



Europe Grand Central gathered experiences and lessons from 34 inclusive artistic projects in a dozen countries. Activity reports were collected and shared on the co-designed platform www.GlobalGrandCentral.net. Images above from activities in Bologna, Lublin, Athens, Bremen, Vienna, Āmål and Casablanca, and from "legacy partner" activities in New York, Tunis, and London. Photos available under CC BY-SA 4.0



Executive Summary

Europe Grand Central started in September 2015 as the “refugee crisis” dominated European news and politics. The role of arts and culture for social inclusion was a core topic of exploration and partners worked to find innovative solutions and audiences. Focus was on co-creating a lasting mutual space for learning and exchange between local initiatives. The tagline was ‘Because all people cross borders’.

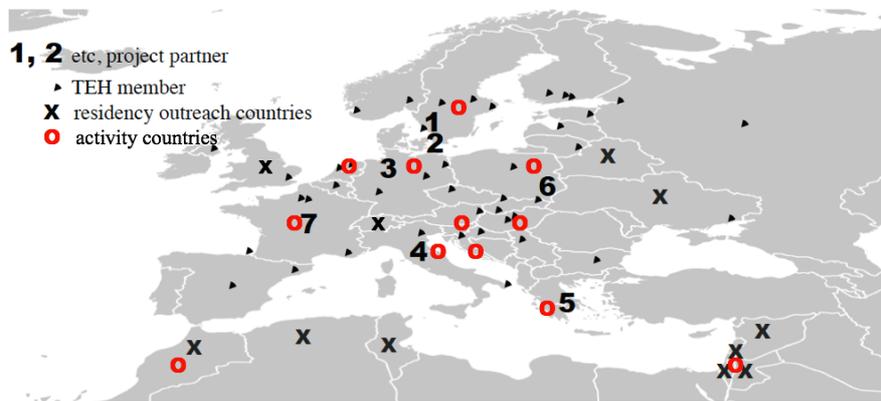
The ‘small-scale cooperation project’ lasted 24 months, gathered seven “grass roots” theatres, culture centres, and networks in Sweden, France, Germany, Poland, Italy and Greece and spent 377.661 euros.

Main achievements include

- Organized more than 276 audience inclusive, often pioneering, workshops, events and shows covering more than 20 artistic disciplines – e.g. craft, film, storytelling, performance, music, and photography - across 34 local projects in 12 countries and reached over 26.000 individuals.
- Co-designed the reporting platform www.GlobalGrandCentral.net as an open, user-friendly, and structured way to share, discuss and archive experiences and lessons.
- Co-founded legacy organisation Global Grand Central non-profit to host platform into the future.

Results compiled by project coordinator Not Quite Ekonomisk förening, Fengersfors, Sweden, on behalf of partners Fonds Roberto Cimetta, Paris, France, Kulturzentrum Schlachthof e.V., Bremen, Germany, ODC Non-profit Theater Company, Athens, Greece, Associazione Laminarie, Bologna, Italy, Europejska Fundacja Kultury Miejskiej, Lublin, Poland, Trans Europe Halles, Lund, Sweden





Objectives of Europe Grand Central (EGC)

1. Transform perceptions of border crossings from suspicion into curiosity.
2. Empower under- and misrepresented individuals and groups through storytelling.
3. Learn and develop methods of local audience development, inclusion, interaction, mobility and outreach, and to spread these methods to interested culture actors across Europe and beyond.

Partners worked on themes such as skewed notions of the Arab world in Europe, personal borders in Germany, artistic borders in Poland, the economic crisis in Greece, rural-urban debates in Sweden, and prejudice and empowerment in Italy. The project was carried out in three phases.

2015 - “Mixing ideas”

- Partners organized “method mixer” meeting in Budapest, Hungary, where they chose to focus the project on objective 3, and began work on www.EuropeGrandCentral.net.
- EGC was selected by European Commission as one of 16 “good examples” deserving special attention ‘in light of the continuous arrival of thousands of refugees and migrants to Europe’.

2016 - “Carrying out projects”

- Administered 15 artistic residencies – nine from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria to Europe, and six from Ukraine, UK and Switzerland to Lublin, Poland.
- Arranged theatre and visual art workshops and shows with adolescents in the Eleusina suburb of Athens, Greece. The work won award by the Greek Ministry of Education.
- Activated neighbourhoods in Bologna, Naples, Marseille, and Barcelona through inclusive theatre and archiving, and hosted 50th anniversary of the Pilaastro suburb of Bologna, Italy.
- Collected 100 in-depth personal border stories in Bremen, Germany, and arranged a photo, story and film exhibition shown at venues in Bremen and Sylt.
- Carried out extensive and inclusive repair, craft, dream, film, food, and border-story workshops and exhibitions in Fengersfors, Bengtsfors and Åmål, Sweden.
- Gathered 609 digital “Bordr-stories” from storytelling workshops and interactive exhibitions.
- Hosted partner meetings and workshops in Vienna, Austria, and Verona, Italy.
- Co-designed the www.GlobalGrandCentral.net platform for project sharing and learning.
- Presented EGC at over a dozen conferences and forums including ‘Voices of Culture’ with the European Commission in Brussels, and ‘Cultural Base’ research conference in Florence.

2017 - “Presenting and learning”

- Launched campaign to spread word of local projects and www.GlobalGrandCentral.net.
- Co-founded legacy organization Global Grand Central non-profit as post-project platform host.
- Engaged platform participation from a total of 64 cultural organizations and professionals in 29 countries on five continents.
- Partners self-reported a multi-faceted mean “success rate” of 84% across the 34 projects.
- Hosted partner, evaluation and legacy meeting in Pula, Croatia.
- Produced the research report ‘*Mobilising networks through web-based archival practice*’ and presented it at the 8th Research Session of the ENCATC Congress in Brussels.