

Paris, September 9th, 2016

**Press release**

### **The Forum d'Avignon is looking for a partner**

In spite of the success of its various manifestations and especially the last edition held in Bordeaux last spring, the Forum d'Avignon is in a tight financial situation, which led its Board to decide to explore all forms of affiliation to partners, in particular communication or media groups.

The difficult economic context of funding cultural projects involving companies and public partners, did not allow overcoming the withdrawal since 2015 of the contribution of the Ministry of culture and communication and its operators.

For 9 years, the Forum d'Avignon has become a key space for exchange and reflection about cultural diversity and dialogue between artistic creation and economic innovation.

Eight editions of the International meetings were organized in Avignon, Paris and Bordeaux.

The Forum also expanded to the international scale, in Germany (5 editions of the Forum d'Avignon Ruhr in Essen, including the last one on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016), in Spain (Bilbao) and for the first time next September 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> in Canada (Toronto).

#### ***Since its creation, the Forum has:***

- *Popularized the impact of the cultural and creative sector on the economy with 6% of the GDP and 8 million direct jobs in Europe and the multiplier effect of cultural investments on growth;*
- *Written a "Preliminary declaration of the digital human rights" ([www.ddhn.org](http://www.ddhn.org)) claiming that personal data is a cultural stake;*
- *Launched the first comparative analyses on creation taxation in European countries and G20;*
- *Analyzed each year the cultural practices of Internet-users and economic models in more than 10 countries or promoted with concrete proposals the emergence of a new generation of cultural and creative entrepreneurs...;*
- *Involved more than 40 nationalities that participate in the debate of ideas, 12 partner universities and more than 1000 participants every year;*
- *Sponsored more than 35 studies and proposals in both French and English (downloadable on [www.forum-avignon.org](http://www.forum-avignon.org))*
- *Solicited more than 200 international contributors for the think-tank and published online more than 500 videos and interviews;*
- *Created the first Cultural Start-up Award.*

The Board