

LIVE DMA MEMBERS' MEETING
COVID-19: AND THEN WHAT? #3 – 3rd OF JUNE, 2020

Representatives of the following organisations were present: Live DMA, Collectif Culture Bar-Bars, ClubCircuit, Music Venue Trust, Live ME, LiveKomm, KeepOn Live, PETZI, Kultura Live, ASACC, FEDELIMA

These series of informal meetings allow member to exchange information and the challenges they are facing with the COVID-19 crisis and express their needs at European level. This second meeting consisted in a “round table” where each organization presented their response to the crisis of the live music sector in each country, the different national crisis measures taken by public authorities and the various perspectives for exit strategies. These were followed by spontaneous discussions.

Next online informal members meeting: Thursday, 18th of June at 17:00 (Brussel's time).

Zoom link will be communicated to Live DMA members a few hours before the meeting.

1) SUMMARY ROUND-TABLE:

Collectif Culture Bar-Bars / France - chloe@bar-bars.com

- Collectif Culture Bar-Bars is the French federation of cultural bars & cafés.
- They have put in place a charter with the City of Nantes for the bars & cafés part of CCBB to have more public space for their terrace (derogatory rules for public spaces = parking lots & roadways). This charter was produced with a trade union. It allows the use of public space for artists, resident and bars, because it is difficult to respect physical distancing rules in a bar environment.
- This charter allows flexibility for party organisers. The risk is: parties take place in the private space. Having a drink & listening to music is very important to our society → public space is our new living room → we need more flexibility !
- This charter was the result of many weeks' work with the Mayor of Nantes.
- On the 2nd of June, bars & small venues in France could reopen. In all big cities, a lot of people went to the bar that night.
- “Public space is the new living room” -> avoid social interactions/parties to happen only in private spaces. Encourage a new cohabitation with other businesses and inhabitants.
- The charter allows the pedestrianisation of certain streets and the closing of other streets during specific timeframes
- On the 3rd of June, a charter monitoring group will evaluate the project.
- Other French cities want to apply this charter.

Music Venue Trust / UK - beverley@musicvenue trust.com

- Special situation in the UK: infection is not going down, yet the country is trying to reopen
- Directives from UK government probably only for England (they forget Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland).
- Pubs & bars to be reopened 14th of June. On the 4th of July, small music venues can open. However, 2m distancing = 4m² area for each person.
- Mark is in 3 different government working groups: performing arts / bars & clubs / music
- → each of those groups has their own papers & guides. These groups do not cooperate together. A lot of them are speaking on the behalf of people they are not representing. Need to do a political exercise within the industry.

- They have now 800 venues in the Music Venue Alliance. Grassroots venues understand the importance of structuration.
- They work very hard on tools for venues that all venues can use to explain that they cannot open safely → REVS protocol
- Venues can be used for bands to be used for streaming, filming → work on this with the industry (MVT tries to explain that venues need to be paid for this – cleaning costs, licences could be endangered if someone becomes ill in this, opening costs)
- UK government only recognises opera or classical venues as culture.
- The UK Government position is that once they say businesses can be open they will withdraw support.

Live Music Estonia / Estonia - henri.roosipold@gmail.com

- Country has been reopening since mid-May (bars)
- Infection rate very low (1%)
- Same requirements as everywhere else: distance 2m, but actually no one really goes by the line
- Guidance book from the health board – you can organise gigs for maximum 500 people in venues, 1000 people outdoors, but still 2 m distance required.
- Live ME has met with Ministry of Culture: they have their own working group with the Ministry and promoters.
- Probably they won't stick to the 2+2 requirement. Impossible for promoters to guarantee that people will stay away from each other
- 1st of June: cinemas & venues started to reopen a bit, venues can promote events for 100 people
- Quite a quick reopening: risk of a second wave that the government has decided to take with their reopening policy.
- Promise for more money for the promoters from the Ministry of Culture – now they depend from the creative industry department. Tough fight – cinema industry is in the same department.
- 6 music venues are over 1000 capacity, they are all based in Tallinn. They are the ones facing the biggest liquidity crisis.
- Meeting with the deputy mayor. → Live ME prepares recommendations. Municipalities can give additional funding.
- They expect subsidies for venues to survive until August through the Ministry of Culture.
- Ticket refund policy – Ministry of culture discusses with customer protection department --> negotiation to give promoters more time to reimburse the ticket-buyers.

Kultura Live / Basque Country - arkaitz@musikabulegoa.eus

- Working with the Basque government
- New normality – next step will happen on 8th of June
- Spanish level – ACCES & ASACC & Kultura Live – Creation of a State Platform for Music Venues

PETZI / Switzerland - office@petzi.ch

- Government comes back on their announcements.
- Help accorded to the sector was extended – partial unemployment was extended to the “boss” position

- Deadline: you have to ask before 20th of May, retroactive support (Crisis was declared mid-march)
- If you receive subventions – you cannot ask for a lot of additional state support
- Measures will be kept in place until 20th of September. Maybe more money, but regions will have to put more money in, too. This might be challenging.
- Feeling that politics go back to normal.
- They try really hard to understand government announcements. Talk: you can reopen up to 300 capacity, but with 4 square meter distancing. For a 300 capacity venue, this means only 25 people.
- Clubs & venues need to close at midnight. (Cinderella effect)
- PETZI works on a protection plan applicable for venues: masks & tracing, but no social distancing possible.
- You cannot expect an entire sector to reopen in 1 week. Borders are still closed, no travels for artists, summer period – venues are usually closed – now there are no festivals, so expectations towards the venues to just do something.
- Stop of partial unemployment.
- June 24th – decision for events from 300 – 1000 people – very challenging for festivals taking place in the summer
- Cooperation with other cultural organisation → campaign to sensitize the public who is behind culture (no tracking, just to show: it is a lot of people !!!) → <https://cultureismyjob.ch/en/>
- About tracing app: “if you go to a show, you must accept a potential two week quarantine” → going to shows is based on personal responsibility

