ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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What is IETM?

IETM – International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts - is a membership organisation. Founded in 1981, IETM is a large and influential network with members from all genres of the performing arts - artists, producers, companies, venues, festivals, research and resource centres, residencies, other networks and governmental bodies.

IETM aims to stimulate the quality, development and context of the contemporary performing arts in all its diversity.

IETM serves its members by organising networking opportunities, peer-to-peer learning exchanges and dialogue via various events and activities.

IETM commissions publications and research, facilitates communication, distributes information on the performing arts and advocates for the position of performing arts professionals worldwide.

IETM aims to create a more inclusive contemporary arts field by engaging with underrepresented performing arts professionals regardless of their background, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, social conditions, employment status, age, career path or geographical location.

IETM is an association based in Brussels and operates under Belgian law.



Governance & Structure

As a membership organisation, IETM is led by its members who each year meet at the General Assembly where elections and important decisions are made. The General Assembly elects the Board of Directors - each Board Member is elected for a mandate of three years, renewable once upon approval of the General Assembly.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- <u>Jeffrey Meulman</u>, Verkadefabriek, The Netherlands (President)
- <u>Susanne Naess Nielsen</u>, Davvi Centre for Performing Arts, Norway (Vice-president)
- Pippa Bailey, Independent, Australia (Secretary)
- Veselin Dimov, Toplocentrala, Bulgaria
- <u>Isa Köhler</u>, Internationale Tanzmesse NRW, Germany (Treasurer)
- Davide D'Antonio, Associazione ETRE, Italy
- Bek Berger, Artist, Curator and Director, Latvia
- Marina Barham, Al-Harah Theatre & Global Connector 2021-22, Palestine

IETM SECRETARIAT

The Board of Directors delegates the daily running of the network to the Secretary General, who leads the organisation and is also responsible for developing the vision and strategy of IETM. The Secretary General manages the IETM Secretariat.

Employees in 2023 were:

- Abdallah Bahlit, Administrator
- Ása Richardsdóttir, Secretary General
- Barbara Poček, IETM Green School Coordinator
- Francisca Salgueiro, Events and Production Manager
- Isabelle Van de Gejuchte, Policy & Research Manager
- Lottie Atkin, Communications Manager
- Margherita Petti, Membership Manager
- Yann Le Merdy, Production Officer

In autumn 2023, IETM hired on behalf of the Perform Europe consortium three professionals to run the second edition of Perform Europe 2023 - 2026:

- Karen Verlinden, Project Coordinator
- Mariam Lezhava, Communications Officer
- Cristina Emmel, Project Assistant

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

The General Assembly can elect appointed committees permanently or temporarily - to serve the IETM membership. The Advisory Committee - a non-statutory - is one of them; they operate as a think tank to discuss the direction of the network regarding middle and long term strategy, and maintain a close relationship with the members.

2023 Advisors

- <u>Sepehr Sharifzadeh</u>, NH Theater Agency, Islamic Republic of Iran
- Florent Mehmeti, ODA Theatre, Kosovo
- HeeJin Lee, Producer Group Dot, Republic of Korea
- <u>Nwabisa Plaatjie</u>, Independent Producer and Director & Global Connector, South Africa
- Aina Juanet Bolinches, Nau Ivanow, Spain
- Jerry Adesewo, Arojah Royal Theatre & Global Connector, Nigeria
- Sergio Chianca, Burokultur, France
- Israel Aloni, ILDANCE, Sweden
- Liz Pugh, Walk the Plank, United Kingdom
- Milan Vracar, Kulturanova, Serbia
- Filip Pawlak, Freelancer & Global Connector, Poland
- Harriet Macauley, InDance International, Spain



Chapter 1: NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

IETM organises several different activities each year, which all serve to enable networking for its members and other performing arts professionals by providing a forum for learning, shared exchange and dialogue. We kicked off the year with our very first Innovate Cultural Policy event in January 2023, closely followed by the most recent IETM Campus in Polverigi, Italy in May. Our Plenary this year took us to Aarhus Denmark in June followed by our first Caravan in five year held in Kosovo in October. Finally our meeting calendar was concluded in November with the IETM Focus meeting which took IETM to Luxembourg, for the very first time. Alongside five physical meetings, we held several online meetings, webinars and discussions over the course of the year, more of which you can read about below.

At the start of the year IETM received the news that **Perform Europe** was to return in 2023 for a three year stint under the mandate of IETM and five other consortium partners. The launch of the open call kicked off in December 2023 through an online webinar. You can read more Perform Europe's impact in **Chapter 2: Collaborative Partnerships**. In 2023, IETM pursued a year-long thematic focus on the topic of environment and sustainability, with this focus being woven into all activities in a versatile way. Reflecting this, the Local Journeys for Change Project regenerated into the IETM Green School, a learning hub for IETM members to become equipped with the tools and knowledge to carry out the green transition in their respective work. Alongside this, the second call for IETM Global Connect saw IETM seeking new ways for its members to collaborate and work together and expand our network to become more inclusive and diverse. In particular, the Global Connect 2023 cohort saw fifteen new professionals from five continents put their mark on the network and will continue to do so through a five year IETM membership, along with their fellow cohorts from 2022 and 2024.

Last but not least, IETM continued its advocacy and research work through various actions, lobbyism and publishing reports, articles, policy papers and research conclusions.



Meetings

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON? IETM INNOVATE CULTURAL POLICY EVENT 2023 110 participants

ABOUT

In 2022, fairness and working conditions in the performing arts were at the top of our agenda, shaping the content of our meetings, policy work and research. In January 2023, we introduced our <u>Innovate Cultural Policy Event</u> which was held online under the title *Which side are you on? Ideas for Reaching Fair Working Conditions in the Arts*. The online event was followed by an in-person round table discussion hosted by the Goethe Institut in Brussels and attended by several IETM Associate Members, representatives from the European Commission, European Council and European Parliament.

