SHORTCUT EUROPE
EXPLORING CULTURAL SPACES

TURNHOUT, BELGIUM
25 > 27 04 2018
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ABOUT THE ENCC AND DE WARANDE

The ENCC is a membership civil society organisation in the sector of Arts, Culture and Education. It represents over 3000 cultural centres/spaces with more than 15,000 employees, thousands of volunteers and 40 million visitors per year in at least 24 countries. It has been selected by the EC as one of the 28 networks representing the Arts and Cultural sector in Europe. Among the ENCC’s topics are Arts & Culture, Education and Lifelong learning, Territorial development, and Social innovation and inclusion.

What makes us unique? Among these very diverse networks working on various arts and heritage disciplines, the ENCC’s specificity is that it is rooted in local society and has a strong connection with civic participation through culture. The ENCC’s core values are cultural equality, interculturalism, democratisation and active citizenship. We believe active participation in arts and culture contributes to citizen empowerment and innovation dynamics, hence to a more resilient Europe.

Though it has a long-existing and well-structured community, the ENCC faces some existential challenges (globalisation, the digital shift, demographic changes in small communities due to migration and refugee intake, youth unemployment, etc.) that call for different types of commitment, professional improvement, managerial skills and new competences.

These challenges are brought into discussion at the European level by the local, regional and national networks of cultural centres with the demand for long-term capacity building programmes, mobility schemes allowing them to get inspired and learn from peers, wider networking allowing them to access specific information, exchanges and trainings offered by other European networks and a diversification of partnerships beyond the cultural sector (social, economic, youth).

Our project for 2017-2021, ENCC – The Next Generation is the answer we found to these challenges within our community. The programme aims at facilitating the experimentation of new organisational models, and developing and strengthening the potential of grassroots local cultural stakeholders and cultural centres workers to meet the needs of the different target groups in our society, offer a vital and valuable place/source of cultural peace, and contribute to revitalising European democracy, citizenship, inclusion and intercultural dynamics.

Provincial Cultuurhuis de Warande is a space for art and cultural experiences with a focus on societal tendencies. With our six partners from the region de Kempen (+/-450,000 inhabitants), we offer a broad range of accessible, top-quality programs.

Our centre aims to be a welcoming space for those who want to experience all kinds of culture. We offer easily accessible and high-quality art and culture, and give special attention to young and vulnerable visitors. We establish an open and dynamic cultural climate by encouraging artists in their artistic development and by challenging art lovers with experiments and novelties. We believe that everyone should be able to find a cultural event that interests them in our programme at least once a year, and we strive to make that happen.

We seek to be international in programming and audience, to produce qualitative, contemporary art, to raise the visibility of arts, to support young, regional and international artists, to reach to and develop its audiences, to educate, and to be an inspiring environment for all artists passing through our space.

De Warande functions as a business centre for arts, bringing together professionals who are specialized in a specific cultural field, such as dance, theatre, visual arts, architecture, film, performance, education or comics. This Cultuurhuis model, built in cooperation with the region of Flanders, the Province of Antwerp and the city of Turnhout, maximizes the realization of our artistic objectives. The unique symbiosis offers our visitors a wide range of cultural activities covering all art forms. The concentration of activities in one large cultural venue offers opportunities to create cross-overs between different art forms and attracts people from a wider region to enjoy culture.
Dear friends,

On 3rd and 4th of June 1994, the European Network of Cultural Centres was founded here, in this beautiful cultural centre de Warande. It was already at that time one of the most dynamic and leading cultural institutions in Flanders. It still is.

It is therefore no coincidence, but a conscious choice for the ENCC to return here now.

We are not only coming here to celebrate that we have been able to realise many beautiful things and projects in the past 24 years, that we managed to create a lot of networking between cultural venues from all over Europe, but above all to confirm that we will continue to address the major challenges to connect cultural centres and provide opportunities for cultural workers from all over Europe. The European Commission gave us its trust for the next four years, and we will cooperate with them to fulfil the promises we described in our new ‘Next Generation’ action plan.

We also come specifically to this location because the ENCC, after putting a lot of energy, over the past years, in building a network around cultural work in rural areas, is now starting a new chapter by addressing the topic of this conference: Exploring Cultural Spaces. What are the role and responsibilities of professional artists in our changing society? How can cultural centres play their role together with those artists to dynamise the new cultural spaces and contribute to a better society? De Warande is a model in not shying away from those challenges and finding ways to respond to the new needs.

I would like to thank Cultuurhuis de Warande, the city of Turnhout and the Province of Antwerp for their warm welcome.

And I wish the participants of this new Shortcut Europe an instructive stay... and a lot of networking.

