

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

For the Future of Europe, Theatre Must Remain a Public Space for an Open Society!

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Reflections & Ideas for Action



*Europe needs to remain an avant-garde place,
driven by ideas, content, and values.
If we want to face the complex global challenges,
European stakeholders must put policy into practice
and help us join forces with leading partners in
innovation, research and education,
bringing the culture and talents of our
next generation together to
pave the way for the future we want to create.*

A Europe of the future must develop a resilient theatre sector by

- Supporting pioneering theatre that is as **diverse as our local communities** are
- Taking steps towards a **climate-neutral and sustainable** theatre sector
- Continuing to lead the way towards accessible theatre in a **post-Covid world**

*In a post-COVID world,
theatres need to become even more visible
for the community than before.
We create a dialogue with the architecture
of the theatre, but also with the whole city –
we make the community feel seen by the theatre!*

Support pioneering theatre that is as diverse as our local communities are by

- **Recognizing the different needs** of Europe's diverse communities and enable theatre as an open space
- Listening to European citizens to **build theatres as collective, participatory, and accessible spaces**
- Paying attention to **cultural diversity** and the vulnerability of the **complex theatre ecosystem**



*The planet is on fire,
the ice is melting
and the ecosystem that sustained biodiversity
is collapsing.
What are we going to do?*



Take steps towards a climate-neutral and sustainable theatre sector by

- Supporting our push to create an **environmentally conscious, internationally collaborative future**
- Backing long-term plans to (re)connect with communities in **urban and rural environments**
- Enabling **socially responsible and sustainable working conditions** for the people in the European theatre sector

*Take the economy of attention –
how do we prove our worth at a time
of competing with powerful streaming platforms
and other live entertainment?
Theatres nurture the talent that then features
on Netflix!*

Continue to lead the way towards accessible theatre in a post-Covid world by

- Tackling **digital poverty** to ensure universal access to digital activity
- Providing sufficient **financial support and human resources** for **digital theatre experiences**, which can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with live theatre
- Implementing **policy frameworks** for digital theatre and the **collection of data** about theatre in Europe
- Strengthening the European dimension of theatre through long term support and **investment in international theatre collaboration**

For the future of Europe, theatre must remain

- Based on democratic principles
- A place to challenge and ask difficult questions
- An open space for engagement going beyond just the artistic idea and the artistic visions that are happening on stage
- A space of dialogue where we can debate our values
- A place which can help us to reflect and grow

Young people call for a Europe

- Based on action, not rhetoric
- Willing to intervene to protect democracy and address the desperate need for sustainability
- Taking responsibility for climate change – for the sake of a generation inheriting a calamity not of their making
- More than just the economy: a space of multilingualism and plurality where past abuses are acknowledged and addressed
- Embodying its values by fighting racism and inequalities

For the Future of Europe, we envision theatre as a public space for an open society!

In October 2021, the European Theatre Convention (ETC) gathered theatre makers from all over Europe in Malta for debates about the kind of Europe they need, as part of a Conference on the Future of Europe event.

The participants focused on the contribution theatres can make to shaping a sustainable future, particularly in the context of the emotional and artistic legacy of the pandemic. Participants stressed the values and European identity of theatre, which is democratic and a place for reflection and growth. They also expressed concern about the place the difficulties of competing with streaming services.

In anticipation of the European Year of Youth 2022, the event also featured significant input from young people around the continent for their views on how to build a more sustainable and inclusive future.

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