The online event introduced the ideas from two commissioned authors, Katja Praznik and Bojana Kunst, whose work was featured in <u>IETM's publication under the same title</u>. IETM also invited two professionals to introduce innovative new funding schemes and the lessons learned, namely the <u>Irish Basic Income Scheme for the Arts</u> and the pilot programme of <u>Perform Europe</u>, supported by Creative Europe.

110 participants joined the online webinar and **27** attended the physical event in Brussels.

SPEAKERS

- <u>Ása Richardsdóttir</u>, IETM Secretary General
- **Delphine Hesters**, Researcher, advisor and facilitator
- <u>Isabelle Van de Gejuchte</u>, former IETM Policy & Research Manager
- <u>Katja Praznik</u>, Associate Professor at State University of New York at Buffalo
- <u>Bojana Kunst</u>, Profesor at Justus Liebig University Giessen
- Sharon Barry, Director at Culture Ireland
- <u>Elena Polivtseva</u>, former Project Manager Perform Europe



IETM CAMPUS POLVERIGI MAY 2023 In partnership with IETM member Marche Teatro

22 participants

ABOUT

The IETM Campus 2023 offered a week of intensive training to a group of 20-25 performing arts professionals based anywhere in the world. The training was designed to offer support, tools and advice to professionals who have an ongoing practice in their own local contexts and are looking for ways to internationalise their career and practices.

22 participants from 12 countries took part in the Campus this year. In addition, a group of experienced tutors from the performing arts field shared their knowledge on various topics of working internationally: networking; developing artistic projects and ideas; international collaboration; and current trends in the international performing arts sector with emphasis on inclusion and green practices.

TUTORS

- <u>Jo Mangan</u>, Director, curator, advocate and facilitator, Ireland.
- Sedina Fiati, Artist, activist and facilitator, Canada
- Emma Jayne Park, Some Kind of Chaos, Scotland, UK
- Thiago Jesus, Creative producer and researcher, UK
- <u>Ása Richardsdóttir</u>, IETM Secretary General, Belgium/ Iceland

LOCAL FACILITATORS

- Velia Papa, Artistic Director Inteatro, Italy
- <u>Alessia Ercoli</u>, Project Manager Inteatro and Marche Teatro, Italy
- <u>Cristina Carlini</u>, performing arts project manager and lecturer, Italy



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

<u>The Campus programme</u> consisted of various presentations and dialogues which were relevant to the contemporary performing arts; from hands-on knowledge about international cooperation to dialogue on value-oriented decision-making, green practices and more. The Campus is organised in a participatory manner, and each day offered peer-to-peer learning and sharing, non-hierarchical approach and acknowledgement of the different backgrounds of the participants.

An important aspect of the programme is that all participants receive personal attention to their specific situation through an hour-long conversation with a tutor. Parallel to this, the IETM Campus Polverigi programme offered self-managed sessions by the participants; time that they used to get to know each other better, pitch projects or new ideas and exchange advice. In addition to the rich workshop programme

Participants also took a day trip to **Ancona** - the main city of the region - and had the chance to visit <u>Teatro delle Muse</u>, a historical building and the main headquarters of Marche Teatro, and <u>Tactil Museo Omero</u>, one of the first and biggest multisensorial and accessible exhibitions in Italy.

TESTIMONIALS



'I feel very inspired by the various methodologies and approaches presented by the tutors, but also other students. The time of the Campus was very intense and the mix of perspectives, experiences and knowledge shared by the Campus members is unforgettable and still needs to be processed and embodied into my own practices.'

'The one-to-one session with one of the tutors, as well as some specific conversations made me feel that the producer's work, sometimes still invisible and unappreciated, is the one which can directly change the specific audience or environment in which it is being developed. I got very personal and deep feedback from one of the tutors to my questions and hesitations and I'm very grateful for that.'





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IETM AARHUS PLENARY MEETING 2023 ARHUS, DENMARK - JUNE 2023

In partnership with IETM member Performing Arts Platform Denmark

450 participants

ABOUT

In June, the <u>IETM Aarhus Plenary Meeting 2023</u> invited participants to discuss and digest the ethical and practical role of the performing arts – and of the artist – in the face of climate emergency.

To what extent could - and should - the arts be instrumental in the green transition? What measures can we take as a global network to include questions around ethics and justice in the debate around environmental sustainability? How can the performing arts provide opportunities for lessheard voices in order to reach new audiences?

The IETM Aarhus Plenary Meeting 2023 presented a programme that aimed to provoke new thoughts and inspire action, awareness and positive impact. Together we dove into existing arts practices, discussed production methods and exchanged artistic strategies that walk the talk. Alongside the Plenary Meeting we presented an artistic programme of thematically relevant performances.

In all this, we partnered with professionals from Greenland and the Faroe Islands with whom Denmark shares a colonial history - a complicated relationship that may resonate in many parts of the world. Climate change is not only an environmental problem; it also interacts with concepts of power, injustice and resources. If ignored, these underlying structures may very well keep us re-enacting the same patterns time and again.

The meeting was a four day exploration of the arts as a game changer, an experience simulator, an influencer; or simply a kick in the butt.

450 professionals from **47** countries attended the meeting. Additionally, over **49** viewed the live stream of keynote sessions.

In total, the IETM Aarhus meeting hosted **33** versatile presentations, networking, training and working sessions, some of which were repeated more than once. **11** artistic productions were on offer as part of the programme.







PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

PRE-MEETING OVERNIGHT STAYS

Sunday 11 - Monday 12 June

The Aarhus Plenary offered four different pre-meeting trips where participants could discover four versatile settings in Denmark and experience them in all its glory by staying overnight and delving into the local cultural scene.

The stays were organised and hosted by four progressive performing arts organisations in Denmark, namely the <u>Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium</u>, <u>Sisters Hope Home</u>, <u>Earthwise</u> <u>Residency</u> and <u>White Hole Theater</u>. Each stay was intricately linked to the meeting's thematic focus of environmental sustainability and the green transition in the performing arts.

LIVING ON THE EDGE - A NATURE DIVIDE? - MONDAY KEYNOTE Monday 12 June

Delivered by Nikolaj Schultz, a writer and researcher from Denmark, the first keynote of the Plenary allowed participants to take a provocative dive into the sociology of the ecological transition.

