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Nordic Council of Ministers

Final Report Trans Nordic Net (2008-2010)

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Trans Europe Halles – A European Network of Independent Cultural Centers – www.teh.net

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KULTURRÅDET
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Mejeriet



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1. About Trans Europe Halles

Trans Europe Halles (TEH) is a European Network of Independent Cultural Centres. Founded in 1983, the network currently has 50 members and 13 Friend organisations (associated members) in 25 countries. TEH provides a stimulating platform for exchange, support and co-operation between its members. It runs and coordinates several bilateral and multilateral cultural projects. TEH projects, activities and meetings deal with topics such as intercultural exchange, sociopolitical themes and current global issues. The network collaborates with several cultural organisations and networks and is actively involved in the discussions around European cultural policy.

2. Background - Trans Nordic Project

In 2005-2007, TEH realized a project called Trans Nordic Project. The project was funded by the Nordic Culture Fund. Within this project, TEH did a mapping of independent cultural centres in the Nordic and Baltic regions. Hundreds of organisations were contacted for the mapping of independent cultural centres and as a result nine new members and Friend organisations joined the network. In addition, a Trans Nordic Project meeting was held the 16th of May 2007 in Vilnius, Lithuania. 16 cultural centres from six different countries participated. During the meeting the cultural centres expressed a great interest in collaborating, mostly in the fields of exchange of artists and professional development. Thanks to the Trans Nordic Project a new basis for collaboration between the Nordic and Baltic cultural centres in TEH was established. To be able to build on the experiences from the Trans Nordic Project and further facilitate collaborations and joint Nordic/Baltic/European projects, TEH applied for long-term network funding from Nordic Culture Point to set up the informal platform Trans Nordic Net.

3. About Trans Nordic Net

Late 2007, TEH was awarded a multi-annual grant by the Nordic Culture Point for Trans Nordic Net (2008-2010). Trans Nordic Net is an informal platform that aims to facilitate Nordic cooperation within TEH and beyond. The platform uses the connections, knowledge and experiences of TEH. The main aims of Trans Nordic Net are 1) to develop and increase the collaboration between independent culture centres in the Nordic

countries within TEH. The main focus for collaborations is set on the exchange of knowledge, experiences, contacts and joint projects. 2) To use these collaborations to test projects that can later be realized on European scale involving the whole network. Trans Nordic Net also aims at increasing Nordic-European collaboration by deepening the Nordic cultural centres' contacts with partners in for instance the Baltic countries, the Barents area, Russia and Belarus.

4. Economy, management & partners

TEH has been awarded a multi-annual grant for Trans Nordic Net (2008-2010) by Nordic Culture Point (NCP)/the Nordic Council of Ministers. The total 3-year grant awarded was 50 000€. The grant was originally given exclusively to cover the salary costs of the Trans Nordic Net Project Manager (that also functions as TEH Marketing & Communication Manager). In June 2009 we submitted a revised budget for Trans Nordic Net, which was accepted by the NCP. The new budget had room for small financial support to projects in development by the Trans Nordic Net partners. Three initiatives received funding: The Nordic Cultural Leaders project, TEH TV and the interview project resulting in the booklet 'Nordic Perspectives on European Network'. Filip Lundberg, approved public accountant, has made the audit and approved the project accounts.

The Trans Nordic Net Project Manager is responsible for the communication and coordination of Trans Nordic Net. From the 1st of January 2008 to the 1st of July 2008 the project was managed by TEH Secretary General Birgitta Persson. From the 1st of July 2008 to the end of February 2009 the project was managed by TEH Marketing & Communication Manager Essi Aittamaa. In November 2008, Zanda Zilgalve from the cultural centre NOASS (Riga, Latvia) did a one-month internship at the TEH Coordination Office. During her internship she assisted Essi Aittamaa and worked full-time with Trans Nordic Net. From March 2009 onwards Anna Weitz has held the position as Trans Nordic Net Project Manager/ TEH Marketing & Communication Manager.

PARTNERS:

Huset (Århus, DK),
Verkatehdas (Hämeenlinna, FI),
Kaapelitehdas (Helsinki, FI),
Korjaamo Culture Factory (Helsinki, FI),
Rytmikorjaamo (Seinäjoki, FI),
Parkteatret Scene (Oslo, NO),
Tou Scene (Stavanger, NO),
Arena Vestfossen (Vestfossen, NO),
Konstepidemin (Gothenburg, SE),
Mejeriet (Lund, SE),
Röda Sten Art Centre (Gothenburg, SE),
Subtopia (Stockholm, SE),
Not Quite (Fengersfors, SE),
Culturen (Västerås, SE),
Drömmarnas Hus (Malmö, SE),
Kulturhuset Mazetti (Malmö, SE)

CO-OPERATING PARTNERS:

WUK (Vienna, AU),

Free Theatre (Minsk, BY),
Halles de Schaerbeek (Brussels, BE),
Pro Rodopi Art Centre (Bostina, BG),
JOHAN Centrum (Pilsen, CZ)
Creative Center Carnation (Tartu, EE),
Kultuuritehas Polymer (Tallinn, EE),
La Friche la Belle de Mai (Marseille, FR)
L'avant Rue (Paris, FR),
Mains D'Oeuvres (St Ouen, FR),
TNT (Bordeaux, FR)
Alte Feuerwache (Cologne, DE)
Kulturzentrum Schlachthof (Bremen, DE)
Moritzbastei (Leipzig, DE)
UfaFabrik (Berlin, DE)
Z-Bau (Nurnberg, DE)
A38 (Budapest, HU)
CityArts (Dublin, IE)
Buenaventura (Castelfranco, IT)
Interzona (Verona, IT)
OZU (Monteleone Sabino, IT)

NOASS (Riga, LV),
Arts Printing House (Vilnius, LT),
Kulturfabrik (Esch sur Alzette, LU)
Laznia Nowa (Cracow, PL)
Lodz Art Centre (Lodz, PL)
REX (Belgarde, SR)
A4 - Zero Space (Bratislava, SK)
Tabacka kulturfabrik (Kosice, SK)
Stanica (Zilina, SK)
ACC Metelkova mesto (Ljubljana, SL)
Pekarna (Maribor, SL)
Melkweg (Amsterdam, NL)
P60 (Amstelveen, NL)

Beat Initiative (Belfast, UK)
The Junction (Cambridge, UK)
Village Underground (London, UK)
Artfactories/Autre(s)pARTs (FR)
Réseau Actes If (FR)
ACTA (Associazione cultura Turismo Ambiente)
(IT)
LX Factory (PT)
Toaca Cultural Foundation (RO)
Anténa network (SK)
Pushkinskaya 10 (RU)
Proekt Fabrika (Moscow, RU)

5. Meetings

During the beginning of 2008, the TNN Project Manager gathered information from the partners concerning their needs and wishes. The first TNN meeting was organised in connection with the Aurora Borealis conference hosted by Parkteatret, Oslo, Norway, on 2-4 March 2008. TEH organises two network meetings every year that are hosted by member centres in rotation. The network meetings are the backbone of TEH and have been the natural meeting place for TNN beside the separate meetings. The second and third separate TNN meetings were organized in connection to TEH Meeting 66 at Tou Scene, Stavanger, Norway, 18-21 September 2008, and at TEH Meeting 67 at Stanica, Zilina, Slovakia, 7-10 May 2009. The most recent TEH Meeting 70 at Moritzbastei, Leipzig, Germany, 9-12 September 2010 included a TNN presentation with project outcomes, voices from the Nordic Leaders group and the TEH Media Network.

6. Projects

7.1 NORDIC CULTURAL LEADERS TRAINING

During the meeting in Stavanger, six Nordic partners decided to set up a training programme for leaders of independent, Nordic cultural centres. On 14-15 March 2009, the first session was hosted by Subtopia. The aim of the meeting was to establish this group as a platform for mutual support and sharing of tools for handling the everyday leadership in independent cultural organisations. A second and a third training session were held in Berlin, 25-26 November 2009 and at Röda Sten, 27-28 October 2010. The meeting in Berlin included case studies and the SDI-test (personalstrengths.com), and the meeting at Röda Sten included a presentation in front of regional politicians and policy makers as well as a discussion about a continuation of the project in 2011 and beyond. The project covered travels and accommodation for the two last meetings.

7.2 TEH MEDIA NETWORK & TEH TV

During TEH Meeting 68 the TEH TV (teh.net/tv) pilot site was launched. TEH TV was the first project of the TEH Media Network, which was initiated by Subtopia at the TEH Meeting in Stavanger 2008. At the launch in Cracow the site featured videos

from TNN partners, but it now contains more than 80 videos from the whole network and keeps growing. Parallel to the work with TEH TV other project ideas have developed. Mejeriet and the Melkweg (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) have started using the network for exchanging ideas on screening concepts and film programmes. And in October 2010, the TEH Media Network realized a first capacity building event by organizing the “Community Filmmaking” workshop within the CHANGING ROOM project.

7.3 CHANGING ROOM PARTICIPATION

25 TEH members in 15 countries were partners in CHANGING ROOM, a pilot project aimed at enhancing the mobility of cultural operators. 4 of the partners were also TNN partners. As CHANGING ROOM now has been concluded, we are happy to report that the Nordic and Baltic centres have been very active in the project. On 6-8 August 2010, Polymer, hosted the workshop “Somethin’ from Nothin’” about organizing artist in residence (AIR) programmes with limited financial resources and on 27-29 October 2010, Subtopia hosted the workshop “Community Filmmaking”. 5 Nordic/Baltic organisations took part in the CHANGING ROOM Staff Exchange Programme and 7 participated in the CHANGING ROOM Cultural Leaders Retreat in Sicily on 24 April - 1 May 2010.

