

**ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE**

**VIENNA**



**BAGNEUX**

**WILTZ**

**LILLE**

**LUND**

**GOTHENBURG**

**BRATISLAVA**

**BELFAST**

**ARTS &**

**EDUCATION**

# BACKGROUND

The Arts Education Platform is part of the Factories of Imagination (FOI) project run by Trans Europe Halles (TEH). The main purpose of the platform is to facilitate exchange and knowledge transfer between arts educators through professional meetings, study visits and training workshops on the subject of participation in the arts. Since 2015, the platform has held meetings, workshops and seminars in cities across Europe, as well as coordinating study visits.

## More specifically, the Arts Education Platform aims to:

1. Explore the notion of quality in educational projects.
2. Explore the advantages of educational programmes for:
  - a) participants
  - b) facilitators, mediators, artists and arts educators
  - c) cultural centres
  - d) communities around the centres, town, region etc.
3. Create a platform for both practitioners and theoreticians to exchange their experiences.

## Steering Group

A Steering Group consisting of eight TEH members and the Trans Europe Halles coordination office in Sweden has been at the core of the platform. The Steering Group consists of multidisciplinary arts and cultural centres that are geographically spread across the EU. They consolidate knowledge about arts education for dissemination into multiple arts/cultural centres around the EU.

Coordination of the platform has been carried out by the TEH member Röda Sten Konsthall and the Trans Europe Halles coordination office.

1. **A4 – Space for Contemporary Culture**  
Bratislava, Slovakia
2. **Beat Carnival**  
Belfast, UK
3. **ArtSocialSpace Brunnenpassage**  
Vienna, Austria (joined the Steering Group in 2019)
4. **Cooperations**  
Wiltz, Luxembourg
5. **Kulturfabrik**  
Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg
6. **Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (PPCM)**  
Bagneux, France
7. **Rencontres Audiovisuelles**  
Lille, France
8. **Röda Sten Konsthall**  
Gothenburg, Sweden
9. **Trans Europe Halles coordination office**  
Lund, Sweden





# ACTIVITIES

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## **TEH MEETING** **Budapest** November 2015

This was a planned meeting to discuss forming a group for sharing methodologies for arts educators within the TEH network. Six case studies were presented.

## **STEERING** **GROUP MEETING** **Kiev** October 2017

At the network meeting of Trans Europe Halles in October 2017 in Kiev, Ukraine, the first Steering Group meeting for the platform was held. A plan was set for the first year of the project, as well as a general structure for the project. The Steering Group has continued to meet during the annual seminars of the platform and TEH network meetings.

## **SEMINAR** **Gothenburg** March 2018

In March 2018, the platform's first seminar was held in Gothenburg, Sweden, hosted by Röda Sten Konsthall. The aim of the seminar was to:

- clarify structure and plans for the platform
- inspire the new educational project through practical and theoretical examples
- talk about the value and outcomes of cultural activities in order to inspire how to evaluate arts educational activities
- give examples of Röda Sten Konsthall's educational work with young people through graffiti and urban art.

The seminar was also open to organisations involved in arts education outside the platform and the TEH network.

## **WORKSHOP** **Bilbao** May 2018

During the Trans Europe Halles network meeting in Bilbao, Spain, a workshop was facilitated by the platform. After a general introduction and presentation of examples of arts educational projects from members of the Steering Group, the participants were divided into three groups for discussions and brainstorming sessions. The group was asked to write down all the benefits of arts education they could think of on Post-it notes. After an initial discussion, each group was asked to find different categories and rank the benefits according to these categories.

## **WORKSHOP** **Bagneux** September 2018

A workshop was also held at the Trans Europe Halles network meeting in Bagneux, France in September 2018. Katérina Flora from Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (PPCM) – a TEH member centre and host for the meeting – gave a presentation on PPCM as a cultural center where art, education, audience's participation and social context are intrinsically linked. The presentation was followed by a workshop where games and exercises put reflexion into movement. After the workshop, all participants discussed in groups of three what they took away from the workshop and how they thought they could use the methods, exercises and experience in their own work.