WELCOME RECEPTION WITH THE HUMAN PLANTS Monday 12 June

To officially open the Plenary, we held a welcome session in the vibrant Aarhus city hall, where participants met with friends new and old and were accompanied by The Human Plants, an artistic project by Christian Dietrichsen.

ART AND ACTIVISM I - THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS: A TRAGIC DILEMMA FOR THE ARTIST Tuesday 13 June

During this session, two artists whose work is intimately linked to the human experience of water shared insights on their relationship with activism and how they relate to the urgent need for the reduction of the environmental impact of human culture.

Moderator

Marianne Krogh, Curator, Writer and Editor, Denmark

Speakers

<u>Andri Snær Magnason</u>, Writer and Director, Iceland <u>Laila Skovmand</u>, Between Music, Denmark

PERFORMING IDENTITY: NAVIGATING CULTURAL IDENTITIES THROUGH THE ARTS Tuesday 13 June

Kuluk Helms is an Inuk/Danish performing artist who has navigated between Greenland and Denmark her whole life. Based on the poem and performance 'Jeg Hører Til – Uannut Inissaqarpoq' ('I Belong'), Kuluk will explore and discuss some of the difficulties, gifts and challenges she has faced through her life of dual cultures.

This performance lecture contained elements of lnuk culture pillars, performing arts, knowledge sharing and a Q&A session facilitated by Reneltta Arluk.

Facilitators

<u>Kuluk Helms</u>, Actor, Culture Bearer, Poet, Performing Artist, Greenland

Reneltta Arluk, Akpik Theatre, Canada



CLIMATE JUSTICE [WEDNESDAY KEYNOTE]

Wednesday 14 June

The Land Back movement is a grassroots movement that aims to return sovereignty over land to Indigenous communities and redress the systemic oppression of Indigenous peoples. They do so by reclaiming land and restoring their cultural practices and recognising their unique relationship with the land. This movement is crucial for protecting Indigenous rights and preserving biodiversity. In the Wednesday keynote, former Sampi president and activist Aili Keskitalo gave us insight into this situation and how it gave us a deeper understanding of the paradox of green energy production, as well as how art can negotiate a new understanding of history.

Speaker

Aili Keskitalo, Former Sápmi President, Sápmi/Norway

Hosted by Maria Utsi, Davvi - Centre for Performing Arts, Norway

INDIGENOUS ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE II - 'BY THE COLLECTIVE' Wednesday 14 June

This immersive workshop delved into the differences between Western and Indigenous ontologies from a Sámi perspective. By exploring the meanings and ways of being, doing and knowing that are rooted in cosmological perspectives, participants gained a better understanding of the Sámi's celebration of collectivity. As well as this, we also explored their awareness on the impact of every choice made on the collective as opposed to the Western view which often idealises individualism.

Facilitators

Beaska Niillas, Hásstuheaddji/By The Collective, Sápmi / Norwav

Liisa-Ravna Finbog, Hásstuheaddji/By The Collective, Sápmi /Finland

Timimie Märak, Hásstuheaddji/By The Collective, Sápmi / Sweden

Guests

Kuluk Helms, Actor, Culture Bearer, Poet, Performing Artist, Greenland

HH - Hans-Henrik S. Poulsen, The National Theatre of Greenland, Greenland

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

Alongside a diverse range of workshops, talks and panel discussions, the IETM Aarhus Plenary Meeting offered a rich and vibrant artistic programme showcasing the Danish and international cultural scene, including performance inherently linked to the thematic Focus of the meeting.



TESTIMONIALS

'Kuluk's words were amazing. I was deeply moved and it has changed me. Tears were falling from my eyes as I was overwhelmed by the wiseness of her words. I am so grateful for her and Reneltta (and the amazing artist from Taiwan) to have shared these narratives, and for IETM to have brought up this topic. Thank you so much.'

'I learned new contexts and concepts theoretically. The sessions where we listened to the personal experiences of art professionals from different cultures in their own countries were very mind-opening.'

'I think the contributions from the indigenous representatives from Sapmi, Canada and elsewhere were really valuable and brought a different perspective to what I have encountered at other similar events. I think looking at how the arts can explore these kinds of complex interactions between indigenous rights and climate change was very important to include.'











Photo credit: Gorm Branderup

IETM CARAVAN KOSOVO - SKOPJE, KOSOVO - OCTOBER 2023

In partnership with Qendra Multimedia and long time IETM member Teatri ODA

62 participants

ABOUT

IETM visited Kosovo for the very first time to explore the performing arts scene and cultural reality of Prishtina, one of the most vibrant capitals of the Balkans.

The IETM Caravan experience gave an international group of participants an opportunity to go on an intensive artistic field trip. Coinciding with the Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2023, the programme offered a variety of theatre performances from Kosovo and abroad, panel discussions, networking sessions and visits to key cultural venues. The Caravan also made ample space for connecting with local artists and cultural workers from the local performing arts scene.

62 professionals attended the meeting.

As the first ever event held by IETM in Kosovo, the Caravan's programme was a first discovery for many participants of the Kosovo theatre landscape. A country with a rich history and being a melting pot of ethnic and political tensions for centuries, participants experienced and appreciated the resilience and visionary work of the independent theatre community in building up its capacities, artistic offer and international collaboration.







TESTIMONIALS

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'I really like the format. It's a good way to network and talk in small-scale groups, and the common activities (no panels were overlapping, e.g.) were a good way to bond with other participants.'

'It has been very interesting to visit places outside western Europe - visiting Kosovo enriched my reflections about decoloniality in the context of central and eastern Europe. Meeting people with very different perspectives (but also sometimes very similar) is something that I am very grateful for.'

IETM FOCUS LUXEMBOURG - LUXEMBOURG CITY - NOVEMBER 2023 In partnership with Kultur | Ix

122 participants

ABOUT

On 28-30 November, IETM headed to Luxembourg for the very first time. Hosted by the Arts Council of Luxembourg, IETM's second ever Focus meeting addressed the one topic we all have to face - the climate crisis.