7.4 YOUTH EXCHANGES THROUGH EVS

Throughout the TNN project period we have facilitated youth exchanges through the EVS scheme. In 2009 TEH published the handbook “The Lift - Sharing Experiences of a youth exchange network project”. The book has been distributed to potential EVS volunteers and hosts, the TEH website has a special section for youth exchanges and information sessions about EVS have been organized. Young cultural operators from the Nordic and Baltic countries have tried their wings at different TEH centres and during 2009-2010 we had the pleasure to co-host a volunteer from Mains D’oeuvres (Paris, France) at Mejeriet and the TEH Coordination Office.

7.5 COLLABORATIONS WITH EUROPE AND BEYOND

During 2008-2010, TEH has put a special focus on increasing our contacts with cultural operators on the borders of Europe. One example is the support to a project realised in 2008-2009 at Proekt_Fabrika in Moscow. The project focused on the reconversion of industrial buildings into creative spaces. TEH contributed to the project in terms of sharing the knowledge and experiences of the network in order to support new and non-commercial cultural operators in Russia and we promoted the project throughout the two years. In 2010 the president of TEH visited the organisation Izolyatsia in Donetsk, Ukraine, which are now applying to become members of TEH. In 2008 we dedicated time to research and develop a potential project with partners in Belarus. Unfortunately this project could not be realised but the following year an intense collaboration between TEH and Belarus Free Theatre took place. Belarus Free Theatre set up the play “Eurepica Challenge” in co-production with Månteatern at Mejeriet as part of Lund2014. The collaboration between Belarus Free Theatre and the Lund2014 team was set up on the initiative of TEH.

7.6 SUPPORTING A PLATFORM FOR CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS IN SERBIA

Subtopia and Kaapelitehdas have collaborated with REX (Belgrade, Serbia) to set up a platform for the local contemporary circus scene in Belgrade. In 2009, an informal platform connecting local artists interested in new circus, project managers and representatives of the Ministry of Culture was formed. The platform has also made recommendations for a new law that would give new circus artists the same social benefits as all other artists.

7.7 TRANS NORDIC NET INTERVIEWED

As a conclusion to TNN, the Project Manager asked one of the newest Nordic TEH members, Not Quite (Fengersfors, Sweden), to carry out short interviews with all the Nordic TEH members on the topic of international networking. The result can be found in the booklet "Nordic Perspectives on European Networking - 13 independent cultural centres in conversation", which can be downloaded at www.teh.net/publications.

7. Communication

Information about TNN and the support from the Nordic Culture Point has been included in all marketing of TEH, including the TEH website, the monthly Newsletter, TEH TV, all printed material and live presentations at conferences and seminars 2008-2010. The Project Manager has worked on improving the communication tools of TEH, promoted activities by the partners and helped in matchmaking. The monthly TEH Newsletters have included news from the Nordic Culture Point as well as articles written by and about Nordic and Baltic members of the network. In December 2008 TEH printed a new brochure about the network that includes information about TNN. In the spring of 2009 TEH launched a new website. In 2010 we added a filter function making it possible to search for centres with specific facilities, activities and specialities (please see Find Organisation on teh.net).

8. Final Comments and Next Steps

Some projects that were listed as planned projects in the application have not been possible to realize and they have been replaced by others. As reported in the mid-term status report, "Europex - exchange of staff within the network" and "Training of young leaders at new cultural centres" were replaced by the Training and Consultancy Pilot and the CHANGING ROOM project. The Barents project Aurora Borealis and ACCORD have not been possible to develop any further at this point. For detailed information about the activities of TEH 2008-2010, please see the Annual Reports, which can be downloaded on teh.net/publications. There you can also find the other publications mentioned in this report.

While managing TNN we have seen a growing interest in international work from the independent cultural centres in the Nordic and Baltic region as well as in Russia and Ukraine. 8 new organisations from countries TNN targeted have joined TEH: Röda Sten, Konstepidemin, Not Quite, Culturen (Sweden), Proekt_Fabrika, Pushkinskaya 10 (Russia), Creative Centre Carnation (Estonia) and Rytmikorjaamo (Finland). By

creating meeting places and networks, long term relations and collaborations get the chance to develop in new and unexpected ways. That has been clearly proved in this project. Another valuable result is the participants' increased insight into each others' realities and their discussions about being part of a bigger, European context.

Due to the success of focusing on leadership issues, we decided to develop the Nordic Cultural Leaders training concept and apply for a grant to realize a new project called TEH Leaders Lab. Leaders Lab focuses on cultural leadership in the Nordic and the Latin European countries: Portugal, Spain, France and Italy. Thanks to the kind support from the Nordic Culture point the project kicks off already in the spring of 2011 and links in with TEH's bigger EU Culture funded TEH project Engine Room Europe.

On behalf of the Trans Nordic Net partners, TEH would like to thank the Nordic Culture Point for their precious support.

Anna Weitz, project manager Trans Nordic Net
Stockholm, 2011-03-04