

LIVE DMA MEMBERS' MEETING #9 EU RECOVERY FUNDS ADVOCACY – 21st OF OCTOBER, 2020

Representatives of the following organisations were present: Live DMA, Clubkombinat, IKSU, Vilnius Night Alliance, Live Music Estonia, Court-Circuit, PETZI, ACCES, LiveKomm, Music Venue Trust, VNPF

This informal meeting focused on European recovery funds that can reach the cultural sectors and how to advocate for it at a national level. 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

The European Union put up a recovery fund in response to the crisis, it is called *Next generation EU*. The money will be available at national and regional level.

There is a difference between the cultural funding programme **Creative Europe** (CE) and **Next generation EU**, this one is an emergency fund.

Creative Europe – 2021 / 2027

In 2021, there will be a new Creative Europe programme. At the moment, discussions about the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021 - 2027 are not ended. Thus, we need to wait for this final budget of the EU in order to have the final numbers dedicated to Creative Europe. There will be at least 30% of the CE budget for Culture, including a sectorial programme for Music.

In July 2020, the EU commission and the EU Council agreed on a €1,6 billion budget for Creative Europe but the EU Parliament wants to raise this budget up to €2,8 billion. We expect the first calls after the finalization of the budget, not before spring 2021.

Live DMA actions & objectives:

- Get the Music Moves Europe (MME) results of the preparatory actions (“Cooperation of Small Music Venues “...)
- Being active in the future MME Preparatory Action “ **Innovative Support Scheme for a Sustainable Music Ecosystem**: €2,5 billion awarded to a consortium of organisations that shape and manage a redistribution of funds to the sector. Live DMA is collaborating with the European Music Council on it.
 - ➔ Calls launched in 2021 for grants up to 55000€ for 12 months projects max
- Facilitate the access to funding for our members
- Advocate for UK to remain in the Creative Europe programme >> <http://www.live-dma.eu/keep-the-uk-in-creative-europe/>
- Support the EU Parliament to double the Creative Europe budget
- Apply as a European network in order to get subsidies from CE

NEXT GENERATION EU – 2021/2023

This recovery fund is not especially for culture but for all sectors: It consists in €312 billion that will be split between the Member States (+ a €360 billion of loans facilities). This fund includes €47,5 billion of cohesion fund (targeted to the regions). It is important to specify that, in most of the cases, the **recovery money coming from EU does not come on top** of the already announced national recovery fund; EU Recovery Fund will be included in national support measures.

The objectives:

- Earmark 2% of this fund for Culture because it is up to the Member States to deal with this money
- Support members to advocate at national/regional level

To achieve in these objectives, it is important to get in touch with national and regional levels because they will receive a EU envelope and there are not especially aware that they can use this fund to support the cultural sector.

Example of France: France announced €100 billion of recovery funds, including €2 billion for culture. As the EU will give a total of 40 billion to France, of which we want 2% (800 million) to go to the cultural sectors. In this case, the cultural sectors do not need to advocate as the 2% are already earmarked for a national support measures for culture.

Recovery and Resilience Facility Grants allocation per Member State

Country	Allocation in €	2% earmarked?
Belgium	5,1 billion	102 million
Denmark	1,5 billion	30 million
Germany	22,7 billion	454 million
Estonia	1 billion	20 million
Spain	60 billion	1,2 billion
France	40 billion	800 million
Italy	65 billion	1,3 billion
Latvia	1,8 billion	36 million
Lithuania	2,4 billion	48 million
Netherlands	5,5 billion	110 million
Finland	2,3 billion	46 million
Sweden	3,7 billion	74 million

Live DMA suggests to its members to check into their national recovery plan if 2% of the total EU money for your country is included in the national support measures for the cultural sector. If not, we can work together on a strategy to advocate for this. Feel free to contact audrey.guerre@live-dma.eu to talk about it!

Toward the future

The EU funding and support is on a long-term perspective, it can be complementary to local funding. Emergency funds are available mainly at a national level, so at a European level, it can be interesting to evaluate together the needs of Live DMA's members for the 5 years to come. Indeed, we are in a period of changing in terms of EU funding, so let's be pro-active about it.

2) SUMMARY ROUND-TABLE

VNA / Lithuania

- The government will shut things down again soon.
- The nightlife sector is fighting to stay open as they put everything together to open safely. Vilnius Night Alliance shared their advocacy arguments to avoid a curfew >> <https://vna.lt/how-we-keep-vilnius-nightlife-open/>
- VNA didn't expect the industry to respond positively to new restrictions such as lockdown or curfews as the (private) clubs will certainly not benefit from recovery/compensatory funds.