Participants benefited from the targeted programmes and accumulated knowledge gathered by IETM through all its activities in 2023 and worked towards co-creating an eco charter for the entire network.

Under the title *Lost in transition?*, <u>IETM and Kultur</u> | <u>Ix – Arts Council Luxembourg</u> tackled the tough and challenging questions that have emerged from our first year of environmental transition. With a specific approach, considering everyone's context to focus on our values and what is reasonably doable, we attempted to make a valuable contribution for the greener performing arts ecosystem we dream of.

In typical Focus format, we offered time to meet new faces, network, catch up with old friends and colleagues and time to discover the unique performing arts scene in Luxembourg.

122 professionals from 22 countries attended the meeting.







TESTIMONIALS



'I enjoyed the structure a lot, since we have the chance to meet people more closely and understand how they think on issues that concern us all. The timing was balanced and it did not feel too heavy. Really appreciated the intro and closure by Emma - her enthusiasm and inclusive tone has really set the standard for our time working together. It was also very nice getting to see different venues like Neumünster Abbey and Rotondes.'

'The whole meeting for me was an integral experience. As a person who is dedicating part of my professional time to facilitating and moderating, I could only say, it was a big pleasure and celebration to follow all the progress.'

Extraordinary Actions

THE ONGOING WAR IN PALESTINE

On 16 October 2023, the IETM board of directors published the following statement:

STATEMENT

IETM condemns the killing of innocent people in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian war. We are shocked by these terrible acts of violence and must never forget our shared humanity.

War crimes are being committed and IETM urges the international political communities to call for a ceasefire and put pressure on the Netanyahu government in Israel to follow humanitarian international law, in the same manner as they had global condemnation of Hamas. No circumstance or cause can justify acts of terrorism from both sides, taking innocent lives.

IETM wishes for a swift end to crimes of war, ensuring immediate humanitarian aid for Palestine, the safe return of hostages held by Hamas and for a long term and just peace solution to be negotiated.

IETM is a network of international performing arts organisations and creatives who believe that cooperation contributes to greater mutual understanding and respect for different cultures. We strongly condemn all forms of violence. The oppression and horrendous events that are currently taking place are a tragedy for humanity. IETM hopes to make its own contribution to a more peaceful world through its mission of bringing people together - no matter how far that ideal seems to be from us today.



Projects

GLOBAL CONNECT

ABOUT

Despite the fact that IETM has welcomed members from outside Europe for decades, the network remains predominantly European based. IETM Global Connect was launched in 2021 to make an important contribution for change. The programme offers professionals from all over the world, with particular emphasis on participants from the Global South, access to and membership with IETM. The programme is supported by the IETM Associate Members as well as the Creative Europe network grant of IETM.

2023 saw fifteen brilliant new performing arts professionals from across the globe join IETM. The were selected through an open call with **225** applications received.

A global group with rich motivation and extensive experience, they were offered an introductory programme to ease their entry into the network and support to join the IETM Aarhus Plenary Meeting 2023. Armed with an IETM Membership of five years, they have since completed the project and are ready to spread their work within our network and beyond.

The Global Connectors 2023:

- Paula Baro, Argentina
- <u>Tania Cañas</u>, Australia
- José Aguirre, Chile
- Yuan Zhang, China
- Ratri Anindyajati, Indonesia
- Maryam Malmir, Iran
- Kevin Kimani Kahuro, Kenya
- E-Jan Tan, Malaysia
- Lorena Martínez, Mexico
- Rawand Arqawi, Palestine
- Damla Durman, Turkey
- Anton Ovchinnikov, Ukraine
- Rafia Hussain, United Kingdom
- Alisa Oleva, United Kingdom
- Martin Inthamoussu, Uruguay

In total, 2022 and 2023 saw 33 professionals enter IETM through Global Connect.



2023 PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Thirteen IETM Associate Members supported the programme in 2023
- Following voting in the 2023 General Assembly, three members of the Global Connect Alumni became members of the Advisory Committee and one became a member of the IETM Board of Directors;
- Five Global Connectors took part in the IETM Green School 2023;
- 8 Global Connectors from the first cohort of 2021-22 attended IETM Aarhus 2023, via
- IETM membership travel grants or through their own fundraising;
- The Global Connectors from both groups created their own working groups, mostly focused on the topic of decolonisation;
- Many Global Connectors are actively engaging in IETM's working groups;
- Most Global Connectors have been actively sharing and recommending the open call for the 2024 edition of the programme;
- Many Global Connectors from the Global South expressed that they felt very welcomed in the network and treated equally. Below are some direct testimonials from the feedback from the IETM Aarhus Plenary Meeting:

TESTIMONIALS



'As Global Connectors, it feels very safe and good to be part of a network where the importance given to diversity is recognised.'

'The group of Global Connectors brought new perspectives. I was happy to see a variety of profiles and ages.'

'Thank you for introducing the Global Connectors programme, as it is a very important networking opportunity to encourage future exchange across various regions.'

'The Global Connectors programme was enlightening to go beyond the Europe centric demographic.'

'It's great that IETM is taking place in so many different countries. It is a great occasion not only to connect with international colleagues, but to come around to their places, too.'

IETM GREEN SCHOOL

ABOUT

In 2023 IETM launched a new initiative as part of its <u>Local Journeys for Change programme</u>, founded in 2022. Reflecting the network's need to enhance their knowledge on environmental sustainability and green transition in the arts, we developed the **IETM Green School.** From March through to October, we offered extensive and practical training for members on greening tools and sustainable practices.

Hosted as part of IETM's emphasis on environmental sustainability in 2023, IETM members dove into various aspects on how to embark on a journey of green transitioning. Together with experts and through peer to peer learning, the participants explored different aspects of green transition. They received practical knowledge on how to use various greening tools, such as environmental calculators, and intangible yet highly relevant knowledge on how to approach climate justice and cultural shift in different contexts. They also learnt how to support sustainable production and creative processes, content and stories.