- Ivo Peeters
President of the ENCC
PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25TH

17h30 Shortcut Europe kick-off with guests from the European Commission, the EACEA, the City of Turnhout and the Region of Antwerp
Official launch of the Manifesto: Culture for shared, smart, innovative territories, Piotr Michałowski, Secretary ENCC

19h Cocktail dinner

20h ‘Turning 25’ - ENCC anniversary party

THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH

09h Registration and welcome coffee

09h30 Welcome speeches and presentation of the programme
Ivo Peeters - President of the ENCC
Staf Pelckmans - Director de Warande

10h Artists and Cultural Centres: What Roles in Creating and Sustaining Cultural Spaces?
Conversation between Felix de Clerck and François Matarasso
Round table with Thomas Kempeneers, Elke van Lent, Gudrun Heymans

13h > 14h Lunch

14h Study visits: Turnhout City visit, Dinamo, Hetgevolg, Turnova Academie, Academy of Playing Cards

20h Cultural Programme - see p. 14

FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH

09h30 Towards the Future - Rethinking Cultural Spaces’ Keynote speech: Marjo van Schaik
Round table and open discussion with Erik Martens and Leen Laconte

11h Best practices presentations with Dinamo, Murs Murs, Omnes and more

12h30 Lunch and goodbye

14h Networking continues between local stakeholders. Facilitated by Elke Van Lent, coordinator of VVC (in Dutch)
STUDY VISITS

• Cultural spaces in Turnhout, a short introduction to city planning in Turnhout
  guided tour by Hugo Meeuws, architect and urban planner

  In 1972 Turnhout was the first Flemish city to open a ‘cultureel en ontmoetingscentrum’ [cultural and meeting space], after a long discussion about how to call this new kind of infrastructure. Not a museum, not a neighbourhood centre, but a kind of living room for the people of the region. In the early 1970s, the combination of a free meeting place, artistic production, the library, a flea market, and art exhibitions enhanced social discussions on themes like urban renewal, mobility and the environment. De Warande was the birthplace of a number of spin-offs: Stripgids, Ar-Tur, Mooov, Dinamo, Kaaiman grew in this fertile meeting-place.

  Today, the newest urban policy change is about the public domain, the streets and squares of the city itself. Parks, squares and children’s playgrounds are conceived as meeting places for everyone. Turnhout makes the most of the fact that cultural space is not about buildings and institutions, but about the space you give people to connect, to show the best of themselves, and to experience the world around them.

  After the Turnhout city tour, you have a choice between 4 other study visits:

  • Dinamo is a spin-off of de Warande that organizes education for adults during the day and on Monday evenings. Remarkably, all of our courses, workshops and outings are given or led by volunteer experts and instructors. Ten professional team members (equivalent to seven full-time positions) direct 230 volunteers who deliver and lead some 400 activities per year. The average participant enrols in about 2.3 activities, which means Dinamo counts about 6,000 enrolments per year.

  With partners in Greece, Denmark and the UC Leuven-Limburg, Dinamo is working on the European Project ‘Managing Volunteers/Empowering People’, or MAVEP. This encapsulates the focus of our project: intrinsic parts of the organisation of volunteer work are talent management and the stimulation of its growth. Our aim is to make stronger people through the elaboration of a powerful learning environment.

  Dinamo is a partner of de Warande and the city of Turnhout, and is financially supported by the Flemish Government.

  • In 2014 Stefan Perceval became director of Hetgevolg, a theatre-workplace in the centre of Turnhout. When Stefan started in Hetgevolg he found that nobody in the city had the slightest idea of what was going on behind the closed walls of the theatre. So the first thing he did was go out in the streets and talk to people. ‘It was then that I realized that one of my first tasks - or even obligations - was to create a bond between Hetgevolg, the city and the people in its streets’, says Stefan. He set up cooperation with the local centre for basic education, with the centre for people living in poverty, with refugee organizations and with other neighbouring organizations.

  ‘What is behind the wall?’ is Stefan’s guiding question. His participatory and emancipatory methods help people express themselves in their own way and reveal emotions, dreams, and talents that had been hidden behind ‘walls’ of silence, fear or grief. The example of Hetgevolg shows how cultural education can help empower people within their local communities. Now, the city of Turnhout is also aware of the positive vibes Hetgevolg brings to the city and its habitants. And organisations from all over Belgium ask Hetgevolg to help them set up similar projects.

  • Kunstencampus at Turnova

  In 1976, the Brepols Print Factory left the city centre to move 3 km south. Some 2000 workers moved with it, and left an empty space, only 100 meters from the Grote Markt main square. In 2004, successful public-private cooperation finally started, with the aim of creating a new living neighbourhood: Turnova. After a lot of planning and thinking, it is now being built.