France

- There is a curfew in some cities from 21 – 6 am: venues cannot organise concert at normal time and try to change their concert schedule but it is becoming more and more difficult to deal with all the restrictions and safety measures (Seated, masks, 6pm concerts...).
- We are waiting for the extension of the curfew to other cities in the country pretty soon.
- The cultural sector requested an exception for cultural venues, as they already apply a strict protocol, and there is no proof that it is more dangerous to attend a concert than going to work. But this exception, backed by the Ministry of culture, was rejected by the government.

Music Venue Trust / UK

- It is a complex situation: No live music in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In England it is technically allowed to organize concerts but it depends on cities.
- Culture when considered as an exception can bring confusion = The public does not know that they are allowed to go to concerts, they feel they are breaking the rules (there is a negative publicity). They are either not buying tickets or not turning up.
- Venues need to prove they belong to the cultural sector and not only bars.

- In some places there is another restriction: people can socialize only with someone from their own household but it is very hard to prove it to organizers as there is no national ID system in England.

PETZI / Switzerland

- Switzerland announced new measures: Mask is mandatory everywhere, before it depended on Regions, now it's national.
- By law, if you are more than 15 people at your house in a standing context, you need to wear a mask.
- At an event, to facilitate tracing, sectors of 100 people maximum (before: 300). Main issues: authorities struggle with tracing and this new rule makes it logistically more difficult for organisers.
- You can drink only when you are seated, and you can only seat with someone you know or live with.
- There is now a 20% infection rate, another lockdown coming?
- Partial unemployment is maintained until the end of 2021.

Court-circuit / Belgium (at a national scale)

- Social bubble : you can see 1 person out of your family circle.
- Bars & restaurants are closed since this week.
- No Alcohol sold after 8 pm.
- Curfew from midnight to 5 am.
- A lot of members closed down for at least a month (Strict protocol & restrictions to organise concerts + reduced bar services after 8 pm)
- At the end of the week the implementation of new measures for culture will be evaluated.

ACCES / Spain

- Everything is a mess, a lot of changes in laws.
- Not completely lockdown, it depends on regions.
- The cultural sector is going to be more restrain.
- At home it is not allowed to be more than 5 people (this is not a recommendation or advice).

LiveKomm / Germany

- They started an intern survey about the situation of the Livekomm venues/Clubs : they will send the translation soon.
- Restrictions depends on the states/landers in Germany. There is a regional shut down in south of Bavaria.
- Live concerts are in some regions allowed, but with curfew and limited capacity and seated.
- Some states have funds for help.
- Illegal parties getting more and more, and the restrictions for venues are stricter.
- The national funding Programme is dedicated to a restart, not to cover the costs, losses of the past 7 months.

- LiveKomm implemented a working group in order to work on strategies (app solution for tracking, testing etc...).

VNPF / Netherland

- The infections rate rose so there are new restrictions: Partial lockdown, close to a full lockdown until mid-November and maybe extended until the end of year.
- Venues are allowed to be open but for a max of 30 visitors. No catering allowed at all (no sale of food & drinks inside the venues).
- Bars, restaurants & cafés are closed. The only caterings open are supermarkets, snacks.
- Alcohol is banned from 8pm to 7 am, even carried in the street.
- It is possible to invite only 3 people at home per day.
- Due to the strict measures, 1/3 of VNPF members already said they are closed down completely until the end of November as to limit social interactions (social responsibility). There might be no concerts until the end of the year.

3) DISCUSSIONS

- Live DMA asked If venues that take the responsibility to close in the Netherlands will benefit extra support?

