

# On the Move Advocacy Report 2023

On the Move is the international information network dedicated to artistic and cultural mobility, gathering 66 members from 24 countries. Since 2002, On the Move provides regular, up-to-date and free information on mobility opportunities, conditions and funding, and advocates for the value of cross-border cultural mobility. Co-funded by the European Union and the French Ministry of Culture, On the Move is implementing an ambitious multi-annual programme to build the capacities of local, regional, national, European and international stakeholders for the sustainable development of our cultural ecosystems.

On the Move regularly commissions researchers to investigate different themes closely related to the network's activities and the work carried out by its members. Reflecting on transversal concerns and key areas of artistic and cultural mobility, the network tries to establish a clearer picture of the current movements and trends while formulating policy recommendations.

<http://on-the-move.org>

**General coordination** Marie Le Sourd

**Authors** Claire Rosslyn Wilson with inputs from Marie Le Sourd

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## Outline

On the Move supports artists and culture professionals to operate internationally while working to reimagine mobility as fairer, more responsible and sustainable. This role is increasingly important in a context, in 2023, in which conflict and national populism are proliferating. On the Move believes that through its advocacy, articulated around participating in key events, (co-)developing policy documents, contributing to campaigns, leading and participating in working groups, developing partnerships, and supporting their members through networking opportunities and professional development, can help to work towards this overall aim.

This report provides an outline of the key advocacy activities On the Move contributed to and/or carried out in 2023 and the future directions of these advocacy initiatives when relevant. It is divided into four key areas of work:

- 1) Working rights of artists and culture professionals;
- 2) A fairer, more responsible and sustainable cultural mobility;
- 3) Environmental sustainability; and
- 4) Input into Creative Europe programmes.

It is hoped that this report provides a concise overview of the themes, directions and reach of On the Move's advocacy in the area of international cultural and artistic mobility throughout the year 2023.

## 1. Working conditions of artists and culture professionals

### Actions through the Mobility Info Points (MIPs)

The working rights of artists and culture professionals is vital in order to create a fair and sustainable sector that is not based on precarious working conditions and a lack of legal structures. Despite the progress made – such as the European Parliament endorsement of a resolution on working conditions in the cultural field that will be addressed later in the text – there is still much to be done to address the vulnerability of operators in the sector. Mobility of artists and culture professionals is a key component of this, since mobility can lead to new opportunities (both financial and in terms of career progression) and a lack of access to these opportunities can impede the progress of creative careers. It is in this context On the Move focuses part of its activities on advocating for the fair working conditions of artists and culture professionals while maintaining the fundamental right to mobility.

Mobility Info Points (MIPs) – organisations that help artists and culture professionals with the administrative issues of cross-border mobility, through free information and/or consultation services – are increasingly demonstrating their relevance in this space. Called upon to provide assistance on key issues such as visas, social insurance, taxes and customs, MIPs are key supporters of artists' and culture professionals' mobility.

A key development for the MIPs in 2023 was the **MIP-Amplifier project**, which aimed to facilitate and optimise the mobility in the EU of artists and culture professionals, by supporting, in a more documented and visible way, reliable, free and accessible tailor-made information. Conducted from June to December 2023, the project's leader was On the Move, together with two Mobility Info Points (MIPs) and On the Move members, Motovila (Slovenia) and touring artists (Germany). The project was supported

by ECAS-European Citizen Action Service as part of an EU financial support to third parties (re-granting) scheme<sup>1</sup>.

The project developed three outputs: a **MIP Handbook**<sup>2</sup> to empower recent MIPs to strengthen their capacity to better serve the sector and to help develop potential new MIPs in other EU countries (developed through a training hosted by Motovila in Ljubljana on 11–13 September 2023<sup>3</sup>); a **landing page and microsite**<sup>4</sup> to reinforce the visibility of MIPs and their related action; and a **Data Report**<sup>5</sup> to advocate for fairer access to rights and information for mobile artists and culture professionals. The MIP's Amplifier's results were shared in a final internal workshop for MIPs on 20 November and then through a public event on 21 November in Brussels.

The support of the MIPs through this project works towards the objective of further developing the MIPs and increasing their representation, especially across Europe, with the mid-term objective of having MIPs in all EU countries by 2026. This objective is supported by *The Status and Working Conditions of Artists and Cultural and Creative Professionals* OMC Report<sup>6</sup>, which recommends reinforcing 'the capacity of the existing mobility information points (MIPs) and establish[ing] new MIPs in all other EU Member States'. As the report explains, 'it is well documented that artists and CCS professionals have complex working arrangements', including the need for travel in order to progress their careers and seek out opportunities. Additionally, given their limited administrative capacity (especially for sole trading artists or small cultural organisations), the access to reliable information is critically important. As the report states, 'better working conditions in the sector are interlinked with this administrative and legal support, which should be reachable by a greater diversity of artists and culture professionals, particularly freelancers, to allow them to practise their mobility in a safe environment and achieve a fair living.' MIPs fill this gap and provide a much-needed, efficient service while facilitating the mobility of artists and culture professionals.

This need for adequate support for artists' and culture professionals' mobility has also been recognised in the 'European Parliament resolution with recommendations to the Commission on an EU framework for the social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors (2023/2051(INL))'.<sup>7</sup> Article 14 of this European Parliament resolution encourages:

**'the Commission and the Member States to strengthen existing or, where not in place, set up new, adequately funded mobility information points as one-stop shops that are easily accessible in all EU languages and will help CCS professionals gather all relevant sectoral information concerning their working conditions, mobility, fiscality and social protection benefits'**.

