

# Annual Report

# 2019

July 2020

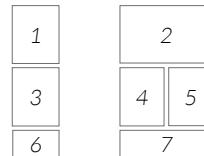
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Hull Plenary Meeting, photo: © Thomas Arran

# What is IETM?

IETM is the International network for contemporary performing arts. It is one of the oldest and largest arts networks in the world and will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2021.

IETM is a network of over 500 performing arts organisations and individual members working in the contemporary performing arts worldwide: theatre, dance, circus, performance, music theatre, interdisciplinary live art forms, new media.

Our members include festivals, companies, producers, theatres, research and resource centres, universities and institutional bodies.

Annually, we hold two plenary meetings in different European cities, as well as smaller meetings all over the world. In addition, we also commission many publications and research projects, and facilitate communication and distribution of information whilst advocating for the value of culture and the arts in a changing world.



Rijeka Plenary Meeting, photo: © Tanja Kanazir



Opening Keynote of the Hull Plenary Meeting, photo: © Thomas Arran

# Our Governance

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Between General Assemblies IETM is governed by its Board of Directors:

- **Cathie Boyd** / Cryptic, United Kingdom (President);
- **Barbara Poček** / Glej Theatre, Slovenia (Secretary);
- **Davide D'Antonio** / Associazione Etre, Italy;
- **Geoliane Arab** / ONDA, France;
- **Grzegorz Reske** / East European Performing Arts Platform, Poland (Treasurer);
- **Jeffrey Meulman** / National Dutch Theatre Festival, the Netherlands (Vice-President);
- **Susanne Næss Nielsen** / Dansearena nord, Norway;
- **Toni Gonzalez** / Escena Internacional Bcn, Spain.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IETM's Advisory Committee is a non-statutory committee which operates as a think-tank to discuss the direction of the network regarding middle and long-term strategy, and to maintain close relations with the membership:

- **Anikó Rácz** / SÍN Arts and Culture Centre, Hungary
- **Caspar Nieuwenhuis** / HKU - University of the Arts Utrecht, the Netherlands
- **Clara Giraud** / Independent, United Kingdom
- **Cristina Carlini** / Marche Teatro - Inteatro Festival, Italy (current Chair which rotates)
- **Frédéric Poty** / Théâtre de la Massue - Cie Ezéquier Garcia-Romeu, France
- **Isa Köhler** / Hebbel am Ufer, Germany
- **Pippa Bailey** / Independent, Australia
- **Vesselin Dimov** / ACT, Bulgaria
- **Zane Estere Gruntmane** / Pigeon-Bridge, Latvia
- + The 8 members of the Board of Directors



Newly appointed IETM Secretary General Ása Richardsdóttir welcoming everyone to the Rijeka Plenary Meeting, photo: ©Tanja Kanazir



Associate Members meeting at the Hull Plenary Meeting, photo: © Thomas Arran

## IETM SECRETARIAT

The Board of Directors delegates the daily running of the network to the Secretary General, who leads the organisation and is also responsible for developing the vision and strategy of IETM.

The Secretary General also manages the IETM Secretariat. Employees in 2019 were:

- **Abdallah Bahlit**, Administrator;
- **Albert Meijer**, Membership Officer;
- **Ása Richardsdóttir**, Secretary General;
- **Elena Polivtseva**, Communication and Policy Manager;
- **Fernando Bittencourt Hersan**, Communication Officer;
- **Francisca Salguero**, Production Officer;
- **Iris Lin**, Production Assistant;
- **Jeremy Gobin**, Communication Intern - from October Membership Officer;
- **Vassilka Shishkova**, Publication Officer;
- **Victor Mayot**, Events Manager;

## IDEA WORKING GROUP

IETM's IDEA group was established through open call after the General Assembly in Hull, March 2019 to help IETM members to address the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Accessibility) issues with a view to supporting the IETM Secretariat and the Board to implement the IDEA Strategy.

