

France

Topic:
Transformation

Achievement:
Cross- Sectoral
Pioneers Cross- Sectoral
Policies and Governance

Sector:
All CCS and Cross-sectoral

IN SITU: (UN)COMMON PLACES furthering cultural rights and democracy

The project (Un)Common Places by the European network IN SITU demonstrates how representativeness can be applied in the cultural and creative sectors and with urban partners. It provides a range of supporting methods and practical tools including large scale training offers, while ensuring highest artistic quality and implementation standards.

Challenge

Space of encounters are crucial and exchanges require long time frames. These (un)common spaces for peers and across sectors to meet produce results which are difficult to measure. Funding frameworks require outputs and indicators. This is a challenge for these participative approaches. Ensuring representativeness in artistic and cultural production is another challenging area. Despite the fact that the project "(Un)common spaces" has demonstrated viable ways for democratic creative ecosystems, the topic of representativeness remains central in the future.

Solution

The project has provided room for interaction in the long run with a range of workshops, encounters and seminars. However, even the four years of project implementation time are still very short, but at least a very valuable starting point. The MOOCs provided by the project are a learning tool, but at the same time a way of documenting the wide range of insights and experiences gained during the implementation. It is necessary to make these resources available for a wide range of artists and creative professionals to enhance practices in public spaces.

Impact

The In Situ network has managed to continue activities with eight consecutive large-scale projects funded by the European Union as the topic of art in public spaces is crucial for European cultural development, is part of European heritage and contemporary European artistic creation. It has allowed creative professionals to experiment new ways of creation built on trust – a pre-condition for cooperation most needed for the further democratic development of the European societies.

Milestones & Learnings

Time is the key factor that matters. Democracy builds on relations. Relations are built on trust that requires time. Co-creation built on exchange and trust is valuable.

Selection processes of artists require modernization. Hierarchical processes in which the artists need to convince programmers should be replaced by interaction spaces for exchange of artistic projects and cultural programmes.

Cultural rights and representativeness should benefit from the creative power. Funders and decision-makers should formulate objectives like democratic settings which are then designed freely by the applicants.

Key Takeaways

- Artistic creation is at the heart of furthering exchanges in public spaces. These exchanges have the potential to be trust-builders and connecting with a wide range of different audiences. In this sense, art in public spaces is deeply democratic.
- The concept of spaces should be understood broadly encompassing not only urban public spaces, but also rural or nature settings. Interaction options gain further dimensions – content-wise as well as in view of the different territories in Europe.
- Representativeness, cultural rights, citizens engagement should be overarching principles for (EU-)funding. These concepts can be filled with a variety of methods and approaches (co-)developed by the creative communities.

Learn more about IN SITU on the official website.