



MEETING REPORT

57TH TRANS EUROPE HALLES MEETING

6th – 9th May 2004

Mejeriet, Lund, Sweden

A. MEMBERS' MEETING THURSDAY 6TH MAY 2004

1) Introduction of Mejeriet and its staff

An introduction of Mejeriet and its staff.

2) Welcome

Birgitta Persson and Paul Bogen welcomed the meeting participants.

3) Network bingo

A network bingo was organised by Paul Bogen. Annette Wolfsberger from Melkweg won the competition with 17 hits.

4) Review of the meeting programme

Paul Bogen reviewed the programme of the 57th meeting in Lund.

5) Presentation of the new members

K@2, Culture factory Polymer, Teatteri Pensas, Association for the Culture Environment Reform in Taiwan and Stanica.

K@2: K@2, a culture and information centre located in a former naval base in Liepaja, Latvia. The reconstruction work begun in 2000 and currently the centre runs art and culture programmes, youth and social integration schemes, educational projects etc. The aim of K@2 is to produce "art for social change". Currently the centre's activities are project-based but the long-term goal of K@2 is to set up a Baltic Film and Media School at the centre's premises.

Culture factory Polymer: Culture factory Polymer is located in a former rubber plant in Tallinn, Estonia. Polymer is run by an association, which started converting the rubber plant into a cultural centre in 2002. The centre organises a wide range of artistic events and hosts theatre groups, designers, bands, potters, artists etc.

The present building is privately owned. However, the Polymer association is currently looking for a new building and has been in talks with the City of Tallinn.

Teatteri Pensas (friend): Teatteri Pensas is an ecological and political theatre group from Helsinki, Finland. The group is interested in collaborating with the network.

Association for the Culture Environment Reform in Taiwan (international guest): The Association for the Culture Environment Reform in Taiwan is located at a former Japanese winery in Taipei, Taiwan.

Nearly 2000 performances every year are organised on the premises, which consists of 20 buildings. The aim of the association is to create a "creative industrial park" by merging government policy with the association's artistic vision.

Stanica (membership applicant): Stanica is located in a former railway station in Zilina, Slovakia. A group of artists found the building two years ago and the reconstruction started in 2003.

The centre produces cultural events and runs artistic and social programmes, with an emphasis on new forms of art. The reconstruction of the centre will be finished this summer and the centre will have an official opening party.

B. MEMBERS' MEETING FRIDAY 7TH MAY 2004

1) Questions and answers workshop

Pekka Timonen was the moderator of the questions and answers workshop. It focused on experiences of how to run a venue, funding (how to get and use it) and organisation (what works in each framework).

Funding: It was established that the majority of centres get over a half of their income from public subsidies. The subsidies can be divided into three different groups:

- local
- national
- international

The international funding received by centres was mainly from youth and regional development lines, rather than cultural funds. Alongside public funding, commercial and private funding possibilities were discussed. Some centres saw sponsorship as an ethical problem due to political, social or civic reasons and feared a clash of ideologies. Cultural sponsorship in the network centres is mainly focused on the following fields:

- products
- equipment
- electricity
- telecommunications

Organisation: The majority of the centres have a director and a board. The roles of these bodies were discussed. The board's responsibility is to support and develop the venue. The director's role is to create a strategy and a mission for the organisation. The means of co-operation between the board and director in order to avoid clashes and crises was discussed.

2) "The new global music structure"-seminar

The seminar had three keynote speakers: Jonas Birgersson from Labs 2 and director and owner of Bad Taste Records, Jonas Nilsson, Urban Kindhult, a jurist from Stockholm University and Håkan Engström, a music journalist from Sydsvenska Dagbladet. The issues discussed included:

- Who does the law protect today, consumers or the big record companies?
- Birgersson criticised the record companies for spending millions and millions on hunting down young people for downloading music on the Internet instead of developing new means for distributing music on Internet like i-Tunes.
- The audience participated with comment on recent developments and discussion of does the record as a physical object have any future?; Will record shops survive?

