



**The project « European Youth Engagement Network 2.0 » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

## **Strand 2.2 – "Networks of Towns"**

### Lead partner

- Foundation Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture, Novi Sad, Serbia

### Partner organizations

#### SERBIA

- Trupa drž ne daj, Novi Sad
- LICEULICE, Belgrade

#### SLOVENIA

- MKC, Maribor
- Moment, Maribor

#### GREECE

- Polyplanity production, Athens

#### GERMANY

- Multicultural city, Berlin

#### LITHUANIA

- Kaunas 2022
- Pazaislis Music Festival

#### ITALY

- Associazione Culturale Capotrave / Kilowatt, Sansepolcro
- Comune di Sansepolcro

#### FRANCE

- Theatre du Pelican, Clermont de Ferrand
- Grand rond theatre, Toulouse

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

- Divadlo v Dlouhe, Prague

#### CROATIA

- Montažstroj, Zagreb

## **9 international events have been carried out within the project:**

### **Event 1**

**Participation:** The event involved 44 citizens, including 24 participants from the city Novi Sad, Serbia; 4 participants from the cities Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia, 2 participants from the city Athens, 4 participant from the city Kaunas, Lithuania; 3 participant from city Prague, Czech Republic; 2 participant from city Clermont Ferrand, France; 3 participant from city Toulouse, France and 3 participants from city Berlin, Germany.

#### **Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Novi Sad, Serbia**, from 07-11/07/2021

#### **Short description:**

The kick-off workshop, as the first activity on the EYE.net 2 project, due to the easing of epidemic measures, gathered 44 managers, artists and young people from the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Lithuania, France, Greece, Germany and Serbia.

The main themes of the workshop were networking of partner organisations, defining dates of activities, production of plays in all partner countries, defining marketing strategy and signing partnership agreements. Each partner presented their organisation, team and previously implemented projects, as well as the topic of their production and work methodology. The work methodology combined youth work and different techniques of interactive, applied theatre. Young people had the opportunity to analyse and reflect on current socio-political topics.

One of the main results of the workshop was division of topics. The Slovenian group worked on the topic of 'fake news', the Serbian and Greek groups with the topic of Ecology, while the French and Lithuanian group focused on Solidarity, the German group on the topic of Anti-fascism, the Italian group on the topic of Economy, and the Czech group on Euroscepticism. As a very important issue, the issue of subtitling and translating plays to the audience was also raised.

### **Event 2**

**Participation:** The event involved 54 citizens, including 8 participants from the city Novi Sad, Serbia; 24 participants from the cities Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia, 6 participants from Sansepolcro, Italy; 4 participants from the city Athens, Greece; 6 participant from the city Kaunas, Lithuania; 6 participant from city Toulouse, France.

#### **Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Maribor, Slovenia**, from 15-20/11/2021

#### **Short description:**

Mladi Maribor Festival, youth sector festival, hosted all the performances of the EYE-NET 2.0 project in Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia.

Despite some stricter measures to curb the COVID-19 epidemic, the international youth theater European Youth Engagement Network 2.0 (EYE-Net 2.0) caravan managed to visit high schools in both cities (Srednja gradbena šola in gimnazija Maribor, Srednja elektro-računalniška šola Maribor, Lesarska šola Maribor, Srednja šola za oblikovanje in medije Maribor, Center interesnih dejavnosti Ptuj, Šola za ekonomijo, turizem in kmetijstvo Ptuj, Gimnazija Ptuj, Elektro in računalniška šola Ptuj, Strojna šola Ptuj). The youth activist theater groups from Serbia, Italy, Greece, France, Lithuania and Slovenia performed for 840 students from eight high schools in 16 performances.

The performances were followed by moderated debates between theater groups and students on topics that the plays addressed them, which is an essential part of the process. The theater form proved to be an excellent stimulus for rich discussions and exchanges of opinions of young people. There is a lack of space in school programs for content that promotes democratic dialogue and reflections, which is why the reactions of participating students and teachers were all the more positive.

### **Event 3**

**Participation:** The event involved 58 citizens, including 25 participants from the city Novi Sad, Serbia; 6 participants from the cities Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia, 6 participants from Sansepolcro, Italy; 4 participants from the city Athens, Greece; 6 participant from city Toulouse, France; 6 participant from city Prague, Czech Republic; 2 participants from city Braga, Portugal, 2 participants from city Ljubljana, Slovenia; 1 participant from city Kruševac, Serbia.

