

LIVE DMA MEMBERS' MEETING
COVID-19: AND THEN WHAT? #6 – 2nd OF SEPTEMBER, 2020

Representatives of the following organisations were present: Live DMA, Music Venue Trust, Court-Circuit, PETZI, 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 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.

Minutes of the previous meetings can be found [here](#).

1) SUMMARY ROUND-TABLE:

KeepOn Live / Italy - Federico Rasetti federico@keepon.it

- Situation hasn't changed a lot: it is possible to organise concerts but it is not economically sustainable with the sanitary restrictions.
- There were some experiments on new concert formats: drive-in concerts (with cars or bikes), twice the same concert in same venue but at different hours... but it's not solutions.
- KeepOn Live is waiting for the next decree law on 15th of September for changes.
- Feeling not very good for winter, 90% chance our venues will remain close during winter.
- Summer: discotheque opened but were then closed again. Basically, doesn't change anything.
- Good result of KeepOn's advocacy work with Ministry of culture: €10 million fund (first time in history Italian government gives money to live music organisers).
- This is only the first part of this recovery fund. The second part of this fund should be released around November, to help venues able to reopen.
- This recovery fund is good but if clubs remain closed all winter, it's not a sustainable solution. Problem is that gov is doing all the best: there's no more money.
- Another win for KeepOn Live is that live music venues will be pushed at the center of next Music Reform (first time they will change the music law in 20 years.). KeepOn wants to show the importance of venues in music ecosystem.

Music Venue Trust / UK – Beverley Whithrick beverley@musicvenuetrust.com

- Situation is still worrying. It's very variable across the UK (different regions, different time tables, different regulations and support measures).
- Governments don't understand how the sector works. For instance, English government announced in August that concerts could start again, 24 hours in advance (not enough time for venues to prepare). Or, the Northern Ireland government was surprised to learn that venues need to pay a rent. There is still some work to do on explaining the live music ecosystem to them.
- Very small number of venues re-opened, some only as bars, some did changes in their buildings to comply to the sanitary restrictions. Most of them remained closed though.
- GMV Emergency Fund: 135 venues received a grant between 1000 and 80 000 pounds

- Cultural recovery fund (by national governments) → you can apply for doing distance activities. Can apply to remain shut. → governments listened MVT on why some venues need to remain shut as it would be more economically risky to open.
- These funds will be stable until end of October , but then what?
- Among venues' staff, the will to get back on operating is high, even to do different formats. (this would require subsidy, but people are less keen to do nothing) → good thing is that people will be more flexible and creative. This may be an opportunity to attract sponsorship and other funding opportunities.
- Large scale activities not happening at all. All relies on smaller scale events. Solidarity: offer work to as many people as possible.
- For physical distancing the "1 meter +" rule applies: 2m distance when you can, otherwise at least 1 meter + whatever more space you can get.
- The Music Venue Alliance staff was completed by temporary local coordinators, which is a good thing (enlarge the staff, better help venues at local level). MVT does not know how to transform this temporary staff into permanent staff.

FEDELIMA / France – Benjamin Fraigneau benjamin.fraigneau@fedelima.org

- Health situation in France= 4000 new cases every day. But only few hospitalization & deaths. More tests are done, which could explain the rise in number of detected cases.
- No events with more than 5000 people until end of October at least (this does not concern FEDELIMA members so much as they are usually smaller venues).
- Mask is compulsory inside and in some public spaces + all concerts need to be seated. In addition, social distance of 1m is compulsory in some parts of France ("red zones" such as in Paris).
- Even if you respect all recommendations, prefecture (representative of state at local level) may decide to not give permission to organise the event if it consider it "too dangerous".
- Regarding public policy: recovery plan announced end of august. Last Thursday met with prime minister and minister of culture who made announcement: €2 billion will be given to cultural sector; of which €400 000 million for performing arts, divided between €200 000 for private sector & €200 000 for public sector → FEDLIMA members are in between public and private, so it does not make sense. FEDELIMA asked for an appointment to clarify this point.
- Government also announced a compensation system for operating loss = compensate your loss if you have a minimum activity respecting sanitary rules, they give you money for balance. Clarifications on this should come in October.
- FEDELIMA members feel there will be no indoor & standing concerts until the end of the year.
- Confusion among professionals: we see some events with standing, outdoor, not respecting sanitary rules.