The aim of the programme was to launch a membership-wide initiative and empower the IETM network to take concrete steps towards bringing change to their local professional contexts and enrich the IETM community with innovative practices and experiences. The programme developed in several steps and offered different approaches to capacity building, including an open call for training towards the end.

TIMELINE

21 March 2023

Online kick off session.

April - May 2023

Three training sessions open to all IETM members upon registration in the lead up to the IETM Aarhus Plenary Meeting.

June 2023

Physical gathering at IETM Aarhus and launch of an open call for training.

June - September 2023

Open Call Period. Members were able to apply with a project or concept idea they need mentoring and/or training for to develop.

September - November 2023

Development of the selected project ideas. Free training and mentorship sessions plus a small fee for the time invested in this development.

IETM Programme for members

IETM Green School 2023

Co-funded by the European Union

SESSIONS OVERVIEW

KICK-OFF SESSION 21 March 2023

To launch the Green School, we hosted a webinar on 21 March where we introduced our members to the updated structure of the programme, its opportunities and the connecting initiatives of the network feeding into it; such as at the preliminary results of the survey on green transition, the work of the <u>Environmental Working Group</u> and the work done on the implementation of the <u>SHIFT eco guidelines</u> with other networks.

CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATORS: WHAT, WHY AND HOW

20 April 2023

In April, the Green School presented the first of <u>three online</u>, <u>hands-on training sessions</u>, facilitated by <u>Nadia Mirabella</u>, co-founder of <u>Chloe Sustainability</u>. Nadia armed our members with the basic knowledge needed to understand what goes into a selected set of carbon calculators/ protocols and demonstrate concrete examples with hands-on exercises.

SUSTAINABLE CREATION, PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION: ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

4 May 2023

In May, the second online training session of the Green School delved into the topic of sustainable creation, production and consumption in our sector. The aim of the workshop was to demonstrate that one size does not fit all and that turning sustainability criteria into practice requires proper contextualisation and consideration of each organisation's differences and singularities.

HOW TO APPROACH CLIMATE JUSTICE 11 May 2023

The concluding webinar explored stories from several local contexts and highlighted what these realities can bring to this urgent issue; complementing the vital technical changes covered in the first two sessions with the ethical, philosophical and creative challenge of the Climate Crisis.

INFO SESSION AT THE IETM AARHUS PLENARY MEETING 14 June 2023

During the session, participants were able to receive information about the programme's content and timeline, as well as a dedicated space to ask any questions they had about the IETM Green School.

TRAINING PERIOD

Autumn 2023

In October and November, the IETM Green School offered a two-month-long training programme for IETM members only, who received a small stipend to compensate for their time. The programme offered a series of workshops, peer working sessions and coachings. The training took place online in two strands: **October:** Weekly hands on sessions where participants discovered and were guided through a tool, approach or framework. The sessions took place on three consecutive Thursdays and included:

- Opening talk on the topic of climate justice by <u>Dr</u> <u>Vishwas Satgar</u>
- Workshop facilitated by <u>Sarah O'Hare</u> from Creative Carbon Scotland
- Workshop by Emmanuelle Lejeune
- Workshop by Iphigenia Taxopoulou

November: Peer to peer mentoring with a group of <u>experienced mentors</u>.

WRAP-UP SESSION

7 December 2023

In December, we held a conclusive webinar where all IETM Green School participants had the opportunity to present their developed greening ideas and learning process to the wider IETM network. The session was held online and was open to all IETM Members.

The participants

The <u>following professionals</u> were selected to take part in the autumn programme of the IETM Green School.



Advocacy & Research

Two topics were at the forefront of IETM's advocacy mission in 2023, namely **fair working conditions and climate justice**. The COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating consequences for the arts saw European institutions put in motion several initiatives to push for a consolidated approach to tackle improved working conditions in the culture sector at the EU level. IETM has responded and contributed to this important development in several manners.

Climate action, with particular focus on **climate justice**, was the other key issue IETM focused on in 2023. In addition, IETM published several reports, articles and a mapping in connection to our IETM Aarhus Plenary meeting.

Below is a collection of key research, policy reports and publications IETM published in 2023:

MAIN RESEARCH OF 2023



<u>Climate Justice:</u> <u>Through the Creative Lens of the</u> <u>Performing Arts</u> November 2023

Throughout our exploration, IETM has in different ways examined the change in behaviour and practise the performing arts sector can and should work towards, in order to take collective responsibility for the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions. This research reflects and explores various aspects of climate justice, offers an overview of current literature and shares examples and practices from different contexts through a worldwide peer to peer consultation. The research drew from the key takeaways and discussions of three regional focus groups which took place across the course of 2023 in Southern Africa, Latin America and Asia.





Accompanying three-part podcast series: Climate Justice - Through the Creative Lens of the Performing Arts December 2023 - January 2024

In order to elevate the discussions held in the publication under the same name, we introduced a three part podcast series surrounding the main themes and discussions drawn from Focus groups which served as the main skeleton of research for the publication. You can find all episodes available on <u>pod.link</u>. The three podcasts presented the views of professionals from three continents, namely Southern Africa, Latin America and South East Asia.

POLICY



IETM Environmental Sustainability Policy June 2023

In line with its dedication to becoming an eco-certified organisation, which you can read more about under SHIFT in Chapter 2: Collaborative Partnerships, IETM put together an environmental policy that was unanimously voted on at the General Assembly in Aarhus in June. This policy is deeply rooted in IETM's mission to foster international collaborations in the performing arts while prioritising responsible and sustainable practices. By setting clear goals and implementing measures to address climate change and ecological concerns, IETM strives to contribute positively to global environmental actions, guided by our dedication to a greener and more sustainable future for the arts sector.

MAPPINGS AND REPORTS



A Danish Point of View - an overview of the Danish performing art scene by Jesper de Neergaard, June 2023

This article is a personal presentation and mapping of the Danish performing arts scene, with a specific focus on the Aarhus scene. It is not a comprehensive analysis that includes intricate details, players and their mutual relationships within the sector, but rather a narrative on the theatre scene in Denmark.



