

Online 28 Sept | 12 Oct | 18 Oct 2021

Reconstruction and Sustainability of Culture in Times of the Pandemic

How is the cultural sector faring
under the Trio Presidency and in
the 30th year of the Weimar Triangle?

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A three-part series
of online discussions
28 September,
12 October and
18 October 2021
on Zoom

The arts and cultural sector has been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. In times of crisis, however, culture plays a central role. In March 2020, shut borders became emblematic of the fragility of notions of community and solidarity within the European Union; to date, opportunities for cultural exchange remain restricted. As all European countries are exploring solutions to the crisis, this series of online discussions focuses on sustainability and the role of cultural civil society. It brings in perspectives from the countries of the Weimar Triangle (Germany, France, Poland) and the Trio Council Presidency (Germany, Portugal, Slovenia), aiming to promote cultural exchange, to better understand the situation of our European neighbours, and to collectively develop ideas and strategies for the future.

DISCUSSIONS

All discussions will be moderated by [AC Coppens](#), Founder of THE CATALYSTS, Berlin, Germany

28 September 2021
5 pm – 6 pm

Utopian Moments in the Pandemic: Recalibrating the Role of Culture within Society

German and French with simultaneous translation

Is there utopian potential in the COVID-19 crisis? At the beginning of the pandemic, lockdowns and closures appeared to open up space for something new. However, a lack of recognition of the essential nature of cultural production and a long-term lack of prospects to reopen triggered debates that ranged from resignation to rebellion. In France, people occupied over one hundred theatres in early 2021, accompanying demands for financial safeguards with public discussions on the societal role of the arts. This panel will pick up on these debates from France, sharing ideas and visions from Germany. Which new cultural skills and spaces for cultural practices have emerged, and how do we define the new drivers of innovation?

Guests: [Bérénice Hamidi-Kim](#), Professor in *Performing Arts*, Lumière University Lyon 2, France; [Mechthild Eickhoff](#), Managing Director *Fonds Soziokultur*, Bonn, Germany

Please register for this discussion [here](#) until 27 Sept 2021.

12 October 2021
4 pm – 5:30 pm

Festivals between Fragility and Resilience: The Future of Communal Experience and Live Culture

German, French, and Polish with simultaneous translation

Festivals are a communal cultural experience: what counts are their live quality, physical proximity, and international cultural exchange. This cultural practice was struck at its core by the coronavirus pandemic. Festivals have been cancelled or postponed, replaced by digital formats or events with smaller audiences, hygiene protocols, and observation by scientists. Yet, can this hovering between hope, concern, uncertainty, and loss continue for much longer? This discussion gathers approaches from the fields of theatre, music, and dance in France, Poland, and Germany. What views and reassessments have resulted from the pandemic? And what is the role of sustainability within the festival circuit?

Guests: **Maria-Carmela Mini**, Director of the international contemporary performing arts festival *Latitudes Contemporaines*, Lille, France; **Yvonne Büdenhölzer**, Director *Theatertreffen*, Berlin, Germany; **Jerzy Kornowicz**, Director of the international festival of contemporary music *Warsaw Autumn*, Poland

Please register for this discussion [here](#) until 08 Oct 2021.

18 October 2021
3 pm – 4:30 pm

How European Cities Connect Culture and Sustainability

in English with guests from Germany, France, Poland, Portugal, and Slovenia

Culture is a central dimension of sustainable development: How should the cultural sector conceptualize sustainable development and act in line with the principles of climate justice? This discussion explicitly aims to address how European cities and their cultural institutions approach sustainable development. What activities for sustainable development do European cities pursue? What solutions do they suggest for the arts, and what steps have already been taken? Above all, is post-pandemic reconstruction an opportunity for the arts and cultural sector to redefine itself for sustainable development in line with climate justice? What role do cultural stakeholders play in reviving cities after the pandemic?

Guests: **Maja Simoneti**, Project Manager *Institute for Spatial Policies*, Ljubljana, Slovenia; **Liliana Coutinho**, Public Programs Curator, Adviser for Culturgest *Fundação Caixa Geral de Depósitos*, Lisbon, Portugal; **Agnieszka Kubicka-Dzieduszycka**, Curator & Project Manager *WRO Art Center*, Wrocław, Poland; **Annekatriin Gehre-Horváth**, *Office for Sustainability, Local Agenda 21, City of Augsburg*, Germany; N.N. France

Please register for this discussion [here](#) until 15 Oct 2021.

We look forward to seeing you!

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Please contact

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