

Members meeting – 17/03/2021

Present: Inês Henriques (Circuito) / Anya Della Croce (PETZI) / Beverley Whithrick (MVT) / Christian Ordon (LiveKomm) / Coque Sanchez (ASACC) / Jenna Lahtinen (LiveFIN) / David Dehard (Court Circuit) / Henri Roosipold (Live ME) / Anders Tangen (NKA) / Adriana Alcover (ASACC) / Geoffrey Vasseur (LiveKomm) / Gaiane Kevorkian (KeepOn) / Mark Adam Harold (Vilnius Night Alliance) / Elda Gomez (ACCES) / Boris Colin (FEDELIMA) / Arne Dee (VNPF) / Benjamin Mialot (FEDELIMA) / Audrey Guerre (Live DMA) / Louise Verguin (Live DMA) / Juliette Olivares (Live DMA)

**Important update: Live DMA General Assembly will be online on 6th of May 2021.
Live DMA Forum hopefully in physical sessions at Tallinn Music Week (9-12 June 2021)**

Audrey introduced the meeting by sharing the document we made on Live DMA's advocacy discourse and actions regarding the allocation of money from EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) to Recovery Plans of Member States. We ask that at least 2% of the RRF be dedicated to the cultural sectors (CCS) in each national Recovery Plan, which need to be ready by 30 April.

Access the document [here](#).

Objective of this meeting: state of reopenings, what are your perspective and protocols? Important for Live DMA to know what you do to share it at EU level and know if there are disparities.

Inês (Circuito / Portugal):

- last week, reopening plan. Cultural spaces able to open on April 19.
- Support measures announced on 15 January are still waiting for regulations. No money support now, and don't have protocols for reopening. Circuito did not take part in work on protocols.

Anya (PETZI / Switzerland):

- Is Switzerland out of discussions of RRF? → Swiss not included. But discussion on EU reopening can have an impact on swiss reopening.
- Pressure from population because everything is closed. Put in place a plan for reopening. Gradual opening on March 22 and second date in April 12 and then May 3. Will announce on Friday whether they can open or not on Monday → uncertainty, not enough time to plan. Plan: seated max 50 people, max 1/3 of capacity, 1m50 distancing and no bar. Not making sense. Still fighting. They don't know anything, they are asking government for a clear roadmap.
- Also, transformation project from government, venues can apply to gain new audiences or restructure their organization to comply with new COVID measures. Not a subsidy, it is a project funding. But now government says there are no money left. Information about the transformation project in French [here](#) and in German [here](#).
- Also, there is a referendum on covid law, population will be called to vote in June, which can be a catastrophe.
- One PETZI member worked on sanitary plan for artist and backstage. Start working on this topic with all Live DMA members and work on a common solution applied in all Europe.

Christian & Geoffrey (LiveKomm / Germany):

- Comparison: Germany is on the COVID resilience ranking on place 34 (factors: mortality rate, vaccination management, administration, etc). Now, in front of 3rd wave, next lockdown in several landers will come.
- In Berlin, the City and the Senate will start test balloons → Clubcommission works with a 6 step recovery plan (risk management, use apps and technologies, special regulations, test balloons, monitoring...). People can book tickets for events on a difital platform which gives access to a COVID test (paid by city authorities) and the result of the test is valid for 12 hours. Clubcommission's press release in German [here](#).

Coque Sanchez & Adriana (ASACC / Catalonia):

- Coque Sanchez runs a venue in Barcelona.
- Catalonia : no opening plans or protocols.
- Test at Apolo + live concerts next month: in an indoor stadium (normal capacity: 20 000 people) (for 5000 people, masks but no social distance and with bar service, public divided into different zones). With this concert, we will have protocols and will know what's going to happen this summer.
- Law in Catalonia to open music venues. No bars, service at table, etc. Project of 200 000 euros to organise concerts >> only possibility to programme concerts. Only 4 music venues programming some kind of regular concerts.
- They are waiting for the concert In Catalonia, reopening a little bars and restaurants etc.
- Tomorrow: launch of campaign for one year anniversary of COVID restrictions on live music. Live DMA members can help eachother to have this campaign at EU level.

