

Student Agora Information

Rationale

The creative industry faces significant opportunities and challenges in the 21st century. To make our Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) more innovative, attractive and resilient, we need to make the most of our HEIs' internal resources and talent. This includes becoming innovative and in tune with industry and market needs. For this very reason, the European university FilmEU has the pleasure of inviting you to participate in Agora, a regularly occurring think tank initiative consisting of a diverse group of students, academics, industry experts, keynote speakers, and the FilmEU Advisory Board. Agora is called together to tackle some of the most potent opportunities and pressing challenges that creative and cultural education faces today. Therefore, we really do need you!

What is Agora?

Agora is a think tank initiative that utilises the expertise of our stakeholders to better face the opportunities and challenges concerning contemporary HEIs and can become even more powerful with student engagement. Agora is an international forum designed to foster meaningful discussions, share experiences and generate new ideas about the issues that matter most. It is also about bringing together a diverse group of participants who are passionate about expressing their ideas and who want to make a difference in the higher education landscape and in society more broadly. This initiative will culminate in the development of a position paper and a short documentary that consolidates the group's ideas and perspectives. The paper and documentary are intended to serve as informative and thought-provoking resources, fostering understanding and dialogue not only within the FilmEU community but also among wider audiences beyond it.

Agora short summary for Students:

- Agora will consist of 1 academic and 2 students from each school within the FilmEU University.
- It is a safe place to share experiences and generate ideas.
- Topic of Agora for 2026-2027: **"What Does It Mean to Be Independent in Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors Today?"**. This topic will explore what independence means for emerging creative professionals in Europe today and how students can be better prepared and empowered to build sustainable careers and meaningful professional autonomy.
- The first Agora meeting will be held online on Wednesday the 21st of October at 2pm CET with regular online meetings throughout.
- As well as online meetings, the Agora group will also meet in person 2 to 3 times throughout the academic year. The proposed 'in person Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP'S) will happen in VSMU, Bratislava from the 30th of November – 4th December 2026, IADT Dublin 1st – 5th March 2027 and VIA, Aarhus 31st May – 4th June 2027 (all TBC) where you will participate in workshops and classes to help you understand the topic, this week will also include guest speakers.

How to Get Involved:

- Apply to our Call through [the expression of interest form](#). If your application is shortlisted, you will proceed to the interview stage.
- Attend Agora Sessions: participate in meetings.
- Commit to a one-year membership.
- Don't miss this chance to be part of a vibrant community that is making a difference. Whether you're passionate about technology, want to promote interdisciplinary cooperation or eager to advocate for underrepresented voices, Agora is the place for you.
- Join AGORA to explore what independence means for emerging creatives in Europe and what is needed to build sustainable creative careers.

Advantages of being part of Agora

- Engage with Academic and Industry Experts: Gain unique insights from academics who are shaping the future.
- An opportunity to Voice Your Opinions: Share your thoughts and experiences in a supportive and inclusive environment.
- Broaden Your Perspectives: Hear from a diverse range of participants, including those whose voices are often overlooked.
- Shape the Future: Contribute to interdisciplinary discussions that will influence how certain topics integrate into our work lives and society, thereby making a difference.
- Networking opportunities: connect with like-minded peers.
- Become an active part of the FilmEU Community.
- Opportunities to travel and attend conferences / events / webinars.