

A MODEL FOR AN ARTIST TRAINING PROGRAMME as developed as part of the Tour d'Europe des Chorégraphes programme

Based on the experience of the EU-funded "Tour d'Europe des Chorégraphes", an artists training programme which could be used as frame and model for future training programmes in the field of culture, especially focusing on artists as authors of their work, is herein proposed.

Tour d'Europe was a pilot training project for emerging choreographers, aimed at tackling the lack of professional development for emerging dance artists, in order to strengthen their competitiveness on the European market.

Based on the principles of the *Compagnons du Tour de France* – a French organization of craftsmen and artisans whose traditional, technical education techniques include taking a tour around France and being the apprentice of competent masters - the *compagnonnage* is an original way for a young man or woman to learn a trade while developing character by experiencing community life and traveling.

This pilot project enabled a group of 10 choreographers to travel to 5 European cities, to learn about the production and support structures in each of the participating country, to build relations and acquire the necessary skills to be able to make and show work beyond the country they come from.

The methodology developed as part of the Tour d'Europe des Chorégraphes lends great importance to exchanges, mobilities and group interaction, encouraging open-mindedness and adaptation. Learning is based as much on the artistic aspect of the choreographic profession as on technical and administrative issues.

The participants were hosted in each partners' country for a week of tailor-made workshops, seminars and meetings. Each participant also exchanged with his/her own attentive mentor - purposely selected from outside of the cultural field - for the duration of the programme. Parallel to these mobilities, each participant had access to a social learning platform to encourage exchange and sharing.

At the beginning...

One-week meeting with all participant artists, welcome and presentation of their work;

Presentation of the overall project and its mentoring strand;

Selection mentor/artist: each artist was flanked by a mentor (the mentor, purposely chosen outside of the cultural field, was of different nationality and showed connection to the identity of the host city)

Presentation of the social learning platform and its purpose

In each city...

Visit

Visit and presentation (mission, team, programme) of the host structure;

Visit of local cultural/performing arts venues and organisations;

City tour

Workshops, lectures, seminars, professional encounters, sharing experiences...

Themes:

Project management and budgeting

Distribution/promotion and networking

Security and technical aspects of producing work

Funding and application writing

Cultural policies at European and national levels

PR and marketing

Press and criticism

Team management, leadership in group

Other professional development opportunities (training and open studio presentations, video editing, writing, etc.)

Performance

Participants take part in shows and other performative events organised or co-hosted by the host partner (often in association or in connections with a national festival); opportunity to see different work as produced in different parts of Europe and to meet and connect with local artists, presenters and other cultural stakeholders.

Along the project...

Meeting and ongoing exchange with mentor

Sharing of information with fellow participants through social learning platform;

Ongoing exchange and feedback with own supporting structure;

Regular feedback reports to evaluate project progress.