

MINUTES - LIVE DMA MEMBERS MEETING – 13/01/2021

Participated: Anya (PETZI), Henri (Live ME), Gaiànè (KeepOn Live), David (Court-circuit), Mark Adam (Vilnius Night Alliance), Armando (ACCES), Anders (NKA), Gonçalo (Circuito), Arne (VNPF), Juliette and Elisa (Live DMA)

Introduction by Live DMA:

- Live DMA's latest data publication: [Stay Alive, Evaluation of the effects of the pandemic by live music associations in Europe as part of Live DMA](#)
- If not done yet, please answer the anonymous questionnaire about Live DMA's future strategy: <http://www.live-dma.eu/live-dma-strategy-2021-2023/>
- Live DMA is hiring a communication officer (in Nantes, for 6 months, part time 80%, needs to speak English and French): feel free to share the offer: <http://www.live-dma.eu/live-dma-is-hiring-a-communication-officer/>
- Topic for this member's meeting: We read a lot about "corona and vaccination passports for cultural events" and we are interested in getting your feedback on this: is this something you are working on? What is your point of view on this?

Henri Roosipold (Live Music Estonia)

Estonian venues are more or less coping as they received state funding. Their financial situation is OK at least until spring.

Venues can currently organise shows, if seated and up to 400 capacity (have been so since October. Before they had a bigger capacity). Live ME hope they will be able to open fully step by step.

Live ME haven't discussed corona passport, but hopefully as state aid will be distributed, they will be able to start this discussion with the Ministry of culture.

About a test concert in Estonia (by Live Nation) → there were discussions on it but it's a big secret. Something is planned, but as only one company is running the test, Live ME decided not to be too involved in this. Right now the project is postponed because infections increased when the test was supposed to launch.

Anders Tangen (NKA)

Norway is back in lockdown, groups of 10 people max. Lockdown will surely be prolonged.

Situation in Norway is a bit dark: there was some optimism in the autumn, with the support measures. But now, Ministry of culture and other responsible for support measures are really behind: no information about what's going to happen from now on. NKA had a meeting with the government and it was shocking how little is prepared for reopening. Government is only concerned about infection rate, not about the precarious situation of venues and festivals. No discussion on reopening and the measures that need to be in place for concerts this summer.

Yet, NKA is working on reopening and measures on how its going to happen: vaccine pass, technology/ticketing and the laws behind that. They imagine a combination of measures to keep audience safe (protocols, vaccines passport). Hard to get the Ministry of health involved, though. They don't want to discuss reopening at all. NKA is writing letters and knocking on doors trying to get some kind of response. But the Ministry of Culture is hiding.

Armando Ruah (ACCES)

Spain is still in total lockdown. Health situation is really bad with a lot of people infected. Vaccination is going very slow.

Some venues try to do concerts with all limitations → 25% of capacity, not sustainable at all. Venues prefer to close because they lose money with each concert. ACCES is concerned because not that much help from government → €3,5 million from Ministry of culture (for the whole cultural sector): this saved a lot of venues who should have closed without this help. ACCES is trying to keep this help for 2021. They write letters to health ministry, trying to convince them that culture can be safe. But the government is not keen on making limitations easier for venues. 2021 will put venues in a very difficult situation.

ACCES doesn't talk about testing in the venues right now, maybe promoters of big festivals are studying this possibility but not for venues. ACCES feels live music is made to sweat and dance and be close to each other, and doing a concert for limited people is sad.

Anya Della Croce (PETZI)

The situation in Switzerland evolved since last meeting. In November: French speaking regions were on a partial lockdown. Said they could open on 19 November with 50 people maximum but then federal level decided everything should close again.

Venues are currently closed until January 22, but there will be new announcement this afternoon: they are talking about a stricter lockdown.

Vaccines are slow and there is also the new variant of covid. Moderna vaccine approved yesterday, so it's good.

They have pretty good compensation measures but it is slow in some regions to be put in motion. French speaking part is OK, but it's a catastrophe in the German speaking part.

They are discussing a covid passport but out of the picture for PETZI members → vaccines are not mandatory (it would be anticonstitutional). Venues also refuse this for ethical reasons. Members say they don't want to impose the experience the test before going to a show.

Main concern right now is festivals because compensation is not good for festivals, and festival organisers don't want to start working if they don't know if they will be compensated in case of cancellation.

Good point: French speaking part of Switzerland is in constant dialogue with authorities, way more than before.

PETZI is also working on a big communication campaign for Open Club Day.

PETZI is also working on a study on the evolution of live music. They have a mandate from the cantons to work on music subsidies in the future.

Also, one of their festival members is working with sanitary authorities on vaccine campaign: they are in charge of running the vaccination campaign as they have production and logistic skills → good for staff to actually work and be involved in something useful.

Festival that will never happen: <https://www.ghost-festival.ch/>

David Dehard (Court-Circuit)

Like in Norway, there was some optimism in the autumn but now, since October, everything is closed. No vision. Now, no one is there to book bands for next year. Court-Circuit is in touch with the Ministry of culture, but federal level is above.

A federation of (big) festival was recently created. Court-circuit do not work with them but this new federation is talking about the season 2021, they think it can happen. For them, solution is to test all the audience. Court-circuit venue don't want that but festivals do. Court-circuit and the new festival federation only agree that vaccines are the best solution to go back to normal. But it is difficult to imagine that we can test everyone at the entrance of a venue.