#### **Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Novi Sad, Serbia** from 04-09/04/2022

#### **Short description:**

The audience had a chance to see eight interactive youth theatre performances from eight countries on theatre festival organised at several locations in the city: Grammar School 'Laza Kostić' and 'Isidora Sekulić', Karlovac Grammar School, Cultural Centre Novi Sad, Student Cultural Centre Novi Sad, Youth Theatre, Elementary and High School 'Milan Petrović', as well as School of Design 'Bogdan Šuput'.

This festival was an introduction to the 'Future of Europe, a programme segment of the Novi Sad 2022 - European Capital of Culture focused on young people.

During April, the 'Future of Europe reviewed the importance of culture and art in the education. By turning schools into art scenes and cultural institutions into centres of education, the 'EYE.net' project engaged young people. Fans of the engaged theatre had pleasure to see the Czech play 'Marshal Konev's Last Battle', the French play 'Turn Before the Ruins', a play from Germany 'Why?', a play by a group of young people from Greece 'Unwritten Land', 'Do You Like Tomato Sauce?' from Italy, 'The Noise of the Silence' from Lithuania, 'Some Like it Fake' from Slovenia, as well as 'Testament' from Serbia. After or during each of the performances an interactive debate with the young audience was organized.

We had additional guests from Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Serbia visiting festival.

The Festival 'European Network for Youth Engagement 2.0 (EYE.net 2.0)' was one of the first within the Future of Europe programme, which aimed to encourage and involve children and youth in creating a better future for Europe through culture and art and brought together many artists from 30 countries and engaged the audience in more than 270 cultural events.

### **Event 4**

**Participation:** The event involved 58 citizens, including 8 participants from the city Novi Sad, Serbia; 6 participants from the cities Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia, 20 participants from the city Athens, Greece; 6 participant from the city Kaunas, Lithuania; 6 participant from city Prague, Czech Republic; 6 participant from city Toulouse, France and 6 participants from city Berlin, Germany.

**Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Athens, Greece**, from 17-22/05/2022

**Short description:**

The EYE.Net 2.0 festival took place in the city of Athens in Greece and was organized almost entirely by Polyplanity Productions, with the assistance of a booking agent in order to bring it to as many schools and young audiences as possible.

The performances of the teams were spread out at various schools in Athens and at the Porta Theater which was also used for the rehearsals of all groups.

France played in front of 90 people at the 8th Highschool of Amarousion. Germany performed at the Porta theater in front of 40 people. Lithuania appeared before an audience of 60 people at Rizarios Highschool Chalandri, Athens. As a member of the team is deaf, we also provided an international sign language translator so that there would be no communication issues. Slovenia played before 60 students at the 2nd Gymnasium of Amarousion, Greece at the New Chalkidona Gymnasium for 50 students and the Czech republic performed for 40 students at the 59th Athens Gymnasium.

On the 20th of May three countries performed at the Porta theater: Italy, Serbia and Greece. Their performances were followed by a discussion amongst all the participants and the audience, touching on the topics of their plays that varied from ecology, to the economy and social issues, with an audience of 150 people.

Newsletters and press releases were sent out to a variety of online and print media in order to bring attention and publicity to the event.

In all, this was an excellent opportunity for our organization to reach out to young audiences and bring the theater to many underprivileged youths by going to local schools. It was also great to host and organize so many people at the same time and provide a relaxing yet up-tempo experience for them in diverse and challenging environments.

**Event 5**

**Participation:** The event involved 59 citizens, including 10 participants from the city Novi Sad and Belgrade, Serbia; 6 participant from the city Kaunas, Lithuania; 6 participant from city Prague, Czech Republic; 6 participants from Sansepolcro, Italy; 25 participant from city Toulouse and Clermont Ferrand, France and 6 participants from city Berlin, Germany.

**Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Clermont Ferrand, France** from 01-05/06/2022

**Short description:**

The French edition of EYE-Net 2.0 was organized in Clermont-Ferrand 3 sites: Cour des Trois Coquins, the Mandela Social Center and the Comédie de Clermont.

It has been grafted into the program of CADO festival, a youth theatre festival initiated in 2014 by the Pélican. For this 4th edition, the Pelican thought it would be enriching to associate the EYE-Net 2.0 project with its program in order to give a European dimension to the event and to make the young people of Clermont-Ferrand aware of the socio-political issues that concern their future.

