

GUIDE TO CULTURAL NETWORKS

European advisor to the Wales European Arts Forum, Simon Mundy has prepared his guide to Cultural Networks.

Introduction

For individuals and organisations alike, the opportunities for international networking have grown. For arts professionals in Wales, this networking takes place at two principal levels, the global and the European. With the move towards a European Union and the development of digital technology, the last 25 years has seen an explosion of networks, many of which provide more flexible and responsive forums that cut across traditional arts categories. For the arts this is an essential development.

The list of networks (a term which includes associations with members) that follows is not exhaustive. However it describes many of the most active networks and organisations with which arts professionals in Wales might want to engage in order to have influence on the international and European development of the sector. The vast majority are keen to be inclusive and have levels of supporting membership for professional individuals and organisations that share their interests.

International networks can be divided between those that are open to governments (often exclusively) – Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs) – and those that operate as Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs). Gradually a third group is emerging which brings together official agencies and public sector bodies (para-governmental organisations).

UNESCO is just one of the UN agencies that have an impact on world artistic life. Many other agencies have cultural responsibilities, such as:

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) www.ilo.org
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) www.undp.org
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) www.unhcr.org

- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) www.wipo.int
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) www.unctad.org
- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) www.unido.org
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) www.ohchr.org
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) www.unicef.org
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) www.unitar.org
- United Nations University www.unu.edu

The most important regular contacts are with those agencies with a direct bearing on artistic professionals' working conditions and financial welfare – ILO, WIPO and UNCTAD.

The International Network for Cultural Policy (INCP) www.incp-ripc.org emerged in 1998 and is not part of the UN system. It describes itself as an 'international forum where national ministers responsible for culture can explore and exchange views on new and emerging cultural policy issues and to develop strategies to promote cultural diversity'.

The International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA) www.ifacca.org is a highly impressive platform for sharing information on policy and subsidy. Its fortnightly e-bulletin combines institutional information with a very useful digest of news in English on the arts from throughout the world.

UNESCO has an involved relationship with NGOs as it originally helped start and paid for a handful of art form organisations. The group includes: -

- International Amateur Theatre Association www.aitaiata.org
- International Artists Association www.iaa-europe.eu
- International Dance Council www.cid-portal.org
- International Music Council www.imc-cim.org
- International Poets, Essayists and Novelists (PEN)
- International Theatre Institute www.iti-worldwide.org
- International Theatre Critics Association www.aict-iatc.org
- International Union for the Marionette www.unima.org

To this need to be added the two main performing arts Trade Unions, which relate as closely to ILO as UNESCO – respectively the International Federations of Musicians and Actors (FIM www.fim-musicians.com and FIA www.fia-actors.com)

Away from this group there are a growing number that are taken seriously by UNESCO, without having the benefit of direct support.

Among them are: -

- International Artists Managers Association (IAMA) www.iamaworld.com
- International Association of Music Information Centres (IAMIC) www.iamic.net
- International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) www.ifpi.org
- International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC)
- International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) www.ictmusic.org
- International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA) www.ifacca.org
- International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) www.ifcm.net
- International Federation of Festival Organisations (IFFO)
- International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR) www.firt-iftr.org
- International Federation for Jeunesses Musicales www.jmi.net
- International Festivals and Events Association (IFEA) www.ifea.com
- International Network for Cultural Diversity (INCD)* www.incd.net
- International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) www.iscm.org
- International Society for Music Education (ISME) www.isme.org
- International Society of the Performing Arts (ISPA)* www.ispa.org
- International Organisation of Scenographers, Technicians and Theatre Architects (OISTAT) www.oistat.org
- Foundation for Community Dance www.communitydance.org.uk
- Res Artis: International Network of Artists Residencies www.resartis.org

There has been an explosion in the European level of networking in the last 25 years as the arts sector has come to terms with the demands and opportunities of an expanding European Union.