Court-Circuit is currently working on livestream with national TV, broadcast and videos with upcoming talents, with national radios, etc. Also working on new apps to discover new talents. For the first time, they got money from the region to think about how to develop the economy of live music. €150 thousand to do a study with the University of Brussels to develop a strategy to develop live music in Wallonia. They work with other federation on this. First step is to analyse the impact of live music in Wallonia and see how to make it better. This shows that region + Ministry of economy are aware that live music is important, which is good.

Gaianè Kevorkian (KeepOn Live)

In Italy, before Christmas, a new set of measures based on different scale of risk for different regions: the more infected the region is, the more restrictive the measures are. Next week = new measures will be announced, from full lockdown to more free regions. White zone: almost completely free, only restriction is mask + distance. Not sure how many regions, and if concerts will happen again.

Right now, all the cultural sector is closed. KeepOn Live is meeting with other associations and trade representatives to discuss the protocol for reopening. They hope to have news on when it will be possible to open again. Discussions are mainly on how a correct protocol can be sustainable for venues. Also, they are asking themselves if it is actually necessary to have one? → shops don't have a protocol to open. Why would the cultural sector need one? Would it be better to remain closed?

KeepOn Live's new projects: request from some Italian members to do something as El Ultimo Concierto (Spain). They are working with ACCES and ASACC on this. Italian edition of El Ultimo Concierto should be end of February, beginning of March (1 year anniversary of lockdown).

With a University, they are working with a pop music academic on a study on the parameters proposed to the Ministry of culture for juridical recognition of venues and how these parameters can be qualitative and inclusive. → support their recognition protocol with humanities studies.

Interesting initiative from technicians association : they are working to help on the vaccination campaign, as professionals from live music shows, they are used to work with the crowd, they want to help with preparation of temporary hospitals for vaccination.

Recovery fund is currently discussed by Italian government: they are preparing a first draft on how to use EU money for their support mechanism.

The festival that will never happen: planned on 32nd of December 2020: <https://zero.eu/en/il-festival-che-non-ci-sara/>

Gonçalo Riscardo (Circuito)

Portugal is just starting a total lockdown again. Only schools will be open. Last month, and since October, curfews were implemented: during the week starting at 11pm and at 1am during the weekend.

Venues were able to work until 14/01/2021 at 50% capacity, if seated. If no seats: only 10% capacity. Most are open only to get their restaurants running.

From central government, there was a big support in December (Ministry of economy) for businesses. They were able to have an extra support for venues who had to remain closed. No support or response from Ministry of culture, though. No strategy from them or even an idea of what to do.

Good news: support from city of Lisbon to live music venues. Venues from Lisbon applied to Lisbon municipality with a project to support fixed costs during 4 months.

At the same time, Circuito proposed a mechanism to support emerging artists → fixed amount for each artist or technician involved, and venue can open their doors for concerts with emerging artists even for 10 people.

Next week, Circuito wanted to start a series of 120 concerts but this was postponed with the lockdown.

They have a good relationship with media, they are supportive of the situation.

Mark Adam Harold (Vilnius Night Alliance)

A new government came in in Lithuania. VNA is much more in contact with the Ministry of economy. They pushed up a help scheme → they are discussing about a second recovery package. First package was very horizontal (everyone could access it), second one is targeted on people and organisations who need it the most. They are arguing that the live sector deserves more compensation (to compensate the fact they lost rental compensation).

VNA is working with a bar & café association, but many applications, so they are upgrading the association → new night association for the whole country.

About reopening, they talked with municipality and they wanted ideas. Mark presented the [Safe Vilnius campaign](#).

Feeling that current rules don't make any sense. Worst infection in the world because nobody followed the rules but situation is getting better. After politely saying "yes, let's keep our venues closed", now they advocate for reopening as bars are controlled environments (compared to private environments where everybody can do whatever they want).

Mark is not sure about testing at the door, better to rely on vaccine. Mentioned tracing, testing and GDPR with ticket data → SMS tracing system with VNA. Low budget of 1000euros. But, although it was very efficient, it was not used by the government. The system worked well for small places: scan QR code/send SMS to register to places they went to. VNA was talking with phone companies so people don't have to pay the sms (social responsibility). Thing with ticket sales is that most of VNA members don't have ticket sales, system works as people come and go through the night. As in Switzerland, track & trace compulsory. Venues did the tracking but government could not follow up. SMS system is better. Question: is it good enough to be worth doing at all?

Arne Dee (VNPF)

Same issues in the Netherlands as everywhere. Lockdown. Only essential shops are open. Yesterday, announced lockdown extended until 9 february at least. Venues closed for audience but professionals can go there (live stream, rehearsal and education for professional musicians, not amateur → no official definition of amateur, venues decides. For them, professionals (non-amateurs) are the artists they would programme).

Festivals still hope they will have a festival season but they can't get an insurance, so only option is that they have a guarantee fund from the government. 1 billion euros are needed and VNPF want the government to guarantee this money. Festivals would pay them back in the next ten years.

Press conference yesterday: minister said everyone should be vaccinated in fall. VNPF are asking themselves "why not before?".

Government support is quite good in the Netherlands, all venues saved until May 2021 at least. New support measures + custom made support for venue suppliers and whole ecosystem.

Testing events prohibited yesterday, because of British version of virus. Bummer.

They keep advocating for support. Venue are taking in account that they can start again in fall. They just need money to survive until then.

Arne shared the [VNPF protocol for venues \(re\)opening](#): in the Netherlands, each sector has a protocol. The Netherlands are very organized, all protocols made by each representative association. It is something good to give to the government to gain trust. Writing a protocol based on governmental measures is 1-2 hours of work. The protocol changed 11 times. Translate measures into compact document for venue members. Their protocol is only for small venues (up to 5000 capacity). This work helps your members + shows government your taking your responsibility.