

Cultural Mobility Forum 2025

Tuesday, 29 April & Wednesday, 30 April 2025 in Riga, Latvia, and online

Co-hosted by NÓDPC, Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture and in partnership with Riga Cirks and HowlRound, the Forum is co-funded by the European Union, part of the New Solidarities' project (2025-2028).

Panel 1. Arts education and cultural management programmes: embedding the internationalisation of practices

This panel will explore how arts education institutions, cultural management programmes and life-long learning initiatives can integrate internationalisation into their curricula, ensuring that future artistes and culture professionals are equipped for the realities of a globalised cultural sector.

The discussion will review the role of educational leadership as well as teachers, researchers, mentors and all support staff members in fostering the cross-border circulation of creatives, their work and ideas. Building upon the existing international exchange programmes for students and staff, we will review the most recent needs expressed to enable building international networks early in their careers.

Panellists will discuss the perceived need to better prepare students for the "real world" by balancing creative development with entrepreneurial skills, generally admitted being essential for sustaining a career. Practical aspects of international opportunities, such as navigating funding schemes and understanding mobility logistics, will also be examined to improve students' access to global platforms. By embedding internationalisation at the education phase, the panel aims to identify strategies that support young artists and culture professionals in their transition to the global stage.

Panellists:



Paolo Montemurro is the founder of [Materahub](#), an organisation working to support the cultural and creative sector in Italy. He has been the project manager of numerous pilot EU-funded initiatives, focusing on capacity building, policy development, and ecosystem creation for the sector. These initiatives particularly emphasise creative entrepreneurship, internationalisation, EU networking, and the cross-fertilisation of the cultural and creative sector with other economic and social sectors. Paolo is the coordinator and organiser of the Creative Business Cup in Italy and serves as an expert and consultant for Italian regions developing actions to support the cultural and creative sector. With

Materahub, he supported the bid preparation of Matera as European Capital of Culture and the capacity-building programme for local cultural operators during the preparation phase. In 2020, he was selected as an expert within the "EU4Business" programme to support the development of cultural and creative industries (CCIs) in Eastern Partnership countries. Today, he represents Materahub in the EIT KIC Culture and Creativity, where the organisation is a founding member.



Aparajita Dutta, Head of International Affairs at the [University of the Arts The Hague](#), has been working in the field of internationalisation since 1999. She has consistently explored how the quality of education and internationalisation are intertwined. Since 2011, she has been engaged in art education, primarily responsible for internationalisation strategy, implementation, and international projects. From 2013 to 2018, Aparajita served as the Chair of the CUMULUS Association – X-Files Internationalisation Working Group. In 2013, she created the Netherlands Art and Design Academies International Relations Group. Since 2011, she has been involved in various EU projects. In 2018, she initiated the [Platform Internationalisation ELIA](#). In November 2018, she began a PhD programme on Internationalisation in Fine Arts and Design Higher Education at Leiden University.

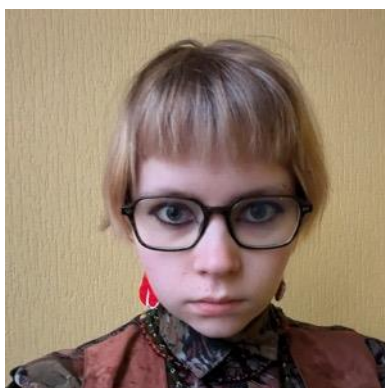
Moderator:



Mirela Travar is an established cultural worker, advocate, trainer, and advisor in the fields of culture and youth. She has more than 15 years of experience in civil society and the public sector, working on issues ranging from youth and human rights to human rights education, independent culture, and public goods. She is currently working as a senior expert at the City of Zagreb’s newly established cultural institution, [New Spaces of Culture](#). Internationally, she has worked with the OSCE and the Council of Europe, as well as various international youth and cultural networks. Domestically, in her home country of Croatia, she has worked with dozens of different organisations and institutions. She served as the

Secretary General of the Croatian Youth Network: National Youth Council of Croatia; she was a programme coordinator at Clubture (a national alliance of cultural NGOs), coordinator of Kooperativa-Regional Platform for Culture, and was a long-time president and coordinator of Operation City: a collaborative platform for NGOs, cultural workers, and artists. She also served as the first president of the Network of Socio-Cultural Centres of Croatia: DKC-HR. Mirela is the author, co-author, and editor of several publications and studies in the field of culture and youth.