- **Alister Lownie** / Two Destination Language, UK
- **Ali Duncan** / Quarantine, UK
- **Catharina Bergil** / University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- **Jonathan Meth** / Chair of the board of Vital Exposure, UK
- **Julie Josserand** / Occitanie en Scène, France
- **Kalina Wagenstein** / Art Office Foundation, Bulgaria
- **Kara Hergils Valdimarsdóttir** / SL - Association of Independent Theatre, Iceland
- **Lian Bell** / Independent, Ireland
- **Nadja Dias** / Independent, UK
- **Riccardo Olivier** / Fattoria Vittadini, Italy
- **Tim Wheeler** / Independent, UK
- **Tunde Adefoye** / KVS - Koninklijke Vlaamse Schouwburg, Belgium
- **Vahid Evazzadeh** / The Counter Institute, Denmark

# Meetings

## SPRING PLENARY MEETING IN HULL

*Everyone and Anyone*

Partners: [Absolutely Cultured](#), [British Council](#) and [Arts Council England](#)

543 attendees  
from 39 countries

This meeting was held exceptionally within the 2018 budget year (1 April - 31 March), however, the results of the meeting are presented within this 2019 Annual Report.

IETM Hull 2019 explored the reality of inclusion in today's societies, in their artistic representations and in the process of creation. We examined issues around race, ethnicity, faith, disability, age, gender, sexuality, class and economic disadvantage and any social and institutional barriers that prevent people from participating in and enjoying the arts as an integral part of the societies they live in.



Hull Plenary Meeting, photo: © Thomas Arran

28-31 MAR - UNITED KINGDOM



Opening Keynote of the Hull Plenary Meeting, photo: © Thomas Arran



"Hearing a completely differing viewpoint from your own can widen your thinking and open your mind to new perspectives and possibilities."

"Sometimes, the questions asked matter more than the lack of answers, for the development of my own thinking."

"The keynote speeches were very well delivered and inspiring however they were all positions that we all agree with and I would like to be challenged more, rather than just agree with it all. It felt like "preaching to the choir". I would like a keynote speech that questions my own attitudes, maybe someone who presents a different point of view to that which dominates the cultural sector."



Hull Plenary Meeting, photo: © Thomas Arran

*Documentation and Publications:*

**MAPPING:**

- **The Performing Arts in (North of) England, Author: Tim Wheeler** This mapping, commissioned for IETM Hull, offers an in-depth overview of the performing arts scene in the North of England, where possible focusing on inclusive practices

**REPORTS FROM SESSIONS**

- **Everyone has an opinion, but only mine is right** Issues of inclusion, diversity and difference can often become intense, fractured and difficult. This session explored how to remain in dialogue with those who hold different opinions to our own and how to work positively from multiple viewpoints simultaneously.
- **Everyday creators: friends or foes?** What makes an artist an artist? This panel discussion and interactive open forum explored whether it is possible to awaken more people to the arts and empower potential artists by supporting everyday creativity.
- **If funders really wanted to support artists, what could they do?** There is constant criticism of bodies who fund art. Artists often feel that they are speaking a different language to funders. This report features some concrete ideas on how funding systems could be better aligned with artists' needs.
- **Cultural democracy in practice** The cultural democracy notion stemmed from the belief that many cultural traditions coexist and none should dominate over the others as the "official" or "high" culture. Another premise of cultural democracy is that everyone should be free to participate in cultural life. The speakers of this session presented several projects to explore how cultural spaces can better embody democratic processes and welcome diversity.