The main umbrella body for the sector – open to organisations and individuals – is Culture Action Europe (CAE)* www.cultureactioneurope.org. This acts as a go-between for the sector and the European institutions and advises on co-ordinated advocacy work. CAE counts most of the major sectoral networks as part of its membership and has close relations with the major organisations that have remained outside.

CAE members include the following European level networks: -

- ACCR: European Network of Cultural Centres in Historic Monuments www.accr-europe.org
- AEC: European Association of Conservatoires www.aecinfo.org
- AMATEO: European Network for Active Participation in Cultural Activities www.amateo.info
- Banlieues d'Europe (an association of arts centres in depressed suburbs and inner cities)
- BJCEM: Biennale of Young Creators of Europe and the Mediterranean www.bjcem.org
- CEATL: European Council of Associations of Literary Translators www.ceatl.org
- EDUCULT: Institute for the Mediation of Arts and Science – The Platform for Cultural Education in Europe.
- European Jazz Orchestra www.swinging-europe.com
- European Jazz Network www.ejn.it
- EFA: European Festivals Association (hosting the European House of Culture) www.efa-aef.eu
- ELIA: European League of Institutes of the Arts www.elia-artschools.org
- EMC: European Music Council www.emc-imc.org
- ENCC: European Network of Cultural Centres www.encc.eu
- ETC: European Theatre Convention www.etc-cte.org
- EUBO: European Union Baroque Orchestra www.eubo.org.uk
- EUCO: European Union Chamber Orchestra
- Europa Cantat <http://europeanchoralassociation.org>
- European Society of Culture
- EWC: European Writers Council www.europeanwriters.eu
- Foundation for Community Dance www.communitydance.org.uk
- IETM: the International Network for the Contemporary Performing Arts www.ietm.org
- Literature Across Frontiers www.lit-across-frontiers.org

- Opera Europa www.opera-europa.org
- PEARLE: Performing Arts Employers Association League Europe www.pearle.ws
- Relais Culture Europe www.relais-culture-europe.org
- RESEO: European Network for Opera and Dance Education www.reseo.org
- Team Network: European Network of Transdisciplinary Art Magazines
- TEH: TransEurope Halles – European Network of Independent Cultural Centres
www.teh.net

CAE also has in its membership many national and city organisations involved in European networking – including Wales Arts International – as well as the European branches of several of the worldwide organisations listed in section 2.

Other European networks

There are a number of European networks that are not members of Culture Action Europe, although they usually co-operate with it on many issues and platforms. The following list will need to be updated regularly as some networks collapse and others emerge.

- Cultural Information and Research Centres Liaison in Europe (CIRCLE)
www.circle-network.jaaz.pl
- European Association of Artists Managers <http://aeaa.info>
- European Association of Youth Orchestras www.eayo.org
- Eurocities – culture committee: the network linking city administrations
www.eurocities.net
- European Children’s Film Network www.esfaweb.org
- European Concert Halls Association (ECHO)
- European Council of Artists www.eca.dk
- European Forum of World Music Festivals (EFWMF) www.efwmf.org
- European Federation of Young Choirs <http://europeanchoralassociation.org>
- European Federation of National Youth Orchestras www.efnyo.org
- European Mime Federation
- European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres (ENCATC)
www.encatc.org
- European Network for Traditional Music and Dance (REMDT)
- EUnetArt – the network for arts and young people
- Europa Nostra www.europanostra.org
- European String Teachers Association www.estastrings.org.uk

- European Union of Music Competitions for Youth www.emcy.org
- Forum of European Cultural Networks
- Les Rencontres – network of local authority cultural officers
www.lesrencontres.eu
- Network of European Cities of Culture
- Network of European Museums Associations (NEMO) www.ne-mo.org
- Pepinieres Europeenes pour Jeunes Artistes

The collection above contains many organisations that are clearly labelled and which organisations in their respective fields can join. For example, any education department of an opera or dance company can join RESEO, any youth orchestra can join EAYO, and any local authority can send its arts officers to Les Rencontres. Those interested in joining such specific organisations should refer to the individual websites to find out how.