Rapporteur:



Ikars Graždanovičs is a young semi-professional performance artist and writer who has spent far too long ruminating on arts and culture, particularly the intersections of fine arts and performative arts and their own space within these fields. A frequent volunteer and participant in many contemporary art events, Ikars was a former teen curator of the Homo Novus and Bastard festivals as part of the “Shakedown” project. Currently, Ikars is a first-year student of communication sciences at the University of Latvia.

Panel 2. Transitioning to the international arts & culture ecosystem: revisited motivations and challenges

This panel will delve into the challenges young artists and culture professionals face as they transition from education to the professional world. Establishing oneself in a competitive sector requires strategic networking and access to work opportunities, yet many struggle with discoverability and inclusivity issues of existing support programmes. The discussion aims to review the young and emerging arts workers' motivations to embrace an international trajectory.

Panelists will examine the role of cultural stakeholders, including institutions and independent organisations offering international opportunities and facilitating these transitions. A key focus will be on improving access to these initiatives by addressing, for example, eligibility criteria, active inclusion of individuals from diverse backgrounds, or geographical coverage.

Panelists:



Adam Svoboda has over 15 years of experience in production and management, ranging from running and curating alternative music clubs to producing and curating multi-genre festivals. He joined the [Prague Quadrennial \(PQ\)](#) in 2015, initially overseeing individual productions, and has since advanced to the role of Technical Production Manager and later Head of Production. Since mid-2023, he has been responsible for the executive management of PQ for the 2027 edition.

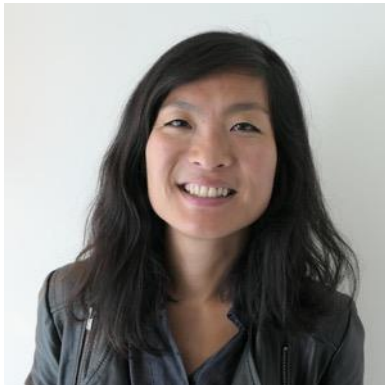
Image © Kryštof Kalina



Jennifer Lee has been the Programme Manager for Fellowships & Training at [Mekong Cultural Hub \(MCH\)](#) since 2018. With over 20 years of experience as a project manager/producer, event and festival coordinator, house manager, and producer in the field of theatre and culture before joining MCH, she is skilled in designing and facilitating workshops and training courses. These include audience development, theatre venue services, creative project management, and programme planning. She also has extensive experience in collaboration and coordination for productions, events, and festivals with partners from different countries. In recent years, her main focus has included

advocating for a sustainable ecosystem for the cultural industry, social engagement of the arts, multiple mechanisms for talent incubation, cross-cultural learning and understanding, and regional cultural exchange and collaboration. Jennifer holds an MA in Cultural Policy and Arts Management.

Moderator:



Maïa Sert works in the field of intercultural cooperation in France and internationally. After gaining initial experience in promoting UNESCO World Heritage and then specialising in European cooperation projects, Maïa changed her career towards the performing arts sector, while continuing to promote international cultural mobility, co-creation and green transition. Since January 2025, she is in charge of international development at ANdÉA, the French national association of higher art schools.

Rapporteur:



Lina Allia is the Development and Cooperations Coordinator at Radio Grenouille/Euphonia in Marseille and a PhD candidate in Cultural Studies (CIFRE: Euphonia, Université Lumière Lyon 2, and On the Move). Her research examines the evolving landscape of international cultural cooperation, with a particular focus on the role of intermediaries, digital transitions, and decolonial movements. Born in Algeria, Lina has a background in curation, production, and project management within the Mediterranean region.