3) **Summer camp workshop**

Sandy Fitzgerald was the moderator of the summer camp workshop. The network had proposed a new project for 2005 at the board meeting in Aarhus. The theme of the project is art and food. A working group of three members: Martina Dietrich from WUK, Nona Ciobanu from Toaca and Sandy Fitzgerald from City Arts Centre had been looking at the feasibility of the project.

The project aims to:

- enable artistic exchange
- have an outlet in the location during the project
- have an outlet in the centres afterwards

It was agreed that the deadline for further proposals concerning this project is in August 2004.

4) **Communication and Europe**

Swedish comedian Pelle Öhlund gave a performance on communication and Europe.

5) **Wiki seminar**

The seminar consisted of the presentations of a Web-based collaboration platform (WIKI) and software for marketing, information and communication (MIKSI). WIKI basics were presented by Lars Aronsson (<http://aronsson.se/hist.html> and [http://susning.nu/Lars_Aronsson, lars@aronsson.se](http://susning.nu/Lars_Aronsson,lars@aronsson.se))

Wiki is a flexible, powerful, and easy to use Web-based collaboration platform. Different Wiki-versions can be used to run a project development space, a document management system, a knowledge base, or any other groupware tool, on an intranet or on the Internet. Web content can be created collaboratively by merely using a browser and developers can create new web applications based on a Plugin API. Wiki looks and feels like a normal Intranet or Internet web site, however, it also has an Edit-link at the bottom of every topic web page, so everybody can change a topic or add content by just using a browser.

Second part of the featured a presentation of Miksi, a software for marketing, information and communication services for socio-cultural institutions; address manager, event manager, task manager on-line etc. WUK is currently running this programme and many of the delegates had shown the interest in using Miksi in their venues. It is not an open source tool, which means one has to pay for adopting it to one's specific need and implementation. For further information on Miksi, contact Wuk's delegate Martina Dietrich (tel: + 43 1 40 121 35, fax: + 43 1 40 121 66, martina.dietrich@wuk.at).

6) **“New technology – a double-edged sword?”-seminar**

This seminar was organised in collaboration with the Skåne social forum. The seminar featured a film, Surplus, by Eric Gandhini and had three keynote speakers: Eric Kluitenberg from De Balie in Amsterdam, Kristine Briede, culture producer of K@2 and Karin Mex from the Skåne social forum.

C. MEMBERS' MEETING SATURDAY 8TH MAY 2004

1) New members' meeting

Present were P60 from Amstelveen in the Netherlands and Buenaventura from Treviso in Italy, who joined the network at the Birmingham meeting in September 2003, membership applicants Stanica from Zilina in Slovakia and Huset from Aarhus in Denmark, friend centre Verkatehdas from Hämeenlinna in Finland and meeting participants from K@2 in Liepaja, Latvia, Janko Rozic, the new delegate of Metelkova in Ljubljana, Slovenia and Teatteri Pensas from Helsinki, Finland.

Paul Bogen was the moderator of the meeting. The possible benefits and disadvantages of network membership were discussed.

P60: Since joining the network, P60 has been in active contact with Mejeriet and has explored ways to collaborate with the other member centres.

Buenaventura: Buenaventura has tried to develop the management of the centre and has collaborated with Mains d'Oeuvres. Sandrine Chrisostmo from Mains d'Ouevres gave classes in alternative organisation management in December 2003. Buenaventura joined the network in 2003, after Birgitta Persson from Mejeriet had visited the centre and promoted the network.

Stanica: Stanica is currently the only independent centre in Slovakia. The centre has an international profile and it is keen to collaborate with other European culture centres.

K@2: K@2 wants to improve the centre's resources and is looking for partnerships and advice on funding.

Verkatehdas: Verkatehdas is currently a friend of the network, but will apply for membership this autumn. The centre wishes to participate in exchanges and share experiences with other member centres in the future.

The following issues were also discussed:

- Can the size of the network bring problems?
- The shift of emphasis from cultural factories to independent culture centres after the new vision was established in 2002
- The content of the new vision: new principles, procedures and aims: expansion, set-up of the office, new network projects

2) Digital specialists' workshop

Digital developers discussed and developed possible new digital network projects.