Understanding the Greenlandic Performing Arts

by Sirí Paulsen, September 2023

In this essay, Greenlandic-Danish director. researcher. producer and sound designer Sirí Paulsen offers a valuable insight into the Greenlandic performing arts from a performance-historical perspective. With a particular focus on Inuit narratives, archival traditions and the transmission of knowledge, she asks - which story is being told, who is telling it, and to which audience?

SESSION REPORTS

Performing Identity: Navigating Cultural **Identities through the Arts** By Julia Handelman-Smith, United Kingdom

This performance lecture contained elements of Inuk culture pillars, performing arts, knowledge sharing and a Q&A session facilitated by Reneltta Arluk.

Art and Activism I - Environmental crisis: a dilemma for the artist?

By Fanny Martin, Canada

During this session, two artists whose work is intimately linked to the human experience of water share their insights on their relationship with activism and how they relate to the urgent need for the reduction of the environmental impact of human culture.

Art and Activism II - Transforming culture through artistic influence By Peter Koch Gehlshøj, Denmark

The panel discussion explored the arts' potential to challenge mainstream narratives and highlighted the power of art as a catalyst for cultural and societal change. It emphasised the urgency of addressing climate change, colonisation, capitalism and indigenous rights through artistic expression and collective action.

Indigenous Ecological Knowledge I: **Insights from Outside the Arts** By Máté Tenke, Hungary

In this panel session held at the IETM Aarhus Plenary Meeting 2023, Indigenous knowledge holders and community activists from outside of the arts field discussed how modern societies can forge environmentally and socially sustainable cultures based on restorative justice and equity.



2023

Speaking engagements and Event participation

Each year, IETM is asked to speak and take part in dialogues on diverse topics. Here are a few highlights of the engagements we delivered in 2023:

PRESENTATION ABOUT IETM AND PERFORM EUROPE

29 March, Brussels Belgium

Site visit of Italian professionals organised by IETM member Liv.in.g.

ART, CLIMATE, TRANSITION (ACT) INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

29 June, London UK

Presentation about European Collaborations and environmental Justice organised by IETM member Artsadmin and ACT European project.

MEET UP WITH INDEPENDENT BELARUS THEATRE COMMUNITY

30 August, Online

Online presentation about IETM's history, model and achievements to the Independent Belarus Theatre Community, followed by a dialogue with the participants.

RIGHT TO CULTURE

5 October, Valletta Malta

Panel presentation as part of the International Cultural Policy Conference entitled Right to Culture, organised by the Art Council of Malta in collaboration with the Compendium of Culture Policies and Trends.

SUR LA ROUTE PROGRAMME - LA FABRIQUE DE LA DANSE 9 October, Online

Presentation about IETM and its opportunities for dance professionals.



SENSING EARTH SYMPOSIUM

17 October, Antwerp, Belgium

Panel participation at a symposium held in connection to the publication of the book Sensing Earth: Culture Quest Across a heated Global, organised by Antwerp University Valiz publishing and the European Culture Foundation.

EU NETWORKS MEETING

19 October, Brussels Belgium

Panel participation on IETM international work and projects held as part of the annual Creative Europe Networks meeting and organised by EUNIC.

BROADENING HORIZONS ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - LEEDS 2023

13 November, Online

Participation in the online session 'Seeking funding for international working & developing international Networks'.

EU PLATFORMS MEETING

6 December, Brussels Belgium

Presentation about Perform Europe under the title The Perform Europe action: Sustainable touring of performing arts.

Additionally, IETM attended various events organised by IETM members and various collaborators. Here are a few highlights:

22 March - EDN Atelier 'Equity in Dance: What Challenges?' hosted by La Briqueterie CDCN du Val-de-Marne.

24 March - ONDA's International Programming Meeting, RIDA in partnership with Théâtre de la Ville and Centre Pompidou.

26 May - Symposium of Europe Beyond Access: Disability and Transforming the Cultural Ecosystem held at Les Brigittines Brussels.

18-20 September - Siena International Culture Relations Forum organised by <u>the University of Siena</u> and <u>the Cultural</u> <u>Relations Platform</u>.

22 September - CIRCOSTRADA: 20th anniversary of the network held at various locations in Paris.

21 November - Supporting Artists and Culture Professionals' mobility held by On The Move at Pianofabriek, Brussels.

Membership

Each year, the IETM team conducts an annual quantitative study of the IETM membership to better understand its composition, characteristics and evolution through the years. In the analysis, we use the information that each member adds to their profile and is consequently stored in the IETM database (CiviCRM).

This exercise identifies the main trends within the membership in terms of geographical representation, the type of performing arts organisations and freelancers which IETM represents. In addition, the results give a glance into the global representation within the network at any given time and how the membership has evolved through the years.

2023 Membership: overview, geographical spread and 'average age'

In the summer of 2023, IETM counted **547** members. This number includes new members (**64** at the time of the study; however, 8 further members joined the network over the remainder of the year), members that renewed their membership in 2022, and the IETM Global Connectors.

Of the total **547** members, **401** are organisations (**73.31**%) and **146** are freelancers/individuals (**26.69**%).

All members joined the network via different <u>membership</u> <u>categories</u>. Overall, the categories are spread in the membership as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	N	%
Membership Category 1	275	50.27%
Membership Category 2	52	9.51%
Membership Category 3	60	10.97%
Membership Category 4	57	10.42%
Membership Category 5	47	8.59%
IETM Global Connect	33	6.03%
Associate Membership	17	3.11%
Special Membership	6	1.10%
GRAND TOTAL	547	100%

In **2023**, IETM members were based in 65 countries (62 in 2022). **Top 2023 countries in comparison to 2022**:

2023	Ν	%
United Kingdom	88	16.09%
Italy	44	8.04%
Germany	40	7.31%
France	38	6.95%
Spain	35	6.40%
Netherlands	31	5.67%
Denmark	23	4.20%
Sweden	19	3.47%
Ireland	17	3.11%
Belgium	15	2.74%



IETM MEMBERS ORGANISATIONS

73.31% of the membership is composed of performing arts organisations and a total of 401 organisations. (401)

They are based in **46** countries, with the "top 6" countries being: UK, Italy, France, Netherlands, Germany and Spain.