In many of the networks individual professionals will already be represented. For example any member of the Society of Authors in Britain will be included in the European Writers Congress and CISAC. Any museum that is part of the Museums Association will be represented in NEMO. Any theatre manager who is a member of the Theatrical Management Association or orchestra manager in the Association of British Orchestras will be covered by PEARLE.

Here are details of some of those networks that can be joined directly as individuals or non-membership organisations (i.e. companies, independent arts groups etc.)

International Network for Cultural Diversity (INCD) – INCD is based in Toronto and is now becoming an articulate and active champion for those cultures and aspects of culture (such as minority languages, crafts, small film industries, musical styles) seen to be at risk from homogenisation. Organisations and individuals can join. The most rewarding aspect of participating is the very wide range of people and territories represented.

www.incd.net

International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) – Established for over 60 years, ISPA is very much an arts manager's network and the subjects it discusses reflect this. It has a worldwide reach, and an active European chapter. It has a useful

function in facilitating professional contacts. It is open to all organisations and individuals in its sector.

www.ispa.org

Culture Action Europe - As is said above, CAE has become the main Brussels linking mechanism for arts organisations wanting to monitor and influence the EU and Council of Europe institutions. There are various categories of membership based on type of organisation and turnover that determine voting rights on some issues in the annual assembly. Though many people will already be linked to it in theory, direct membership is a far more certain way of plugging into EU and Council of Europe processes.

www.cultureactioneurope.org

European Festivals Association (EFA) –has been in existence for over 50 years. Many British festivals have used the British Arts Festivals Association’s collective membership. It has loosened its rules in recent years so that it has moved beyond classical music festivals. EFA can be a helpful way of discussing artistic projects between festival directors and its office is one of the most active in the sector. The network is based in Gent and Brussels, where it hosts the European House of Culture in the Flagey Arts Centre.

www.efa-aef.eu

European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) – Based in Amsterdam, ELIA has a massive membership – of over 800 colleges, university arts departments and all the variations between – which means that it has the critical mass to undertake substantial projects and be taken seriously as a real voice for arts education. Several Welsh institutions are already members. While there is no official category for individuals to be members, in practice it is very accommodating and inclusive. Highly recommended.

www.elia-artschools.org

Europa Nostra – Europa Nostra is over 40 years old. It is based in The Hague, and sees itself as ‘the voice of European civil society caring for cultural heritage’. Any ‘heritage professionals and volunteers; associations, networks and federations;

foundations; public authorities and agencies; museums, schools and universities; corporations and businesses' can join. While natural heritage is an important concern, it is very much the cultural heritage, rather than the environmental, elements that are uppermost. Europa Nostra has widened its size and scope enormously in recent years and its influence with the European institutions means that it is a network that nobody in the heritage part of culture in Europe should ignore.

www.europanostra.org

International Network for the Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM) – Another highly successful network that styles itself instead as the network that links theatre and dance people of all varieties and has produced some highly effective collaborations on the fringes of its formal agenda. Its ability to diversify into regional and special issue meetings between its large-scale annual conferences has given it considerable vitality. This is a network that any eligible professional keen to widen contacts beyond the British scene should be in touch with, especially since it is individually, not just organisationally, based.

www.ietm.org

International Festivals and Events Association Europe – the European chapter of IFEA is a much broader organisation than the EFA. It is open to public and private organisers, city officials, festival managers and marketing personnel, tourist destination organisations, venue managers, suppliers, academic researchers, and many others. IFEA is also open to students aiming for a professional career in public events management.

www.ifeaeurope.com

Lab for Culture

Lab for Culture is a networking platform for information on European arts and culture. They work with and for artists, arts and culture organisations and networks, cultural professionals and audiences in the 50 countries of Europe, as well as providing a platform for cultural cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world.

<http://www.labforculture.org/>