



Liberties in Lockdown

Lights, Camera, Lockdown: COVID-19 and the Arts

Zoom Webinar

10 June 2020, 09h30 – 10h30 (CEST)

ABOUT THE EVENT

The cultural and creative sectors have been some of the hardest hit by the restrictive measures of the pandemic. The reason is simple: performances need an audience, and an audience means a gathering of people.

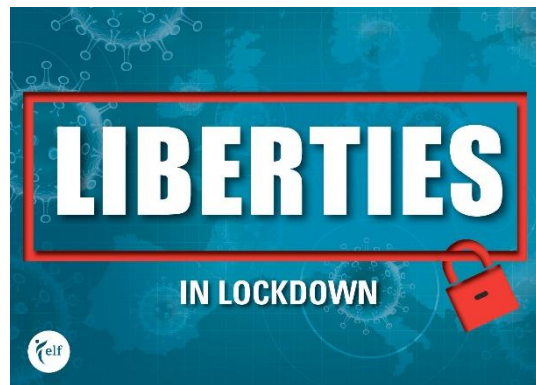
As guaranteed by article 27 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, people have a right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community and enjoy the arts. But how can we enjoy an orchestral performance of Ode to Joy, when the flute, the clarinet, and the trombone must all wear masks? Similarly, museums, cinemas, the opera and theatre are all currently out of bounds. A purely pragmatic calculation would see culture and art very low on the list of priorities, especially in a crisis that mainly touches on health and economic issues.

While certain cultural institutions have been able to avail of the internet to continue their work, this is only a temporary measure. Digital tools may have helped people cope better with the lockdown, but the unfortunate reality is that they often do not bring enough revenue to their creators or producers. How can culture thrive in a world still under siege by a virus? Can safety at events and exhibitions really be guaranteed? In such unique circumstances, are there alternative ways for people to access culture and the arts?

These questions, and many more, will be tackled by our distinguished speakers during the tenth online event of ELF's new series – Liberties in Lockdown.

Further reading / More information

1. European Parliament Briefing – [EU support for artists and the cultural and creative sector during the coronavirus crisis](#)
2. IETM – [Rescue the arts: plea to national governments](#)
3. European Commission – [Coronavirus: new platform for cultural and creative stakeholders](#)
4. OECD – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and cultural and creative sectors: impact, innovations and planning for post-crisis](#)
5. EUNIC – [How is the European cultural sector responding to the current corona crisis?](#)



EVENT SCHEDULE

- 09h25** Participants connect to the Zoom Webinar
- 09h30** Opening remarks
Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum
- 09h32** Introduction of the Topic by the Moderator
Airis Meier, Member of the Board of Directors, European Liberal Forum & Policy Advisor for Education and Culture, Renew Europe Group
- 09h35** First intervention
Irena Joveva, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group
- 09h40** Second intervention
Ása Richardsdóttir, Secretary General, International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM)
- 09h45** Third intervention
Polett Kasza, Professional dance artist (Berlin)
- 09h50** Moderated debate
- 10h28** Closing remarks
Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum
- 10h30** End of event

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Speakers' Bios



Irena Joveva, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

Irena Joveva was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in May 2019. She comes from Slovenia and is part of the Renew Europe Group (REG). Within the EP, she is Vice coordinator of the Culture and Education committee for REG, a substitute member of the Environment, Public health and Food safety

committee and a substitute in the committee for Employment and Social affairs. She is also the first Vice chair of the EU-North Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee. Her main areas of work are youth policies, journalism, sports and EU enlargement.

Before coming to Brussels, Irena worked for eight years as a journalist, and in 2011, she joined the editorial board of the Slovenian Press Agency covering various topics, such as: internal politics and the public sector. At the end of 2014, she received the Watchdog Award of the Watchdog Association of Journalists as Debutant of the Year. This award played an essential role in her career because it helped her to join the editorial board of 24ur on POP TV, where she started working in February 2015. She reported on foreign policies, European topics, prominent issues, such as: migration, arbitration between Slovenia and Croatia, and the protests from across Europe.

Ása Richardsdóttir, Secretary General, International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM)

Ása Richardsdóttir joined IETM as the Secretary General in March 2019, after having been an active member of the network since 1999. She has led a versatile career in the performing arts, culture, academia, banking, politics and media.

Her former positions include television reporter at RÚV Iceland, founder of theatre, Kaffileikhusid, executive director of Iceland Dance Company, president of Performing Arts Iceland, director of ICE HOT Reykjavík Nordic Dance Platform, board member of Landsbankinn bank and city councillor for the Icelandic Social Democratic Alliance.





Polett Kasza, Professional dance artist (Berlin)

Polett Kasza is a Berlin based freelance dance artist, collaborating with different choreographers and collectives from the international contemporary art scene. After graduating from the Hungarian Dance Academy in Budapest, where she received her Bachelor Degree in Dance, she started her professional dance

career in Prague with the Czech National Ballet in 2011.

This was followed by a new engagement with the Slovenian National Opera and Ballet in Ljubljana in 2013, where she was promoted to demi-soloist position. In 2016, Polett joined the Hessisches Staatsballett in Wiesbaden-Darmstadt as soloist where worked with numerous choreographers, such as: Itamar Serussi, Jeroen Verbruggen, Wayne McGregor, Alexander Ekman, Ramon John, Pablo Girolami, Tim Plegge, Kristian Lever. Currently, she is collaborating with Beatrix Simko, Kristina Aleksova Zavasnik and Katia Engel.

Airis Meier, Member of the Board of Directors, European Liberal Forum & Policy Advisor for Education and Culture, Renew Europe Group (Moderator)

Airis Meier is currently working as a Policy Advisor on the issues of Education and Culture for the Renew Europe Group. Additionally, she is the Estonian Reform Party's long serving International Secretary, and Treasurer at the Board of Directors of the European Liberal Forum.

Airis has a Master degree in Education and Social Sciences and an MBA on Strategic Communication and Leadership with long-term international political experience.