**ARTICLES:**

- Four articles, commissioned in partnership with **HowlRound**, featured various stances on the ongoing debate on inclusion, diversity, participation, and cultural democracy
- **Escaping the Imaginary of Engaged Arts** Goran Tomka looks at how arts and culture organisations can best engage with their communities.
- **Encouraging New Voices in Theatre Criticism** Jamie Potter from Middle Child Theatre discusses how their New Critics' Programme is helping grow and diversify theatre criticism in the UK.
- **Should Our Funds for the Arts Pay for Cultural Democracy?** Nan van Houte (IETM's Secretary General 2013-2019) expresses a desire for funding bodies to take their responsibility and support cultural democracy without compromising the existing subsidies for the arts.
- **Rethinking the Purpose of British Arts Institutions** Lyn Gardner looks at how several British theatre companies are redefining their mission and expanding in ways to be of greater benefit to their communities.

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

**FULL PROGRAMME**

**PHOTOGALLERY**

**VIDEOS**



Hull Plenary Meeting, photo: © Thomas Arran

## SATELLITE MILAN

### Language Barriers in the Arts

Partners: [Fattoria Vittadini](#) with [Festival del Silenzio](#)

89 attendees

This meeting brought attention to an important and rarely addressed topic 'Language Barriers in the Arts' which is pivotal to internationalisation and inclusion strategies across the performing arts. The report of the meeting provides an introduction to sign language culture, bringing insights into the role of translation whilst revealing the reality of the exchanges in the arts and ultimately, highlights key elements that define a language.

#### Documentation and Publications:

- [Report Loud silences. Languages, accessibility and cultural hegemony](#)

OTHER RESOURCES:  
[FULL PROGRAMME](#)  
[PHOTOGALLERY](#)



Satellite Milan, photo: © Massimiliano Monnecchi



"It was a great introduction to the world of sign language. Now we plan to connect with the community of deaf people and we start preparations to organise the translation of our events to sign language. It was an inspiring meeting!"

"Loved the energy of the moderators, the 'energising' breaks and different uses of the space and bringing dynamic interventions."



## ON THE ROAD PORTO

### Impact of Porto Plenary

Partners: [Teatro Municipal do Porto](#) and [Bússola](#)

17 attendees  
 from Portugal

In spring 2018, [IETM Porto](#) brought together nearly 700 performing arts professionals from all over the world for discussions on how art relates to the processes of transforming centres of creation, dissemination and decision-making. One year later, in partnership with [Teatro Municipal do Porto](#) and [Bússola](#), we headed back to Portugal to assess the impacts of the meeting, exchange best practices, and discuss the challenges the Portuguese arts community is facing today.



IETM Porto Plenary Meeting 2018, photo: © Cesar Coriolano

## ON THE ROAD GHENT

### Impact of Brussels Plenary

Partners: Het Theater Festival

**25 attendees**  
from Belgium

In Autumn 2017, IETM Brussels brought together a record number of 833 performing arts professionals from all over the world for discussions on art in the age of populism. Almost two years later, in partnership with Het Theater Festival, we moved the discussion to the Belgian city of Ghent to assess the impacts of the meeting, exchange best practices, and discuss the current challenges faced by the Belgian arts community.

12 SEP - BELGIUM



On the Road Ghent, photo: IETM

## AUTUMN PLENARY MEETING IN RIJEKA

### Audience

Partners: Rijeka 2020 European Capital of Culture

**317 attendees**  
from Belgium

This Plenary successfully attracted more participants from South-Eastern Europe than usual, strengthening our important ties with this region. Sessions aimed to challenge and deepen our understanding of the complex, crucial and fascinating theme of Audiences. This subject was explored from many different angles over 25 sessions. The meeting also offered participants the opportunity to take part in artistic walks and discover some of the great projects developed in the framework of Rijeka 2020.

24-27 OCT - CROATIA



Rijeka Plenary Meeting, photo: © Tanja Kanazir



Introductory "Who's there?" networking session at the Rijeka Plenary Meeting, photo: © Tanja Kanazir



"Loved the (Re)framing the International card game!"

"I really value IETM (coming from the other side of the world) as it connects me with a different sector and arts ecosystem and helps me question my own assumptions about our practice. I LOVE that it is not a market."

"I like the fact that IETM seems regenerated."

"I learned that in spite of economical differences, very often we are having the same issues."





