



International network for contemporary performing arts

## Annex AG.203

# Activity report and plan 2021

## Prologue

This activity report includes an overview of the events, activities and publications IETM has made during the first five months of 2021, and the events that are planned in the second part of the year.

As you have seen in the [2020 Annual Report](#), IETM applied with partners to lead a European Commission tender service contract, now known as Perform Europe. And our joint efforts bore fruit: we won the bid to run this 18-month project, started at the end of 2020. [Perform Europe](#) is our joint highly-anticipated project for the performing arts sector which will support experiments to find more sustainable ways for international – physical and digital – touring of performing arts works in all Creative Europe countries. Perform Europe has and will contribute considerably to the calendar of events of IETM in 2021 and into 2022.

As COVID-19 restriction hopefully will be easing, to some extent, we are also happy to report to IETM members and the performing arts community at large that we will be hosting two physical events in the autumn: the [IETM Lyon Plenary Meeting](#) (21 - 24 October) and the [IETM Satellite Girona](#) (25-27 November), which will both also allow online participants to actively take part in the meetings' activities.

In addition, IETM will continue its research and advocacy work, publications and other activities which are of interest and benefit to IETM members and the performing arts.

## ACTIVITIES January - May

### Events

#### [Perform Europe Opening Event](#)

PARTNERS: [European Festivals Association \(EFA\)](#), [Circostrada](#), [European Dancehouse Network \(EDN\)](#) and [IDEA Consult](#)

28 January

1300+ Registrations

Live stream: On **Facebook** (HowlRound) a total of 25K individuals saw the livestream appear in their Facebook feed and it generated 779 (positive) reactions, comments and shares. On **Twitter**, the live tweeting reached 19,7K impressions with an average of 2,23% engagement rate.

At the **Perform Europe Opening Event** we introduced the project's guiding values and vision, informed about its future online platform and about the opportunities it will be providing for performing arts professionals from all backgrounds and horizons in all Creative Europe countries. A key starting point for the performing arts sector at large and policy-makers, the Opening Event was divided in two parts: a Plenary Opening open to anyone with a view to introducing the Perform Europe project, followed by our 'Imagine the Future' Talks with 80 sector representatives and policy-makers.

[Watch the recordings](#)

#### [Rewiring the Network: Let's talk future](#)

PARTNER: [IDEA Consult](#)

24 March

151 Attendees

Throughout 2020, in collaboration with IDEA Consult, [Rewiring the Network](#) was our year-long trajectory where we examined how we, as a network and as a sector, could change our existing methods and habits and discover new ways to work together, internationally. We approached sustainability in a holistic way: from an artistic, ecological, social, human and economic point of view. After publishing the final [Rewiring report](#), which summarises the main insights and learnings from our trajectory, we invited our members to two identical online sessions on 24 March 2021. There, we examined the outcomes of Rewiring, and discussed what we should put in focus and set our priorities on in the coming years towards a more sustainable future. Both sessions were opened by [Joris Janssens](#), Expert from IDEA Consult, who briefly introduced the outcomes of Rewiring, before opening the floor to members. In this part of the session, the 113 IETM members who joined had the opportunity to have their say on what should be IETM's priorities in the upcoming years – via an open discussion and a voting moment

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### [Participatory and Immersive Creation - March 2021 meeting](#)

09 March

23 Attendees

The Participatory and Immersive Creation group (PIC) aims to provide a space for IETM members to tackle central issues we have in creating, presenting and producing this genre of work, through open discussions, experience sharing, and creative exchanges. The PIC March online session focused on two topics:

1. What participation means, what makes a work immersive, without pretending to lock ourselves into definitions, but on the contrary to gather a wealth of thought.
2. A sharing of past errors resulting from failed attempts, misconceptions or naiveté, aiming to reach a "been there, done that, moving on" kind of sharing.

