

Inclusive theatre plays for (small) children

DESCRIPTION:

The European landscape is getting more and more diverse. Although the cultural field is a pioneer based on diversity, there are hardly any options for people with disabilities, especially when it comes to children and youth. Even though the UN Convention on the Rights for People with Disabilities (UN CRPD) defined clear standards for the cultural participation of people with disabilities already in 2006. Therefore a project consortium of three organisations from Alpe-Adriatic regions prepared the project IT PLAYS – Inclusive theatre plays for (small) children. It should cover the topic by creating new inclusive theatre plays for children and offering workshops for artists and staff members of theatres in order to foster initiatives towards an inclusive culture. At the same time it attracts the target group of young people with disabilities and therefore increases their participation in culture and as such in the society as well.

For the preparation of a EU Creative Europe proposal the project consortium met two times: the first meeting was in Ljubljana, the second one in Rijeka. Other exchange took place via Mail and Skype. In addition, the company Rialles from Spain took part in both meetings via Skype. In these two meetings ideas were shared and common ground for the idea of inclusive theatre plays was set. Next to an increase of productions on the topic of disability, all participants agreed that the training of staff is a very important issue.

Therefore, the aim of the project IT PLAYS is 1) an increase of theatre productions in the topic of inclusion and diversity, with a focus on 2) opening (inclusive) theatre plays for especially young people with disabilities (e.g. sensory theatre) and thereby 3) including people with disabilities in the cultural field of society by them actively participating in the process of creating a new play.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:

IKS: The Association for the Promotion of Inclusion through Cultural and Sporting Activities (IKS in German) was founded in April 2015 by people with a shared passion for sports and culture, with many years of experience under their belt working with special groups of people. By utilizing sports and cultural activities, the non-profit association IKS makes a significant contribution to inclusiveness. The main focus lies in working with children and adolescents in order to teach them how to deal with special groups of people as early as possible. With our dance and theatre festival InTaKT we are further demonstrating that an impairment is not an obstacle to active and passive participation in cultural events.



LPT: The Ljubljana Puppet Theatre (LPT) is the main Slovenian puppet theatre staging puppet and drama performances for children, youngsters and adults. The theatre manages five regular and several smaller, occasional venues. At these venues, which offer seating for approximately a thousand people, it produces fifteen premieres a year and is visited by around 110.000 spectators. Three of the fifteen premieres are covering the topic inclusion. LPT is a member of the International Puppetry Association UNIMA, ASSITEJ, Slovenian Puppetry Artists Institution, Small Size, an international association focused on productions for early years.

GKL: Rijeka City Puppet Theatre (GKL) is a theatre for small children in Rijeka with around four new productions a year. Rijeka City Puppet Theatre started the sensory theatre project in 2018 making the theatre for babies „Where Did the Socks Dissapear?“ with choreographer Mila Čuljak. The performance is for all babies up to age of 3 but it was our first experience working on interactive material in performing arts thus being a huge motivation and impulse for developing sensory theatre focused on children with disabilities, developmental difficulties with a focus on different spectra of autism. Rijeka City Puppet Theatre is the first professional theatre in the Croatian region that started to develop and research the sensory theatre field.

RIALLES: Rialles is a non-profit association that manages LaSala a Centre of creation, artistic research, exhibition and training of scenic arts for TYA in Sabadell. The theatre has a capacity for 300 spectators and attends 25.000 children per year. Rialles also manages the Annual Festival El Més Petit, for early ages (0-5 years) that happens in 12 cities in Catalonia (Spain) and 25 venues attending 24.000 spectators.



Representatives from the participating organisations during the meeting in Ljubljana

CONTACT DETAILS: Dr. Christoph Kreinbacher office@intakt-festival.at +43 681 81715089