The MIP-Amplifier Project's results, and the resolution of the European Parliament that symbolically happened on the same day (21 November)<sup>8</sup>, provide momentum for the MIPs to continue to expand their work into EU countries that are not yet covered, while remaining connected worldwide.

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<sup>1</sup> The MIP-Amplifier project is supported by ECAS - European Citizen Action Service, as part of a financial support to third parties (re-granting) scheme under grant agreement 101104626, of which ECAS is the beneficiary for its EURECA 2023 project (European Citizenship Accelerator). This project receives funding by the Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values programme of the European Union. See more at <https://on-the-move.org/work/projects/mip-amplifier>

<sup>2</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/how-set-mobility-information-point-mip-and-make-it-last>

<sup>3</sup> <https://motovila.si/en/events/mip-amplifier-training-in-ljubljana/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/mobility-information-points>

<sup>5</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/mip-data-report-preliminary-report-based-consultations-and-events-facilitated>

<sup>6</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/01fafa79-1a13-11ee-806b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0405\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0405_EN.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/about/our-news/two-steps-forward-development-mobility-info-points-mips>

The MIP-Amplifier Project was supported by the MIP working group, who regularly discussed the project and who gave input throughout. One of the most established working groups within the On the Move network, they met nine times in 2023, during which particular attention was paid to issues such as visa and work permit exemptions, as well as double taxation. The impact of Brexit on cultural mobility was also an ongoing concern, and working group members attended the symposium entitled 'Brexit – Opportunities and Perspectives in the Cultural Sector' as well as contributing to the proposal for amendments submitted by Pearle\* on the Draft Opinion of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) on the Implementation Report on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement<sup>9</sup>.

On the Move also contributed to the survey on the EU framework for the social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors. One of the key points raised by On the Move in the survey was the importance of strengthening and expanding the number of MIPs in EU countries to facilitate information and tailor-made advice to artists and culture professionals. This would facilitate cross-border mobility (such as for training, co-production, touring and more) to tackle fairer working conditions at an EU level.

As highlighted by On the Move in the survey, MIPs have proven, particularly for the past 5 years, to be efficient information centres that aim to tackle the administrative challenges artists and culture professionals face when working across borders. Additionally, MIPs are very often mentioned at UNESCO and EU levels as examples of good practice on delivering efficient services while facilitating the mobility of artists and culture professionals<sup>10</sup>. Therefore, one response to the increased complex administrative issues faced by artists and culture professionals (that combine different jobs in different sectors, have irregular income, increasingly need work contracts in other countries for a living and more) can be tackled by this existing network of MIPs that has proven its efficiency but that lacks support to operate even more consistently at a European level through a stronger and larger group of information centres. On the Move also participated in consultation and brainstorming sessions with Culture Action Europe on the European Parliament report related to an EU framework on the working conditions of artists and culture professionals.

Following these consultations, later in the year on 24 October the EU Parliament endorsed a directive on working conditions in the cultural field.<sup>11</sup> The Parliament is urging the European Commission to create a legal EU Framework to improve the social and professional conditions in the cultural and creative sectors with a mix of both legislative and non-legislative actions. This move recognises that work in the cultural field is often characterised by high cross-border mobility while at the same time acknowledging the precarity of the working conditions. The proposed Framework involves decent working conditions, a European platform to improve the exchange of best practices and mutual understanding, and the adaptation of EU programmes funding artists and cultural workers to make sure they promote fair practices.

These activities build on On the Move's ongoing work with the MIPs and highlights the need to strengthen the network of information centres. Going forward, On the Move will continue to work towards having MIPs in all EU countries by 2026, by sending the MIP Handbook and the Data Report to EU Member-States' representatives or the organisation of specific info sessions or training to encourage the creation of more MIPs.

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CULT-AD-749306\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CULT-AD-749306_EN.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> See examples here: <https://on-the-move.org/mobility-information-points/resources#policy>

<sup>11</sup> <https://cultureactioneurope.org/news/eu-parliament-endorses-working-conditions-in-the-cultural-field/>

## Other areas of work: parenting, disability, well-being and Brexit

In addition to the advancements made with MIPs through the MIP-Amplifier Project, in 2023 On the Move worked in a number of areas with regards to artists' and cultural practitioners' working conditions. On the Move published the report and policy recommendations *Cultural Mobility Flows: Parenting and International Cultural Mobility*<sup>12</sup>, following a webinar<sup>13</sup> in March on how structural limitations and the lack of knowledge and awareness generate inequalities in accessing international work opportunities in the arts and cultural sector. Both the webinar and the following publication explored the tensions between **cultural mobility and parental responsibility** in the EU and internationally. The policy recommendations from the research included the need to recognise cultural mobility as a central component of the professional trajectory of artists and culture professionals, and that making these opportunities accessible to those with caring duties is an important step in creating a fairer ecosystem. Additionally, the report recommended more engagement with artists and culture professionals with parental duties and better information collection and distribution. The webinar and report continue On the Move's work in reflecting on parenthood and mobility in the arts, which in 2022 saw the development of a podcast in collaboration with Points of Entry on discrimination against parenthood in the arts<sup>14</sup>.