### [Perform Europe Brainstorms](#)

**PARTNERS:** [European Festivals Association \(EFA\)](#), [Circostrada](#), [European Dancehouse Network \(EDN\)](#) and [IDEA Consult](#)

21 April and 22 April

140 Attendees

In collaboration with our Consortium partners we offered the broader performing arts sector from all the 41 Creative Europe countries to apply for two identical large-scale online Brainstorms on 21 and 22 April 2021. The purpose of these two Perform Europe Brainstorms was to hear about how needs could be reflected in a future European funding scheme. What is still missing? Which characteristics should the future support scheme have to be in line with our desired future? After an introduction about the preliminary findings of the Perform Europe Mapping and Research phase, participants broke out into virtual groups to brainstorm on how new ways of thinking and doing could help build a more sustainable touring and distribution models for the performing arts, and how this could be reflected in the new scheme.

### [Perform Europe Expert Camp](#)

**PARTNERS:** [European Festivals Association \(EFA\)](#), [Circostrada](#), [European Dancehouse Network \(EDN\)](#) and [IDEA Consult](#)

4 May

30 Attendees

While the two large-scale Brainstorms allowed us to go broad and develop co-ownership of the results, in the context of the PE Gap analysis the Expert Camp targeted a more limited audience of experts among the main involved stakeholders of the Perform Europe project (Consortium partners, Jury members, Advisory board, Country Correspondents, interviewees, experts on touring and mobility, etc). Based on the research results and on the outcomes of the two large Brainstorms with the sector, the purpose of this Expert Camp was to **co-design specific and concrete recommendations** which will feed into the Perform Europe process and eventually policy recommendations.

## On-going activities and plans for 2021

### Events June - December 2021

#### General Assembly by written consent – 3-24 June 2021

As physical events could not take place in spring 2020 and Belgian law requires all Belgian associations to hold their General Assemblies by 30 June 2021, IETM's General Assembly will again be held by written procedure this year. All the members who have paid their membership fee will receive documentation and a voting template form as well as instructions on how to proceed. The documents will be sent to members on 3 June with a deadline to return their votes by 24 June.

#### Info session for IETM members in connection to the IETM written procedure General Assembly – 9 June 2021 at 11:00 CEST

To enable IETM members to ask questions regarding the 2021 General Assembly, the IETM Board of directors will host an info session for members, in the midst of the written procedure period.

#### Shift Gender And Power Relations Research Launch – 4 October 2021

The [SHIFT project](#) has a focus on Inclusion, Environment, Leadership and Gender and Power Relations. The Gender and Power Relations topic, led by IETM, encompasses a lot of complex issues, both in society and more specifically in the cultural sector. SHIFT partners decided to focus on sexual harassment in the cultural and creative sectors and attempt to move the dialogue away from victims towards structures. At this event we will discuss the research results and launch a **Stories of change toolkit** for the European Culture Sector. The goal of this session is to introduce the research and inspire the discussion on institution's responsibilities and possible next steps.

Speakers: Marta Keil, independent researcher Poland and Marie Le Sourd - On the Move France

#### IETM Lyon Plenary Meeting – 21-24 October 2021

What has the pandemic times taught us beyond the fragility of our ecosystems? What can we learn from each other and pass on to new generations? *Trans-missions* is the main theme of our next Autumn Plenary Meeting, from 21 to 24 October 2021. It will be organised as an Open Forum that will provide a free space to invent, together, processes, methods and other modes of transfer which can serve our performing arts ecosystem, in a sustainable way.

The meeting is co-organised by a diverse team of artists and cultural professionals based in France. It will take place in Lyon, and more broadly in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

Hosted in different places all over the city of Lyon, this Open Forum Plenary will invite participants to create the discussions jointly at the beginning of each day – propose topics and

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questions, inspired by the main *Trans-missions* theme. We will make sure there will be ample space for informal networking and exchange. The meeting will also be an opportunity to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our network, which held its first formal meeting in France in 1981.

The Plenary will offer hybrid formats, mixing physical and digital means, to allow everyone to actively take part in the discussions.

### [IETM GIRONA 25 - 27 November](#)

Co-organised by ICEC – Institut Català de Les Empreses Culturals and Institut Ramon Llull, in collaboration with the Temporada Alta Festival and the Girona City Council, the next Satellite Meeting of IETM will be held from 25-27 November 2021 in Girona.