The partners present were the German, Czech, Italian, Serbian, Lithuanian and French. Each group was able to present its creation twice, so a total of 12 performances. In addition, 12 discussions/debates took place between the actors and the audience on the themes addressed by the performances. These moments of

intercultural exchange brought youth out questions and reflection in social dynamics and social phenomena, while confronting them with the problems of other countries. In addition to the creations, the festival included 3 professional round tables with free access (subjects: creations with amateurs - the international circulation of youth theatre - the commitment of/for young people). At last, there was screenings of short films made by students from the video art workshop of the University Culture Service (SUC) of the University of Clermont Auvergne (UCA) on the theme "2050".

Some thirty partners have given their support to the project. Our institutional partners were the City of Clermont-Ferrand, the Department of Puy-de-Dôme, the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region and the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Regional Department of Cultural Affairs. The festival was also supported by the Clermont Massif Central 2028 organization. Indeed, since 2015, the City of Clermont-Ferrand has been working on her bid to become the European Capital of Culture for 2028. The EYE-Net 2.0 festival strongly echoed the issues raised by the Clermont-Ferrand Massif Central 2028 association, not only in terms of accessibility and sharing of culture for all, but also in terms of the involvement of the younger generations within Europe.

The festival was very well received by the public and the young people. We welcomed young people from school groups, socio-educational groups and associations from Clermont-Ferrand and its surroundings.

Written testimony of a young from the group "Foyer Jeunes Travailleurs" at Corum Saint-Jean, who came to discover three performances with an educator :

"I appreciated to discover different points of view and meet young people of different nationalities. I experienced many moments of surprise, awareness and above all very pleasant artistic moments. After two sad years with the pandemic, it was refreshing and enriching. Thank you for organising this event which allowed us to learn and admire the work and reflection of young people from other countries."

Concerning the media coverage : 6 newspaper articles + 1 live interview on a local radio station + 1 report by France 3 Auvergne Rhône-Alpes + various references in different cultural websites.

## **Event 6**

**Participation:** The event involved 55 citizens, including 6 participants from the city Novi Sad, Serbia; 6 participants from the cities Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia, 4 participants from the city Athens, Greece; 23 participant from the city Kaunas, Lithuania; 6 participant from city Prague, Czech Republic; 6 participant from city Toulouse, France and 4 participants from city Berlin, Germany.

### **Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Kaunas, Lithuania** from 29/06-03/07/2022

### **Short description:**

The contemporary city festival "Audra" took place on June 29-July 3 in Kaunas. This festival was unique because its program was created and coordinated by youngsters, with the support of the Kaunas2022 team. The goal of the festival was to empower young curators to deliver content, relevant to their peers and engage massive youth audiences into active participation in Culture.

In total 51 events were organized, which attracted 6890 participants. 160 professionals participated, 43 local and 17 international partners, and the Communication of the festival attracted 201 000 viewers.

In this context, EYE NET 2.0 program was presented in three locations in the city: Jezuitai gymnasium, City Square, and Tempo space. Performances attracted an audience of 70 people. The audience was not massive, we think due to audience separation into other program parts.

However, the feedback from the visitors was positive. They actively engaged in the discussions, followed by the performances. In general, we value very much the creative part of this program, which empowered youngsters to create relevant content for themselves and their coevals. This approach reflected perfectly what we wanted to achieve with our festival program and its preparational processes.

### **Event 7**

**Participation:** The event involved 64 citizens, including 20 participants from Sansepolcro, Italy; 10 participants from the city Novi Sad, Serbia; 6 participants from the cities Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia, 4 participants from the city Athens, Greece; 6 participant from the city Kaunas, Lithuania; 6 participant from city Prague, Czech Republic; 6 participant from city Toulouse, France and 6 participants from city Berlin, Germany.

### **Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Sansepolcro, Italy** from 11-14/07/2022

### **Short description:**

CapoTrave/Kilowatt has been operating in the field of contemporary theatre and experimentation since 2003. Its headquarter is in Sansepolcro (Tuscany). Since 2003 CapoTrave/Kilowatt has conceived Kilowatt Festival, a multidisciplinary project dedicated to contemporary theatre, dance, circus and music. The concept is to bring the festival into the community, so that citizens feel involved and participate. The event, therefore, is not held in a single space but in several spaces, located within the historic center of Sansepolcro. This year the first 2 days of the festival (12-13 July) were entirely dedicated to the Eye-Net 2.0 project. On July 12nd we presented all the shows of the network: 8 shows in 4 different theatrical spaces. 80 young people from local schools were involved. The young people, (13 young people aged between 16 and 23) who have attended the workshops and the implementation of the project in these 2 years, with our support, have promoted the project during the year and involved their peers both in the research phase and during the days of the festival. We also involved 40 young people from the Meredith College (a women college from North Carolina, USA) which each year spend one month in Sansepolcro as a summer camp. The 22 American girls attended the whole festival, including the EYENET days, and actively participated at the meeting called "Youth Parliament". At the end of the day, all the young participants had the opportunity to meet each other, dine and have fun together at the "Giardini di Piero della Francesca": a large public garden inside the historic center set up for the festival with a restaurant and live concert venue.