Jenna (LiveFIN / Finland):

- Finland is in a lockdown, continues until end of March. Also, after they will have this law restriction which means that dancing and singing is forbidden in Finland. Not allowed to move from table at bars & restaurants. Will be the case from April.
- No reopening plans yet, ministry of culture set a working group (consist of people from health authorities and event industry, not LiveFIN though). Finnish government will take a look on exit plan next week. Cultural ministry exit plan part of society exit plan. Hope that will hear something about reopening in 1 or 2 weeks.
- Main agenda on advocacy: funding. Ministry of economy are processing umbrella fund/cancellation guarantee fund.
- Jenna wants to hear about other compensation funds → send her the material you have at jenna.lahtinen@livefin.fi. In Finland, need a lot of practical and detailed info to bring best practices to this discussion.

Henri (Live ME / Estonia):

- Yesterday, advocacy work for funding. 42 million for cultural sector, 6million for festivals and bigger events. Money is now allocated. Step by step working on it.
- Started to see apocalyptic numbers of infections in Estonia, but they have a strategy to keep culture open. Closed until mid-April.

- Regarding funds, they currently don't have any money for culture, although now they told they say some can go to CCS, but Live ME did not have time to look at it.

Bev (Music Venue Trust / UK):

- Vaccination programme is progressing well, policy of giving 1st vaccines to more people (rather than double vax to more vulnerable) drops covid hospitalization. Now, over 50s are vax. In some way, the UK vax programme looks like a success.
- UK government has been cautious about announcing reopening. They have finally taken a science based and data driven approach. Roadmap where they kind of have some dates, but confirmation only 7 days before >> huge amount uncertainty. Earliest = (with distancing), 17 May, but will know on 10 May. Normal open 21 June but will now 7 days before. Not a straightforward picture at all. They are hopeful that they will be able to have some activity from late June, but a lot of people are not confident.
- What about audience confidence to return? >> will do surveys.
- Other challenges: pilot events but not the ones previously agreed >> only talking about testing and mask wearing. All swiss cheese work (ventilation and other mitigation measures to avoid physical distancing and reduced capacity) is pushed to one side.
- Vax passport debate as infringement of civil liberties.
- Other problem: no insurance or risk covering scheme at all >> when roadmap was announced, lots of people bought tickets so government thinks it's fine but no money from tickets go to festivals. This shows a total lack of understanding from government on how the music sector works. Lots might happen and nothing might happen. MVT believes there will be activities at smaller scale. It can be good for small venues (lot of UK artists desperate to play and lots of audiences want to come back).
- Anya: any idea about capacity restriction? >> potential May opening they talk about distancing. Some venues say they will not programme before September

Benjamin (FEDELIMA / France):

- nothing new in France, they have nation wide 6pm curfew + targeted weekend lockdowns.
- Aside from that, government green lit summer festivals under severe restrictions (5000 capacity, seated, no bar, no food, no camping) >> sacrifice youth and pop music.
- When is summer? They have no date. No real calendar about reopening venues. Apparently, they are planning stuff for mid-April but unsure.
- Sector is starting to be pissed about it >> Several theaters are occupied by artists in protests, some music venues too. They are asking for reopening or at least a clear schedule.
- Talking about a lockdown in Paris.
- Thought Fall 2021 will be okay but not sure. Won't be able to have standing gigs. WE DON'T KNOW.
- FEDELIMA is preparing a campaign >> maybe connect with ASACC's one?

David (Court-Circuit / Wallonia & Brussels):

- not better in Belgium. Since January, government says they have protocols and will reopen soon but nothing happens. Reopening is postponed.

