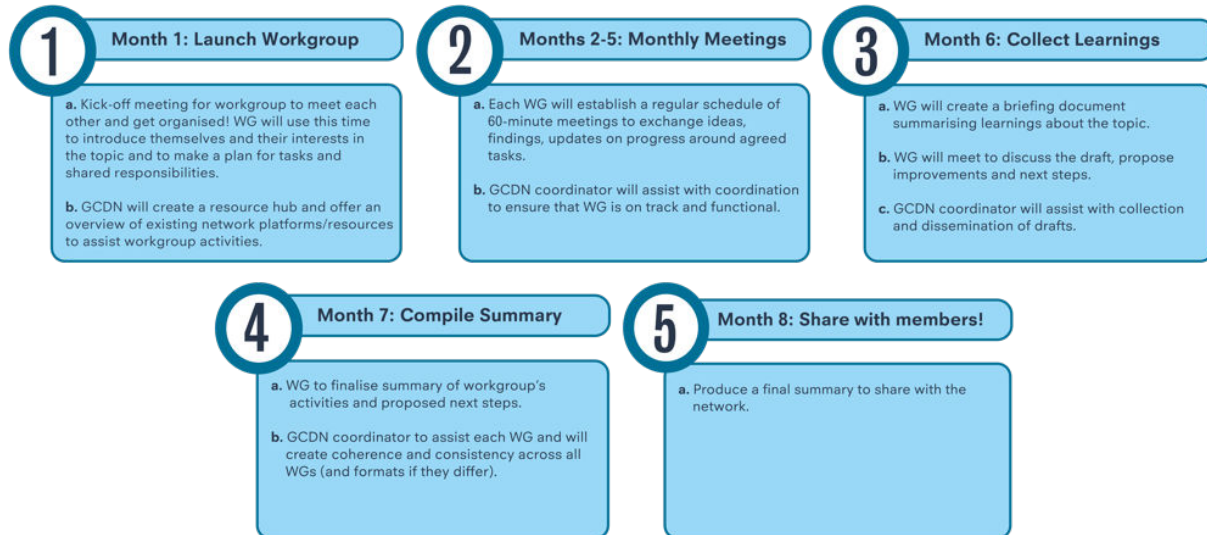
- **Opportunities and challenges of technology** (e.g. smart city technologies and cultural districts; the drive for new digital-based experiences; new skills for the age of AI).
- **Civic wellbeing and community development** (e.g. preserving affordable creative space; addressing local community needs while catering for broader markets).
- **Adapting to the climate crisis** (e.g. modifying infrastructure and resilience planning in the face of coming environmental challenges).
- **Business models, investing, and finance** (e.g. new and innovative revenue streams; tapping into new financing models).

To ensure a collaborative environment, we aim for the workgroups to be as inclusive as possible, without the imposition of hierarchies. We encourage you to extend this invitation to colleagues within your organization who may not yet be in direct contact with the GCDN but could be interested to participate because it relates to their job responsibilities or professional interests.

Workgroups should revolve around specific themes, with the first session dedicated to refining these into focused challenges. The invitation of external experts on a voluntary basis is welcome. We encourage active participation and shared responsibility among peers within workgroups by suggesting that workgroup members take turns as minute-keepers.

We would like each workgroup to have 5-8 participants who will commit to a monthly hour-long session (at least) for 7-8 months beginning in May 2024. To maximize the positive contribution to the wider network, we suggest that each group produces a summary briefing in a format of their choosing that will be shared within the GCDN exclusively.

A proposed timeline is:



Each workgroup will have a dedicated associate from GCDN to ensure smooth operation and assist with basic coordination and process follow-up. The meetings will be virtual, with the GCDN providing tools as required.

The GCDN's strength has always been the diversity of its perspectives and our members' professional experiences. As such, we believe these workgroups will enable insightful and useful responses to challenges in the proposed areas of mutual interest.

We are excited to invite expressions of interest from you (and/or colleagues within your organization) to join one of these workgroups via this form by 18 March 2024:

<https://forms.gle/nm3rWriiMvYAKwa3A>

Best wishes,

Team GCDN
February 2024