Over **37%** of these members are organisations that produce and perform artistic works, and 36% state they run a festival or a venue i.e. a presenting context.

IETM MEMBERS FREELANCERS/ INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONALS

As mentioned above, in August 2023 IETM counted 146 individual members, representing **26.69%** of the membership. This group also includes the 15 Global Connectors selected for the 2023 edition of the programme.

They are based in **49** countries. IETM gained its first members in 12 countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Kenya, Mexico, Malaysia, Uruguay, Chile, China, Greece, Iran, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine. The 'top 5' countries of this group of members are UK, Germany, Spain, Ireland and Italy.

35.62% of them (52 individuals) identify as an artist and **30.82%** (45 individuals) as a producer.

2023 MEMBERS' EMPLOYEES

Aside from the number of IETM members, in 2023 we counted the total number of professionals that benefit from an IETM membership by relation, meaning the employees with an IETM account of all member organisations plus the freelancers/individual members.

Overall, IETM counted **1777** employees of the **547** members. They are based in **72** countries.

EVALUATION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2023, the IETM membership had an overall healthy status and was able to grow in comparison to the year before by retaining older IETM members as well as attracting new members, thanks to IETM activities and programmes such as IETM Global Connect.

The membership strategy of 2024 will continue on this line, focusing on retaining the already existing members while implementing actions to broaden the representation of the global performing arts scene in IETM. Following the results of the study, we specifically aim to reach more presenters.

Lastly, in 2024 we will design a number of new strategies to increase members' engagement while working on new ways to present and promote the membership to prospective members.



Communications

In 2023, the IETM Communications & Membership department was inundated with deliverables and outputs and worked hard to ensure that each pressing activity and milestone got the highlight it deserved on our social media channels, newsletters, targeted emails and website. With a focus on delivering meaningful, digestible and harmonious communications materials, we successfully navigated a busy schedule, achieving milestones and engaging with our audience. Our rich source of content kept our outlets stocked with information and resources, which we have aimed to summarise through a concise analysis of each dissemination, as well as our results and achievements.





IETM WEBSITE

The IETM website (589,400 pageviews by 142,928 users in 2023) continued to serve as a centre for all communications of our activities. The IETM website received considerably more pagesviews in 2023 compared to 2022, where we had 301,197 pageviews by 113,251 users.

IETM SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

In 2023, IETM's social media channels continued to promote all of our activities in an effective and timely manner. Below is an overview of statistics.

	Facebook	Instagram	Twitter	LinkedIn
Total Followers	23,112	4,138	9,282	6,503
Increase of followers from 2022	↓ -0.74%	↑ 36.34%	↓ -0.14%	↑ 31.59%
Average of posts per month	17	9	24	16
Total reach 2023	137,574	29,059	97,511*	62,676
Total engagements 2023	19,336	5,146**	3,705	6,800***

*Impressions - ** Content interactions - ***Clicks

AUDIO REPORTS

In 2023 we continued to collaborate with Ian Rattray from <u>Clear Voice Enterprises</u> to convert all publications into audio format, to help further advance our accessibility policy and provide easy to digest formats of our work.

	Total listens
IETM Annual Report 2022	15
Danish Performing Arts - A Point of View by Jesper de Neergard	45
Understanding the Greenlandic Performing Arts by Sirí Paulsen	72
Climate Justice - Through the Creative Lens of the Performing Arts	67







INTRODUCING NEW AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL

Recognising the evolving communications landscape, in 2023 we aimed to develop an audiovisual strategy established in 2022 and which will continue well into 2024 by trying to prioritise audiovisual material as a form of communications dissemination. We continued to make sure ample budget was available to capture our meetings and activities through a photographer or videographer's lens. An example of this was creating after movies for both the <u>IETM</u> <u>Aarhus Plenary Meeting</u> and the <u>IETM Focus Luxembourg</u> <u>Meeting</u>, as well as introducing a special video campaign to promote the artistic programme of the IETM Aarhus Plenary Meeting, something that we want to continue in 2024.

As well as this, the regional Focus group discussions which framed the main research skeleton of IETM's publication *Climate Justice - Through the Creative Lens of the Performing Arts* called for some form of audiovisual reporting of the discussions, which resulted in IETM launching its <u>first</u> <u>podcast series</u> under the same name. The first episode was released in December 2023, with the following two episodes planned to be released in early 2024.

At the IETM Focus Luxembourg Meeting, we introduced a new reporting format by doing live interviews on the ground during the breaks with participants and moderators and turning them into Instagram reels, creating digestible and bite-sized content that showed in real time what was happening during the meeting and direct key takeaways from its participants.

	YouTube views/ Soundcloud plays
IETM Aarhus - Artistic Programme promotion	200
IETM Aarhus - Aftermovie	107
IETM Luxembourg - Aftermovie* **	36
Local Journeys for Change - Go Green in 2023	41
Podcast Episode One - Southern Africa - Climate Justice Through the Creative Lens of the Performing Arts ***	45

Lens of the Performing Arts ***

*Created in collaboration with Kultur | Ix, the meeting's co-organiser and therefore published to their channel

Chapter 2: COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

IETM puts increased emphasis on collaborative projects with other networks, cultural organisations, research partners and projects which have a specific focus and can serve to create new knowledge which benefits the performing arts sector. In 2023, IETM led and took part in three clearly defined projects; Perform Europe, SHIFT - Shared Initiatives for Training and The Culture Relations Platform.

SHIFT



ABOUT

IETM was one of nine networks which joined forces to work together as part of the SHIFT - Shared Initiatives for Training project 2019 - 2021, supported by Erasmus Plus. During the latter part of 2021 and in 2022 the networks developed the <u>SHIFT Eco-Guidelines for Networks</u> together, to recognise and address the ecological footprint associated with operating international cultural network and platform-organisations (hereafter referred to as networkorganisations).