  In 2017 the first part was opened: the new Kunstencampus arts campus. Each week nearly 3000 students from 5 to 75 years old follow classes in drawing, painting, music, dance and more. It is an example of how an institution can be connected to the life and people of a town centre.
The National Museum of the Playing Card, based in a former printing factory, is an ode to Turnhout’s rich graphic design and printing history. Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, playing cards have been printed here and exported all over the world. There are only five playing card museums in the world and this is the only one that shows and explains the production process.

The historical printing presses displayed at the museum are still being used regularly. Twice a month, volunteers demonstrate the process of printing, shining and cutting of playing cards. The volunteers are all former employees of printing companies who enjoy passing on their knowledge to visitors. There are several educational workshops available for local school children. Be sure not to miss the gigantic 19th century steam engine!

The world leading manufacturer of cards and games, Cartamundi, still produces up to a million sets of playing cards in Turnhout each day. The company designed a ‘room of the future’, which features several interactive digital displays and a selfie wall. But there’s more to come: the museum has exciting plans to involve young designers and card-playing communities.

**BEST PRACTICES PRESENTATIONS**

**Murs Murs** [pun on “walls” and “murmure”] is the name of a participative project carried by the non-profit platform-association La Concertation - Action Culturelle Bruxelloise [The Concertation - Brussel’s Cultural Action]. Based on the concepts of itinerant action and proximity, this mobile laboratory aimed to question the concept of “living together” in Brussels via an artistic approach. It was thus at the heart of the cultural and artistic practices of the Brussels Cultural Centres, members of La Concertation, and it privileged freedom of expression by encouraging exchanges and experimentation. This initiative, which also aimed to become sustainable beyond the cultural season 2015-2016, met the people of Brussels in different and unexpected places: the theme of crossing borders - whether geographical or symbolic - was a central issue in the project and a main lead in La Concertation’s everyday work.

**Omnes** is a social-artistic non-profit that focuses on the relationships between the EU and MENA-region. The goal of the organisation is to build bridges between 1/ the different contexts and cultural backgrounds ‘newcomers’ find themselves in; between 2/ newcomers, the local decision takers and resident people; between 3/ local artists and artists from the MENA-region. Thus, its main question is: How to build new trust relations and enhance mutual understanding through socio-cultural projects? In the context of Belgium, it aims to set up new ways of interaction and participation between newcomers and resident people in local communities and global city contexts. It focuses on social art projects that raise awareness of people’s rights and duties towards each other and their societies.

Omnes organizes the Arab Cartoon Festival and the OASIS Film festival. The last editions were held from 6 to 21 October 2017 in three cities – Turnhout (de Warande/UGC Turnhout), Antwerp (Het Palies) and Brussels (Bozar). The festivals open doors between cultures from around the whole world. Through cartoons we can laugh, talk, chat, play, discuss and gain new insights. ‘Cracks in society’ invites visitors to fill in the “cracks” with sarcasm and humour, and put a smile on everyone’s face. Outside cartoons the festival presents visual art, theatre and dance, a film program and more.

**Dinamo** is an adult-education programme where all training is done by volunteers. See p. 10 for further information in the Study Visit section.

... And other best practices participants still to be confirmed at time of printing.
NB: If you wish to attend the film festival or the dance performance, please contact us immediately to check ticket availability.

**MOOOV INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**
Cinema UGC, Graatakker 99, 2300 Turnhout
8:00 pm

**I AM NOT A WITCH**
Director: Rungano Nyoni, UK, ZAMBIA
93 minutes, LANGUAGES: English | Nyanja

In a Zambian village, a girl of nine is accused of witchcraft and banished to a migrating witches’ camp organized by the government. There, witches are tied to spindles with a long ribbon. Elderly women take care of the girl and name her Shula. Then official Mr Banda takes her home to use her as an attraction. One of the most original African films of the past years.