ClubCircuit / Flanders - marc@clubcircuit.be

- Meeting of the National Security Council
- ClubCircuit has worked on a guide book to restart gradually in different phases. Phase 1: already ongoing, offices can reopen with social distancing. Phase 2: next week, rehearsals will be possible again for the whole sector, including rock & pop. Phase 3: starts on 1st of July, cultural activities with public (1,5m distance and capacity of 200 people maximum).
- Nightclubs are not allowed to open before end of August, same for mass events (festivals).
- Festivals are planning smaller activities.
- Specialists say outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities.
- Bars will reopen from 8th of June (with physical distancing rules such as 1,5m between people, masks, electronic payment only, closing at midnight) → these are national rules.
- Ministry of Culture (of Flanders): emergency fund for the sector – 65 million euro divided amongst people active in the cultural sector (subsidised organisations, but they are obliged to support the most vulnerable groups → freelancers)
- Venues of Clubcircuit – most of them will be able to survive thanks to subsidies & unemployment system
- They are going to set up a foundation to collect extra fund for the music sector. This will be set up by representatives of the music sector. There will be sponsorships.
- No culture / no future → Campaign in Wallonia → ClubCircuit is planning a similar campaign to launch it at the same time as the fund (show support via a donation / show support via a signature)

LiveKomm / Germany - christian.ordon@livekomm.org

- Government wants to release the information on the culture stimulus programme today

- 140 million for music venues & festivals → for 1000 venues & 700 small festivals
- Open letter again to the government & government of the Länder
- Now they are in front of a patchwork situation – each Länder has their own regulations – open bars & open venues to sell drinks – some start open air events
- Threat of bankruptcy → everyone is really waiting for this government announcement
[article on the announcement: <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/german-government-earmarks-eur1bn-for-arts-in-eur130bn-pandemic-stimulus-package>]
- Bad communication with other networks. Various collectives and initiatives started a demonstration in Berlin to draw attention to the situation of clubs in Berlin (the LiveKomm or club commission was not charged):
<https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-police-break-up-floating-party-protest/a-53652185>

KeepOn Live / Italy - gaiane.kevorkian@gmail.com

- Government announced that events could reopen from 15th of June, limitation 200 indoors & 500 outdoors → new decree on the 15th of June, they are fearing that it will happen like with the reopening of bars receiving the info on reopening day
- Complicated issue: cultural events should not sell drinks & food → they are now lobbying to take away this ban as it is economically unsustainable for the venues.
- No other news from government
- Work as an association with their members & others from the sector on a crowdfunding campaign for their members. KeepOn will manage this.
- Launch of an audience questionnaire – information on how they feel about going to a concert, what are the measures they would like to see, how much money they are willing to spend on live music show → vision to know how to deal with the audience
- Regions have a lot of freedom on decision taking, some are reopening quicker than others
- Some cities are working on public spaces to be used for different cultural realities.
Cooperation between cultural spaces & municipalities

ASACC / Catalonia - lluis.torrents@salarazzmatazz.com

- No good news.
- 3rd step of exit strategy was supposed to allow venues activities again with 1/3 capacity – now they have published the exact guidance for this 3rd step and venues are not in that any more. No one knows why. No information. No interlocution with the government. These decisions are taken without consultation. Big disaster.
- In Catalonia – a bit better – Catalan government has improved Catalan fund for companies, musicians, artists & people working in the music industry
- Special Catalan fund of €5 million → for artists & technicians / covers 8.000 people more or less / it is something, before there was nothing.
- For companies & associations → they have opened a different line of funds to cover structural expenses. A small improvement.
- In a couple of weeks, it will be allowed to organise outdoor gigs with chairs, 100 capacity – next step – 800 capacity with chairs. No bars – no drink selling. No one knows when venues and their bars can reopen again
- They are not able to work on reopening.
- Venue = Cultural activity, but also social activity. Social distancing does not allow their activity.

FEDELIMA / France - boris@legrandmix.com

- In France: big announcement by the Prime Minister saying we go back to normal on 22nd of June. But actually, only seated → not the normality
- In France, working group to discuss with ministry to discuss on what conditions we want to reopen. Exchange on reopening at full capacity, or 50 % capacity (strict minimum) ? They also ask very simple rules, for now a very strict guidelines (open windows in the toilets for example)
- Good news: infection rate is going down. Venues think they can open their concert season this autumn. They are optimistic, maybe they will be able to open sooner.
- Government needs to understand more how live music works: need to anticipate. Reopenings cannot be done in 1 week.
- New announcement on 23rd of June.
- €50 million for the music sector. They are working on how to share this money. Assuredly, most of the money will go to the most hit companies (which is normal). The other part of the money will go for a recovery plan for 2020/2021. They are making propositions to maintain the financial help.
- Everybody is on partial unemployment. Big challenge is maintaining partial unemployment
- Need to explain to the public why this reopening is not « normal » (seated, etc.).
- Subsidies are maintained for this year with the subsidies, but they are really worried that there will be less subsidies next year.

2) Discussions, Ideas

The WHO guidance released this week emphasised the social value of cultural activity

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Marc (ClubCircuit) & Anya (PETZI) will share their working documents.