

## MEMBERS MEETING 10 NOVEMBER 2021

Attendees : Federico Rasetti (KeepOn Live – Italy), Hilma Kekkonen (Svensk Live – Sweden), Audrey Guerre (Live DMA), Juliette Olivares (Live DMA), Thibaut Hermouet (Live DMA), Lluís Torrents (ASACC – Catalonia), Louise Verguin (Live DMA), Ingrid Stoorm (Live Music Estonia), Benjamin Fraigneau (FEDELIMA – France), Clara Cullen (Music Venue Trust), Anya Della Croce (PETZI – Switzerland), Mark Adam Harold (NAKTA – Lithuania), Adriana Alcover (ASACC – Catalonia), David Dehard (Courct-Circuit \_ Wallonia & Brussels), Elda Gomez (ACCES – Spain)

### ROUND-TABLE OF COVID SITUATION IN EVERY COUNTRY

**ASACC:** In Catalonia, the situation is finally good,

- ➔ high level vaccination, 78% vaccinated people. Level of pandemic is good.
  - ➔ Venues are open since 4/5 weeks,
  - ➔ 80% capacity, people standing, no chairs - We are expecting to increase capacity in 2/3 weeks but we are not sure about this before a month or 2, because of the levels of pandemic elsewhere.
  - ➔ Covid certificate (EU passport).
  - ➔ no curfew no limitations except people have to wear masks inside clubs but nobody does. Local authority knows about it but they can't do anything because it won't change anything
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**FEDELIMA :** in France, situation not that bad but

- ➔ contamination rate is increasing, government still urge people to get vaccinated.
  - ➔ Around 70% vaccinated in France, quite good but less than in Spain, increasing a bit but very slowly.
  - ➔ Covid certificate (EU passport) to access cultural events.
  - ➔ Half of the departments/counties have to respect a max capacity of 75%. Problem because half of shows are already sold out with 100% capacity, so have to find a way to reimburse people.
  - ➔ Ticket sales: presale of tickets are quite slow especially for emerging artists, a bit better for headliners. A lot of « no show »: people who buy a ticket but don't go to the show, 20%. This not because people are complaining, arguing or fighting. 15% of the people who pay their ticket just don't come, probably because of multiple factors (no vaccination, people forgot the date of the concert after several postponements, people that don't know the rules - if they have to wear a mask or not, etc., people that planned other things to do, new habits taken by people during the lockdown, very good weather in September and October in France, too many artistic proposals at the same time...).
  - ➔ The National Center of Music extended the fund for the venues until the end of the year 2021 so they are not in danger now.
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**LIVE MUSIC ESTONIA** : in Estonia it's quite bad, the numbers are the worst in Europe, lots of people in hospital,

- ➔ vaccination rate is at 61%. Massive downhill since October.
  - ➔ Capacity restrictions are like back then: 6000 indoors/12000 outdoors. As Live Music Estonia members are rather small or medium-sized, they can operate at full capacity, but not a lot of audience comes.
  - ➔ Government advises people not to go out, but is not officially closing venues so people do not go to concerts anymore, the venues are empty. Assuredly, the government does not close venues because they do not want to put up a compensation scheme.
  - ➔ Need to wear a mask indoors.
  - ➔ Discussion with the prime minister who thinks there are no restrictions for nightclubs, although everything needs to finish at 23:00. Lack of knowledge of the habits of nightlife from the government. Governments advises the nightlife sector to change their business model.
  - ➔ you have to be vaccinated or you don't go, unless you are aged between 12 to 17 years old and you've been tested. Tests are not authorized for the others, only vaccine or immunity are considered valid for the COVID pass
  - ➔ « good news » : won't add additional restrictions (they were discussing closing everything at 9pm with 55% capacity).
  - ➔ the same restrictions are for every cultural place, but doesn't impact cinemas or theater for example who close at 10pm anyway. Good cooperation between cultural organisations.
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#### **COURT-CIRCUIT :**

- ➔ need for EU passport but no curfews, no mask no other restriction. But sometimes difficult for some members who are against the COVID passport (breach in individual freedom). But it helps the venues getting the audiences.
  - ➔ Some shows have to be canceled because artists are sick with COVID but it is globally ok.
  - ➔ They have 75% vaccinated, quite high in Europe, certificates will be until January 2022, in best case.
  - ➔ They have some funding from the government for the organisations which have difficulties paying employees or artists, but only for venues which still have problems today.
  - ➔ Testing are often free as well for people who are not vaccinated. It depends on the city or the venues if they have the capacity to manage a testing center.
  - ➔ In August, they announced the use of Covid tickets for November, so people were aware and the rate of no-shows seems to be less important than in France.
  - ➔ Live Nation helped the sector with other big organisation, common funds for the music sector: LIVE 2020. Will be with different calls, one especially for small organisations.
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**KEEPON LIVE** : In Italy it is good, venues can operate at full capacity since the 8 of October, except for discotheques (half capacity) but live music venues are ok.

