



## TRANS EUROPE HALLES MEMBERS CHARTER

Lund, Sweden

Registration Number: 802434-3769

**“Trans Europe Halles is a European Network of Independent Cultural Centres”**

### 1. Mission

*Trans Europe Halles is a network of independent cultural centres offering a dynamic forum for ideas, collaborations, and mutual support in the pursuit of intercultural exchange, understanding, and artistic freedom.*

### 2. Aims

- 2.1. To create a platform for ideas, collaborations and support.
- 2.2. To promote and encourage formal and informal co-operations between centres in the network.
- 2.3. To provide a forum for learning where experience and knowledge can be shared between network members.
- 2.4. To actively encourage a cultural perspective that is pluralist, sustainable, integrated, socially aware and creatively daring.
- 2.5. To encourage and promote an international perspective in member centres.
- 2.6. To support the independent nature of member centres.
- 2.7. To provide a resource and encouragement for relevant and/or new cultural initiatives.
- 2.8. To promote a multidisciplinary approach to contemporary art practice.
- 2.9. To promote the concept of citizens’ initiatives with regard to arts and culture.

### **3. Structure**

- 3.1. Trans Europe Halles is a not-for-profit association registered under Swedish law.
- 3.2. Trans Europe Halles is a democratic organisation where each member has one vote.
- 3.3. Each member centre of the network appoints a representative called a TEH Delegate. Each member centre can appoint up to two delegates.
- 3.4. The Delegate(s) must receive a clear mandate from the governing body/board of the member centre to act on its behalf with regard to Trans Europe Halles.
- 3.5. A General Assembly of Delegates takes place at least once a year.
- 3.6. An Executive Committee of, minimum, five persons and maximum eight persons is elected every two years at the first General assembly of the relevant year to oversee the business of the network, as decided by the delegates and in accordance with the legal responsibilities of the association. A delegate can be a member of the Executive Committee for a maximum of six years in total, either in a row or with intermission. One seat in the Executive Committee is held by the delegate from the member centre where the Coordination Office is located. The regulations concerning the Executive Committee described in this Members Charter were decided upon by the General Assembly and are effective since the elections held in connection with TEH Meeting 63 in Vilnius, Lithuania the 17th-20th of May 2007.
- 3.7. The Executive Committee elects a President from within its ranks but shares responsibility for tasks as is deemed necessary. If there is more than one candidate standing for President the delegates vote for whom will hold this position. The President is also elected for a period of two years and can hold this position for a maximum of six years in total, either in a row or with intermission.
- 3.8. The network operates as a decentralised organisation whereby members are equally responsible for the life of the network as is the Coordination Office.
- 3.9. A Coordination Office, with a Secretary General, assists the Delegates and the Executive Committee in their work. The office is housed in one of the network's member centres, which is paid a fee by the association to provide this service.

### **4. Actions**

- 4.1. The network will convene two meetings, at least, per year (spring and autumn).
- 4.2. Member centres will elect themselves to take responsibility for hosting meetings, planning the agenda and events for the meetings in partnership with the Executive Committee and the Secretary General at the Coordination Office.
- 4.3. Meetings will incorporate:
  - Presentation of the host centre and the local context.

- A theme.
  - A professional development programme.
  - Matchmaking between centre projects.
  - Relevant cultural tourism.
  - A General Assembly (at least once a year).
- 4.4. Members can organise cultural and other projects between their centres independently of the Executive Committee or Coordination Office.
  - 4.5. The network coordinates centralised cultural and professional development projects in which all members can participate.
  - 4.6. The network hosts a website for the purposes of communication between members and information on TEH.
  - 4.7. The network promotes the network and its members by interacting with relevant networks, organisations and forums.
  - 4.8. The network periodically reviews and evaluates the vision, aims and actions of the network with a view to its relevance, sustainability and development.

## **5. Members – Criteria For Joining and Responsibilities**

- 5.1. The network has three categories of membership:
  - Members
  - Friends
  - Ambassadors
- 5.2. Members are members of the association and of the network. They must meet the following five criteria:
  - Be an independent and not-for profit cultural centre arising from a citizens' initiative with a legal structure.
  - Have a multi-disciplinary artistic policy encouraging inter-activity between art forms, with an emphasis on contemporary art.
  - Be based in user-friendly buildings preferably originating from a commercial or industrial heritage.
  - Have a quality programme of at least regional significance with an awareness of contemporary culture, ranging from local to international art.
  - Have an awareness of the social and political aspects of cultural actions with an Equal Opportunities Policy or commitment
- 5.3. Friends are not members of the association, but can, in certain circumstance be involved in network projects. They will pay an annual subscription fee and can be invited to network meetings and events. Both organisations and individuals can be friends. Friends are proposed by the Executive Committee and approved and elected by the General Assembly.

- 5.4. Ambassadors are proposed by the Executive Committee and approved and elected by the General Assembly. The role of an Ambassador is to be an advocate for the network and promote its ideas and vision including:
- Finding new members and partners
  - Informing the network about interesting projects, funding or else if possible.
  - Acting as a "history book" of the network
- Individuals who are former active delegates that have contributed to the development of the network and are still engaged in the life of the network are eligible to become Ambassadors.
- 5.5. Organisations that show interest in joining the network will receive from the Coordination Office a short questionnaire. In answering they may explain why they want to join TEH, what they expect from the network and what they may offer. Interested organisations will then be advised to first attend a TEH Meeting before officially applying as a candidate for membership.
- 5.6. To join the network, candidates will complete an application form and send this along with their subscription fee to the Coordination Office. The membership will then be confirmed by the General Assembly subject to the new member attending the next meeting of the network and presenting their centre to the delegates.
- 5.7. If, following the presentation by the new member to the delegates, it is considered that they do not meet the five membership criteria, their membership will not be confirmed and their subscription returned.
- 5.8. All members will pay an annual subscription fee as a condition of membership. The subscription levels and policy will be decided annually at a General Assembly.
- 5.9. Membership will be terminated if the subscription is not paid and no reason given for non-payment. Membership can also be terminated by a two-thirds majority of members. Membership can also be terminated if a member is absent from two consecutive TEH Meetings without giving any justifiable reason for this.
- 5.10 All members must:
- Elect a delegate or delegates
  - Respond to requests from the Coordination Office and Executive Committee
  - Take an active role in the life of the network
  - Be open to exchange with other members
  - Involve their centre in, and inform them about TEH