*Documentation and Publications:*

**MAPPING:**

- **The Performing Arts in Croatia by Nataša Antulo**  
Commissioned in the framework of IETM Rijeka, this mapping aims to serve as an introduction to the complex and rich contemporary performing arts scene of Croatia. It brings key information on the historical foundations of the sector and highlights some of the key players of today's contemporary scene.

**REPORTS FROM SESSIONS**

- **Please turn off your cell phone** The main focus of this session was the issue of attracting new audiences. How do we reach out to potential new audiences that do not identify as regular theatregoers?
- **Art & activism** This session explored the intersection between art and activism, focusing on increasing the political effectiveness of artistic action.
- **How to make our performing arts practice more ecologically sustainable?** Seven lessons learnt during a brainstorm at the Associate Members meeting.

**ARTICLES:**

- Three articles, commissioned in partnership with **HowlRound**, featured various stances on the ongoing debate on inclusion, diversity, participation, and cultural democracy
- **Audience to be** Nevenka Koprivsek puts forward her opinion on what defines the relation between the artist and the spectator while challenging some of the most common concepts around audiences and providing insight into the reality of working in the Balkan region.
- **Cultural participation policies: A poverty of ambitions** Dr David Stevenson talks about audience diversification, confronts the dominant hierarchy of cultural activities, and looks to create space for valuing everyone's chosen cultural experiences the same way.
- **All we need is audience development?** Goran Tomka explores the definition of audience development from different angles, explains the correlation between spectatorship and citizenship, and studies the phenomenon of an implied or implicit audience.

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

**FULL PROGRAMME**

**PHOTOGALLERY**

**VIDEOS**



Participants at the Rijeka Plenary Meeting going on one of the available artistic walks around the city, photo: ©Tanja Kanazir

## SYMPOSIUM SINGAPORE

### Digital Technologies in Performing & Live Arts Audience

Partners: [National Arts Council Singapore](#) and [Esplanade - Theatres on the bay](#)

49 attendees

Three IETM members were invited as speakers and workshop leaders to join this symposium which aimed to create conversations around how the digital revolution challenges our creative practices and production, audience engagement strategies and audiences' habits. Through a series of presentations and workshops, this symposium was a platform for debating and learning about, whilst also experiencing various digital audience tools.

26-27 NOV - SINGAPORE



Symposium Singapore, photo: IETM

## CARAVAN YEKATERINBURG

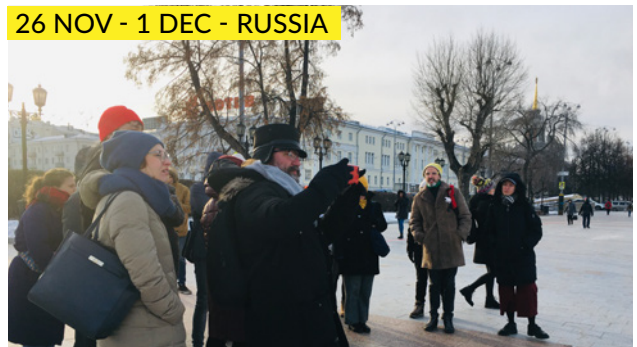
### Exploratory visit of performing arts professionals to get to know the rich performing arts scene of Yekaterinburg

Partners: [Theatre Union of the Russian Federation](#)

27 attendees  
from 12 countries

During five intense yet inspiring days, IETM visited the city from every angle, met key players of the Yekaterinburg performing arts scene, attended performances presented by local companies and had the opportunity to exchange with local artists on the purpose and aims of their work.

26 NOV - 1 DEC - RUSSIA



Caravan Yekaterinburg, photo: IETM

OTHER RESOURCES:  
[FULL PROGRAMME](#)  
[PHOTOGALLERY](#)



"It literally felt like a Caravan. On the run, moving and diving deep into a constant shifting landscape."