- Talking about only open air for 25-50 people. Nothing for indoor venues. Festivals will cancel for this summer. Nothing planned.
- There are 3 different curfews: Flanders & Wallonia starting at midnight, for Brussels = 10pm.
- People involved in event industry can get money from the state. Campaigns: a lot of campaigns started, one by artists "Still standing for culture", every week they organized an event outside. Also, "Switch culture on".
- You still can go shopping, though.

Anders (NKA / Norway):

- In Norway, national standpoint: open since May 2020 (from 200 capacity to 10 capacity depending on infection rate). But have a lot of local restrictions (ex: Oslo closed since November).
- Protocol in May last year to do events under the pandemic.
- For reopening, government has given mandate to Norwegian arts council, so they will do a plan.
- For bigger events, they have been asking for a plan since last September but slow reaction from government. Health Department are having the last word.
- They have now appointed a working group with festivals and big cultural events and they made a suggestion to the government with a plan. 3 scenarios (optimistic: full reopening in September. Start with a certain % of capacity in May and they progress /normal / pessimistic).
- Heading to a national lockdown, so Anders is not that optimistic. Health authorities have been conservative in their plan for reopening.
- But government assured that as long as there are restrictions, there will be compensation so that's good.

Elda (ACCES / Spain):

- In Spain, there are 17 different regulations. In Madrid, more or less venues and theaters are open with restrictions but there are some concerts. In Galicia: lockdown. One of difficult situation is to have 17 different regulations. Reopening depending in which area you are.
- They are working to have finances but they don't know for a total reopening.
- In rest of Spain, they will support ASACC campaign.

Arne (VNPF / The Netherlands):

- national elections today for parliament. So a new government is coming, which can change policies. (But Arne doesn't think it will change that much)
- Same as everywhere, waiting till reopening can start again.
- Complete lockdown until end of March. Venues completely closed. Venues still allowed to do repetitions and streamings for professional musicians.
- Support measures are quite good, they are extended to July/August 2021.
- All VNPF venues will survive financially.
- Maybe in April/May, slow reopening expected with restrictions.
- Venues are waiting for end of summer to programme.

Gaianè (KeepOn Live / Italy):

- Italy experiencing new rise of infections, most of countries are in red zone (=lockdown). During easter, the whole of country will be in lockdown.

- They are working on reopening protocols, some members working with other associations.
- For this summer, no much difference with last summer. Hope they will have the same conditions (max 1000 outside / max 200 inside with masks, seats, distancing) but no indication precisely. Their worry is to have different protocols for live clubs.
- They are asking to have a programmed reopening for clubs to have time to plan activities.
- They are stressing that its not possible to have a reduced capacity.
- Also, live clubs by law: 0,7 people per 1m2. DJ: 2.0/1m2. Want to change that because its not sustainable.
- For next season: no distanciation but vax passport.
- Another issue for festivals: they are asking how it can be safe for audience to move inside the country. Solution: work on local context.
- Gaiane asks for a shared Google Drive where every Live DMA member put their protocol. → Live DMA will do this.

Audrey ended the meeting by sharing Yourope's guidelines for Festival reopenings with tests (See the guidelines [here](#)). Please, have a look at it, send it to your festival members and tell us if they think it is realistic, especially for smaller scale festivals.

What Live DMA will do next:

- **Check with you if national recovery plans include at least 2% of EU fund into CCS**
- **Put a Google Drive for Live DMA members to share their reopening protocols with other members :**
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FS0gyJURkDk8AgoaUjdg8ldVMms2BuSh?usp=sharing> >> find folders per country where you can put your latest protocols in your national language + find at the end a document "CONTENTS OVERVIEW" where we ask you to put a brief summary in English of the documents you uploaded in the drive (protocols from the live music sector + protocols from government).
- **Start to think on how we can work together on specific and harmonized protocols for welcoming artists backstage, when international and European artists can go back on tour again. Plan this ahead to have one protocol for all of Europe.**