

## Member's meeting – 2 September 2021

Participants: Adriana Alcover (ASACC), Lluís Torrents (ASACC), Clara Cullen (MVT), David Dehard (Court-Circuit), Ingrid Stroom (Live ME), Jenna Lahtinen (LiveFIN), Elda Gomez (ACCES), Marc Steens (Clubcircuit), Gaianè Kevorkian (KeepOn Live), Benjamin Fraigneau (FEDELIMA)

*This meeting focused on the new season starting, the regulations still in place for live music events in different European countries and their effect on audience visits. We also asked Live DMA members to share some information on the status of the COVID Health passport in their country or region.*

### FILL IN THE OVERVIEW CHART OF COVID PASSPORTS IN EUROPE:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1D0fn7gROi9twzwcqhiD2OjDGigE5l1SSSDxu3f7MzbM/e\\_dit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1D0fn7gROi9twzwcqhiD2OjDGigE5l1SSSDxu3f7MzbM/e_dit?usp=sharing)

### PARTIAL REOPENING WITH NO HEALTH PASS AND RESTRICTIONS (ES/FI)

#### 1) Lluís, ASACC (Catalonia):

- Situation is worse than in England. 50% fully vaccinated, 70% in all Spain. Infection rate is 0.8.
- Live music allowed only with mask and seated and without a bar until midnight.
- Nightclubs are closed.
- Several (illegal) parties in the streets, riots when polices intervenes. Most of city council in Barcelona are claiming for nightclub to open.
- ASACC proposed to open with COVID pass but government doesn't want to.
- Big campaign in front of Parliament, hunger strikes from several club owners to have a calendar.
- For theater and cinema are open at 70% capacity.
- ASACC are in need of ideas, advocacy arguments, to change this situation.

#### 2) Elda, ACCES (Spain):

- rest of Spain is more or less the same as in Catalonia. Critical situation. No COVID passport. A lot of venues are asking for that but government doesn't want to.
- ➔ Have an overview of COVID passport to show to governments.

#### 3) Jenna, LiveFIN (Finland):

- exciting times, government of Finland is now making new plans for the covid.
- No capacity restrictions per se but different restrictions which varies depending on regions. Different rules for events and different regulations for the bars.
- These regulations might conflict → messy and problematic. But getting a little bit easier in regions except in Helsinki.
- Middle size festivals during the summer, events start to take place again.
- They're giving up on restrictions in October when vaccine is 80% (now 70%) for people over 12 yo.
- No health pass, even though LiveFIN were advocating for it. The government is discussing that they should move forward but need to change some laws. For next year it will be ready.
- Jenna thinks need covid pass with international touring → no covid pass, international artists will skip Finland.

- Need to find trust of the audience again. Situation varies from age group to another. Covid pass can help in that.
- Ticket sales are down.
- They do have some pilot projects with COVID passport. They have a warm welcome but since its not mandatory... but audience find it more trust when it is in place.
- Lost faith in government

#### **PARTIAL REOPENING WITH HEALTH PASS AND RESTRICTIONS (FR/IT)**

##### 4) Benjamin, FEDELIMA (France):

- health pass in place since 21<sup>st</sup> of July for cultural places. First establishments to experiment with this decision.
- Initially, was supposed to take place for events of more than 50 people but changed, now it's for all events and since yesterday, even workers have to have it.
- Health pass: no mask, 75% capacity.
- Also, it depends on the regions, some mandatory masked. Also some regions ask a sanitary procedure for each concert.
- Interrogation for reception of school audiences, depending on situations they need a sanitary pass or not, same with artists in residencies.
- Ticket sales numbers are not good at all, mostly for local bands and during summer. We will know better at the end of September.
- Example of Nada Surf concert in the south of France (200 tickets sold for 2000 capacity).
- Within the federation, 10 (out of 150 members) venues are strictly against the health pass. Thinking about ways to protest.

##### 5) Gaianè, KeepOn Live (Italy):

- they have covid passport, used in cultural places, and many sectors. For live music, mandatory but did not change other restriction: still mask, distancing, seated, etc .
- Was confusing because passport was introduced in August, and the sector was expecting it in September, organisers had to quickly adapt.
- Most of members are in favour of the use of the pass. But at the moment, they are asking for at least full capacity if pass is mandatory → they're advocating.
- Still a lot of uncertainty for October as they are expecting some changes.