PETZI / Switzerland – Anya Della Croce office@petzi.ch

- Clubs were able to reopen on June 6 but the government published the sanitary measures they needed to apply on June 3rd (not enough notice for live music organisers to prepare, reopening during the off season) → public authorities don't have enough knowledge of the music ecosystem.
- Press conf on August 13 by government: before, all events until 1000 capacity were allowed, but the regions decide, so it's a mess. This is valid until October 1st.

- Swiss government announced today the measures. From what they see, it's gonna be impossible for anybody to organise + 1000 capacity as it is the venue who takes the responsibility for potential infections.
- Government has the right to cancel the event 24h before if deemed dangerous, with no compensation.
- Parliament session next Monday, COVID law on CULT sector is going to be voted. PETZI wrote letters to Parliament. Ask for partial unemployment to be kept until end of year, insurance for self employed (supposed to end on September 15).
- PETZI also asked for more money (previously €280 million for whole sector, but it's not enough).
- European situation is worrying (travel restrictions, quarantine for some countries). This might create / reinforce inequality between countries (those who can travel, those who can't and need to quarantine upon arrival).
- Other issue: some Swiss artists say they don't want to play because they have part time jobs as main source of income and they are scared of getting infected.
- There are some shows with 300 capacity indoor standing, some with masks, some without.
- This summer: there were some festivals of maximum 1000 people. It was complicated to meet sanitary measures (zones of 300 people maximum, have enough space to avoid concentration of people...). This raises some unusual practical questions such as "where do I put the merch if there are 3 separate zones for people?"
- Since the announcement: only seated shows. Idem for sports.
- The government almost forbid alcohol cos they say drunk people don't respect anything (Beverley says that it's the same question in UK/Northern Ireland "possible to do a concert without drinks?" → NO because it's a big source of income for the venues, and people might drink alcohol from somewhere else before going to the venue, and it is still the responsibility of the venue).
- Some regions consider to cover the gap of "minimum functioning": compensation system for operating loss = compensate your loss if you have a minimum activity respecting sanitary rules, they give you money for balance (same as in France).

Court-Circuit / Belgium Wallonia-Brussels – David Dehard

- Situation is a little better than before in Belgium: 100 indoor / 200 outdoor during the summer. Since last week 200 indoor. But 1,5m distance. And this is not ideal: venues which can usually allow 200 people inside, with the distancing can now welcome only 40/50 people. (1/4 of their full capacity).
- There are no standing concerts, and people always have to wear a mask. You can drink alcohol if distance is respected.
- Changed for cinemas: only one chair (and not one meter) between people OK (if no drinks, and if mask is on all the time).
- Concept of "social bubble" = groups of friends or relatives can stay together without distancing. It doesn't change much for Court-Circuit venues (who usually do standing concerts). Their venues don't have seats, need to rent them and it costs a lot → Find other ways to finance all these events.
- These regulations apply for all of Belgium.
- €8 million recovery fund for cultural sector from Wallonia - Brussels. Court-Circuit don't know exactly how much will be for the music sector.

- New call for reopening for €5 millions more.
- They have the guarantee that unemployed people will be paid.
- They are working on a new status for artists (similar to the French “intermittent” status)
- All of the cultural sector is talking to each other, which is good. Their objective is to have 1 voice for the whole cultural sector in Wallonia. They imagine together a new cultural policy. Good for cooperation.

2) DISCUSSIONS, THOUGHTS, IDEAS...

Artistic touring (international/European) is difficult. Everyone focused on its national context + different travel restrictions and quarantine it's complicated. Fear that it will reinforce inequalities between countries → Challenge to think about with Live DMA

+ BREXIT is also another issue for the UK