"It was an extremely interesting and rewarding experience, I'll try to participate in caravans in the future again"



# Capacity Building Programmes

## IETM CAMPUS ELEUSIS

*IETM's international summer school*

Partners: Eleusis European Capital of Culture 2021

**27 attendees**  
from 14 countries

The fifth edition of IETM Campus was a week of intensive training in all aspects of international working. It was a great opportunity for a group of 27 participants to start internationalising their careers, guided by the key players in the international performing arts field. The IETM Campus invites performing arts professionals to apply through open call. Criteria include at least two years of professional experience in the contemporary arts field, inviting them to take their first steps in the world of international exchange. This is open also to freelancers, working for an organisation that is starting to work internationally or working in an organisation aiming to enhance their practice.

### Tutors:

- **Mike van Graan**, Playwright, associate professor University of Cape Town, South Africa;
- **Judith Knight**, Arts Admin London, UK;
- **Nan van Houte**, Former Secretary General of IETM;
- **Gundega Laivina** Homo Novus festival, Theatre Institute, Latvia;
- **Ása Richardsdóttir**, Secretary General of IETM.

**OTHER RESOURCES:**  
[FULL PROGRAMME](#)  
[PHOTOGALLERY](#)  
[VIDEOS](#)



Participants in the Campus Eleusis, photo: © Ása Richardsdóttir



Campus Eleusis, photo: © Pantelis Ladas LDSPRO.  
NET // Courtesy of Eleusis 2021

## STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Job shadowing programme which offers our member organisations a unique opportunity to gain a short but valuable international experience by joining the team of another member organisation and hosting a professional from abroad. Participants in 2019: Samovartretet (Norway), Arts Admin (UK), ACT Association (Bulgaria), IETM Secretariat (Belgium), Teatro Di Sardegna (Italy) Théâtre de la Massue / Cie Ezequiel Garcia-Romeu (France).

# Publications



## **THE PERFORMING ARTS IN (NORTH OF) ENGLAND** *Tim Wheeler*

This mapping, commissioned for [IETM Hull](#), offers an in-depth overview of the performing arts scene in the North of England, where possible focusing on inclusive practices. The publication explores the Northern culture and examines some of the geographical, historical and economic forces that helped shape Northern England. It also takes you on a journey through the venues, the festivals and the companies that live, work and play in the region, and looks at key organisations, artists and themes.



## **THE PERFORMING ARTS IN CROATIA** *Nataša Antulov*

This mapping, commissioned for [IETM Rijeka](#), offers an introduction to the complex and rich contemporary performing arts scene of Croatia. It brings key information on the historical foundations of the sector and highlights some of the key players of today's contemporary scene.



## **EVERYBODY WANTS A REFUGEE ON STAGE** *Daniel Gorman and Rana Yazaji*

The publication *Everybody wants a refugee on stage: Conversations around contemporary artistic engagement with migration* is a follow-up of the mapping "Creation and Displacement" (2016). It looks critically at the way projects, which are considered as good examples of initiatives engaging creatively with displacement, developed and sustained themselves, as well as at the impacts those projects have on the participants and on the artists and creators.



## **IETM'S FUND FINDER 2019** *Marie Le Sourd and Maïa Sert*

Our Fund-Finder provides a detailed and easy-to-read overview of public and private funding opportunities for the arts and culture in Europe and beyond: at a national, regional and local level. It describes in a simple and clear language how artistic and cultural projects can fit with the objectives of several EU funding programmes other than Creative Europe.

Commissioned in partnership with [On the Move](#), this guide was first published in 2015 and, due to its high success, we update it every two years.



## **FRESH PERSPECTIVES 9: ARTS IN RURAL AREAS** *Fernando García-Dory, Piotr Michałowski and Laura H Drane*

The publication *Fresh Perspectives 9: Arts in rural areas* highlights the valuable contribution contemporary arts have in non-urban areas, brings the views of three experts on sustainable ways to improve conditions for artists working in those areas and offers examples of best practises from around the world. The publication was part of the joint [advocacy project](#) for art and culture in rural areas, in collaboration with Culture Action Europe, the European Network of Cultural Centres and Trans Europe Halles.