Another focus of On the Move's advocacy for the rights of adequate working conditions for arts and culture professionals is that of **well-being**. On 26 September, as part of its pluriannual programme co-funded by the European Union, On the Move organised a webinar to explore the positive and negative impacts of international cultural mobility on the mental health and well-being of artists and culture professionals. In recent years, this theme has increasingly come into the spotlight when addressing other issues in the culture field, however, more research in this area needs to be done. The webinar 'Mental Health, Well-Being and International Cultural Mobility'<sup>15</sup> brought together examples of the paradoxes and tensions linked to the realities of cultural mobility, to identify the psychosocial risks linked to international cultural mobility and address existing inequalities, while discussing a more person-centred care. A Cultural Mobility Flows' Report will be published in January 2024 on the subject based on the lessons learnt from the webinar. One article that is connected to this report is already online via with the interview of Manojna Yeluri, Asia Regional Representative of PEN America's Artists at Risk Connection (On the Move member) by Freelance Culture Expert Sophie Dowden. In the article, Yeluri explains that at PEN International they 'recognize the mental toll of our work. We actively engage in open conversations about our feelings, conducting weekly check-ins to gauge each team member's workload and find ways to support one another. Though we continue to learn and evolve, fostering a culture that prioritises mental well-being is integral to our collaborative efforts.'<sup>16</sup>

In the context of improved well-being, On the Move also contributed to the Culture Action Europe 'The Elefsina Manifesto: Envisioning a Culture of Care'<sup>17</sup>. The manifesto was designed as a rallying call to artists, cultural organisations and professionals to embrace a politics and ethics of care as a fundamental element of collective work. The Manifesto included care for the climate, care and borders, care for the commons, communities of care, care and mental health, care and youth, care for the work culture, and curating care. The manifesto was presented at Culture Action Europe's Beyond the

<sup>12</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/cultural-mobility-flows-parenting-and-international-cultural-mobility>

<sup>13</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/mobility-webinar-parenting-care-and-cultural-mobility>

<sup>14</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/articles/move-x-points-entry-podcast-episode-parenthood-and-mobility-arts>

<sup>15</sup> <http://on-the-move.org/resources/library/mobility-webinar-mental-health-well-being-and-international-cultural-mobility>

<sup>16</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/articles/mental-health-and-forced-migration-challenges-needs-and-taking-action>

<sup>17</sup> <https://cultureactioneurope.org/news/the-elefsina-manifesto-envisioning-a-culture-of-care/>

Obvious 2023 gathering (held in Elefsina, Greece from 6 to 10 June), which centred around social well-being.

The condition of **disabled artists and culture professionals** was another subtheme explored by On the Move when examining working conditions. One of the key works developed was the report *Time to Act: Two Years On, Data-led Insights on Performing Arts and Disability in Europe*<sup>18</sup>, commissioned by the British Council and published in May 2023. The report was a follow-up from the *Time to Act* report (2021)<sup>19</sup> and it further investigated the knowledge gaps in the cultural sector that contribute towards inequalities for disabled artists and audiences. The report was part of the large-scale Arts and Disability project, Europe Beyond Access, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. *Time to Act: Two Years On* found that progress has been achieved, particularly in the countries where organisations, disabled professionals and policymakers have taken a commitment and have actively worked together to foster change. It demonstrated that multi-country, long-term actions lead to change. EU funding has also made a very significant contribution in this respect. However, the report found that further progress continues to be necessary even where advancements have been made.

The report was launched online<sup>20</sup> and it was presented at the 'Europe Beyond Access Symposium: Disability and Transforming the Cultural Ecosystem'<sup>21</sup> on 24 and 26 May 2023, online and in Brussels, where approximately 200 people attended. The presentations highlighted the importance of education and bridging the gap with the professional sector, as well as the importance of supporting and financing artists when they are consulted on arts and disability. On the Move also emphasised the importance of collecting in-depth data, both at the national and EU-levels, to adequately plan projects that support disabled artists and culture professionals.

The lessons learnt from the *Time to Act: Two Years On* report were also shared at the event 'Building Diversity on European stages'<sup>22</sup> organised by La Bulle Bleue on 9 and 10 June 2023. The roundtable and informal brainstorming session (together gathering approximately 85 people) highlighted the need for working statutes for artists with disabilities, as well as the connection between social and artists' rights. The diversity within the session emphasised the need to make more visible the practices, costs, and process that can help to shape funding and policies support, especially at a time when models for working in the sector are being reviewed and are potentially going through a stage of transition. On 12 March 2024, On the Move will be organising a webinar that follows up these initiatives, called 'The International Mobility of Disabled Artists and Culture Professionals'.

Rights of artists and culture professionals was also addressed in the context of **cultural mobility flows between the United Kingdom and the European Union** (through the 2023 *Cultural Mobility Flows Between the United Kingdom and the European Union* report<sup>23</sup> and the 2022 webinar<sup>24</sup>). This change in the relationship between the UK and the EU has been a shock for many artists and culture professionals, increasing the workload of an already precarious workforce, impacting long-term working relationships and networks between the UK and the EU which now have to be redefined. Addressing these

<sup>18</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/time-act-two-years-data-led-insights-performing-arts-and-disability-europe>

<sup>19</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/time-act-how-lack-knowledge-cultural-sector-creates-barriers-disabled-artists-0>

<sup>20</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/work/events/online-report-launch-time-act-two-years>

<sup>21</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/work/events/europe-beyond-access-symposium-disability-and-transforming-cultural-ecosystem>

<sup>22</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/work/events/building-diversity-european-stages-france>

<sup>23</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/cultural-mobility-flows-between-united-kingdom-and-european-union>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chPuoBpToN4>



concerns and practical challenges, On the Move took stock of the cultural relations between EU Members States and the United Kingdom.