3) Professional development and summer camp workshops

Sandy Fitzgerald was the moderator of the second summer camp workshop. It was decided that the project will feature the following elements:

- summer camp project will be a learning process
- will feature workshops with experienced artists
- will feature collaboration with sought-after artists

Sigrid Niemer and Annette Wolfsberger were the moderators of the professional development workshop. The aim of the workshop was to prepare topics and workshops for the Berlin meeting. It was decided that the following themes were to be included in the Berlin meeting programme:

- a workshop on communication strategy and mission statements: How to devise a mission statement?; How to test it?; How to deliver it to the audience?

- a workshop on professional skills: an introduction of different management models and tools
- a meeting on finance and funding: experts lecturing on sponsorship, funding, bench marking etc.
- business research will be conducted prior to the Berlin meeting
- a worst practise / best practise session featuring interviews and questions and answers

4) **How we built the Global TV-stage**

P60 gave a presentation on their Global stage project. The project was launched four years ago, when P60 started building a communication centre for people, which would feature a virtual stage. The aim of Global stage was to promote local musicians both locally and internationally. Global stage was created by Lightmaker's 3 D producers and the programme enables the broadcasting and uploading of music. It features a virtual stage and web cameras. Global stage went live on 1st November 2003.

The project is a significant part of P60's youth education and training scheme. Global stage currently has over 5000 users from 87 countries. P60 aims to develop a Global stage radio channel and have activities around the clock in the future.

5) **Presentation of Intercult and culturebase.net**

Annika Salomonsson, the audience manager of Intercult, gave a presentation of Intercult and culturebase.net. Intercult arranges guest performances for artist from all over the world, designs festivals and cultural events and works with audience development and diversity. More information on Intercult can be found from the organisation's website, www.intercult.se. culturebase.net is an online information source on contemporary international artists from all fields. The database links information on international arts from several leading European cultural institutions and features practitioners and experts from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe. More information on culturebase.net can be found from their website, www.culturebase.net.

6) **General assembly**

FINANCIAL REPORT: Paul Bogen gave a financial report. The network had a surplus of € 11,700.41 in 2003.

OFFICE REPORT: Office manager Niina Bell gave an annual office report. The office was opened at Kaapelitehdas in Helsinki in April 2003 following the decision made in the Dublin meeting.

A contract for office services was agreed between Cable Factory and Trans Europe Halles, whereby the office provides the following office services:

- office facilities
- development of the network's internal and external communications
- PR and publicity
- information on network projects
- maintenance of the network's website
- supervision of member centres' responsibilities
- co-ordination of the annual subscription administration
- documentation of the network activities and meetings

- assistance with the planning and delivery of the annual meetings
- assistance to the executive committee as required
- a contact point for members and other institutions and networks

Since April 2003, the office has

- developed a new website, monthly newsletters and brochures
- collected and updated data related to the network
- acted as a contact point to members
- produced all the network documentation by providing meeting, network and office reports
- created network archives
- assisted the board in membership applications and subscriptions
- implemented the expansion strategy
- assisted in board and network meeting organisations

It was decided that the office will produce a report of all the network meetings over the last 21 years, which will feature the location and topic of every meeting.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS:

Beat Initiative: Beat Initiative is currently looking for a new building. The centre is planning a network project for 2006.

Melkweg: Melkweg moved to new office premises recently. The centre is planning to build a new black box and enlarge its concert hall. If everything goes as planned, the construction of the new facilities will begin in the end of September this year.

The Drum: Since the Birmingham meeting in September 2003, two members of the Drum's staff have left and been replaced. The centre is currently initiating new programmes.

Kaapelitehdas: Kaapelitehdas organised a new circus festival in March this year for the first time. It was a big success and the circus festival will become an annual event at Kaapelitehdas.

Stanica: Marek Adamov from Stanica was delighted to participate in the network meeting.

Schlachthof: Schlachthof will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year. As part of the centre's youth scheme, two young people have been employed in 2004.

Buenaventura: Since the Birmingham meeting, Buenaventura has been establishing its organisational structure and launched new projects.

013: 013 has had a tough year. The centre has a new director, Guus van Hove. A new 4-year business plan was introduced in the beginning of 2004. As part of the reorganisation, 8 people were forced to be laid off.