## **UPCOMING PUBLICATION**

Commissioned in 2019, a publication which looks back on IETM's work on inclusion in the past years, with IETM members' contributions about the future of the topic (to be published and disseminated in Summer/Autumn 2020).



## **UPCOMING PUBLICATION**

Commissioned in 2019 a publication on freedom of artistic expression (to be published and disseminated in Summer/Autumn 2020).

# Communication

IETM's main communication objectives are:

- To promote information about our activities;
- To disseminate their outputs/ evaluation and our expertise on the topics covered;
- To diffuse professional opportunities and projects relevant to our membership.

We are committed to advocating the value of the arts and culture whilst reaching out to policy-makers and other sectors, operating outwith our field.

Our website is the network's main communication tool but we are very active on other channels as well to facilitate both internal and external communication:



## Social Media

We are mostly active on [Facebook](#) (16 500+ followers at the end of 2019), [Twitter](#) (8000+ followers) and [LinkedIn](#) (2000+ followers). We also have an [Instagram](#) account, which we are currently using for more informal publications about the network. Our social media channels are not only the best way to stay updated on our latest activities but also to find out about what EU and global institutions and partner networks are up to.



## Forum

[IETM's forum](#) is a closed space where all members can engage directly with other members on any topic they find relevant. This can range from a call for contributions, hosting a local or national talk, asking for professional advice, looking for partners, finding travel buddies to attend one of our events, etc. The more contributions our members make within the forum, the more answers they receive from the community.



## Press relations

We have an active partnership with [HowlRound](#), a US-based platform for theatre, which includes joint commissioning of articles in the framework of upcoming plenaries and satellite meetings, as well as live streaming IETM's key sessions. Over 2019, we also enhanced our collaboration with [The Theatre Times](#) and have been frequently featured in [various other media](#).



## Newsletter

We issue a comprehensive monthly newsletter to our members and a condensed one to the general public, in which we include all the latest activities of IETM, EU policy news and ongoing partnerships and projects. We also advertise the latest members news and forum posts in the newsletter to ensure maximum visibility for our members contributions.



## Mailings

We regularly send mailshots to our members keeping them informed of our latest activities. These mailings can either be addressed to the whole membership or to specific groups, such as members registered for one of our upcoming events.



## Members news page

Our [members news](#) page is an open space where our members can post the latest news about their activities such as calls for contributions, job opportunities, calls for residencies, workshops or festivals, etc. Ongoing calls are advertised in the newsletter.



## Themes blog

Our [themes blog](#) is a stream of content generated or created by both IETM staff and our members, which puts in focus the subjects we consider essential in the contemporary performing arts today through articles, reports and other documentation material.



## Other communication material

As part of our communication, we also share pictures, recordings and live-streams of our meetings, surveys to get our members' input on sector-specific topics and campaigns which we are leading or taking part in.

# Advocacy

In 2019, many significant events shook our societies, challenged global political systems, and revealed yet again the fragility of our environment. IETM felt the urge to embed the voice of the performing arts in policy discourse and make sure the tremendous value our art form brings to societies is recognised and enhanced. Together with four other performing arts networks (Circostrada, European Dancehouse Network, In-SITU, and the European Theatre Convention), we produced a manifesto "[Power of the Performing Arts in Europe](#)", in which we highlighted the unique qualities of the performing arts and formulated the key policy proposals on how to support the sector. The manifesto was the key tool of our joint campaign undertaken in spring 2019, on the occasion of the European elections.

The European Commission and the European Parliament partly renewed their composition in 2019, and it was our priority to engage with the new-comers, in order to raise their awareness of the values, needs and aspirations of our sector. The absence of the word "Culture" in the new Commissioner's title, Mariya Gabriel, who got culture as part of her portfolio, sparked a massive campaign [#BringCultureBack](#) run by Culture Action Europe. The campaign was based on an open letter to the Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. IETM, as a member of CAE, initiated and drafted the letter. The campaign proved to be successful, and culture was embedded in the Commissioner's title.