The *Cultural Mobility Flows Between the United Kingdom and the European Union* report explored the changed the daily operations, budgets and ambitions of cultural exchanges between the European Union and the United Kingdom changed due to the post-Brexit EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The new regulations are difficult to understand and are more time consuming, leading some MIPs to develop specific guidance thanks to the Brexit Adjustment Reserve fund (which aims to mitigate those most affected by Brexit economically, socially, territorially and environmentally). The report highlighted the need for maintaining dialogue between the EU and the UK, as well as providing information and training specific to the cultural field.

Beyond the EU–UK context, **other activities on the working conditions of artists and culture professionals by On the Move** included the completion of the Status of the Artists survey, which was a consultation by UNESCO on the Implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist<sup>25</sup>. The survey focused on eight thematic areas: legal and regulatory frameworks; fair remuneration and access to financing; social and economic rights; digital environment; preferential treatment; artistic freedom; equality, inclusion, and diversity; and responses to COVID-19. Many of these themes are core to On the Move’s work, which made the contribution very relevant. The information gathered through the survey was analysed and presented in a consolidated report that was examined by the 217<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board and transmitted by UNESCO’s Director-General transmitted to the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Conference in November 2023.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.unesco.org/creativity/en/1980-recommendation-concerning-status-artist>

## 2. A fairer, more responsible and sustainable cultural mobility

### Visa issues

As a part of its advocacy activities for fairer conditions for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals, On the Move continues to tackle through various ways and in collaboration with other organisations and networks, **visa challenges**. More than 10 years after the online publication of the report *Artists' mobility and visas: a step forward*<sup>26</sup>, in October 2023 On the Move published the report *Schengen Visa Code and Cultural Mobility: Latest Insights with a Focus on Artists and Culture Professionals from the African Continent*<sup>27</sup>. This report, part of the EU-funded Deconfining<sup>28</sup> project, is based on a collaboration with On the Move's members and partners (alba KULTUR, Pearle\*, the International Music Council, the MiPs and Zone Franche) who have been working on the issue of visas and challenges related to the circulation of artists and culture professionals for many years. It includes the contribution from 131 individuals across Africa through surveys amounting to about 435 cases.

Some of the main difficulties artists and culture professionals faced in their visa applications were difficulty scheduling appointments and requests for non-compulsory documents, as well as the lack of embassies and refusal of visas for financial reasons. These challenges are very relevant, as visa rejections have multifaceted impacts, on careers, finances, local sectors and audiences. Survey respondents cited that the rejection of the visa led to loss of networking opportunities, loss of opportunities to work with peers, loss of visibility, and loss of income, significantly impacting their career. To address these challenges the respondents pointed to better training, more transparency, and more exchange between ministries of interior affairs, foreign affairs and cultural affairs in Schengen countries as possible areas for improvement.

With these findings in mind, and after the halt on cooperation between France and Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in September, On the Move contributed to the statement, coordinated by Zone Franche and with more than 60 co-signatories from the cultural sector, calling for increased dialogue with ministries of foreign affairs, culture and interior affairs in France.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, On the Move provided input to the Zone Franche report *Free circulation of artists: from theory to reality*<sup>30</sup> for the French Ministry of Culture, particularly in relation to Schengen codes of visas. On this topic, On the Move, through its French MIP (MobiCulture), also participated as a speaker at the Zone Franche event 'Artiste du Mali, Niger et Burkina Faso sans visa: situation d'exception ou problème systémique?'<sup>31</sup> on 11 October, which gathered together approximately 100 attendees.

In relation to the *Schengen Visa Code and Cultural Mobility* report, On the Move was approached by the Austrian Commission for UNESCO to answer an interview in preparation for the report *5-point plan of the working group Visa, residence, employment*<sup>32</sup>, where there was an interest in developing training tools to inform about artists and their reasons for their mobility.

Beyond Europe–Africa relations, On the Move joined 192 organisations to sign a letter on USA artist visas, coordinated by Pearle\*.<sup>33</sup> The USA Department of Homeland Security issued a proposed rule that would increase the filing fees for artist visas, lengthen

<sup>26</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/artists-mobility-and-visas-step-forward>

<sup>27</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/schengen-visa-code-and-cultural-mobility-latest-insights-focus-artists-and>

<sup>28</sup> <http://deconfining.eu>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.zonefranche.com/fr/actus/urgent-20-septembre-conference-de-presse>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.zonefranche.com/fr/actus/libre-circulation-des-artistes-plaidoyer-2023>

<sup>31</sup> <https://mama-musicandconvention.com/event/la-campagne-nous-ne-les-programmerons-pas-par-hasard/>

<sup>32</sup> [https://www.unesco.at/fileadmin/Redaktion/Kultur/Vielfalt/Dokumente-sonstige/5\\_Point\\_Plan\\_AG\\_Visa\\_final.pdf](https://www.unesco.at/fileadmin/Redaktion/Kultur/Vielfalt/Dokumente-sonstige/5_Point_Plan_AG_Visa_final.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/about/our-news/move-joins-192-organisations-sign-letter-us-artist-visas-coordinated-pearle>

processing delays and limit the number of beneficiaries per petition. The open letter called on the European Commission to support the cultural sector in the face of these proposed changes.