#### **TOTAL REOPENING WITH HEALTH PASS AND NO OR FEW RESTRICTIONS (EE/BE +200 capacity)**

##### 6) Ingrid, Live ME (Estonia):

- certificate is being used and seems to work
- Indoor 600 Outdoor 1200 on the condition that everyone show vaccine certificate, PCR test or immunity.
- Venue owners allowed to offer testing at the door → not all are doing it because of space limitations and need for medical license. No free testing (PCR 40euros). Starting today, possible to test in pharmacies (antigene test: 20 euros). Price of testing are diminishing.
- Seems to work but for bigger events, 20 to 30% of visitors prefer to be tested on site. People complain they have a different price. Vaccine is free.
- Question about test price on ticket or extra fee or venues covers it → all options possible, as testing onsite not mandatory, price of tests = cost of a big headliner artist. Expensive because they need a medical trained person.

7) David, Court-Circuit (Wallonia & Brussels):

- For over 200 indoor capacity venue / outside 400, need a COVID-safe ticket but it's not an obligation. Either covid safe ticket, either physical distance.
- The sector asks to use the COVID safe ticket. Even some venues of less than 200 ask to have COVID-safe ticket, because it's their only way to sell tickets and pay artists.
- From October 1<sup>st</sup>, no restrictions for venues until 500 indoor capacity / 750 outdoor.
- Selling more tickets with COVID certificate.
- Most Wallonian events are sold out, especially with international names. Events not sold out are the events with local artists playing everywhere all the time.
- French bands are coming back, because frontiers are open.
- There are a lot of events at the same time, it is too difficult a choice where to go.

8) Marc, Clubcircuit (Flanders):

- situation in Brussels more complex, different than the rest of the country. Not much to add to what David says, it's the same in all Belgium.
- He has the impression that the public is not too enthusiastic, ticket sales are down.
- Marc says that the bottleneck that they expect in autumn 2021 will be a bottleneck in 2022.
- Not too much international bands by the end of the year.

**TOTAL REOPENING WITHOUT HEALTH PASS AND NO RESTRICTIONS (UK/BE -200 capacity)**

9) Clara, MVT (UK):

- Live music activities are taking place in all of UK except Northern Ireland.
- In England: no legal restrictions in place, no need for barrier measures or vaccine passports: all mitigation measures are voluntarily done by the audience.
- Vaccine passports are currently considered by the government but no decision taken yet.
- Last night in Scotland: announced they will introduce vaccine certification for over 500 capacity + non-seated events. Rest of UK, no decision.
- Feedback from venues on the last events they could hold: ticket sales are down compared to pre-covid levels, same for bar sales (20% down). Venues are open but they see an impact.
- Also to add, at the moment in the UK we are making the argument to Government that any covid certification has to be either fully vaccinated, acquired immunity or evidence of a negative test. We don't want it to be just fully vaccinated as there is growing evidence that you can still be infectious whilst vaccinated and so vaccine plus testing is safer than just vaccinated and that is what we are arguing. However in the UK it is not certain that there will be a cover certificate in England as it is politically a very divisive idea and the Government are not certain they can get the votes needed to change the law.
- In England, restrictions were dropped at 78% of vaccination for over 16s yo. Also recently we did a survey of audience members to see what measures they were taking. The vast majority of the audience who go to events were taking extra precautionary steps, such as taking a lateral flow test before the event. We sent this report to Government to correct the assumptions that were being made about our audience. One assumption was that people who go to music venues would be less likely to get the vaccine but we were able to show that that kind of assumption about our audience was incorrect. I think that has helped educate the government about our sector and showing that our sector and audience are actually more willing to take steps to protect each other than the larger population as a whole.

10) David, Court-Circuit (Wallonia & Brussels):

- for small venues, less than 200 → NO RESTRICTIONS.

*To conclude, almost all European countries see some kind of reopening with measures that fit more or less the sector's business models. Need to ensure that the support measures are still in place for live music places to be safe. We will provide Live DMA members with an overview of the COVID health pass in every country, that can help members in their advocacy work to see other examples of countries where the rules for putting up a live show are easier. The live music organisers in favour of a health pass have the following arguments:*

- *A health pass would guarantee the return of international touring*
- *A health pass would boost ticket sales and bring back the audience's trust in returning to gigs.*

**FILL IN THE OVERVIEW CHART OF COVID PASSPORTS IN EUROPE:**

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