

**LIVE DMA MEMBERS' MEETING #18**  
**19 of May, 2021**

Present: Audrey Guerre (Live DMA), Thibaut Hermouet (Live DMA), Louise Verguin (Live DMA), Mark Adam Harold (NaktA), Pablo Fleury (Court-Circuit), Hilma Kekkonen (Svensklive), Beverley Whitrick (MVT)

The discussion of this meeting will focus on the “**congestion**” of events that will happen once venues, clubs and festivals will be able to open again. Are your members concerned about it? Is this a discussion among your organization? How do you anticipate it? Should we have a European approach to this phenomenon?

**INTRODUCTION LIVE DMA**

The focus is about the restart of the live activities, especially the touring conditions. Live DMA reacted to the EU Commission to give [recommendations](#) few weeks ago. The Commission will probably come back with proposals about conditions of reopening in the next coming days/weeks.

Lots of events were postponed during the past year, so how do bookers feel about their programming season, lots of artists are ready to go on stage. Do you already have some ideas on national levels on how to manage artists tours? Who is your interlocutors (Ministry...)? And how to deal with all the postponed events?

**LITHUANIA:**

In the next months they are starting some cultural reopening:

- If you are vaccinated or have been tested negative you can go inside but seated.
- Events will be allowed for 5000 people but it might be difficult right now to organise.
- They don't think they will book international artists this year, there will be too high demand and it will be too complicated, they will focus on local artists, none have been seen for a year so it's not a problem for the public either.
- Government told that they could reopen but until 10 pm, which is clearly not possible for a nightclub.

NaktA takes part in a summit about the UK artists touring conditions in eastern Europe. This aims to define in which conditions UK artists will be able to tour in Lithuania but also in Scandinavian countries.

**SWEDEN:**

Reopening were planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> of march, now it's moving to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June :

- 500 people limit, 5m2 per person. For small clubs it's clearly impossible. Both angry and happy at the same time because also for larger venues that can open are very limited with capacity restriction.

- No vaccine pass or testing, professionals are quite against it, who will pay for it? A question raised to the government, without clear answer yet.

Touring conditions: mostly Swedish artists will be booked first but they don't really know for international artists, they are probably not against it but they won't be a priority.

### **BELGIUM:**

Belgium has new governmental guidelines, for the first time in months some events will be able to happen:

- In June, 200 inside 400 outside with mask seated etc
- July, 2000 inside and 2500 outside
- End July: 3000 inside
- August, massive events will be allowed

Big festivals may happen like Tomorrowland, it seems crazy because no guidelines yet (probably a vaccine pass or negative tests).

Court-Circuit members don't plan to do many events this summer (not the usual framework), the real beginning will probably be in September.

Touring conditions: focus on local artists first and emergent artists. Considering the postponed shows, the idea for their members is to clean the agenda first before taking any big decision. The money supporting the sector will be usable in September so they will use it to support the artists. Financial help from the government will come but they still don't know how much. They are talking a lot about ventilation strategies.

### **The UK:**

MVT is also talking about ventilation with the government, not just about covid but also for all viruses, so this is a long-term subject they want to highlight.

The UK is fortunate, the vaccination campaign is going really well. 17<sup>th</sup> of May, cultural spaces are reopened. Many of the venues are reopening this week with social distancing they can't welcome many people in their venues but everything is sold out! 400-500 shows between May and June, every single show this week is sold out (audience eager to go to concerts)

**Divergent positions, different narratives:** Fight between media about the Indian variant (irresponsible to reopen), however it's not leading hospitalizations (scientific facts). England is not putting control in place for now because most of at-risks people have been vaccinated twice.

They are still on course for big reopening on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Scotland have reopened with social distancing but impossible for small venues. The larger size of the cultural venues are focusing their reopening events for September and not the summer, which is very challenging with the school re starting, work ... Larger industry plan for the autumn, it means book your tickets for September because all the events for this week are already sold out, it's going really fast.

They have a lot of UK artists desperate to tour around the island, but not the same restrictions from one part of the UK to another. UK artists touring around the Europe is really controversial, there's a lot of work to do.

The health certification: current discussions about covid certification are suggesting that it should be used for larger events only. But it's complicated to organise in order to have a real equal use of this "pass" within the society (you should be able to go to the pub in the same way you go to a concert. A big analyse is being done for September, but it can change at any moment. For now, venues are not required to ask certifications, but you have to wear masks).

About the Congestion of events: Member have talked between each other a little but it's more in the hands of promoters than in the venues. Another question regarding big events is about how to travel safely to the event (for the audience), not how to organise a safe event.

Not public yet: MVT set up a partnership with the National Lottery. The money raised will pay for Revive Live music (encourage to go to concerts). This project is really being seen positively in the social medias which is amazing.

The cultural sector moved faster than the governments. There is a huge reaction gap between our needs and the way governments academics etc reacts, they work on too long scales.