### **Mobility rights and (en)forced mobility**

On the Move also participated in a number of interventions on the **rights of mobility**, such as at the Culture Solutions' roundtable on 'Policy directions in EU international cultural relations, towards 2024'<sup>34</sup>, which gathered more than 50 key Brussels-based policymakers, networks' representatives and professionals from the cultural field. On the Move highlighted the importance of considering solutions (such as more MIPs and training) for the challenges of visa processes.

In another event, organised by Montpellier 2028 (a candidate city for the European Capital of Culture 2028) 'Échanges sur les enjeux de mobilité des artistes', On the Move highlighted the multiplicity of the motivations behind mobility, including the complexities of situations faced by artists and teams from Africa. These complexities not only include funding and visa issues, but also lack of invitations based on digital or environmental reasons, leading to decreased opportunities for artists and culture professionals coming from the African continent. On the Move also presented at an event organised by Bourges 2028 (which has since been designated the 2028 European Capital of Culture) where they delivered a workshop on professional international cultural mobility and inclusion.

In addition to the important advocacy on visas and the right to mobility, **On the Move also worked on the question of forced mobilities and artists in exile**. For example, On the Move's working group on (en)forced mobility<sup>35</sup> developed recommendations for organisations and actions in Europe and internationally for the hospitality of artists in exile and refugees, including for Ukraine. They also discussed issues such as the quality of hospitality for artists experiencing (en)forced mobility, which involves different stages of support and the need to provide professional development for the cultural organisations, as they often do not have experience in these humanitarian situations. The escalation of violence in Sudan was also a topic addressed by the working group, and PEN America's Artists at Risk Connection (among others) supported the Culture Resource and Action for Hope emergency initiative to support Sudanese artists and protect cultural resources in Sudan.

In March, On the Move supported the manifesto on migrant artists and culture professionals presented by PEN International and Artists at Risk Connection at the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council<sup>36</sup>. The statement urged member states to recognise the critical role of migrant artists in advancing human rights and ensure the full inclusion of migrant artists through accessible asylum policies, comprehensive protection programmes, and proactive inclusive cultural policies.

On the Move also contributed to the drafting of the Fair Culture Charter, facilitated by the German Commission for UNESCO<sup>37</sup>. The draft Charter on Fair Culture was developed from consultation with approximately 100 individual experts and it was prepared by nine experts from different cultural sectors and from all regions of the world, with the assistance of an expert advisory committee. On the Move's input particularly focused on the fact that visa processes should better consider the specific conditions in which artists and culture professionals are evolving.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/events/policy-directions-in-eu-international-cultural-relations-towards-2024/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/network/working-groups/enforced-mobility>

<sup>36</sup> <https://artistsatriskconnection.org/story/52nd-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.unesco.de/en/culture-and-nature/cultural-diversity/cultural-diversity-worldwide/fair-culture>

## Solidarity policy

Additionally, due to increased global instability, the **On the Move Board is currently developing a solidarity policy**. This comes after a workshop with 15 Palestinian artists as part of the 'Project Tadafuq Flow – تدفق Contemporary Art Programme in Palestine supported by the EUNIC – European Spaces of Culture's programme'<sup>38</sup> was cancelled in the aftermath of the events of 7 October. In its October's newsletter, and after consultation between the On the Move Board together with Mary-Ann DeVlieg, co-founder of On the Move and Co-Founder at International Arts Rights Advisors, On the Move expressed solidarity with colleagues in the occupied territories of Palestine and in Israel<sup>39</sup>.

## WOMEX highlights

At the key industry event WOMEX 2023, On the Move, Tamizdat, and cultural advocate Marie Fol hosted the first '**Cultural and Artistic Mobility Advocacy Summit**'<sup>40</sup> on 26 October. The intensive working session brought together 45 leading music sector and culture professionals from around the globe for discussion and debate. Key values like fairness, diversity, access, and sustainability, guided a wide-ranging discussion of funding, networks, business, and technology. Participants grappled with questions of strategic advocacy in the face of increasing political, economic, security, social, and environmental obstacles. The findings of the summit were reported on 28 October at the public session, The Policy of Progress, chaired by Marie Fol with summit participants Marwane Fachane (Morocco), Visa For Music and Hiba Foundation, and Karalyn Monteil (USA/France), UNESCO. An additional highlight at WOMEX 2023 was the **awarding of the WOMEX Award for Professional Excellence to On the Move**<sup>41</sup>. As stated by WOMEX: 'For the global music scene and the wider arts ecosystem, mobility is not a luxury, but a necessity. In their commitment to providing this invaluable resource for artists and culture professionals, On the Move opens the world to artists of all stripes.' On the Move believes that this is first and foremost an achievement by the members of the network, particularly through the advocacy, information and actions of the Mobility Info Points<sup>42</sup> and former On the Move President and current member, Marie Fol.

## International as a holistic concept

Overall, On the Move supports the idea to approach the concept of 'international' as a process and as something which needs to be considered in a holistic way. The notion of internationalisation of practices is often seen as what comes after the national or local level particularly in more privileged contexts, but it would be useful to reflect upon the whole picture (both contextually and on a practical level of project implementation) as well as rethink the systems and aid dedicated to climate change, international ethical and political issues. The latter would mean going beyond the project approach, particularly for artists and companies, to support longer periods of mobility and associated costs, as well as principle of solidarity in relation to certain contexts.