## **SEMINAR** **Belfast** March 2019

Beat Carnival, one of the platform's Steering Group members, organised the second seminar of the TEH Arts Education Platform in Belfast in March 2019. A detailed description of the seminar can be found in the case study on pages 6 – 7.

## **WORKSHOP** **Dresden** May 2019

The two main parts of the workshop in Dresden included a presentation by Cesar Fulgencio of the Do It Together method used at the TEH member center Subtopia in Botkyrka, Stockholm, and of the sharing platform Global Grand Central (GGC), introduced by GGC director Marcus Haraldson. As well as presentations and backgrounds for the arts education platform, the workshop also introduced some practically orientated exercises. Cesar Fulgencio demonstrated some of the participative methods and methodologies used at Subtopia for work aimed at young audiences. Participants were encouraged to use these presentations as starting-off points for reflections on their own practice and the sharing and presentation of projects and programmes within the broader field of arts education.

## **STUDY VISITS**

In the past year, three study visits have been arranged to enhance the professional development of arts educators within the platform.

- One person from Zo centro culture contemporanee (Catania, Italy) travelled to Beat Carnival in (Belfast, UK).
- One person from Rencontres Audiovisuelles (Lille, France) went to Anibar (Peja, Kosovo).
- One person from Beat Carnival (Belfast, UK) went to Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (Bagneux, France).

During the study visits, the visitors observed workshops, interviewed staff members and local artists and arts educators, and visited local arts initiatives. The study visits will continue during the coming years.



# CASE STUDY

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## IMAGINE, CREATE AND CRITIQUE: EVALUATION LEADING TO INSPIRATION

**Beat Carnival  
Belfast**  
28–30 March 2019

The platform's second seminar had the title *Imagine, Create and Critique* and the theme was critical reflections on Beat Carnival's arts education and participation practices. In seminar workshops and discussions over two days, participants shared arts access and engagement methodologies and examined different ways to reflect on the work and practices used, how to measure success and how to use evaluation to improve our practice. What are our models of participation and learning? How and why do we have these models of participation in our arts programmes? How do we reflect on and evaluate our methodology? The local context of Belfast, where Beat Carnival operates, was also presented.

A number of sessions in the platform's seminar programme were open to other interested practitioners. These programmes were published in association with the *Imagine! Belfast Festival of Ideas & Politics*, which took place at the same time. During the seminar there was also another 'significant happening' – Friday, 29 March at 23.00 was supposed to be the time of Brexit, and the occasion was marked by a special event in the *Never Ending Brexit Sing-Song* event on Friday evening.

The seminar had 24 participants from eight different countries and 12 organisations:

**Camere d'Aria** (Italy)  
**Röda Sten Konsthall** (Sweden)  
**Subtopia** (Sweden)  
**Beat Carnival** (Northern Ireland)  
**ArtSocialSpace  
Brunnenpassage** (Austria)  
**Kulturfabrik** (Luxembourg)  
**COOPERATIONS** (Luxembourg)  
**Studio Alta** (Czech Republic)  
**Le Plus Petit Cirque  
du Monde** (France)  
**Johan Centrum** (Moving Station)  
**Plzeň** (Czech Republic)  
**Zentralwerk** (Germany)  
**TEH Coordination Office** (Sweden)

## SEMINAR RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

### Action! Considering: What Happens Next?

1. Personally
2. At an organisational level
3. Collaborative action
4. Actions as a network/platform.

Everyone was asked to consider timeframes for all of the above.

### HERE ARE SOME CONCLUSIONS AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS:

- Re-enthused after 30 years of this work.
- I will spark this discussion in my own organisation.
- Set up a reflection space in my own organisation with colleagues.
- Commitment to more involvement in the network.
- Share, clarify and crystallise aims.
- Appreciation of an opportunity to stop and reflect on the work.
- Declarations that participants are going home 'super inspired'.
- Good to hear other people's perspectives and experiences. Good to share commonality.
- Being inspired by each other and our various work.
- A request for a follow up seminar in Belfast.