Panel 3. Points of departure, points of arrival: young arts workers reviewing international relations

This panel will explore whether the challenges faced by young artists in accessing the international arts and culture ecosystem, are truly unique or mirror those experienced by other groups, more vulnerable ones, operating from the perceived peripheries or edges. By drawing parallels, the discussion will address barriers related to artistic freedom and democracy recession, conflicts and displacements, or unequal access to resources and opportunities at global level.

Panelists will examine how these inequities intersect with the growth of an upcoming global generation of makers and thinkers that seek to redefine international relations and interdependencies. With a focus on mobility justice, the conversation will seek to uncover shared solutions that prioritise equity and sustainability for all artists.

Panelists:



Niusha Khanmohammadi is a multidisciplinary professional combining expertise in international development and arts and culture. Born and raised in Sweden with Iranian heritage, she holds an MA in Human Rights from Uppsala University and a BA in Political Science from Stockholm University. With over a decade of experience living in ten countries and working across Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Niusha has worked for the UN, EU, and the Swedish administration. Her work has focused on gender equality, arts and culture, and freedom of expression. Currently managing the Western Balkans portfolio for a [cultural development programme](#) at the Swedish administration, Niusha leads

initiatives that empower young artists and the creative industries. These initiatives promote cultural exchange across generations and borders in the region. As a published writer and exhibited visual artist, Niusha's work explores themes of belonging, identity, and community. Fluent in multiple languages, she bridges diverse cultural contexts, fostering inclusive dialogue and impactful storytelling. Her novel, *Conversations with Cities*, will be published in late 2025.

Image: © Marie Ravn



Bahdan Khmialnitski is a cultural manager, activist, and performer. He serves as the National Coordinator for Belarus within the [EU4Culture project](#), implemented by a consortium led by the Goethe-Institut to foster cultural cooperation in Eastern Partnership countries. Additionally, he collaborates as an external expert with ArtPower Belarus and Ambasada Kultury, specialising in cultural diplomacy, policymaking, and international relations.

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/qe/de/index.html>

Moderator:



Olu Alake is the CEO of [The Africa Centre](#), a 60-year-old London-based cultural institution dedicated to championing excellence in arts and culture, education, community development, thought leadership, and enterprise and innovation for Africans and the global African diaspora. With extensive experience in global culture, Olu has played key leadership and consultancy roles in organisations and forums worldwide. He has developed, critiqued, and implemented cultural policy with a focus on artistic mobility, global cultural markets, diversity, social inclusion, and cultural rights. Additionally, Olu has presented papers on these topics at numerous international conferences, contributing to shaping

cultural discourse on a global scale.

Rapporteur:



Karu Treij is an unprofessional performance artist, semi-professional writer, and teacher. Karu began their career as a teenage curator at the festival Homo Novus, as part of the “Shakedown” project, and has since participated in various festivals. They are an occasional critic and a full-time drama teacher.

Panel 4. Takeaways and recommendations

This concluding panel synthesises insights from the Cultural Mobility Forum's discussions, aiming to shape actionable recommendations for policymakers and the broader cultural sector. Drawing from the panel discussions, as well as findings from three Pre-forum Webinars, the session will consolidate perspectives on supporting young and emerging arts workers. This collective dialogue seeks to inspire meaningful change and drive forward inclusive and sustainable practices in the global arts and culture landscape.

The session also aims to be output oriented and propose both policy recommendations and actionable solutions to support emerging talent in navigating their entry into the professional arts and culture ecosystems.

