Spanish Hub Seminar on European networking

29-30 June 2021

ENCC
City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Spanish Hub Seminar on European networking

10 Lessons Learned about Networks

By Piet Forger
Head of department for culture in Leuven, Belgium
Who is here at the seminar?
Who are you?
Who is here at the seminar?
Who are you?

Who am I?
Piet Forger
Director for culture in Leuven, Belgium

What about Leuven?
Flemish Community
6 mio
Dutch

German Community
80,000

French Community
4 mio
French
om de zinnen die zingen vanbinnen naar buiten te spinnen als spinnen hun webben.
Key Findings

02. Leading Cultural and Creative Cities are more prosperous

In 2013, the GDP per capita of European Cultural and Creative Cities was €750 higher for each additional point in the Cultural and Creative Cities Index, compared to 2009.

03. The ideal Cultural and Creative City in Europe is a mix of eight cities of mostly small and medium size.

- UMEÅ (SE): New Jobs in Creative Sectors
- EINDHOVEN (NL): Intellectual Property & Innovation
- CORK (IE): Cultural Venues & Facilities
- PARIS (FR): Cultural Participation & Attractiveness
- LEUVEN (BE): Human Capital & Education
- GLASGOW (UK): Openness, Tolerance & Trust
- UTRECHT (NL): Local & International Connections
- COPENHAGEN (DK): Quality of Governance
Who am I?

Piet Forger
Director for culture in Leuven, Belgium

Networks of cultural centers
Civil servant & independent scene
Grass roots level & policy level
Local level & European level
...

A personal impression
Spanish Hub Seminar on European networking

10 Lessons Learned about Networks

By Piet Forger
Head of department for culture in Leuven, Belgium
1. Urgency
1. Urgency

- Don’t start cooperating
- just for the sake of cooperation.
2. Reasons

- Concrete projects
- Exchange expertise
- Not strong enough
- Audience development
- Visibility
- Advocacy
- ...

- Determine your common goal(s)
3. People

- People and their passion
3. People

- People and their passion
- Start with the people you like
- Start with a coalition of the willing
4. Trust

Trust often needs time. Start with concrete projects.
4. Trust

- Trust often needs time
- Start with concrete projects
5. Ownership

- Giving responsibility
- Bottom up

- Responsibility is best to be taken as low as possible, as high as needed
6. Capacity

- Networks don’t run on voluntary work only
- Basic funding is needed
- For personnel & projects
Focus on a provincial network of cultural and community centers
German-speaking Community 100,000
French Community 4 mio
Dutch Community 6 mio

Province of Flemish Brabant

German Community 80,000
Dutch Community 80,000
French Community 4 mio
Network of cultural and community centres in Flemish Brabant

1. To share information, experiences and expertise
2. To increase, enrich and diversify the range of activities offered
3. To stimulate audience development: reaching more people in a better way (quantity & quality)
4. To defend common interests (advocacy)
5. To network with other partners: libraries, associations, youth work, schools, tourism, ...
Province of Flemish Brabant

Regions for cultural cooperation and cooperation among cultural centres
cultuur- en gemeenschapscenra in de Noordrand, een regionaal verhaal
Nieuwsbrief van de cultuur- en gemeenschapscentra in Vlaams-Brabant
juni en zomer 2010

Inhoud
1. Ensemble Explorations & Claren MC Fadden in Bierbeek
2. Zet je zinnen op Westrand in Dilbeek
3. Cultuurfestival voor kinderen en families in Kraainem
4. Circ'ulation Locale in Asse
5. A world of comedy met David Galle en Jeroen Leenders in Wezembeek-Oppem
6. Rode Zingt in Sint-Genesius-Rode
7. Kapelle (op den Bos) Feest!
8. GrasGroen in Strombeek-Bever
9. Kottekoer in Dilbeek
10. 11 juli viering in Steenokkerzeel
11. Erik en Sanne in Zoutleeuw
12. Midzomer in Leuven
13. Zomerateliers in Kraainem
14. Folkin'Ro in Sint-Genesius-Rode
15. Zomer op Straat in het oosten van Vlaams-Brabant

Nieuws uit de Provincie

Uit in jouw regio?

Klassieke Muziek

Ensemble Explorations & Claren MC Fadden

St. Antoniuskerk, Opveld (organisatie cc de borre)
donderdag 3 juni

Toen de sopraan Claren McFadden enkele jaren geleden de sterren uit de hemel zong in het BeKl huis, kon niemand vermoeden dat deze prachtige artieste ooit nog terug zou komen naar Bierbeek. Samen met Ensemble Explorations onthult ze thans het ontroerende ‘Stabat Mater’ van Boccherini.
6. Capacity

- Networks don’t run on voluntary work only
- Basic funding is needed
- For personnel & projects
7. Celebration

- Every reason is a good occasion to celebrate.
7. Celebration

- Every reason is a good occasion to celebrate
- Best network meetings are gatherings of soul mates in a festive context
- Rituals
- Celebrate being and working together
8. Every cultural center is a network

- Local authority cultural centers
- Independent scene cultural centers
- Creative hubs
8. Every cultural center is a network

- Local authority cultural centers / European Network of Cultural Centers
- Independent scene cultural centers
- Creative hubs
8. Every cultural center is a network

- Local authority cultural centers / European Network of Cultural Centers
- Independent scene cultural centers / Trans Europe Halles
- Creative hubs
8. Every cultural center is a network

- Local authority cultural centers / European Network of Cultural Centers
- Independent scene cultural centers / Trans Europe Halles
- Creative hubs / European Creative Hubs Network
8. Every cultural center is a network

- Local authority cultural centers
- Independent scene cultural centers
- Creative hubs
- Every cultural center is a network. Let us remind ourselves of this raison d’être
9. Close the gap

- Between local government and local independent scene, small NGO’s
9. Close the gap

- Matchmaker
- ‘Start dating’
- Come together
- Start talking
- Start getting to know each other
- Start liking each other
- Start trusting each other
- start flirting ...
- Start making love 😊
- Make wonderful projects
10. WORK TOGETHER ACROSS BOUNDARIES

- Issues, problems are too complex to tackle from one dimension
- Bring forces together in purpose-driven networks
10. WORK TOGETHER ACROSS BOUNDARIES

- Leuven Model of cooperation
- Local government being a partner in a network
- Quadruple helix model
- Purpose driven networks Climate, Innovation, Culture and Creativity
10 Lessons Learned about Networks

1. Urgency
2. Reasons
3. People!
4. Trust
5. Ownership
6. Capacity
7. Celebration
8. CC is a network
9. Close the gap
10. Cross boundaries
10 Lessons Learned about Networks

Gracias!

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Urgency

Don’t start to cooperate just for the sake of cooperation

Purpose driven networks, based on a common goal, are the most endurable

People make the difference

Start with the people you like

Local networks

The best network meetings are gatherings of soul mates in a festive context

Re-imagine the work of cultural organisations

Every cultural center is a local network, don’t forget acting like one

Celebration

Quadruple helix model

Let’s close the gap

Key to have personnel and finances

Giving responsibility

Start with a coalition of the willing

Ownership

Working bottom up

Start making love to your local government

The Leuven Model

Work together beyond the boundaries of your own organisation

ENCC

Trust

Responsibility is best to be taken as low as possible, as high as needed

Piet Forger, director for culture city of Leuven, Belgium. Feel free to connect via piet.forger@leuven.be or via facebook.