Press reviews:
Rungano Nyoni’s debut feature, the story of a girl in Zambia accused of witchcraft, is comic, tragic – and captivatingly beautiful (The Guardian)

// Strikingly original. (The Times) // An extravagant flight of fancy that functions equally well as an anthropological curiosity, engrossing drama, feminist allegory, tart political satire and dire warning against xenophobia. (Irish Times) // Rungano Nyoni’s exciting if challenging debut is an impressionistic tale of superstition in a small Zambian community. (Variety)

**CULTURAL PROGRAMME FOR THURSDAY 26TH APRIL**

MOOOV INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**'HET GOUDEN PAVILJOEN'**
**[THE GOLDEN PAVILION] VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION**
de Warande – Expozaal
Open until 9:00 pm

The exhibition ‘Het Gouden Paviljoen’ is inspired by a short story by Yukio Mishima on the idea of beauty. With Belgian and international artists, including Lucia Bru, Leo Copers, Berlindé De Bruyckere, Edith Dekyndt, Danny Devos, Al Farrow (VS), Tatjana Gerhard (CH), Ori Gerstl (IL), Geert Goiris, Gregory Green (VS), Athar Jaber (IQ), Sofie Muller, Renato Nicolodi, Tokyo Rumando (JP), Dries Segers, Marco Tirelli (IT), Hannelore Van Dijck, Jan Van Imschoot, Philippe Vandenberg, Filip Vervaet & Daisuke Yokota (JP).

**'B' DANCE PERFORMANCE**
**SIAMESE CIE / KOEN AUGUSTIJNEN & ROSALBA TORRES GUERRERO**
de Warande – Kuub
8:15 pm > 9:35 pm

Rhythm is everything in boxing. Every move you make starts with your heart, and that’s in rhythm or you’re in trouble. – Sugar Ray Robinson

Choreographers Koen Augustijnen and Roselba Torres Guerrero have been active for 20 years on the Flemish and international dance scenes. For ‘B’ they took their inspiration from the art of boxing. This performance brings together 5 professional boxers and 4 dancers, one of whom is a former boxing champion. With dancers and boxers Karim Kalonji (B), Tayeb Benamara (F), Muhammad Samahnah, Maali Maali (Palestina), Giulia Piana (I), Arturo Franco Vargas (E) and Sophia Rodriguez (B-VEN), Chamill Maissons (B), Malick Mbaye (B) and Aubrey Zabo (B).
SPEAKERS

THOMAS KEMPENEERS

Thomas Kempeneers was born in Liège in 1984. He is a graduate in historical sciences with a master’s degree in cultural heritage management. In 2008, he became director of the Cultural Centre of Bastogne, in the heart of the Ardennes, where he promoted a dynamic programme dedicated to all publics and focused on schools. He also managed L’Orangerie, Centre for Contemporary Art. In 2011 he became director of the Cultural Centre of Waremme, in Hesbaye, a region with strong agricultural roots between Brussels and Liège. The Cultural Centre’s team (6 persons) develops and implements artistic, life-long learning projects seeking the involvement of citizens and of local associations. The Centre is part of the network of cooperation of cultural centres of the Hesbaye Liègeoise.

FELIX DE CLERCK

Felix de Clerck is the director of Kunstenpunt - Flanders Arts Institute, an interface organisation and expertise centre for the arts in Flanders and Brussels. The organisation caters to both national and international professional arts audiences. The organisation is known as Kunstenpunt to national audiences.
ERIK MARTENS

Erik Martens is head of film culture at the Flanders Audiovisual Fund. Before 2014, he wrote about film for different publications (De Standaard, Focus Knack, International Film Guide, Ons Erfdeel, The Low Countries, Streven, Staalkaart...) and talked about film for public radio station Klara. In 2002-2014 he was editor of Cinematec DVDs (Royal Belgian Film Archive), and in 2010-2014 he was coordinator of the film department at KASK School of Arts in Ghent.

FRANÇOIS MATARASSO

François Matarasso has worked in community arts since 1981 as an artist, producer, researcher, writer and trainer. He has published influential work on the social outcomes of participation in the arts, and on the history, theory and practice of community art. Most of his books are available free to download here: https://rgu.academia.edu/FrançoisMatarasso. He works freelance with arts organisations, foundations and public bodies, and has experience of community-based cultural work in about 40 countries. His latest book, A Restless Art, will be published by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 2018. For more information see http://arestlessart.com

GUDRUN HEYMANS

Gudrun Heymans is the Coordinator of the Creative Europe Culture Desk Flanders within the Flemish Government - Department Culture, Youth, Sports, Media. She defines arts and cultural heritage as oxygen to her life. Through intensive and pro-active networking, campaigning and in-depth assistance and administrative coordination during years of European cultural work, she built up a consistent database of reliable professional contacts and an open communication with local and international cultural operators. She is an expert in project management and in setting up, participating and presenting public information actions such as information days, workshops, platform exchanges, formal and informal professional meetings.