This holistic thinking and change of approach is related to other industry reports, such as *A New European Vision For Touring report*<sup>43</sup> (to which On the Move gave support) and to the question of environmental sustainability that will be approached in the next section.

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.eunicglobal.eu/projects/palestine>

<sup>39</sup> <https://mailchi.mp/6635e2b127e8/on-the-moves-newsletter-october2023>

<sup>40</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/about/our-news/cultural-and-artist-mobility-advocacy-summit-camas-within-scope-womex-2023-short>

<sup>41</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/about/our-news/womex-award-professional-excellence-given-move>

<sup>42</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/mobility-information-points>

<sup>43</sup> <https://liveurope.eu/news/new-european-vision-touring>

### 3. Environmental sustainability

#### On the Move's projects, events and publications

Building on a long history of work in environmental sustainability<sup>44</sup>, On the Move continues to maintain this topic as a core element of their work. Relevant 2023 activities included the **Cultural Mobility Forum**<sup>45</sup> (9 to 10 May in Tunis), which this year was focused on environmental sustainability. The Forum, held in collaboration with OTM member, Culture Funding Watch with the support of the European Union and the EU Delegation to Tunisia, was conceived as an attempt to (re)contextualise the conversation on cross-border artistic mobility and environmental sustainability, exploring the interdependencies between privileged (Western) Europe and other territories, investigating local practical sustainable solutions (for example on time, resources, well-being and local networks management) and listening to a variety of voices from the so-called Global South.

Informing the Forum was the **Cultural Mobility Yearbook 2023**<sup>46</sup>, with the environment and sustainability as its framework. In this second edition, the Yearbook looked back on activities in 2022 in order to get a picture of where the international cultural mobility sector stands today and gain a sense of where it might be heading next. The Yearbook also featured two articles offering personal perspectives on mobility and the climate crisis, from Selim Ben Safia (reflecting on the European cultural impulse to 'go local' from the perspectives of a Tunisian dance sector that has few local resources of its own) and Ukhona Ntsali Mlandu (debating the cultural sector in the larger framework of global economic systems that perpetuate inequality).

In another activity, **On the Move and the Motovila Institute co-commissioned a podcast to Points of Entry on Environmental Sustainability and Mobility in the Arts**<sup>47</sup> with Slovenian climatologist Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, who has served on the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This November episode focused on measuring environmental impact, setting concrete goals, and the relationship between creativity and survival.

**On the Move's Green Context-specific Mobility working group**<sup>48</sup> is another example of this engagement with sustainability, which also reaches out to On the Move members. The working group met three times in 2023. The first meeting in March was with a representative from Transport and Environment,<sup>49</sup> which campaigns for a zero-emission mobility system that is affordable and has minimal impacts on health, climate and the environment. The session emphasised the significant regional inequalities across Europe and highlighted the role the cultural sector has to play in raising awareness and contributing to advocacy efforts. However, the change in travel to a slower and more sustainable approach (one element of sustainable mobility), has a potential impact on individual's work-life-family balance and therefore the working rights of artists and culture professionals. In May the working group met at the Cultural Mobility Forum in Tunis in May, where the focus was on environmental sustainability and cultural mobility. The final meeting was a presentation session of the OTM sustainability policy and related documents in October 2023.

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<sup>44</sup> See for example *Green Mobility Guide for the Performing Arts* (commissioned in 2011 by On the Move and researched by Julie's Bicycle), the 2013 *Charter for a Sustainable and Responsible Cultural Mobility* and a number of other guides and publications produced with key industry partners.

<sup>45</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/resources-cultural-mobility-forum-2023>

<sup>46</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/cultural-mobility-yearbook-2023>

<sup>47</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/articles/move-x-points-entry-podcast-episode-climate-scientist-environmental>

<sup>48</sup> <http://on-the-move.org/network/working-groups/green-context-specific-mobility>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.transportenvironment.org>

## The SHIFT eco-certification

An important advancement in improving environmental sustainability in On the Move's own operations was the **first year working with the SHIFT eco-certification**<sup>50</sup>, a pilot phase with 15 other international cultural networks to co-develop a bespoke eco-certification for cultural networks, taking into account their specific needs and working methods. This builds on On the Move's work in 2022 (together with partner-networks and under the leadership of ELIA-European League of Institutes of Arts and EMC-European Music Council) to finalise the *SHIFT Eco-guidelines for Networks*. In 2023 On the Move, in close collaboration with its member The Green Room, took sustainability actions and evaluated their environmental impact across four main areas of work: management and policy, communication and raising awareness, travel, and events. Additionally, this process was discussed and shared with On the Move network members, which will potentially lead to a multiplying effect of the eco-certificate as network members green their own practices based on the experiences shared by On the Move.

This also led to the formulation of a more holistic approach towards green mobility in the arts and cultural sector. On the Move defines Green Mobility as follows:

**Green mobility**...not only considers the means of transportation used by artists and culture professionals but also the contexts in which artists and culture professionals are evolving, the reasons behind their mobility, and the impacts of what is done at their destination and upon return to their local context.

