

Call for Applications

Perform Europe is looking for Jury members

Perform Europe is looking for nine Jury members. We are seeking to select a balanced group, representing various performing arts disciplines, backgrounds, levels of experience, and geographic areas. Each Jury member should be eager to contribute to creating a future European scheme for sustainable and inclusive distribution of the performing arts.

The Perform Europe Jury will:

- select beneficiaries of the Perform Europe grants scheme,
- contribute towards shaping the selection criteria and methodology,
- take part in the dialogue on imagining and testing more sustainable and inclusive touring and distribution models.

The Perform Europe Jury's work requires availability:

- in April: contribute towards the text of the open call for presenters and producers as well as to take part in the Perform Europe online conference and workshops (upon availability);
- in July: select presenters and producers during the first two or three weeks of the month (not full-time);
- in October: select distribution partnerships and contribute to the Jury report.

Each Jury member will receive a fee of €1,200.

Our Call to you:

Are you professionally active in the performing arts (dance, theatre, music theatre, circus, street art, performance)?

Do you believe that international touring of performing arts works must and can be more sustainable, balanced and inclusive?

Do you have a vision on how to promote, conceive and pilot innovative distribution practices in the performing arts? Would you like to contribute to creating a balanced touring landscape, embracing both emerging and established organisations and artists, of diverse genders, geographic origins, social and ethnic backgrounds?

Are you available to perform the role of a Jury member according to the timeline outlined above?

Then fill out [the application form](#) before 8 March 2021!

Note that Jury members need to be based in [one of the 41 Creative Europe countries](#).

You also need to have a desk, a computer and an Internet connection to take part in online meetings. Meetings and communication will be in the English language.

The Consortium of the Perform Europe Board will select the Jury members, with a view of creating a balance among various performing arts disciplines, geographic and social backgrounds, motivation, experience in the field, gender and race. More information can be found in the Perform Europe Jury Background note (see below) and on www.performeurope.eu.

Background note about the Perform Europe Jury

This Background note gives more details about the role, composition and tasks of the Jury in Perform Europe. Please make sure to read it before applying.

a. Main role

The independent Perform Europe Jury is the body that is responsible for: 1) the selection of presenters and performers eligible for possible distribution partnerships in the first round of applications; 2) the selection of distribution plans and actions in the second round of applications; 3) production of the Jury general report assessing the main features of the state of play of current distribution tendencies in the performing arts; 4) consulting the Perform Europe Project Manager and the Consortium Board regarding policy recommendations; 5) contributing to the Perform Europe events (depending on availability of each Jury members).

b. Composition

The Perform Europe Jury will be composed of a diverse and balanced group of 9 performing arts professionals. The composition of the Jury will reflect Perform Europe's principles of inclusivity and balance. The Jury will include members with knowledge of, commitment to, vision on sustainable and inclusive touring and distribution of the performing arts - both physical and digital. The Jury members will be ready and eager to take the Perform Europe trajectory as a learning and experimental process.

The Jury members are selected by the Perform Europe Consortium based through an open call. The eligibility criteria to apply for the call are:

- being based in one of the Creative Europe countries

- being professionally active in the performing arts
- availability in line with the schedule of Jury's work outlined in the open call
- ability to read, write and speak in English (minimum level B1)
- submitted motivation

Being a member of Jury excludes from applying or being part of a Perform Europe grant.

The Perform Europe Board, responsible for the selection of the Jury members, will ensure balance in terms of gender, social and ethnic backgrounds, geographic spread, type and size of organisations, performing arts disciplines. Motivation in contributing to the learning process of Perform Europe, as well as expertise in sustainable and inclusive practices will be the core aspects guiding the selection.

c. Perform Europe Jury Chair

The Consortium will appoint a Jury Chair among the selected Jury members. The Chair's role will be to:

- lead the meetings of the Jury
- guide the work process of the Jury
- lead the process of drafting the Jury report
- be the face of the Perform Europe Jury and contribute to the work process of Perform Europe (events, if available, and consultations on policy recommendations)
- contribute to the definition of the criteria for the Perform Europe calls in the first and second rounds of applications
- represent the Jury in communication with the Perform Europe Team.