The EU Budget 2021-2027 was one of the major concerns of the European cultural sector, and IETM co-drafted and signed several open letters urging the EU policy-makers to at least double the tiny budget of the Creative Europe programme. Moreover, we were active in amending the proposals for the content of Creative Europe, putting forward the focus on socially relevant issues, freedom of expression, inclusivity and better access of smaller players to the programme funds. We are satisfied with a greater presence of a social component in the programme proposal and are hopeful of the discussions on possible increase of co-funding rates.

Status of the artist has been a major focus of our advocacy work, since the beginning of 2019 and continues today. We informed a handful of policy-makers of the severity of the problem, and set an action plan on advocating a special policy framework protecting artists' socio-economic status. The European Commission organised a few dialogue meetings on the matter, to which IETM substantially contributed. We will also undertake a more concrete and forward-looking action on the status of the artist in 2020, engaging a broader spectrum of cultural networks.

As in previous years, IETM has been highly vocal on the issue of cultural mobility. Besides participating in the policy recommendation phase of the [I-Portunus project](#), we were actively advocating a special EU scheme for touring in the performing arts, which finally saw the light in 2020.

The theme of art in rural areas guided a considerable part of our advocacy and research activities. We commissioned a publication on [Art and Rural Areas](#), which served as a knowledge tool for our [advocacy work](#) on the topic, undertaken in collaboration with the European Network of Cultural Centres, Trans Europe Halles and Culture Action Europe.



Former IETM Secretary General Nan van Houte speaking about IETM during an info session for Maltese cultural professionals, organised by IETM's associate member Arts Council Malta, photo: IETM

## EVENT PARTICIPATION

Each year IETM takes part in many other networks and organisations events entering diverse, creative dialogues. Here is an overview of some of our meeting participation in 2019:

- **20 February** DG CNECT Round-table Creative Europe support to innovation in the cultural and creative sectors in Brussels
- **5 March** European Festivals Association (EFA) event EU Commissioner Navracsics Tibor in Brussels
- **19 March** Be Creative call the Bank at ING Art Center Brussels
- **19 March** Information session about Rijeka 2020 European Capital of Culture held at the European parliament in Brussels Belgium
- **6 - 7 April** Spring Forward festival held in Paris France
- **23 - 25 April** General Assembly of On-The-Move held in Prague Czech Republic
- **24 - 26 April** Creative Lenses Helsinki Finland
- **13 May** Brussels Creatis Talks - Focus on Festivals
- **22 - 24 May** Circostrada Fresh Street #3, Galway Ireland
- **6 - 9 June** Portugese Performing Arts Platform, Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal
- **19 - 23 June** Inteatro festival, Naples, Italy
- **9 - 10 July** Communique - communication managers meeting of several EU funded networks Bonn Germany
- **11 July** Meeting of networks from Spain, Africa and Latin America
- **17 June** Creative Europe Networks Meeting at European Commission's learning centre Brussels
- **8 - 9 August** Boulevard festival, Netherlands
- **3 - 5 September** Voices for Culture workshop on Gender Equality Prague Czech Republic
- **18 - 22 September** Bitef festival Belgrade Serbia
- **23 September** Act for Europe through Culture at Bozar Brussels
- **26 September** EFA festival Awards in Brussels
- **7 - 8 November** Europcom in Brussels
- **20 November** Event organised by Freemuse at Bozar Brussels
- **26 - 30 November** Proximamente KVS' festival on Latin America in Brussels
- **10 December** Network event of Disorderly Women, Amsterdam Netherlands

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Each year IETM is invited as a guest speaker and to take part in many panels. An overview of the network's 2019 speaking engagements:

- **13 February** Presentation about IETM during an info session for Maltese cultural professionals Organised by IETM's associate member Arts Council Malta
- **11 - 13 June** Keynote speech and panel at the Irish Theatre Forum held in Wexford Ireland
- **26 - 29 June** EUNIC Siena Cultural Relations Forum
- **10 - 11 September** Panel discussion at Life on Mars held by Liv.in.g. - Live internationalization gateway Milan Italy
- **19 September** Panel at a "Journée professionnelle" organised by LAPAS in Paris France
- **3 - 4 October** Seminar in Toulouse France organised by d'Occitanie
- **15 - 16 October** I-Portunus Policy recommendations workshop
- **18 - 20 October** Speech and workshop on sustainability as part of keđja Stretch organised by Dance Info Finland, Turku Finland
- **21 - 22 October** EACEA meeting for Creative Europe beneficiaries
- **12 November** Address as part of an event organised by Liv.in.g. - Live internationalization gateway in Brussels

# Projects

## \*NEW PROJECT\*



### **REWIRING THE NETWORK**

*PARTNER [Idea Consult](#)*

IETM began working on a new strategy for the network in 2019. Internal work on environmental issues led to a new larger trajectory entitled Rewiring the Network being developed further and executed in 2020. Our aim is to reflect on the development of a more sustainable future for the performing arts, and the role IETM can take in it. The results of this trajectory will help develop IETM's vision and define our future strategy.

## **PROJECT PARTNERSHIP**



### **CULTURAL RELATIONS PLATFORM**

In 2019, IETM took part in developing a renewed tender to co-lead the Cultural Relations Platform.

The Cultural Relations Platform is an EU-funded project launched in April 2020, designed to support the European Union to engage in international cultural relations. The Platform's mission is to strengthen the EU's ability to engage meaningfully with different audiences and stakeholders in its partner countries, through enhanced cultural relations and cultural cooperation.

Led by Goethe-Institut Brussels. IETM is part of the Platform's consortium with the European Culture Foundation, Netherlands and the University of Sienna Italy. The tender was successful.



### **SHIFT PROJECT**

The SHIFT project aims to provide training and skills for cultural leaders, specifically those of cultural networks. Cultural leaders shall be enabled to implement changes where needed and to pass on their knowledge gained through the project to leaders and staff members of their network and to the broader cultural sector. This project is coordinated by the European Music Council. IETM is part of the SHIFT project alongside eight other European cultural networks. We are currently leading the project strand on Power and Gender relations whilst also contributing to topics around Climate Changes and Inclusion.



### **EUROPE BEYOND ACCESS**

Europe Beyond Access is a transnational project supporting innovations from disabled artists in theatre and dance across Europe. It is Europe's largest Arts and Disability programme, championing disabled artists on the international stage, building audiences for their work, and developing a network of leading mainstream institutions that are committed to commissioning and presenting work by disabled artists at the highest level. IETM supports Europe Beyond Access as a Dissemination Associate.



# Membership

At the end of 2019, IETM members totalled 496 across more than 45 countries worldwide, with a vast majority located in Europe.

The diversity in type and size of organisation remained stable compared to previous years. IETM represents a variety of cultural players in the contemporary performing arts field, be it in education, production, presentation, curation, promotion, support or research. Keeping a broad geographic coverage and a balance of members in terms of size and type of organisation is an important element of our membership strategy.

Our members actively contribute to the development of the network, whether by contributing to our publications with their input and expertise, answering surveys to assess and help us improve our activities or helping us design and share our advocacy campaigns. We strive to significantly engage with our members, whilst ensuring that we adapt to the membership's needs and wishes in order to build a healthy, relevant network with and for the members.

Please note that some of our activities are also open to non-members: they can take part in most of our events for a higher fee and can also actively contribute to IETM's publications and access any research paper or report produced by IETM digitally, free of charge.

The full list of IETM members is accessible at all times [here](#).



Hull Plenary Meeting, photo: © Thomas Arran

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