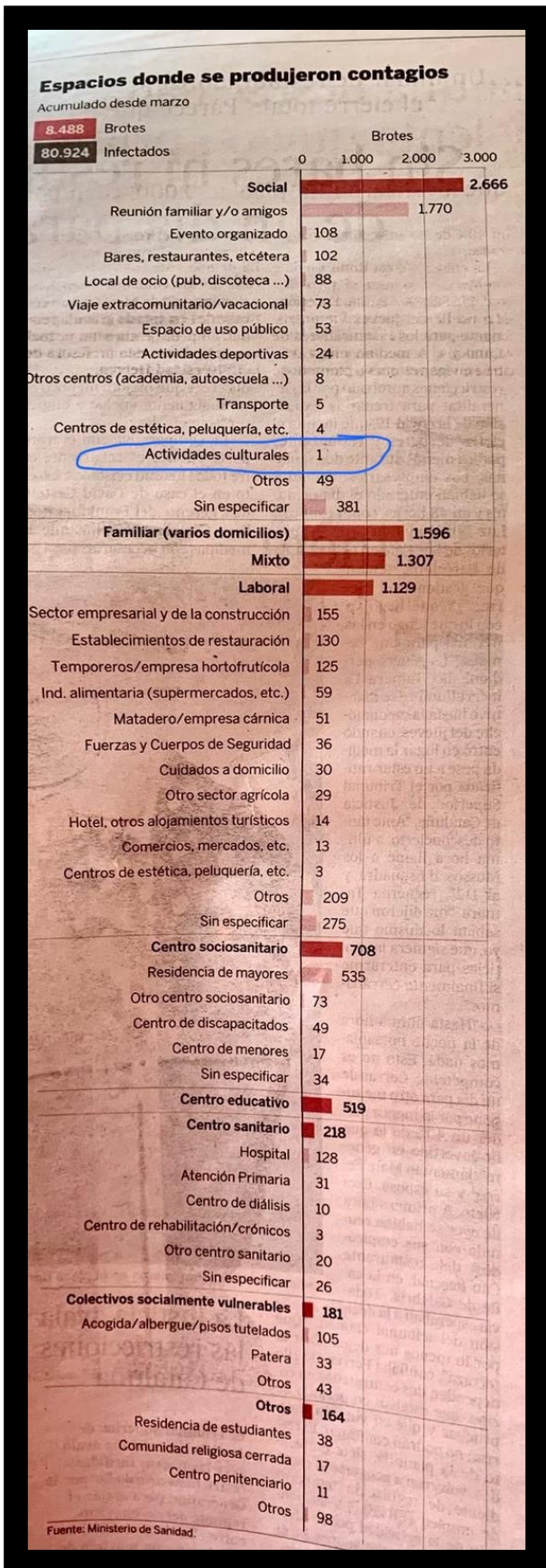
In the Netherland there is already a good support package (unemployment extended to July 2021. Extra measures for bars, cafés and ones that are hit the hardest. The government is willing to give more support measures if the situation lasts after the end of 2020.

Other members explained that it would be better for the venues to be declared closed by the government than to be open with no customers and no access to financial support (because it is very different from one country to another). Anyhow, people are going to lose their jobs and go toward other industries to seek jobs (big loss of competences).

- A question was raised during our exchanges: Are concerts more dangerous/ contagious places?

A study (in [French](#) / [German](#)) in Switzerland says no, the risk of infection is higher in private event, family or friend reunions or on work place than at concerts. We can see that a Study released in Spain presents the same results (image bellow)

In Switzerland, there are a lot of quarantine because they do the tracing in venues so the isolation can be effective quite rapidly. The problem is that Regions don't have the resources to trace.



In the Netherlands and UK, when the bars closed at 10pm, people gathered in parks or on the streets where there is no restriction, protocol or possibility of control. Thus, the ban of alcohol seems to be a way to avoid alternative gathering.

➤ Venues, clubs & bars create a safest environment for people to have fun. It is more socially responsible to do it that way.

The sector suffers from a **bad public image** (illegal parties ...) although it should not be a problem because rules and protocols are respected.

The crisis highlights problems with our freedom attitude: Depending on countries it can be either advices or compulsory measures. Anyhow, Lawmakers want to do thing but sometimes it is really not logic. In France, for instance, there was a decree in the department Morbihan (Brittany) that does not allow people to carry music instrument or sound system.

CONCLUSIONS

- Infection rates are rising all over Europe, leading to new restrictions with a dramatic impact on cultural venues.
- Although the venues already respect strict protocols and are probably “the safest” place to go out, it seems like no exception is possible.
- Venues/countries backed up with a strong recovery package are considering themselves to shut down, because 1-they feel it engages their social responsibility 2- it is difficult for the teams to find a sense with this new live experience while Venues/countries less/not supported by the public authorities are advocating to avoid an obligation to shut down.
- The endorsement or advisory aspect of the new restrictions (such as wearing a mask or limit your social bubble in the private space) is inherent to the different national legislations about individual freedom.

LINKS / RESSOURCES

- Switzerland – Study on spaces where contagions occurred: [French](#) / [German](#)
- Switzerland - [Info on restrictions on private event](#)
- Lithuania - [How we keep Vilnius Nightlife open](#)
- Lithuania - [Solution to register people at a gig](#)
- Lithuania - [Safe Vilnius](#)