Centered around the subject *Tomorrow is here*, the meeting will consist of a collective reflection on how we can build on what we have learned and think of new ways to reposition the arts as a relevant agent for social change.

Participants will be able to follow one of three different thematic threads, each exploring a particular space for social change:

- New funding schemes and cultural policies
- Alternative models for the international
- Opportunities for artistic innovation

The city of Girona and its surroundings' vibrant artistic scene will also be explored, through artistic visits and a rich artistic programme. And online participants will be able to actively take part in some of the meeting activities

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

Each year, IETM is asked to speak and take part in dialogues on diverse topics. Here is an overview of the speaking engagements we delivered so far in 2021:

**10 February** [Waiting for the Jab: COVID-19 Impact on the cultural and creative sectors](#), POLIGON Creative Centre.

**13 February** [ON-PAM / TPAM symposium . Japan](#)

**25 March** Stockholm University Arts Sweden

**29 March** [Assitej International](#) conference

**6 May** EACEA meeting for networks, platforms and cooperation projects

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### [REWIRING THE NETWORK: Resetting the Agenda for IETM](#)

*Authors: Joris Janssens, Delphine Hesters, Martina Fraioli (IDEA Consult),*

*edited by Elena Polivtseva (IETM)*

After the year-long 2020 strategy trajectory we published the report of our work – which also marks a new beginning. This report is an accumulation of ideas which now need to be turned into concrete strategies for the coming years. Our work can provide IETM members with keys to change their own practices and organisations. Likewise, our findings can be of use for other cultural networks and organisations which are looking to change their existing methods and habits and to discover new ways to work together in a sustainable way, internationally.

Keywords: Business Models, Connections, Cooperation and Development, Creative Industries, Cultural Policy, Economy, Environment, Evaluation, Partnerships, Status of the Artist, Sustainability

### [Climate action and the performing arts](#)

Report from the Galway Satellite 2-3 December 2020

Rapporteur: Natalia Skolczyk

The performing arts scene is ever more involved in reflecting on how to initiate a better sustainable artistic production, as well as on its possibilities to be a vehicle for spreading the awareness on topics related to environmental sustainability.

This report presents some of the reflections and discussions on the relationships between performing arts and climate action held during the digital IETM Galway Satellite Meeting in December 2020. Specifically, it features some inputs, tools and experiences of experts in greening performing arts, as well as activists and advocates from outside and inside the arts scene who gathered at the meeting.

Keywords: Climate, Business Models, Cooperation And Development, Economy, Environment, Mobility

### [Positive Practice in Funding Programmes](#)

**Expected publication date: Winter 2021**

The purpose of the research is to identify, highlight and analyse examples of positive practice in funding programmes that support transition towards more sustainable practices and an inclusive recovery of the arts sector.

The publication will advocate for rethinking, adjusting and upgrading models, methods and instruments of funding in the field of arts, as a key element for a positive future of the sector in the broader social context.

The publication will enhance and feed into other IETM activities, adding inspiring stories, knowledge and arguments to its advocacy efforts on the level of EU institutions, enriching the

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discussions of IETM's Associate members, and feeding the debates carried by the IETM members in their own environments.

**Authors: Milica Ilic and Fatin Farhat**

## ADVOCACY AND POLICY

In 2021, IETM will continue advancing and contributing to the pan-European debate on working conditions in the cultural sector. We have brought input (through a series of consultations and editing) to Culture Actions Europe's background analysis "[The Situation of Artists and Cultural Workers and the post-COVID-19 Cultural Recovery in the European Union](#)" produced for the European Parliament. IETM is also part of the Voices of Culture process on [Status and Working Conditions of Artists and Cultural and Creative Professionals](#). We are closely following up the European Parliament's debate on the topic, and we are preparing amendments to the [Draft Report on the situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU](#) by MEP Monica Semedo.

