European **N**etwork of **I**nformation **C**entres for the **P**erforming **A**rts
Réseau Européen des Centres d'Information sur le Spectacle Vivant

Report of annual meeting of ENICPA members
Helsinki, 21 – 23 April 1999

General Assembly

Welcome to the group of new members from Finland, Lithuania and Russia. Most of them received support from the Sörös Foundation to come to the ENICPA meeting.

Overview of last years' activities

Meeting in Rotterdam 25 & 26 March 1998

The members who met in Rotterdam developed two separate tracks on which to pursue our goals as formulated in our Kaleidoscope proposals. We started two small task forces that do research and development work for
- a reasonable and locally manageable technical solution for ENICPA's online-projects;
- preparation of the meeting to be held in Helsinki that will involve new partners and train a substantial group of information centres in the use of IT in general and our own on-line database specifically.

Cardiff 2nd and 3rd of October 1998

- Meeting of ENICPA members.
- Meeting of Technology Team and Partnership Team.
- General session with other interested organisations and information services.
- Meeting of Board of Directors

ENICPA website and database

The Technology Team of ENICPA did research into the technological possibilities for updating the Guides directly on-line. The team met several times to discuss and compared the results of research done at a national level. The Technology Team has also worked on the structure of the database and on mapping all the functions the database has to be able to perform.

This has resulted into the commissioning of a Belgian organistion U&I Learning. U&I Learning has designed the new website and the database specific to the network's needs.

Collaboration with the International Workshop Festival is being started this year to include the information of the Into Europe (training opportunities) in our ENICPA database on-line.

Funding

May 1998 we received two grants: 15000 ECU from the Secretariat General of the EC
68100 ECU from the Kaleidoscope programme.

In December an interim report was submitted and accepted by the EC.

A new proposal for the second half of 1999 was submitted. We have asked support for the continuing work on the on-line database and a meeting in Barcelona in October 1999.

Other funding possibilities are being researched. An important opportunity is the European Cultural Foundation's support to cultural networks in Europe as of this year.

Member's statements for matching funding!

Everybody has received a model for the matching funding statements for ENICPA for this year. They have to be sent to the co-ordinator by the end of July 1999. For more questions about this please contact the co-ordinator.

Training Session

Website and database

The new ENICPA website and database were demonstrated. The website is available at www.enicpa.org. All members received their password and everyone could learn how to search the database and more importantly how to update it.

A lot of small errors and comments have been send on to the designers who are correcting and adapting the website. Soon the French version of the site will be ready.

In the discussion about the website and database the following elements were prominent:
- Promotion of the website: when the members further fill out the database we will email all organisations in the database. We will explain them that they are in ENICPA's database on-line and what the purpose of the website is. Linking everyone's' website to the ENICPA website.
- Development of website: links to other specialist sites, Into Europe, diskettes of the database for members, the possibility of downloading parts of the database so people can make labels out of the addresses, new categories

Discussion about the future of ENICPA and ENICPA projects, lead by Stefania Bertolino.

Stefania talked about all the different activities of the members (collecting, disseminating, publishing, organise events, translating) and the difference in scale, type of organisation and target audiences. The diversity of all this enables us to have a real chance to learn from each other. She asked for suggestions of how these learning processes could be approached and or organised. Responses included:
- Create residency opportunities within the network for network members.
- Make profiles (short fact sheets) about all the members for each other.
- Use of database software for internal use by members
- Monitoring of the results of our activities: show the economics and make the needs more clear.
- Prepare practical information sheets per country (cultural policies, work permit issues, …)

General IT Training session

Monique van Dusseldorp gave us a very practical session on Web site management topics.

Working Group IETM

In the working group Documentation and Information of IETM, ENICPA started with an introduction about it's own activities and the clear cut task it has formed for itself in the international information circulation process: the web site with database about professional, contemporary, international

relevant festivals, venues, information centres, workshops and publications. This choice has been made while fully aware that other categories, non-professional art, certain disciplines and countries are not being dealt with.

The Vlaams Theater Instituut in Brussels, the International Cultural Desk in Scotland and the Place Dance Services in London gave an overview of their activities. The three very different organisations showed diverse ways of dealing with information, documentation and responding to the needs of arts professionals.

At the end of the session the Russian partners showed their web sites and described the situation of the information sources and needs in the Russian Federation.

Actions

Actions – short term

- Completing the data in the ENICPA on-line database by all members
- Statements for matching funding by all members
- Funding research and proposals by co-ordinator
- Barcelona meeting 14-17th of October 1999 (during IETM meeting)
- Create profile sheets of all members

Actions – longer term

- Further development of database:
  - Links
  - Into Europe
  - Downloads
- Use of ENICPA database software for internal use by members
- Look for funding for translations
- Organising residencies for those interested

Canberra, May 14, 1999