



MUSIC IS NOT NOISE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The **European, national and local authorities should support and work together with the live music associations to welcome the future of artistic development** instead of stifling it. Live DMA recommends **building partnerships between the public and private sector** to safeguard the European live music. The working group elaborated a set of recommendations geared to authorities:

RECOMMENDATION 1 - Exchange knowledge between cities

Potential tool: There are already **existing networks for European cities and regions** that take care of **networking processes between cities and regions**: **Eurocities** is a network for big European cities that creates exchange between cities on social, economic, and political issues. It also acts as an interlocutor between European institutions and cities. **LIKE** is a network for European cities and regions for culture engaged in the development of cultural policies in Europe. The network federates elected cultural councils.

RECOMMENDATION 2 - Talk to the sector and treat them as equal partners in policymaking

Potential tool: Make music (venues and clubs) part of the city plan. In order to do so, we recommend bringing decision makers, cultural players, and citizens together for **consultations and exchange on smart policies regarding music and city planning**. The [Live DMA Survey](#) and other research documents elaborated by cultural organisations (for example the [Music Cities Manual](#) or the [UK Live Music Census](#)) can build a base for such a discussion.

Potential tool: The creation of a forum that offers the possibility to exchange knowledge between policy makers and the music sector. Such a forum can take form of a **night embassy, night council, local network**, or any other organ that represents the local music sector and is recognized by it. In many bigger European cities, these organs have been existing and operating for several years. Examples can be **local networks** ([Berlin Clubcommission](#) or [Zurich Bar and Clubcommission](#)), **multi-partner projects** ([Plateforme de la Vie Nocturne](#)), the presence of a **Night Mayor** (example: London, Amsterdam, Mannheim, Groningen), or **dedicated events/conferences** ([NIGHTS](#) or [Stadt nach Acht](#)). **These forums allow stakeholders**

to work as a team and they can elaborate essential tools and resource (e.g. list of music actors and places). The recognition and support from local authorities (e.g. by providing budget or office spaces) of such a forum is **essential for creating effective policies** for the local music sector.

Potential tool: The instauration of **informal meetings/yearly reception** where policy makers visit the local live music venues and clubs. On occasions such as the [Open Club Day](#), venue and club professionals get the chance to **demystify potential negative stereotypes** related to their place and **show what can be done inside a live music place**. Together with the sector, city officials, politicians, and policy makers can **raise the ambition of these local live music places for their cities/communities**. Such a meeting/reception could grow out of a forum described above.

Potential tool: Authorities need to **know the music venues and clubs of their city/community**. In collaboration with a representative forum (see above), the **creation of a list/map of the local music actors, venues, and places** can be a first step (e.g. [Clubkataster](#)). In addition, a **in depth study involving the local authorities and the sector as local experts, as well as researchers and external experts** (study example: the [Creative Footprint](#)) allow to **gather data about the health of a city's music scene** and to **establish a concrete plan for future developments** and policies.

RECOMMENDATION 3 - Embrace and love the reality of music venues and clubs

It is important to **understand the local live music sector as a whole**. Supporting the venues and clubs does not simply mean to search on how to get rid of potential problems, but also to embrace, as local authority, the music and club culture with its specificities.

Potential tool: The **implementation of the Agent of Change** into law in order to protect and preserve the cultural values of venues and the economic, cultural and social tissue of cities and communities. The example of the implementation process in the UK can be viewed in the [webinar produced by Live DMA](#). The Agent of Change is a **positive approach that makes policy makers, the sector, and urban planners work together**.

Potential tool: The **creation of a sound proofing/infrastructure fund** by making available public funds for soundproofing allows to **protect the ecosystem of neighbourhoods**. Such a fund creates a **positive story of investing in the vibrancy and livelihood of neighbourhoods**. Existing examples of such funds are the [Lärmschutzs fonds Berlin](#) and the Barcelona City Council Subsidies for sound investments for live music venues.



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