Speakers:



Clara Passarinho is a Portuguese performer. She won the Baal17 emerging theatre directors' competition in Serpa, Portugal, conducted Rakugo research in Japan, and interned at the Yokohama Theatre Group with support from Fundação Oriente. Clara played a key role in the production of the Alecrim festival, which premiered in September 2024. To further develop her artistic practice, she recently began a postgraduate course in Performance and Digital Technology at the Institute of Theatre in Barcelona. Beyond her artistic work, Clara is a committed cultural agent. Between the ages

of 18 and 22, she actively participated in over 10 youth exchanges and training courses. Clara co-founded Associação da Minha Rua, where she started writing Erasmus+ projects and facilitating activities. She also joined the "Pop The Vote" programme, promoting voter awareness in the European elections through art. To complement her studies, Clara completed a five-month production course at Companhia Instável in Porto, with modules on cultural policies, European funds, and project applications. Since 2024, she has been a member of Culture Action Europe, reinforcing her dedication to fostering cultural collaboration and dialogue.

Clara Passarinho was the rapporteur of the [Pre-forum Webinar #1: International mobility funders supporting young and emerging arts workers](#) (19 March 2025).



Katrīna Dūka is a creative producer, theatre-maker, and researcher based in Latvia. She is currently an international project manager at Riga Circus, where she oversees various international initiatives aimed at fostering collaboration and professional development within the circus arts community and beyond. As an independent creative producer, she has worked on international projects focusing on community-based and participatory art, artistic interventions in organisations, and the creation of site-specific and interdisciplinary performances. As an artist, Katrīna creates performances that engage with local communities and

'everyday experts'. Her work has been showcased at the International Festival of Contemporary Theatre "Homo Novus", as well as on independent stages in Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. Her practice is rooted in fostering dialogue and collaboration across disciplines, creating meaningful opportunities for artistic exchange.

Katrīna Dūka was the rapporteur of the [Pre-forum Webinar #2: European platforms for the promotion of emerging artists](#) (9 April 2025).

Image: © Ģirts Raģelis



Andrew Ogun (UK) is a multi-disciplinary artist: a poet, musician, and cultural commentator. He is a published poet, with his debut collection, *Slingshot*, set to be released in 2024 via Lucent Dreaming. Amidst his creative endeavours, Andrew is also the Agent for Change at the Arts Council of Wales and the main organiser for BLM Gwent. Through his role with the Arts Council, he has influenced policies and structures to ensure that the arts and culture sector in Wales represents the diversity of the nation. In this work, he has particularly impacted the music sector by serving as the Welsh coordinator of the POWER UP initiative in Wales.

Andrew has played an integral role in democratising the music scene in Wales for Black musicians and industry professionals, culminating in the creation of the Welsh Black Music Action Group (WB MAG), which is co-chaired by Andrew. Andrew has been an artist his whole life but has been producing creative work since 2014, initially through fashion with his own clothing brand, before moving on to music and poetry. His notable achievements include being a member of BBC 1Xtra's inaugural "Future Figures" list, recognising him as a significant Black leader within his community. His album was listed at number 67 of "100 Greatest Welsh Albums", and he has performed headline shows and a series of high-profile performances nationally and internationally. He has received recognition for his community work from Race Alliance Wales, EYST, and the Welsh Government.

Andrew Ogun was the rapporteur of the [Pre-forum Webinar #3: International mobility trends for young and emerging arts workers](#) (23 April 2025).



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Lina Allia is the rapporteur for Panel 2. Transitioning to the international arts & culture ecosystem: revisited motivations and challenges.



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Karu Treij is the rapporteur for Panel 3. Points of departure, points of arrival: what international circulation for young arts leaders.

Moderator:



Yohann Floch is the Director of Operations at On the Move, the international network dedicated to artistic and cultural mobility, and the Director of FACE, a resource platform that facilitates European capacity-building programmes in the contemporary performing arts field. He serves as an international advisory board member for IMMART – International Migration Meets the Arts, a Danish organisation. Throughout his career, Yohann has designed, coordinated, and contributed to numerous European cooperation projects and pilot international collaborations

while working for independent arts organisations and cultural institutions. He acts as an external expert for governmental bodies and private foundations and leads or co-authors European policy reports. Previously, Yohann held various leadership positions, including Secretary General of the European Dancehouse Network, Director of Skåne’s International Resource Office, Coordinator of Dansehallerne’s Nordic dance network, and Coordinator of the Circostrada Network.

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