LEEN LACONTE

Leen Laconte has always been active in the field of international, cultural and artistic cooperation, namely in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Brazil. She holds a Master in Comparative Culture Studies (U Gent). She is currently Director of OKO. She has considerable experience as a mediator between governmental programs and the needs of the professional field. She is a dedicated board member of various artistic companies and organizations (www.abattoirferme.be; www.spinvzw.be; www.passaporta.be; www.manifesta9.org) and an active member of several assessment committees: Fonds der Letteren (NL), Fund for the Performing Arts (NL), VGC (BE).
Staf Pelckmans is the Artistic and Managing Director of Cultuurhuis de Warande since 1999. He is also a co-founder and organiser of many cultural projects such as TheaterStap, Stormopkomst art festival for children, MOOV film festival, Strip Turnhout comics festival, Kunstinzicht art education organisation; Ar-Tur architecture organization and Stroom educational organisation. He is co-chairman of the VVC cultural and community centre association in Flanders, associated expert to the ENCC board, and visiting lecturer in cultural management at Antwerp Management School, RITCS and others.

Ivo Peeters is the Director of the cultural centre De Zeyp, located in Ganshoren, one of the Brussels’ districts. Born in 1954, with a master’s degree in Political and Social science, he has 30 years of experience working at the local level. In 1994, he cofounded the ENCC and headed its coordination office for 10 years as General Secretary. During those first 10 years he organised several international meetings and an international cultural management course (comparable to the current BECC training/staff exchange programme of the ENCC). Today he is the President of the ENCC.

Elke van Lent is the coordinator of the Association for Flemish Culture and Community Centres (VVC), where she’s responsible for policy support of cultural and community centres in Flanders. She graduated in 2016 as Master in Cultural Management at the University of Antwerp (Belgium). During her studies she interned at the Kazerne Dossin Museum on Holocaust and Human Rights (in the context of a thesis on Customer Relationship Management) and the Brakke Grond Flemish Culture House in Amsterdam (for a thesis on working with audiences). She also interned at Cultural Centre Ter Dilft in Bornem, where she educated primary school children on the workings of theatre.

Piotr Michalowski is a cultural manager, researcher and animator, as well as a professional musician. He is a co-initiator of Wandering Cultural Forum Lower Silesia, a developing regional network of cultural organizations, head of the Culture House in the Community Culture Centre of Oleśnica, and ENCC Secretary and board member. He also owns the company Micro Art Centre Piotr Michalowski (see https://micro-art-center.tumblr.com/), active in the cultural and creative sector, supporting national and international event organization and management, providing cultural and strategic counselling for institutions and companies, and supporting cultural activities in the fields of music, theatre, film, and photography.

Elke van Lent is the coordinator of the Association for Flemish Culture and Community Centres (VVC), where she’s responsible for policy support of cultural and community centres in Flanders. She graduated in 2016 as Master in Cultural Management at the University of Antwerp (Belgium). During her studies she interned at the Kazerne Dossin Museum on Holocaust and Human Rights (in the context of a thesis on Customer Relationship Management) and the Brakke Grond Flemish Culture House in Amsterdam (for a thesis on working with audiences). She also interned at Cultural Centre Ter Dilft in Bornem, where she educated primary school children on the workings of theatre.

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Marjo van Schaik studied psychology, law and European studies in Amsterdam, before beginning her career in the corporate sector and spending the 90s navigating the changing world of business. She was General Manager of Nationale Opera en Ballet in Amsterdam from 2000 to 2005, before leading and overseeing projects for smaller pioneering cultural organisations, such as directing a multicultural theatre/exhibition centre in the Bijlmer neighbourhood. This experience inspired her to research the topic of the changing role of cultural buildings. Her book *Spaces of Culture* was recently published as a PhD thesis, and will soon be revised and republished by NAI for a larger audience.

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

The meeting point throughout the conference is the Barzoen café inside de Warande.

A few restaurants around the conference venue:

**De Weerelt**
Warandestraat 17 [http://www.deweerelt.be/brasserie]
A fish restaurant, with a fishstore downstairs and a restaurant on the first floor.

**Flames**
Paterstraat 10 [http://flamesturnhout.be]
Iranian and mediterranean dishes.

**D’Vine**
Grote Markt 77 [http://www.dvineturnhout.be]
All kinds of salads and food (French, Belgian, Italian, Thai, ...).

**Il Gusto**
Herentalsstraat 5 [opens at 17.30, best to make a reservation]
Italian food.

**Miraneau**
Koningin Elisabethlei 92 [http://www.miraneau.be/brasserie]
A nice brasserie with a view on the water, 20 minutes walk from De Warande.

**De Cinema**
Grill, pizza, pitas, pasta, wok, salads.

Your contact during the conference:
Ioana Crugel, ENCC management CEO
+ 32 473 20 70 18