The guidelines serve as a reference document for networkorganisations that aim to minimise their footprint, optimise environmentally sustainable practices, and act as an example of good practice for their members and other networks. They are purposely made openly accessible in the hope they can inspire structural organisational change in the cultural sectors, in the broadest sense. These guidelines are tailor made for cultural network-organisations, taking into consideration their unique characteristics and the contexts within which they operate. Their aim is to cover all major areas of their environmental impact, including operations, policies, activities, and governance. Special attention is given to travel and events, which are the main sources of carbon emissions for network-organisations. Implementing these guidelines will enable network-organisations to structurally become more environmentally sustainable.

The SHIFT Eco-Guidelines, have been created in collaboration with the <u>Green Leisure Group</u> and <u>Creative</u> <u>Carbon Scotland</u> and can be found <u>here</u>. During this process new networks have joined the process and now 16 networks in total are part of the partnership.

In 2023, the pilot phase commenced and we worked towards becoming an eco-certified network. From April to September, we implemented the guidelines by gathering various pieces of evidence (also known as 'norms'), which showcased our dedication to becoming an eco-certified network. This ranged from how we communicate about our environmental promises to the network to how we practise environmentally conscious habits in our office and home life. As well as this, it became evident that sustainability had to be put at the forefront of all of our meetings and events, from choosing vegetarian catering options to selecting ecocertified venues.

In October, we took part in a peer to peer workshop in Brussels with the other fifteen organisations taking part in this process, where we learnt in depth about the auditing process that would eventually take us to becoming ecocertified.

All evidence was gathered in a designated folder which was both self reviewed by the IETM Green Team and peer reviewed with SHIFT buddy Res Artist through an auditing tool. IETM met 18 out of the 18 mandatory norms and 9 out of the 10 optional norms. In December, the IETM Green Team took part in a three hour auditing process where the experts from Green Leisure Group went through each piece of evidence to evaluate our work. After re-submitting some norms that did not meet the standards the first time around, we finally received the news that we are officially an ecocertified network in January 2024. In order to retain the status, we will take part in the process again this year.



CULTURE RELATIONS PLATFORM

ABOUT

IETM is part of the four-organisation consortium implementing the <u>Culture Relations Platform</u> (CRP), together with Goethe-Institut Brussels, the project leader, ECF - European Cultural Foundation and the Università degli Studi di Siena.

The platform aims to promote and facilitate sustainable cultural exchanges, people-to-people activities, and co-creation processes between Europeans and citizens from countries all over the world. The CRP has a global geographic coverage and its activities range from policy support for EU Institutions to supporting cooperation between European and global cultural and creative sectors as well as strengthening communities of practitioners through dedicated training and enhanced exchanges. IETM contributes to the platform's work via various means, dissemination, expertise on topics such as inclusion and sustainability, and makes contributions to designing programmes, partner consortium meetings and steering committee meetings.

PERFORM EUROPE

ABOUT

Perform Europe is an EU-funded project which aims to rethink cross-border performing arts presentation and touring in a more inclusive, sustainable and balanced way. Perform Europe 2020-2022 included a research phase, testing a support scheme and policy recommendations. In 2022, the pilot project officially came to an end with a closing event in Brussels, an <u>in-depth report</u> showcasing its success and <u>a documentary</u>.

On **26 April 2023**, the <u>European Union officially announced</u> that <u>Perform Europe</u> is to return with a renewed mandate for three years (2023-2026) for the original five consortium partners - <u>IETM</u>, <u>European Festivals Association (EFA)</u>, <u>Circostrada</u>, <u>European Dancehouse Network (EDN)</u> and <u>IDEA</u> <u>Consult</u> and with the addition of new partner <u>Pearle* - Live</u> <u>Performance Europe</u>.

With a lot of excitement to get started, IETM saw many achievements with Perform Europe this year, mainly: Mandated on behalf of the Perform Europe consortium to be the official administrative lead partner behind Perform Europe and lead of Consortium, IETM recruited three staff members to run the project for the next three years.

- Karen Verlinden, Project Coordinator
- Mariam Lezhava, Communications Officer
- Cristina Emmel, Project Assistant

The team started work on **1** September 2023 and all its efforts went into preparing the open call, which was launched **1** December.

With a total budget of 2.1 million euro, to be granted to at least 35 successful partnership projects, the team worked on all aspects of preparation in the period, designing the call guidelines, setting the criterias, recruiting elevators, preparing all communication material, working with website developers and more. In addition two different tools for applicants were uniquely developed for this edition of Perform Europe: the Matchmaking Tool and the Toolkit. Nicknamed the 'Tinder of the Performing Arts', applicants can use the Matchmaking Tool to find collaborators, use tags and filters to look for other partners, send each other match requests, and upon a successful match start their project planning. To assist that process the Toolkit was created by Perform Europe partner IDEA Consult. Designed to spark conversation with potential partners, help to identify common goals and address challenges that partners might encounter and suggest ways to overcome them. Last but not least, the Toolkit helped applicants to draft project proposals that are aligned with Perform Europe's aims.

During this preparatory period in 2023, Perform Europe and the project partners started organising several information sessions and help desks to serve the large constituency of potential applicants. Recordings of those sessions and other resources are found <u>here</u>.





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- Arts Council England, United Kingdom
- Arts Council Ireland, Ireland
- Arts Council Malta, Malta
- Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Finland
- Australia Council for the Arts, Australia
- Belfast City Council, Northern Ireland
- British Council, United Kingdom
- Canada Council for the Arts, Canada
- Creative Scotland, United Kingdom
- Danish Agency for Culture, Denmark
- DGARTES DIREÇÃO-GERAL DAS ARTES, Portugal
- Fonds podiumkunsten Performing Arts fund NL, The Netherlands
- GOETHE-INSTITUT, Germany
- Institut Français, France
- ONDA, France
- **PRO HELVETIA**, Fondation Suisse pour la Culture, Switzerland
- Swedish Arts Council, Sweden
- Wales Arts International/Wales Arts Council, Wales