Perform Europe remains our core forum for advocating structured and continuous support for more sustainable and inclusive touring and distribution of the performing arts across borders. The research outputs of Perform Europe are our essential tools to highlight the main issues and imbalances in the cross-border performing arts ecosystem, as well as the ground for putting forward the most relevant and sound solutions. In 2021, we will also distribute grants among the most innovative touring and distribution proposals, which will be analysed along their implementation, and this analysis will be reflected in the final policy recommendations.

We will continue reacting to the main policy trends and developments at the EU and international level, issuing policy statements, briefings, and reports. The recovery of the cultural sector remains the vital priority of IETM's policy and advocacy work, thus we will closely monitor EU's and national policies and strategies in this regard. Our research work, namely the publication in progress on positive practices in funding programmes, will serve as an instrument to propose more fair, inclusive and innovative funding mechanisms that will help the sector to emerge from the crisis in a more sustainable shape. We will continue liaising with other international and European networks and institutions to advocate for a stronger support to the cultural sector in the face of the devastating consequences of the pandemic.

## PROJECTS

### IETM Guest Membership Programme

As a response to the COVID-19 crisis, IETM launched its first Guest Membership Programme at the beginning of 2021. With limited resources and international connections vital yet undermined, solidarity and sharing within our network is needed. According to this programme, you, current members who joined the network before 2021, have the opportunity

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to invite one guest member to join IETM for two calendar years, as part of your 2021 membership renewal. What's more is that your guest can either enter the network free of charge or you can suggest to them to share your 2021 membership renewal fee with you. In other words, when renewing your IETM membership in 2021, you, as a member organisation or freelance/self-employed member, can become the host member of one other member organisation or freelance/self-employed professional who will have the same membership rights as all other members during 2021 and 2022. Please note that this programme is optional and you are free to decide whether you'd like to take part.

The procedure to invite your guest member organisation or freelance/self-employed guest member for 2021-2022 will be open until the end of 2021 and you can find the information in the members area on the IETM website.

### [IETM Global Connect](#)

IETM Global Connect is a new programme launched and led by IETM - International network for contemporary performing arts and created with the support of [IETM's Associate Members](#). The goal of Global Connect is to make our network more inclusive, diverse and accessible.

The programme is open to performing arts professionals worldwide (producers, artists, managers, presenters, etc) who have at least 5 years of professional experience in the field and are committed to increase global awareness, inclusion, accessibility and connectivity – in the sector at large and in their communities.

Selected IETM Global Connectors will have the opportunity to enlarge their international connections, develop new skills and knowledge, actively share their perspectives with the network and bring new insights and learnings back to their communities.

To achieve this, they will receive the IETM membership for 2021-2022 – thus getting free access to all our events. They will also take part in the yearly IETM Global Connectors Gathering and will benefit from a travel bursary to attend one IETM event.

Deadline to apply for the 2021-22 programme is on 7 June and the selected candidates announcement is expected in the first week of September. You can find all info [here](#).

### [Perform Europe](#)

Perform Europe is a pilot project supported by the European Commission which aims at testing innovative funding schemes to support sustainable, inclusive and balanced touring and digital distribution of the performing arts in the 41 countries of the Creative Europe region.

IETM leads this project in a consortium with four other organisations, [European Festivals Association \(EFA\)](#), [Circostrada](#), [European Dancehouse Network \(EDN\)](#) and [IDEA Consult](#)

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The project lasts 18-months, from January 2021 - June 2022 and includes a research phase, testing a grant-giving programme, and finally policy recommendations phase to the European Commission on how such a fund can be part of the future Creative Europe programme.

The project will mainly focus on four main guiding principles in all phases of the implementation:

- **Sustainability:** Ensuring sustainability on the artistic, human, social, economic and ecological level.
- **Inclusivity:** Proactively reaching out to **all** performing arts professionals and audiences from different social backgrounds, geographical location, color, gender, class, etc.
- **Balance:** Achieving equal and balanced representation of various players in the cross-border distribution of performing arts works.
- **Digital component:** Exploiting the digital component to enhance, accelerate and facilitate every aspect of the sustainability, inclusivity, and balance within the project through the development of a pilot Digital Platform with an EU added value.

