

Pilot Project for Artist Mobility: *Changing Room*

Project: Changing Room
Organisation: Trans Europe Halles (Sweden)
Grant: 243.477,58 €
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Changing Room is a two-year project that aims to test, study and evaluate a cultural professionals exchange and training programme within Trans Europe Halles, with the aim of it potentially expanding into a wider initiative.

Twenty-four TEH members will participate in Changing Room, hosting and sending cultural professionals on exchanges at each other's centres. This 'taste' of mobility is intended to stimulate longer-term exchanges and then lead to an increase in the permanent engagements of non-national workers by network members.

Through the experiences of the exchange participants and their hosts, combined with workshops and a study by The Sibelius Academy, Finland, Changing Room will seek to identify opportunities, issues and barriers to the mobility of cultural workers. The project aims to investigate some specific obstacles to mobility such as knowledge of, and access to practical and relevant information, the reluctance of some employers to recruit from outside of their countries and differences in national working methods, systems and practices. The study will examine and identify the key factors that enhance and stimulate mobility, identify its benefits, how best to raise its value and propose new ideas and forms for increasing mobility? It will also provide data on mobility within the network and aim to identify the key differences and similarities in working in culture across a sample of the EU member states.

The exchange participants will meet to share their experiences and make recommendations for developing mobility programmes. Cultural leaders will be invited to brainstorm and debate how to increase mobility at a workshop retreat. Training workshops will be delivered on key mobility issues, some of which will be open to participants outside of TEH. All of these activities will contribute to gaining greater understanding and knowledge on how to enhance and increase mobility.

An on-line mobility toolkit primarily aimed at cultural professionals will be a key output of the project and the media used to disseminate its conclusions to the European cultural community. The toolkit is planned to contain both practical information and intelligence including a 'rough guide' to working in the member states, first-hand experiences and advice from cultural professionals working in different countries, a jobs and volunteers posting section and information on training and mobility grants/bursaries.

By combining both theory and practice partners in Changing Room, its results are intended to have a greater audience and influence within the academic and organisational cultural sectors, as well as providing valuable information and recommendations for the formulation of future cultural professionals mobility schemes.

The project is led by Trans Europe Halles. The co-organisers are: Melkweg, Amsterdam, Netherlands and Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Sweden, will manage Changing Room.