On July 13th from 9:30 a.m to 01:30 p.m we organized, thanks to the contribution of the Municipality of Sansepolcro, which made the historic Municipal Library available to us, the "Youth Parliament": a meeting among all the young people of the network and the students of the Meredith College.

The meeting, focused on European issues, was coordinated by the director of Kilowatt Festival Lucia Franchi and was divided into 2 parts. The first session took place with the "world cafe" method: the young people were divided into 5 thematic

tables and in each of these tables a specific topic was deepened: Ecology, Solidarity, Euroscepticism, Economics, Fake News.

At the end of the process, the coordinator of each table presented the most significant themes and arguments that released, in front of the whole group.

The second part of the meeting was carried out with the “fishbowl” method: the whole group of young people faced issues related to Europe and thanks to the participation of young American people, we were able to compare the different social, ethical and political issues between the two continents.

Another important opportunity offered to young people was to participate in the workshop and performance of the Danish professional company Himherandit. A high-intensity performance with a cast of international dancers who involved the young people of the local community, those of the network and the American girls: they faced together an extreme physical activity, testing their limits and group endurance. Team collaboration became a key element to overcome the challenge.

### **Event 8**

**Participation:** The event involved 63 citizens, including 6 participants from Sansepolcro, Italy; 8 participants from the city Novi Sad, Serbia; 6 participants from the cities Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia; 4 participants from the city Athens, Greece; 6 participants from the city Kaunas, Lithuania; 21 participants from city Prague, Czech Republic; 6 participants from city Toulouse, France and 6 participants from city Berlin, Germany.

### **Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Prague, Czech Republic** from 03-08/09/2022

### **Short description:**

Prague edition of the EYE net 2.0 festival took place in the theatre Divadlo v Dlouhé and also in other venues. We managed to start a cooperation with important Czech cultural institutions. Festival took place in prestigious venues as the National Theatre and its buildings. We were grateful for a very helpful collaboration the Department for Voluntary Programs ND+ (National Theatre Plus Programme) and its cycle ND Young. We also found an inspiring collaboration with Centre for Contemporary Art DOX. At this prestigious private gallery, we collaborated with their Family and Educational Programs Department. We also involved Prague secondary school PORG Libeň as a partner in the project since the very beginning. For the festival we managed to have closer cooperation with two other grammar schools: GEVO - Gymnázium Sázavská and with Gymnázium Jan Neruda. The program was attended by 830 spectators. We offered 14 performances to the public and schools. We received the patronage from the Capital City of Prague thanks to Ing. Mariana Čapková, Chairwoman of the Education and Training Committee. The press release for the festival was published by the Czech press office and by the prestigious online journal Seznam zprávy. We received very satisfied feedbacks from schools and festival participants.

### **Event 9**

**Participation:** The event involved 62 citizens, including 6 participants from Sansepolcro, Italy; 10 participants from the city Novi Sad, Serbia; 6 participants from the cities Maribor and Ptuj, Slovenia; 6 participants from the city Kaunas, Lithuania; 6 participants from city Prague, Czech Republic; 6 participants from city Toulouse, France and 22 participants from city Berlin, Germany.

**Location / Dates:**

The event took place in **Berlin, Germany** from 12-18/09/2022

**Short description:**

From September 12 to 18 in Trebnitz and Berlin, Germany, the last activity of the EYEnet 2 project, the eighth EYEnet 2 - youth festival of engaged theater, was realized. 6 EYEnet productions were presented at two locations. The festival in Trebnitz was realized in a castle that serves as a youth center, especially for the youth exchanges of Germany and Poland because it is close to the border. The festival in Berlin was realized in Spandau Zitadelle as part of the festival of democracy. Part of the festival program was a visit of youth groups to the Bundestag and a conversation with MP Simon Kos from the SPD. In Spandau Zitadelle, young people visited the Toxique monuments exhibition, which shows monuments that were removed from Berlin's public space for political reasons. The exhibition includes monumental heritage from the era of empire, Nazism and communism. The festival was realized under the patronage of: Gernot Schmidt, head of the Markisch-Oderland district in Brandenburg, Simona Köß, member of the German Bundestag.