- Uncertainty about some rules: the government specified that audience can operate at full capacity, but they don't know if they need to be seated or not. So some venues prefer working as discotheques, meaning with half capacity but possibility to stand up. They are asking government for more clarification on this.
  - in white areas Covid certificate is still mandatory and mask as well, but no more social distance. "No show » in Italy: 20%
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**SVENSK LIVE** : in Sweden, best situation,

- 81% of people over 16 years old are vaccinated with a double dose
  - no restrictions at all, just a recommendation that non vaccinated people keep their distance.
  - Have been like that for a month, people are going to shows, ticketing is booming, artists are being booked... the live music is living again.
  - People, with the lockdowns, have been getting used to going out less, and now there is a lot of activity booming (several shows a week). Habits of the audience has changed.
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**NAKTA** : in Lithuania, had the vaccine pass before the EU pass, including testing and recovered from covid.

- Low vaccination rate. No restriction for vaccinated people, now restrictions for unvaccinated to go to bars and venues.
  - Tests are going to cost money, if you refuse the vaccine you have to pay for the test and it's really expensive.
  - No capacity restriction, no curfew. Prime minister is really sensible with the situation.
  - They don't have any money to pay for compensation.
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**PETZI** :

- Cases are going up again, 63% vaccination rate. Government is launching the « week of vaccination » to try vaccinate people around the country.
  - Covid certificate for everyone except for shops and public transports, no restrictions for the unvaccinated. Pass until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January.
  - November 27<sup>th</sup>, referendum against the Covid law (legal base for the covid pass, but also for the funding opportunities)
  - Full capacity but only with EU passport. Tests have to be paid now even to go to university.
  - Debate around the use of the pass. Pass until end of December for now.
  - Big shows sell a lot, but small shows don't sell a lot, at least with pre sales. Survey shows that 40% less audience coming to shows and cultural events.
  - Headliners OK, but emerging artists not so good.
  - Struggle in trying to find volunteers, even paid people are disengaged.
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**Music Venue Trust** : in the UK, not a lot of change.

- In England no restrictions. Infection rate dropping but expecting it to raise again. Government will have to introduce or not a Plan B. Plan B = only vaccine and COVID immunity as a token for entering a cultural event.
  - In Wales : vaccine and immunity and testing in place for cultural events
  - In Scotland, Vaccine and immunity pass only, no testing accepted.
  - UK - Vaccination rate, 50million 1st dose, 45million 2 dose, and 10 million have received a 3rd dose. Not easy to get the last dose.
  - No shows : 20% decline in attendees.
  - Fundings : cultural recovery, less venues than expected were successful, there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of fundings so a lot of venues are trying to get it but it's difficult, big issue to come. Arts Council that manage the funding is slow to make the payments.
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#### **NKA :**

- 70 % vaccinated
  - Venues/festivals have been open since the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Full capacity, no restriction, no masks, no covid pass.
  - No curfew
  - Ticket sales: there is a lot of activity, still mostly Norwegian acts but increasing more European. Few US booking – increasing from February/march 2022. But, we see a drop in ticket sales compared to same time in 2019. 30-50 %. More drop in sales for the more adult/elderly audience. We also see the tendency of no-shows with tickets.
  - Infection rate is increasing a lot, which is not helping sales. And, there are some local restrictions in parts of Norway with a very high infection rate – and back to seated concerts, if serving alcohol. National restrictions that affect the concerts are not likely at this point, but hey, said that before and been wrong.
  - Safe to say that the crisis for our sector is not over, by far.
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#### **LIVEKOMM:**

- vaccination rate is at 69%
  - in the federal states the restrictions are completely different. from almost no restrictions (Bremen) to again radical restrictions (mask, distance and limited capacity, Saxony). The vaccination rate in the federal state plays a role here.
  - The federal government tends to focus public life only on vaccinated or recovered persons in order to increase vaccination readiness.
  - parties went very well, but concerts ...okay. this often has to do with the age of the target groups.
  - a big problem is the lack of (or unvaccinated) staff.
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#### **ACCES:**

- In Spain as in Germany, there are different restrictions and rules depending on the region
- Vaccination rate is at 88'8%. Level of pandemic is good but it seems that is increasing a little bit
- Covid passport is mandatory only in some regions and the full capacity also depends on each region (75% - 100%). There is no curfew

➔ Mask is mandatory inside the clubs and venues but not many people are using it

### OPEN DISCUSSION

Anya : big reminiscence of GHB for spiking drinks. Cases in England and France too. How do you deal with it, are you concerned about it? Not only women are targeted.

Clara : not more than a media story in England at the moment. They don't have info on how it is happening, they don't have enough information to think about it or clear evidence. Venues are working on sexual harassment at the moment and give some taping to put on the drinks so that no one can drop something in glasses >> <https://stoptopps.com/about/>

Christian: we, and livekomm networks support a campaign from berlin, after there have been more deaths lately: <https://clubculture-against-ghb.org/>