



Shifting toward online in times of crisis can be challenging but it's doable

Since 2020 has brought unprecedented change across the world due to the pandemic, the way we do our work has been affected too, leaving us seeking out solutions. Online seems to be the way out for now.



Our DfP Danish member association, ARTTRAIN, has looked into how to keep up with the work that had before the pandemic used to rely on physical meetings between youngsters and the workshop leaders, during the international youth exchanges. Therefore, "Dance Against Corona" and "My European Friends" are two international collaboration projects run by ARTTRAIN, aimed at continuing offering non-formal-education-based arts to youngsters who could use their smartphones/laptops to join the workshops in a safe way. The projects also offered a time for the coordinators and artists/workshop-leaders to discuss on



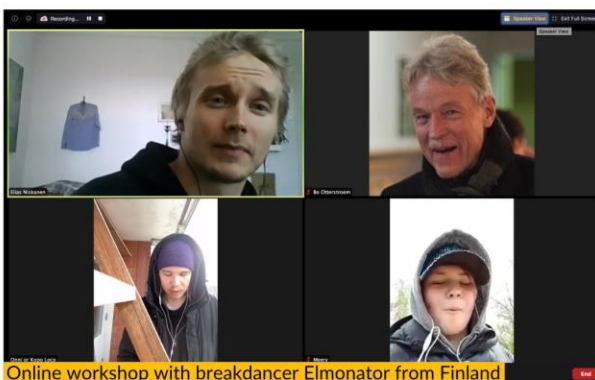
how to face the actual challenge and thus plan out new online workshops that can keep the youngsters engaged.

"Both "Dance against Corona" and "My European Friends" were projects implemented a.o. to compensate for the 5 cancelled camps for "Exchanges for All", and so both offering some work and a bit of financial compensation to the 15 artists, who

should have taken part 13-18th May. Both projects are also exercises on eventual future online cooperation, which also may be necessary in September, when EFA has got approved and planned 6 exchanges, and concerning such Arttrain did for the April deadline apply to Erasmus+ for a small strategic partnership "In the Sky" and to European Cultural Foundation for the project "Aparte ma Insieme", which both aims at being able to implement online work and to pay artists, also if the coming physical exchanges has to be cancelled", said Mr. Bo Otterström, the president of ARTTRAIN.

Moreover, here below there is more on what it's like being an artist in the online projects "Dance against Corona" and "My European Friends":

"As an artist it's been hard to find a way to be creative during the times of Corona. All cultural events have been cancelled and you are left to yourself. But with the two EFA ("Exchanges for All") projects "Dance Against Corona" and "My European Friends" you feel connected to people around the world, who have been in the same situation as you. It's been great to share my knowledge about dance in



a new way. These different online platforms have been giving me a way to be creative and to work with what I really love in a time, where you thought it was impossible. To be able to add some joy in to the life of youngsters, facing different difficulties in these times, has been amazing. Especially with the project "Dance Against Corona" I could really feel how dance can connect people from all around the world without even being together. It was amazing to be a part of and it has been making the team of EFA and D4P workshop leaders growing even stronger together", said Clara Otterström, one of the workshop leaders in the "Exchanges for All" large scale project.



My European Friends

is

an all-arts-projects focusing on communication & cooperation across borders.

open for all kind of art-work: writings, paintings, video, music, dance-recordings, collage.

open for contributions made together by young people from at least 2 different countries.

There are 2 age-groups for the challenge:

1. up to 16 years
2. 17-25 years

Contributions are received by e-mail to post@arttrain.dk latest 30.6.2020

Remember to write your names, countries and ages.

The strategic partnership "Arts Empowering Youth Work" is now over and its results have been published on the project's webpage.

The aim of our project was to make a significant contribution to the quality of youth work by integrating participatory-art working methods with the youth workers' activities, in a creative way, especially in international youth exchanges and with young people with different backgrounds.

The steps taken to achieve that were to make a research on how non-formal education can be enhanced if paired up with arts, to create a series of video tutorials and an e-book meant to give the young youth workers the know-how, and to extend our network of youth organizations that wish to employ our methodology in their activities.

All of these were implemented during several physical meetings: 2 learning mobilities, one in Cinisello Balsamo,

IT, 14-21.2.2019 and the second in Sammalniemi, FI, 16-23.3.2019. Then there were 3 project meetings too, one in Copenhagen, DK, 6-8.10.2018, another one in Sammalniemi, FI, 3-6.8.2019 and a third one in Gaia (Porto), PT, 10-16.11.2019, all along with other online planning meetings.

Results

The project has produced several results, a very important one being the "Arts Empowering Youth Work" booklet which is a research-based tool that comprises common creative process in a participative art-based workshop, working models that connect people with different backgrounds

and video interviews of experienced artist facilitators sharing their methods and views. The book gives a philosophical basis to the results and identifies concepts to support participative art-based methods, and makes the creative process and participative methods, as support for inclusion in youth work, visible.

Moreover, 32 trainees learned how to use participative art-based methods and common creative process in the

youth work with young people with different backgrounds, internationally. They also learned how to develop models

that connect and empower the youth,



Mid-term meeting in Finland, 3-6.08.2019



which can be used internationally. In the second mobility (in FI) the trainees were able to become more aware of the effects of newly learned skills (in Italy), and they got acknowledged for it in the feedback from young people, as they had to offer workshops to roughly 100 young people from a secondary school. Apart from this, the learners got knowledge about the funding institution that runs the E+ program, namely the European Commission, and planned several new project applications.

To add on, the project made an impact to local youth work, especially in the “hands-on” part of the training. in Orivesi and Juupajoki, Finland, where, apart from the audience mentioned above, it also reached the local young

people, youth workers, voluntary workers and also teachers.

We expect that the booklet and videos will make an impact widely and they are already available in the internet:

<https://artsempoweringyouthwork.wordpress.com/blog-2/>

These tools are especially aimed to help the youth work facilitators in artistic context but also the educators and teachers who want to develop their teaching methods.

The booklet and the printed version will be available for free to anybody and we will follow the results of the research in coming projects that we have already started to work on.



Training of youth workers in Italy, 14-21.01.2019

All participants in the trainings of this project, who express their interest, will be allowed to work in our partner organizations and are invited as recognized members to the “Drums for Peace” artists community. Also, all the partners of this project will try to make an impact in youth work and youth policy locally, nationwide and in international context.



Youth exchange simulation during the training of youth workers in Finland, 16-23.03.2019