

International professional development programmes in the performing arts: do we need more of them or more contextualised ones?

A discussion in partnership with CIFAS, Producers' Academy and On the Move (part of the Learning Trajectories' ERASMUS + project), in collaboration with openoffice Brussels

When? Wednesday 18 May 2022

Time: 15.30-17.30

Venue: KAAI Forum (metro 2 and 6, stop Yser; T51: stop Yser)

[Registration link here.](#)

Mentoring, peer-to-peer learning sessions and other forms of professional development programmes in the performing arts sector have been growing in terms of formats, number and contents in Europe and internationally for the past five to seven years.

What are their specificities? To what extent are they answering the needs of the sector (eg. artists, producers, administrators etc.)? Are their formats inclusive and accessible enough? What types of contents and values are they sharing and/or strengthening?

This session with the contributions of four organisations' representatives aims to discuss these questions and others based on experiences, expressions of needs, as well as to consider ways to better connect the learning of these programmes at European, international but also local levels.

This discussion, being at the beginning of the Producers' Academy (PA), will allow to connect the PA participants with one another but also with organisations' representatives active in the field of networking, professional development and/or resources for the performing arts sector, together with openoffice's partners.

This session is also part of the *Learning Trajectories*, an ERASMUS+ project that investigates ways to best design and implement professional development programmes by supporting the international career development of cultural and creative professionals in the performing arts in Europe.

15.30-17.30:

Speakers:

- **Chrissie Faniadis**, Director, EUNIA / Coordinator of the Learning Trajectories ERASMUS+ project (in collaboration with On the Move, FACE-Fresh Arts Coalition Europe and Matera Hub)
- **Elena Polivtseva**, Head of Policy and Research, IETM
- **Valerie Wolters and Anna Six**, openoffice's representatives
- **Marine Thévenet**, Director, CIFAS

Moderator: **Marie Le Sourd**, Secretary general, On the Move

The session will be articulated around a one-hour session and a 45-minutes' small groups' interaction mixing Producers' Academy participants, speakers and external guests.

The session will be followed by a drink to continue the networking in a more informal way.

Speakers:

Chrissie Faniadis is a cultural policy expert, producer and strategist. She is the Founder and Director of EUNIA, the coordinating partner of Learning Trajectories, and a former facilitator of the Producers' Academy. Currently she is Head of Section at the City of Malmö, Sweden, leading its efforts towards becoming European Capital of Culture in 2029. She is on the board of the Royal Opera House of Sweden, a frequent speaker, moderator and expert in cultural policy with a long-standing engagement on the European scene. She is based in Stockholm, Sweden.



From producing to curating, locally and internationally, **Marine Thévenet** has a particular interest of the notion of context & contextualisation in the artworks and to its social impact on our society. She enjoys working in a team helping to shape projects and connect people and enjoys secretly solving problems.

She has worked at the TNB (Rennes), La Villette (Paris) and then 8 years in the UK as a producer at Artsadmin (London) working closely with artists from live art and performance, from wide participatory city-scale projects (Station House Opera and Mickael Pinsky) to small performed sculptures (Tim Spooner), playing with European networks and international collaborations.

In 2017, she joined L'Amicale, an artists/producers' cooperative platform of live projects (Lille-Brussels). L'Amicale has always thought content and form iterative to each other: in art projects as much as in the organisation itself, convinced that the producing tool has an influence on the creation itself.

Still a member of this cooperative, she is today based in Brussels to work alongside artist Anna Rispoli and festivals related to art in public space (FAB-Bordeaux, Tombées de la Nuit – Rennes). In 2021 she was appointed director of CIFAS (Bruxelles), a place of learning and experimenting ideas and practice around live art in the city.

www.cifas.be



Elena Polivtseva is currently Head of Policy and Research at IETM. This function entails coordinating and implementing IETM's publications and research projects, analysis of the European Union policies, as well as development of IETM's advocacy strategy and actions at the EU level. Between 2018 and 2021, she was a member of the Board of Culture Action Europe, a cross-sectorial network advocating for culture at the EU level. Elena is also a Project Manager of Perform Europe. Besides her experience in the cultural sector, Elena worked in a multinational company, in an NGO, and an EU affairs consultancy.

www.ietm.org



After studying political science between France and Germany, **Anna Six** started to work for the contemporary circus scene (Coopérative de rue de cirque) in Paris. Her steps then took her to Belfort, where she worked for Joanne Leighton, director of the choreographic centre (Centre chorégraphique national de Belfort), promoting her work through France and Europe. In 2014 Anna moved to Brussels to become production manager at Les Halles de Schaerbeek. Brussels became her city of choice, and after a short experience in the event and publicity sector she joined, in 2020, France Morin and the artists at Arts Management Agency.



Valerie Wolters was the business coordinator of Kunstenfestivaldesarts from 2013-2018. She co-founded the alternative management office Margarita Production in 2003. It was one of the first production and management structures offering tailor-made support for artists from various disciplines.

In January 2018 she started working as the financial coordinator of workspacebrussels. Workspacebrussels is a laboratory for artistic innovation within the performing arts, with a great openness towards transdisciplinary projects. Artists are invited to develop their practice through an intensive residency programme, coaching, production support and test presentations during the semi-annual Working Title Festival.

Since March 2020 she combines this function with a part-time job as administrative and financial coordinator for A Two Dogs Company, the company of artist Kris Verdonck. She also teaches production management at RITCS (technical department - performing arts) and sits on boards such as La Bellone vzw and Auguste Orts vzw.



Moderator:

Marie Le Sourd is since 2012 the Secretary General of On the Move, the cultural mobility information network active in Europe and worldwide. Prior to this position, Marie Le Sourd worked in Singapore for the Asia-Europe Foundation (Cultural Department) from 1999 till 2006 and directed the French Cultural Centre in Yogyakarta-Indonesia from 2006 till 2011.



Weblinks and resources:

CIFAS Producers' Academy: <http://cifas.be/en/producers-academy>

openoffice Brussels: <https://www.facebook.com/openofficebxl>

IETM: <http://ietm.org>

IETM campus: <https://www.ietm.org/en/meetings/ietm-campus-berlin-2022>

Learning Trajectories, ERASMUS+ project: <https://www.trajectories.eu/>

Learning Trajectories' publications: <https://www.trajectories.eu/results/>

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

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Coordinator of the event:

**ON
THE
MOVE**