

Partner search

Culture sub-Program

Strand/category	Creative Europe, European Cooperation Projects (Large Scale) “Criss Cross Europe”
Deadline	7 October 2015

Cultural operator(s)

Name	JazzLab Series (BE) – project leader Confirmed partners: Jazzclub Unterfahrt (G), Music:LX (LU), Jazzclub Porgy&Bess (AT), Muzieklab Brabant (NL), Jazzus (F), Music Centre Slovakia (SK)
Short description	JazzLab Series maintains a large and active network, devoted to bringing Belgian jazz to a wide and ever growing audience in the best possible circumstances. We help develop a professional network that supports Belgian jazz in highly professional circumstances. As a co-founder of the Criss Cross Europe (formerly known as Jazz Plays Europe) network since 2008, JazzLab Series is also taking itself outside of Belgium’s borders.
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Project

Field(s)	Music (jazz and impro)
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Description

In 2008, JazzLab was a co-founder of the international network Jazz Plays Europe, the name of which was changed to Criss Cross Europe as of 2012.

From the start, the goal has been to help develop the skills of musicians to build an international career and to create a network of organizations that support the idea of working internationally on the development of a common European jazz scene.

Is there such thing to be considered as a European jazz identity? In what way can organizations that support their national jazz scenes cooperate in shaping such a European jazz identity, and meanwhile strengthen their own ability to work transnationally? These were the questions that proved foundational to Criss Cross Europe.

Criss Cross Europe assists in shaping this identity on two levels: 1) annually putting together and coaching a pan-European band and taking them on a tour with a European repertoire, and 2) in the process, connecting different kinds of organizations whose targets are complementary and can be merged to reinforce their skills to work in an international environment. This joining of forces has to result in reaching a maximum of public for our events and, consequently, for European jazz concerts in general.

Each year we bring together an ensemble consisting of one young talented musician from every participating country. These musicians are coached artistically and guided by a band leader, a flag-bearer of European jazz. During the course of 2 in-residency weeks they compile a program for a full evening's concert.

While the bandleader guides the artistic direction and coherence of the project, the Criss Cross Europe musicians can bring their own compositions and will be provided by scores and music of leading composers from the country of residence (each year another country offers the residence to the band). The band will also take part in workshops, headed by important composers of the country that hosts the band and by directors of network organizations and music centres.

Above all, the musicians' temperament and creativity are decisive: there is ample time to form the group's temperament and to work on their own sound. The expertise of the band leader assures an inspiring and artistically coherent approach. The result of these efforts will be presented during a concert tour across excellent venues in the participating countries, taking them crisscross through Europe, presenting the result of their labour to a large and diverse audience.

The whole initiative is shaped in a way that the participating organizations will be in a constant process of working on the development of their international ambitions. The know-how of the individual partners will be exchanged and discussed, so that a long term network of experienced international players will be formed.

Partners searched

Countries

Southern Europe, Baltic States, Northern Europe, Eastern Europe

Profile

Talent Development for Musicians (jazz and impro); Jazz and Impro Festivals; Music Export Bureaus; Music Centres; Cultural Centres; Music Venues; Artist's Collectives; ...

Other

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