Green mobility is a collective responsibility, involving both those who benefit from mobility and those who financially support it, and must take into account the social, political, economic, infrastructural, environmental and ethical dimensions that frame it.

Adhering to these guidelines has a potential impact on the events and travel undertaken by On the Move, as was seen in the decision-making process taken when selecting appropriate engagement activities throughout 2023. For example, On the Move's new decision-making tool for the choice of locations of events and/or meetings' attendance<sup>51</sup> (developed as part of the SHIFT eco-certification framework with the Green Room) outlines a number of questions to gauge the travel impacts, including the duration of the event, possible modes of transport, the opportunities it provides, its impact, the regularity of travel to that location and the environmentally sustainable approach of the local partners or organisers. However, as On the Move acknowledges, a low carbon travel option usually implies spending more time travelling and might present reliability and comfort challenges in some contexts and that the final choice needs to take into consideration one's well-being, availability and personal/professional life balance.

## Calls to actions

Aside from On the Move's core activities, they also **contributed to a number of calls to action**. For example, On the Move participated in the Consultation of Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organisations on the implementation of the United Nations' 76/214 Resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development<sup>52</sup> presented at the 78th United Nations General Assembly in September 2023. In the survey, On the Move highlighted the importance of initiatives and resources such as the Cultural Mobility Forum, the Cultural Mobility Yearbooks, and the 2022 Perspective Report.

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<sup>50</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/about/our-news/shifting-towards-eco-practices-international-cultural-networks-take-lead>

<sup>51</sup> [http://www.on-the-move.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/OTM\\_sustainable-travel-decision-tools.pdf](http://www.on-the-move.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/OTM_sustainable-travel-decision-tools.pdf)

<sup>52</sup> <https://survey.unesco.org/3/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=438155&lang=en>

On the Move also signed the 'Culture at the heart of Climate Action' from the Climate Heritage Network<sup>53</sup>, in preparation for COP28 in Dubai. The call to action asked the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to back a 'Joint Work Decision on Culture and Climate Action', a UN process that would trigger policies and frameworks to enable culture to contribute fully to climate solutions. On 8th December 2023 over 30 Ministers or government representatives, and a large delegation of committed cultural advocates from across the globe, attended the historic inaugural meeting of the Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action, recognising the key role of culture for transformative climate action. The meeting resulted in the unanimous adoption of the Emirates Declaration on Culture-Based Climate Action<sup>54</sup>. This Declaration will pave the way for the adoption of a Joint Work Decision on Culture-Based Climate Action at COP 29, and subsequently to a related action plan ahead of COP 30 in Brazil.

## Consultations

From September, On the Move was invited to contribute through two online internal consultation sessions, to the **green guide for Creative Europe Experts**. The objectives of the green guide document are to provide a guide for experts on quality assessment with methods for the evaluation of the green aspects of project proposals and results submitted under the Annual Work Programmes until 2027 and to support Creative Europe Culture Desks' work. Drawing from years working on these topics, On the Move shared their assessment of the need to adapt tools to specific subjects or contexts, the need to consider additional challenges faced by non-EU participating countries, the sometimes discriminatory parameters imposed by open call that are taking more green approaches (such as limiting travel destinations) and, related to that, the importance of differentiating between green travel options (at local, national and transnational levels) and green mobility that can be understood in a more holistic way (see the above definition of Green Mobility).

In relation to this topic, On the Move also believes that more reflection on what the components of green travel and green mobility can be made. For example, more consideration could be given to the distinction between local and regional mobility (staff, audiences, partners when they are on site, and invited guests or artists) and cross-border mobility (of partners, artists, professionals and more). More analysis could also be made on which travel is more relevant, for example more online meetings could be held for administrative work. The ability to adapt current tools and integrate them at the project level (to better use limited resources) was also raised, as was the question of carbon offsets, which was seen as a questionable approach<sup>55</sup> and is not supported in OTM's sustainability policy<sup>56</sup>. Finally, the topic of increased financial remuneration was raised, to support additional cost for longer train rides (time compensation) and longer stays at the venue while being more connected to the local context (while providing parenting support, for instance).

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<sup>53</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/about/our-news/move-signs-call-culture-heart-climate-action-view-cop28-dubai>

<sup>54</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ghIMqsxSzm00NvJPF7T5377as40L22J0/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>55</sup> See for example Fiona Harvey, 'Greenwashing or a net zero necessity? Climate scientists on carbon offsetting', 18 January 2023, The Guardian at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/18/greenwashing-or-net-zero-necessity-climate-scientists-on-carbon-offsetting-aoe> or Gemma Bowcock, 'European airlines misleading customers with claims of "carbon-neutral" flights – study', 10 October 2022, Carbon Market Watch at <https://carbonmarketwatch.org/2022/10/10/european-airlines-misleading-customers-with-claims-of-carbon-neutral-flights-study/>

<sup>56</sup> See page 5 of the Sustainability Policy at [https://on-the-move.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/OTM\\_sustainability-policy.pdf](https://on-the-move.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/OTM_sustainability-policy.pdf)

## Events and articles

There was a number of events at which On the Move participated, explaining their role in the context of cultural mobility and environmental sustainability. For example, at the 'Journée transition écologique des établissements Culture', organised by the Ministry of Culture of France on 13 September, On the Move emphasised the importance of connecting biodiversity and cultural mobility while supporting cultural mobility. Best practices were shared with an audience of about 50 people, including the *SHIFT eco-guidelines for networks*. The *SHIFT guidelines* were also shared with the Creative Europe Desks of the European Commission on 4 December. Another relevant event was the 'Laboratoire Sans Transition', organised by the Théâtre de Liège on 24 November, at which On the Move spoke about green mobility issues and mobility justice. The event was attended by the Minister of Culture Rima Abdul Malak (France) as well as Bénédicte Linard, Minister for Childhood, Health, Culture, Media and Women rights (Wallonia government / Federation Wallonia-Brussels), as well 50 other attendees.

