

# U.T.O.P.I.A.

## Upholding theatre organizations and performers for the interrelation with the Audience

*“A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not even worth glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which Humanity is always landing. And when Humanity lands there, it looks out, and seeing a better country, sets sail! Progress is the realization of Utopias.”*

Oscar Wilde

### 1. Concept

#### Utopia or Looking for the Ideal Country

After 25 years since the Berlin wall's fall, our time deals with a capitalistic model which is facing a strong crisis. Nowadays the concept of democracy itself needs a critic review. It seems that European society lacks not only a serious analysis of recent historical events and of their effects on nowadays life conditions, but also an idealistic ambition for a radical transformation of the present time.

Through U.T.O.P.I.A project, the contemporary performing art scene becomes the place where carrying on this debate and investigating this philosophical issue, on practical and theoretical basis. It becomes the opportunity where artists/citizens and audience/citizens can develop, through the different codes of the contemporary scene, new visions and new images of an ideal place, and also new forms of community can be created.

U.T.O.P.I.A. wants to foster a possible organic European vision, based on pluralism and cultural dynamism and working for the setting up of a new, positive and central role of the performing art scene in the society.

### 2. Goals

Despite the historical and social differences of the National contexts, U.T.O.P.I.A. identify a widespread *gap between the audience and the contemporary performing art scene*. Therefore, U.T.O.P.I.A. aims to set up interdependence **between the audience and the contemporary scene**

The project will then have the following objectives:

- Innovation of creative processes through the involvement of the artists in collective processes of creation and the exploration of new forms of collaboration and solidarity among them.
- Improvement of the mode/mood of perception by building up a wider audience through its involvement in the processes of creation.
- Capacity for impact by strengthening the organizations that support and produce contemporary performing art through effective communication and promotion tools.

### 3. U.T.O.P.I.A. Actions

The project will begin in May 2016 until May 2018, for 24 months and it will foresee the following activities:

## Artistic residencies

3 artistic teams, composed of 1 playwrights and 1 company coming from different countries, will produce 3 plays through artistic residencies during the 24 months of the project. The residencies envisage a stable presence of the translator of the play in another language besides the one of the playwright. They also envisage the connection and the relationship with the local communities through the activities of the Cross action and the debate on the creative process among the audience and the artists.

## Cross actions

Each partner activates the collaboration with public and private organizations working within its city (schools, universities, youth and elderly centres) and with informal groups of citizens (the inhabitants of a specific area or of an apartment building). These people will attend a training course and will have a direct experience of the creative processes of the contemporary performing art scene.

The cross actions will foresee:

- Training phase with practical sessions and theoretical sessions
- Attendance of some rehearsals
- Dialogue among artists and participants.
- Further elaboration of the participants, even at a multidisciplinary level.
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The topic of the Cross actions is Utopia, the main topic of the project. They will work on that according to their age, their needs and the aims of the social groups involved.

## Meeting and discussions

The artistic committee of the project is composed among the others of professionals who will work as observers. They meet every 6 months during the whole project, for a total amount of 4 meetings.

All the artists, the translators and the professionals working on the documentation, as well as the artistic committee meet altogether one a year, for a total amount of two times during the project, for sharing the progress of the artistic creations, the strengths and weaknesses, the documentations and the impact that Cross actions have both on the creative processes and on the local communities.

## 4. Partnership

The leading Partner is Ass. cult. Il triangolo scaleno, that runs the multidisciplinary performing arts Festival Teatri di Vetro in Rome (Italy). Other potential partners are: *Contemporary Drama Festival Budapest* (Budapest, Hungary), *Residenza Idra* (Brescia, Italy), *IG Freie Theaterarbeit* (Vienna, Austria), *Hop-là company* (Belgrade, Serbia), *Plavo Theatre*, (Belgrade, Serbia). And associated partners are *Sineglossa (Italy)*, *Qendra Multimedia* *Jeton Neziraj* (Pristina, Kosovo).

## 5. Contacts

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