**In a nutshell, the three stages of the project are:**

- 1) **Research:** to identify the existing mechanisms, needs and gaps regarding international cross-border distribution of the performing arts in Europe in order to inform the development of the Digital Platform and creation of the pilot funding scheme of Perform Europe. This phase, which was finalised in May 2021, included:
  - Consultation with 41 Country Correspondents, hired for the project, from 41 Creative Europe countries;
  - Extensive surveying of the performing arts sector and its needs; 2.200 professionals took part in this survey;
  - In-depth interviews with several professionals from across the Creative Europe countries and beyond;
  - Consultation events with the sector (learn more above);
  - The Interim Report that includes main research findings and outcomes and conclusions, was finalised and handed to the European Commission.
- 2) **Testing phase and Digital Platform.** The goal is to create a pilot funding scheme to identify and test innovative ideas and visions of the performing arts sector. The Digital Platform is meant to be the virtual realm for applying, networking and learning. It has been almost finalised, and the launch date is set for the 15th of June.

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The following two steps of the Testing phase, have already been implemented:

- a) Setting up of an Advisory Group, with representatives from other European and international networks as well as key funding structures. The role of the advisory group is to share their expertise and knowledge on various practical aspects of funding touring and distribution of the performing arts and to ensure a wider reach of Perform Europe through the promotion channels of the Advisory Group members.
- b) Shaping the Perform Europe Jury. Eleven performing arts professionals have been selected for the Perform Europe Jury, following an open call for applications. Together, they represent a balanced and diverse group in terms of disciplines, locations, genders, levels of experience and areas of expertise, in full spirit of Perform Europe's values. The Jury will select the artists, companies, collectives, festivals and venues that will receive Perform Europe grants.

The following steps the Testing phase are:

- c) **Application and Selection Step 1:** We will invite producers (performing artists, collectives and companies) and presenters (festivals and venues) with innovative ideas regarding cross-border touring to apply in the first step. Once the selection is made, their profiles will be made public on the platform, and they will enter a period of collective learning and co-creation of partnerships between selected producers and presenters. **All the details of the first step of Perform Europe's application process can be found [here](#).**
- d) **Application and Selection Step 2:** Selected producers and presenters will enter a match-making process on the Digital Platform with a view of making partnerships among each other, before they co-create and design together proposals for testing **innovative cross-border touring schemes**.

Selected **proposals** will receive grants to implement their touring and distribution plans. The period for testing is from October 2021 to June 2022.

- 3) **Policy Recommendations:** The final stage of Perform Europe will consist of elaborating **policy recommendations** to provide EU policy-makers and stakeholders with relevant insights and tools to integrate such a scheme in the future Creative Europe programme.

Through the entire cycle of its implementation, Perform Europe will set a particular focus on **reaching underrepresented professionals**, those that **usually do not take part in and do not benefit from cross-border distribution** of the performing arts.

## PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

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### Cultural Relations Platform

IETM is one of four organisations behind the Cultural Relations Platform, led by Goethe Institut. This EU-funded project is designed to support the EU to engage in international cultural relations with the main objectives of:

- Providing policy support on international cultural relations;
- Supporting cooperation among cultural and creative sectors;
- Strengthening communities and networks of cultural practitioners.

### SHIFT - Shared initiatives for training

IETM is one the networks behind the Erasmus+-supported project SHIFT, Shared Initiatives for Training. IETM leads a work package on Gender Relations within the project. Being one of the eight European cultural networks partners of [SHIFT - Shared Initiatives for Training](#), IETM is leading the project strand on [Power and Gender Relations](#). This topic encompasses a lot of complex issues, both in society and more specifically in the cultural sector. As part of SHIFT, we decided to focus on sexual harassment in the cultural and creative sectors.

The final SHIFT Gender and Power Relations Package will aim to draw light on solutions and good practices cultural structures, organisations as well as pioneering individuals have developed in the last year, to battle sexual harassment and empower those abused. Via qualitative research, mapping and production of a toolkit, we will aim to provide networks and organisations with useful tools to strengthen their own inner strategies on the matter.

### 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.