On the Move was also a panellist at the European Commission's EU-CELAC 2023 Summit Side-Events Civil Society and Local Authorities Forum, which included a Youth Day EU-LAC Business Round Table. The event identified the key challenges and opportunities for stronger cultural and people to people cooperation between Europe and Latin America and it especially emphasised the role for culture in sustainable development. In the officially submitted final recommendations (as well as in the press) there was an inclusion of arts and culture.

On the Move also contributed to a number of articles to the discussion on environmental sustainability, publishing with key sector platforms and organisations. On the Move Secretary General Marie Le Sourd contributed an article on environmental sustainability and artistic mobility for Liv.in.g, to be published in a publication supported by the Cariplo Foundation in January 2024. The article highlights the key learnings from the Cultural Mobility Forum. Cultural Mobility Forum findings were also published by the French Ministry of Culture in *Culture et Recherche, Création artistique et urgence écologique* in the article 'International cultural mobility and climate. What circulatory dynamics in the long term in the face of the ecological emergency?'<sup>57</sup>, co-authored by François Bouda and Marie Le Sourd.

Marie Le Sourd also wrote an article for *Revista Gestión Cultural* on 'Culture, environment and climate change: approaches from the perspective of cultural management', commissioned by the Spanish organisation Trànstit Projectes. The article argued for the importance of (re)-defining green mobility issues in the cultural and artistic sector, drawing examples from On the Move's work.

In ENCATC's Cultural Policy Tracker #4: Environmental Sustainability and Cultural Mobility (2023)<sup>58</sup> On the Move's John Ellingsworth explored recent trends in environmental sustainability and cultural mobility. This included a discussion of On the Move's second edition of the Cultural Mobility Yearbook which reflected on the importance of the 'green transition' being reflected in practices as well as in visibility. Marie Le Sourd also had an interview with Relais Culture Europe<sup>59</sup> regarding On the Move's work, which was published in November 2023.

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<sup>57</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/revue-culture-et-recherche-creation-artistique-et-urgence-ecologique>

<sup>58</sup> <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/cultural-policy-tracker-4-environmental-sustainability-and-cultural-mobility>

<sup>59</sup> <https://relais-culture-europe.eu/fr/news/entretien-avec-marie-le-sourd-secretaire-generale-don-move>



On the Move will continue to work on environmental sustainability, especially through the ongoing implementation of the SHIFT eco-certification, the communication of the SHIFT guidelines with On the Move members (thereby encouraging a multiplier effect) and through ongoing campaigns such as the Joint Work Decision on Culture and Climate Action' that is working towards the launch of the recommendations to UNFCCC for culture-based climate action at COP30.

## 4. Creative Europe programmes

On the Move has always been active in advocating for the continued and adequate support for artist mobility at a national and international level. This includes providing feedback for the new cycle of Creative Europe programmes. For example, On the Move provided feedback and recommendations on the Creative Europe Implementation, which was coordinated by Culture Action Europe and which was presented at the European Parliament hearing on 13 April.

On the Move also contributed to the *Online evaluation EU funding programmes 2021–2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives*. The research supported the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) deliberations on the current functioning of the four funding programmes (Erasmus+, Creative Europe, European Solidarity Corps and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (Strand 3)), in particular with regards to their implementation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report aimed to formulate evidence-based recommendations for the future development and structure of the programmes.

In June, On the Move provided input on a letter to support yearly call for large scale cooperation projects. The letter, sent to the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission on 4 July, called for the support of a larger group of organisations beyond the large-scale cooperation projects. However, this was ultimately unsuccessful, as in October Creative Europe confirmed the exclusion of large-scale cooperation projects for 2024.<sup>60</sup>

On the Move also provided input on the letter coordinated by Culture Action Europe to avoid decrease of Creative Europe Programme's budget, which was sent the President of the European Council, the President-in-exercise of the Council of the EU, the President of the European Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission, the National Ministers of Finance and the National Ministers of Culture on 1 September. A total of 70 networks and organisations from across the culture and creative sectors and industries signed the letter, which called for an alignment with the vote of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) to increase the Creative Europe budget 2024 by €43 million.

In September, On the Move provided input on the *Implementation Report of the Creative Europe Programme 2021–2027*<sup>61</sup>. Feedback on the greening process of the Creative Europe programme was a particular focus, highlighting that the definition of green mobility in the Creative Europe Programme Greening Strategy was markedly narrow and that if the number of activities and reporting requirements remained the same while simultaneously adding green criteria, this would exclude even more people and organisations. With this feedback, On the Move advocated for a more holistic green mobility definition that is more inclusive of the realities and contexts covered by Creative Europe countries.

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<sup>60</sup> <https://cultureactioneurope.org/news/creative-europe-confirms-exclusion-of-large-scale-cooperation-projects-for-2024/>

<sup>61</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CULT-PR-750020\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CULT-PR-750020_EN.pdf)