The Chair receives an additional fee for his role.

d. Tasks of the Jury in detail

The Perform Europe Jury's main task is to select distribution plans and actions that will be funded by Perform Europe and implemented in the testing phase of the project. Precisely, the Jury will:

- discuss the open call for presenters and producers (mainly, the eligibility and selection criteria) of Perform Europe in the first round of application
- take part in defining the selection methodology for the first and second round of applications

- make the selection of presenters and producers in the first round of application (taking part in the meetings implied)
- submit the selection with an individual motivation report for validation by the Perform Europe Board
- take part in the events of the Development stage
- contribute to the shaping of the open call for distribution plans and actions in the second round of applications
- make the selection of distribution plans and actions in the second round of applications (with all necessary meetings implied). In total there will be maximum 17 distribution plans and 61 distribution actions selected
- submit the final selection with an individual motivation report for validation by the Perform Europe Board
- produce the final Perform Europe Jury Report

The methodology of reviewing and selecting the candidates will be discussed once the Jury is formed. It will be sharpened and adjusted along the way, based on the feedback from the European Commission, depending on the number of applications received and other factors that may occur along the process of Perform Europe implementation.

The main challenge of the selection in the first round will lie in creating a balance of selected presenters and producers. The main challenge of the second round will be to identify plans, partnerships and actions with the biggest potential for testing innovative models of more inclusive and sustainable distribution. The Jury will submit the selection to the Perform Europe Board, which will assess the selection based on these two elements and either validate it or return to the Jury with comments. The Jury will then be asked to review the selection based on the Board's comments. In the final step, both the Jury and the Board will jointly agree on and validate the selection.

Perform Europe Jury steps and timeline

- **08/03/2021:** Jury Call deadline
- **End of March 2021:** Jury members official selection announcement and first meeting with the Consortium
- **A few days in April 2021 (upon availability):** Jury will contribute towards the text of the Perform Europe open call for presenters and producers (first round

of applications) + take part in the Perform Europe online conference and workshops

- **2-3 first weeks of July (not full time):** Jury meetings for selection of presenters and producers in the first round of applications
- **2 first weeks of October (not full time):** Jury meetings for selection of distribution partnerships in the second round of applications + Jury members will contribute to the Jury report

e. Compensation

Each Jury member will receive a fee of €1,200.

Values of Perform Europe

a. Vision

Perform Europe is driven by the belief that cross-border distribution of performing arts works is highly valuable for contemporary societies. However, in the sector there is a strong need to reinvent its current practice, in order to adapt this contribution to society to changing conditions and to make it future proof. Thus, Perform Europe aims at setting a coherent perspective on how to generate sustainable models for cross-border touring and presentation, based on sustainability, inclusivity and balance, and embed them in the performing arts' operational practices.

Such a profound change can only be the result of a collective and inclusive bottom-up exercise where the performing arts sector in all its diversity joins forces for learning, co-creation of ideas and the development of partnerships. Digitalisation is seen as a means, tool, enhancer of this process, but not as a purpose in itself. In the uncertain times we live in, 'future proof' means taking into account different possible future scenarios with regards to the challenges for cross-border distribution of performing arts in our post-Covid societies.

b. Guiding values and key definitions

Sustainability

The Perform Europe Consortium uses the working definition of “sustainable practice” introduced in the context of ‘Rewiring the Network (for the Twenties)’¹, a collective research and development project which is being undertaken by IETM in collaboration with IDEA Consult. The definition is as follows: “a ‘sustainable practice’ is a practice which can be sustained over a longer period of time.”

In this context, we believe that sustainability is not about ‘growth’ in purely quantitative terms. It is about creating the right conditions which allow for a long term perspective and which allow the sector and society to ‘grow’ in a social sense (more meaningful exchanges with audiences), a human sense (respecting the well-being for artists and arts workers), the artistic sense (creating the right conditions for artistic development), an economic sense (sustainable business models and fair remuneration) and the environmental sense (respecting the ecological boundaries). Thus, “slow” mobility can mean fewer trips, presentations and meetings, but it leads to a greater focus on artists’ well-being, local connections, audience relations, the inclusion of social groups with different backgrounds, fair remuneration...

Perform Europe looks at sustainability through the prism of five value frameworks: artistic, human, social, economic, ecological. Throughout the project, this idea of sustainability will be embedded in diverse ways:

- **Artistic value.** The application process and selection conditions are designed the way that producers and presenters will meet each other and start partnering on the basis of their shared (artistic) values and ethics. Artists will be guided by their missions and artistic values, focusing on what they can and want to offer, and how they wish to distribute this offer, while not trying to fit into existing demand.
- **Human value.** Perform Europe will implement and promote fair models of collaboration between producers and presenters, in regard to contracts’ conditions, payments, taking risks, insurance, etc. Incentives will be put in place to encourage a balanced power hierarchies, to promote distribution trajectories respecting the well-being of the participants by promoting principles of fair remuneration. in terms of the time spent vs. income gained, intervals between touring points, the optimal use of digital tools, and more.
- **Social value.** The Perform Europe Distribution scheme will strengthen the ties among artists, presenters, local audiences, and arts communities, and

¹ Rewiring the Network (for the Twenties) is a research and development project aimed to explore the development of a more sustainable future for the performing arts, and the role IETM can take in it.

