

LIVE DMA MEMBERS' MEETING #8
ARTISTIC MOBILITY – 8th OF OCTOBER, 2020

Representatives of the following organisations were present: Live DMA, Music Venue Trust, Clubcircuit, KeepOn Live, PETZI, Live Music Estonia, Vilnius Night Alliance

This informal meeting focused on artistic mobility under COVID-19. The meeting was then followed by a member's roundtable on the COVID situation regarding the live sector in each country.

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

1) INTRODUCTION BY LIVE DMA

- Live DMA has never worked on artistic mobility or the mobility of cultural workers.
- It is a competence of the member states: EU institutions can provide at best guidelines for Member States to fine tune their travel restrictions.
- Yet, the Members of the European Parliament are aware of the difficulties the cultural sector are currently facing regarding live touring. In their Joint Motion for EU Cultural Recovery (approved on 14/09/2020, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2020-0246_EN.html see paragraphs 11, 12 & 13) they “call on the Member States to limit unwarranted Schengen restrictions” and they “call on the EU Commission to develop **guidelines** for Member States for safe cross-border touring, live cultural events and cultural activities”. They also “Call on the Commission to **support artists' mobility** so that they can exchange practices and techniques, and to significantly promote their integration into the labour market; strongly supports the concomitant mutual recognition of artistic competences”.
- We have contacted On the Move (Cultural Mobility Information Network) to ask them how they are working on this. They replied that their lever of action was quite limited because it was not so much a EU competence.

2) USEFUL RESOURCES REGARDING ARTISTIC MOBILITY DURING COVID-19

- Keep track of travel restrictions in Europe with REOPEN EU website: (not always up to date, but you can have a good overview of travel restrictions in EU) <https://reopen.europa.eu/en/>
- Check with national ministries of foreign affairs the restrictions in place for each country (for very up to date information)
- On the Move (Cultural Mobility Information Network) have produced resource for cultural mobility during COVID-19: <https://on-the-move.org/news/article/20675/coronavirus-resources-arts-culture-and-cultural/>

3) OPEN DISCUSSION

Music Venue Trust / UK

- Cultural mobility is not something MVT is working on.
- At the latest meeting with government it was huge concern for cultural sector as a hole. Particularly for big venues/promoters.

- Grassroots Music Venues try to book internationally but most acts are local. Yet, deeply concerning for the future + current situation is giving a taste of what BREXIT will look like >> big concern for British artists. British artists depend a lot on EU touring >> This & Brexit will be career altering and endangering.
- It is a great priority for artist representatives in the UK.
- UK Music is working on it and has some resource.
- In the UK, testing is for sports but not artists. Yet, Tom Cruise could enter UK without a test or without quarantining to shoot a movie.
- VAT on tickets reduced from 20% to 5% until the end of March 2020. The problem with this is that very few tickets are on sale during this period

Live ME / Estonia

- In Estonia, artists from abroad need to do a COVID-19 test before entering. If the test is negative, it's OK, they can enter and tour.
- 2000 outdoor (but nothing happens outdoors) / 750 indoor (but might decrease a bit with infection rate on the rise).
- Every Friday, Live ME meets with the Ministry of Culture and other cultural stakeholders. They notably discuss how to communicate with the government, how the regulations affect the sector etc.

PETZI / Switzerland

- There is no testing for artists but there are exceptions for people working in cultural events + sports or travelling for professional purposes. But, they need to be spending less than 5 days in Swiss territory. See: <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/das-bag/aktuell/news/news-11-09-2020-2.html> and <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/empfehlungen-fuer-reisende/quarantaene-einreisende.html#1918240392>
- For Swiss artists going abroad, it should be the same.
- Now, there are international (European) acts happening. Nothing from the Americas.
- But now, the situation is more tricky with the different red zones.
- Over 1000 COVID cases today in Switzerland so PETZI is expecting everything to close down again.
- Restrictions from government do not make any sense. There is a 1000 capacity (with sections of 300 people maximum) but authorities can forbid the event to take place up to 24 hours before without any compensation.
- Tracking in Switzerland: one app for concerts, another one for bars, another one for restaurants. There was a scandal: outbreak of virus in a Lausanne club, government did not inform people through the app because of a "lack of human resources".
- The PETZI ticketing system is good for this because they own the data of the audience (and can protect it).
- Curfews are of no use because once the bar is closed, people go on the streets or to people's homes. Argument that closing earlier will make people drink less is wrong: bars open on the afternoon, if people want to get drunk they will.

Clubcircuit / Belgium (Flanders)

- The sector is focused on trying to stay active, and Belgian acts are privileged.
- Most international artists are not touring.

- COVID-19 cases are rising.
- Bars in Brussels are closed (but restaurants are still open).
- There is a new government since beginning of October. They seem to take things seriously and want to avoid a second wave.
- 200 indoor / 400 outdoor → exceptions can be made with the authorisation of local authority (very important) and of the Ministry of Culture (a formality). Yet, still reduced capacity because of seated audiences. Example: an indoor venue with 900 capacity standing >> 300 capacity seated.
- With Clubcircuit, they have a problem with exchange of bands from North of France (who come from a French red zone).
- Resource in Dutch on artistic mobility:
<https://www.facebook.com/cultuurloket/photos/pcb.4533902546682271/4533899406682585>

Vilnius Night Alliance / Lithuania

- switching from national system and regulations to the level of the city.
- Some cities have curfews for nightlife.
- National Elections on Sunday.
- Current government is not keen on limiting everything with masks or physical distancing but prefer to cancel shows.
- They are trying to make registration and tracking compulsory in Lithuania.

KeepOn Live / Italy

- They are in the middle of the unknown.
- They are discussing new rules for concerts.
- Infection rate is rising.
- Seem government want to close down venues again and lockdown or more restrictions but nothing happens so far.
- Registration and tracking is compulsory in Italy (through online purchase of tickets or at the entrance of smaller clubs).