All agreed that the seminar had illustrated and put into action the special benefit of meeting together and working / reflecting / evaluating / enthusing / validating / being inspired / energising / together.

### FIVE PROPOSALS FOR NEXT STEPS WERE MADE AND GOT AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS TO SIGN UP FOR:

1. Building a common framework (ground rules) to share methodologies. Initiated and will be led by ArtSocialSpace Brunnenpassage, Austria.

2. Children's Conference: Discussion about action plan and collaboration. Initiated and will be led by COOPERATIONS, Luxembourg.

3. Global Exchange for kids: Use images and stories from the network / all groups to start to exchange images and stories of their work with each other. Initiated and will be led by Beat Carnival, Northern Ireland, UK.

4. More information about / development within Global Grand Central resource. Initiated and will be led by Subtopia, Sweden.

5. Collaborative local, crazy, imaginative Sculpture Park by the river (Gothenburg). Initiated and will be led by Röda Sten Konsthall, Sweden.

### AS A RESULT OF THE SEMINAR:

- Björn Westerlund from Röda Sten Konsthall travelled to Belfast to explore the sculpture park of Beat Carnival. He was particularly interested to learn how Beat Carnival make large-scale outdoor constructions.
- ArtSocialSpace Brunnenpassage developed a project together with Beat Carnival in the form of a Creative Europe application.
- Sheelagh Colclough from Beat Carnival went to ArtSocialSpace Brunnenpassage to deliver a presentation and facilitate a workshop with arts educators.
- Marcus Haraldsen from Not Quite presented Global Grand Central at the workshop in Dresden.
- COOPERATIONS arranged a smaller scale children's conference.

Read the [SEMINAR REPORT](#) and watch the [SEMINAR VIDEO](#).



**CONCLUSIONS**

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Non-governmental cultural centres are vital drivers of democratic development, active citizenship and participation in the arts. Arts education, or arts participation, is an important part of the daily activities at many Trans Europe Halles member centres. In many cases it's the core activity. It is a field where knowledge is transferred and produced, where collaboration is explored and hierarchies questioned, in collective spaces

of socially engaged practice between artists and participants.

It is therefore incredibly valuable to have a platform for sharing work and methodologies, to get inspired and to receive input from invited experts. In the longer term, this will also help to create more sustainable ways of working with arts education and therefore more sustainable centres.

**THE INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF THE ARTS EDUCATION PLATFORM WILL:**

- help to foster arts education activities at a local level
- help increase the quality and quantity of arts education activities at the participating centres
- contribute to the present local and global discourse of arts education, community arts and socially engaged arts
- lead to new collaborations and sub-projects between the partners.

A strong link between the different arts educators and the arts educational programmes across Europe will enable the arts education sector to act and grow stronger. An innovative approach to arts education can address social inequalities in terms of origin, age, social status, life circumstances, level of education, gender, attitude and value orientation.

Arts education that is sensitive to societal diversity does not only attempt to attract new audiences for existing cultural offers, but actively creates new offers that are radically inclusive and significant for people who are disadvantaged due to, for example, class, sexual orientation, origin etc.

The arts education platform brings together cultural centres that are willing to engage in transformation and build a new strong and inclusive European identity in times of transformation that will follow major seismic events such as Brexit, COVID-19, #BlackLivesMatter and the potential negative economic trends that may ensue.



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COOPERATIONS ASBL  
ÉTABLISSEMENT D'UTILITÉ PUBLIQUE



KULTURFABRIK



LE PLUS PETIT CIRQUE  
DU MONDE



RENCONTRES  
AUDIOVISUELLES

RSK

RÖDA  
STEN  
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HALL



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