More information:

<https://www.ietm.org//en/rewiring-the-network-resetting-the-ietm-agenda-for-the-twenties>

enhance the social impact of performing arts distribution, by targeting individuals and communities from different social backgrounds in all stages of the project.

- **Economic value.** The scheme will stimulate fair remuneration and offer the conditions for participants to invest in the development of more sustainable business models for our changing times. One of the major questions is how digitalisation can help to increase revenues via live streaming and other ways of digital distribution.
- **Ecological value.** The scheme inspires each stakeholder to reflect deeply on their approach to environmental sustainability across the entire value chain: from conception and production of a performance to its promotion and distribution. Perform Europe will promote green transport solutions, as well as environmentally efficient geographic trajectories (more touring points within shorter distances). Digital components will allow for reducing physical travelling, such as trips for meetings among partners, physical attendance of performances by presenters, etc.;

Rationale: Perform Europe believes that sustainability, in its various senses, must be at the forefront, base and heart of the distribution scheme. This is the only way to ensure a sound and change-making action, which would improve the condition of the performing arts sector and, on a longer term, inspire positive transitions in society at large. Sustainability will be put into practice by the Distribution scheme, as a guiding principle infusing the whole methodology and defining all choices being made.

Inclusivity

Perform Europe sees inclusivity as the principle of proactively reaching out to provide equal access to art professionals and audiences from different social backgrounds, color, gender, class... Special care is taken towards target groups which often do not take part in and benefit from cross-border distribution of the performing arts. This means embracing wider and more diverse groups of society, including minorities (color, gender, class, physical abilities, sexuality) and citizens living in rural and peripheral areas - both as participants in the Distribution scheme and audiences. Perform Europe will go an extra mile promoting the scheme to professionals living in rural or peripheral areas, in countries less represented in the international performing arts system (based on existing studies and the Mapping phase's outcomes), target (virtual) communities and organisations composed by or working with disabled artists, professionals from migrant and refugee background, artists living in rural areas, LGBTIQ+ and other minority groups. The Consortium Leader IETM will activate

its members' focus group IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equality, Accessibility)², to get their advice and help in disseminating the information about the scheme itself, its open calls, etc. Presenters will be stimulated to connect with other venues in their country, to attract those who would have otherwise not seen the performance. The scheme will stimulate sound strategies of engaging local audiences and shaping shared cross-border narratives around a touring performance.

Rationale: One of the goals of the project - to enhance the social, economic, ecological and artistic values via the cross-border distribution of performing arts works - can only be achieved if this is organised in a way that the process actively engages the broad social ecosystem. This means that throughout the whole project the right conditions will be created that give equal access to the current performing arts ecosystem for everybody, including underprivileged and marginalised artists and audiences. Otherwise, the proposed action will have a scattered, partial and adhoc effect, which would strengthen current privileges, hierarchies and power balances, rather than creating more diversity within the ecosystem, and on a long term appear to be unsustainable.

Balance

Perform Europe's Distribution scheme wants to make a difference by achieving more balance in the cross-border distribution of performing arts works. It will do so by mapping current imbalances and creating a more balanced situation with regards to the equal representation of various players within the whole project: the artistic disciplines, the size of organisation, the balance between emerging and established artists, gender balance, geographic origin, the balance between urban and rural touring destinations... and any other issues the mapping exercise will bring to the fore. Balance will be ensured at each level of the project: the call and selection of the Jury, the open call and the selection criteria for participants and Distribution plans, the representation within expert groups, stakeholders for the Mapping phase, and participation in the Perform Europe Opening Event and all other manifestations during the whole project.

Rationale: in order to achieve the ultimate goal of the project - developing new working models and making the sector's operational practices more balanced, inclusive and sustainable - the process must be relevant, feasible and attractive to the entire ecosystem of the performing arts in Europe. This means the diversity of its players must be actively represented in the process from the start. An action stemming from a niche sub-sectoral group, one geographic region, or a group of individuals belonging to a certain social and professional status will remain siloed,

² IETM's IDEA working group sets and implements an action plan to help the network and its members to address the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Accessibility) issues.

limited in its outreach and effect, and thus, yet again, unsustainable. Moreover, beyond creating a truly balanced scheme, it is necessary to look into the core imperfections of the sectoral ecosystem itself and test and propose solutions for fixing those imbalances.