Metelkova: Metelkova has a new delegate, Janko Rozic. Janko was the architect behind the centre's 10-year building project. The reconstruction work was finished in 2003.

Huset: Huset is planning to take over a former railway station and turn it into a theatre and visual art centre. The centre organised a cultural development conference in February and some

of the network's board members participated in the conference as guest speakers. Huset will have the first planning meeting on the 1st June.

P60: P60 has had a busy year with Global stage.

WUK: WUK recently launched a new website. The centre's manager left earlier this year.

Theatrale: Theatrale organised the WestÖstlicheDiwan festival in April. The centre will collaborate with centres from Poland and Luxemburg later this year.

City Arts Centre: City Arts Centre finished the civil inquiry in the beginning of this year. The old building has been sold and the staff is leaving the building in July. The centre will continue to work in temporary premises for the next two years.

Moritzbastei: Moritzbastei got a new manager in 2003. The centre also celebrated the 250th anniversary of the building.

UFA-Fabrik: UFA-Fabrik will celebrate its 25th anniversary on 9th June. The centre has launched a new EU-funded garden project, which features children, gardeners and artists. UFA-Fabrik will host the next network meeting between 25th and 28th November.

Halles de Schaerbeek: Halles de Schaerbeek signed a new programme contract for 2004-2009 with the public authorities. The centre has a new communication theme. Halles will celebrate its 30th anniversary on 18th September.

Mejeriet: Mejeriet had a bar management crisis earlier this year. Due to financial difficulties, the centre currently has no music programmer. Mejeriet has been asked to take part in the development of a national youth scheme.

The Junction: The Junction will have an opening party in its new building and celebrate the centre's 15th anniversary on February 14th 2005.

NEW MEMBERS: The network has received membership applications from Stanica, Huset and B.P.S. 22. The meeting confirmed the memberships of Huset and Stanica.

NETWORK PROJECTS:

TransEX: The network launched the TransEX staff exchange programme last year. Following the pilot exchange between Melkweg and The Junction, Theatrale, Junction, Cinema Rex, City Arts Centre, WUK and Melkweg will exchange staff during 2004. Annette Wolfsberger from Melkweg is the co-ordinator of TransEX.

Summer camp 2005: This network project will be an intensive workshop for artists. The outcomes will be open to the public and network centres. The location is likely to be Ireland and the project will be built around the themes of food, art, rituals and loss of culture.

A call for proposals for 2005: Junction proposed a digital arts project for next winter. Cinema Rex would be keen to organise a short film festival project in 2005. Beat Initiative proposed a network street carnival project for the Belfast street carnival in 2006.

NETWORK MEETINGS 2005: It was decided that Buenaventura will host the 59th network meeting in spring 2005. A local election will be held in Treviso in June 2005 and the meeting will be linked to the elections.

BUDGET FOR 2004: Pekka Timonen introduced the future funding strategy of the network. The network will aim to apply for funding for meetings, projects and network activities separately from local, national and international lines. The work will be conducted in annual cycles. Paul Bogen introduced the 2004 budget to the network and it was approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION FOR 2004/2005: The 2003/2004 board members were Paul Udenze from the Drum, Nona Ciobanu from Toaca, Katarina Zivanovic from Cinema Rex, Pekka Timonen from Kaapelitehdas and Paul Bogen from the Junction. Paul Udenze wished to step down from the board. Annette Wolfsberger from Melkweg was proposed as the new board member. After a general discussion, it was decided that the new members of the 2004/2005 board were: Annette Wolfsberger from Melkweg, Pekka Timonen from Kaapelitehdas, Nona Ciobanu from Toaca, Katarina Zivanovic from Cinema Rex and Paul Bogen from the Junction.

7) Closing session

Digital programming workshop's results were introduced by Lucas Evers:

- New digital working group (Chris Rogers from the Junction, Lucas Evers from Melkweg, Katarina Zivanovic from Cinema Rex and Jens Ljungkvist) was formed
- The digital working group sees a lot of opportunities for network collaboration
- The digital working group will develop tools to improve the network communication