



Swinging Europe

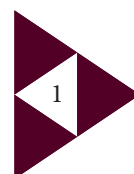
**Annual
Report
2015**



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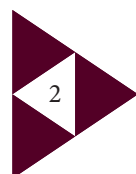
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Introduction

2015 has been an eventful year for Swinging Europe. As organization we have a solid tradition working in local, national, and international fields. 2015 was no exception, where we have conducted projects nationally and abroad. On an international level we have conducted projects and network activities in respectively Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, and Brussels. Among other activities, Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup, who is a musician in the orchestra Grænseløs, has been in Poland to participate in the international improvisation festival, Melting Pot. Nationally the orchestra, PLAY!GROUND LIVE, has according to tradition been on its annual tour around Denmark, we have arranged concerts in connection with The Danish Music Week, and for the second time we have arranged Culture in the Dark – an event we now consider a tradition. The Orchestra Grænseløs has accommodated cultural and musical need through the music of skilled, musical immigrants. In 2015 Grænseløs has ended the two-year project with a recording of their music in the studio The Village. We are looking forward to releasing their album on the street in 2016.

In 2015 there has been changes in the management of the organization. Marie Lilholt is now Executive Director. Per Kap Bech Jensen is Chairman of the board of Swinging Europe, where Martin Pihl has acceded the board as Vice Chairman.

In collaboration, the staff and board have developed a new strategy for the next 5 years in Swinging Europe, where many exiting national and international activities await. In the future we will put even more effort in local and regional culture work, where we wish to gather and extend the existing cultural network around Herning, and facilitate new possibilities for cooperation between the institutions. We wish to attract strong projects and partners to the municipality to secure a blooming cultural life locally, while also strengthening Herning's cultural connections on a national and international level. Our mission is to create cultural synergy across borders, and we strongly believe that we, with our strong fundament in Herning and our good international connections, can help to bring the municipality to the world, and not least the world to the municipality.

We wish you all a happy reading



Executive Director Marie Lilholt

1. About Swinging Europe

1.1 Board

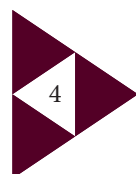
Chairman	Per Kap Bech Jensen
Vice Chairman	Martin Pihl
Board Member	Knud Jeppesen
Board Member	Birgit Jonassen
Board Member	Anne Damsgaard
Board Member	Niels Overgård
Board Member	Vagn Buch Pedersen

1.2 Staff

Executive Director	Marie Lilholt
Former administrative Director and accountant	Kate R. Nielsen (until June 1st)
Former Development Director	Marie Lilholt (until June 1st)
National Producer & Project Coordinator	Cüneyt Pala
National Project Manager	Mette Pilgaard Nielsen
External accountant	Christina Lindberg // Lindberg Economy
Media Officer	Anitta Falsig Laurberg
Communications Officer	Rikke Schmidt Maltesen

1.3 Contact

DSI Swinging Europe
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Website: www.swinging-europe.dk



1.4 Collaborators and Networks

Local Collaborators

Den Jyske Sangskole	Familiehøjskolen	Fermaten
Fællesbo in Gullestrup	Herning Musikskole	Herning Garden
Herning Bibliotekerne	Herning Billedskole	Huset no.7
Kulturelt Samråd Herning	Produktionsskolen	Scene 7
SceneKunstSkolen	Remisen Brande	
Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelts Museum		

National Collaborators

Aarhus Jazz Festival	Brandbjerg Højskole, Jelling	Center of Art and interculture
Copenhagen Jazz Festival	Danis Refugee Council	Den Kreative Skole, Silkeborg
Den Rytmiske Efterskole, Asperup	Ikast Gymnasium	Jazz Denmark
Klejtrup Musikefterskole	Nørgaards Højskole	PH Cafeen, København
Rosengårdskolen, Odense	Rudolf Steiner Skolen, Vejle	The Village

Bilal Irshed – Mentor and conductor in Grænseløs

Bo Stief – Conductor and composer in PLAY!GROUND LIVE

International Collaborators

Art Factory LOFTAS/ Menu fabrikas	Association Marcel Hicter
Associação Sons da Lusofonia	Auditorio de Tenerife
Austrian-Bulgarian Art Project	Bass Culture S.R.L.
B GLAD Production	Central Denmark EU Office
Culture Action Europe	Det Danske Kulturinstitut i Bruxelles
Eclectica Association	Europe Jazz Network.
Euklid	Filharmonia im. Witolda Lutoslawskiego we Wrocławiu
Fundacion Hispania Musica	Fundacio Privada Taller de Musics
Glazbena Mlades Split	Helsinki Arts Initiative OY
Improvised Music Company LTD	Jazztopad
Music:LX	Noordstarfonds vzw
Norrbottnens Lans Landsting	Terzi Petroula
Youth Forum Bitola	

Networks

Creative Europe Desk Denmark

Culture Action Europe

Europe Jazz Network

Oracle Cultural Network

Cultural Council Herning

The Culture Yard

The Culture Collaboration in Central and West Jutland.

2. National projects

In Swinging Europe we have many local and national projects, and 2015 has offered several exiting activities. Three persons from the orchestra Grænseløs have received personal mentoring and the orchestra has recorded an album, the orchestra, PLAY! GROUND LIVE, has been on their annual tour around Denmark; we have organized several concerts in the area of Herning, and worked with the development of exciting new projects and networks. These activities are all helping to strengthen Swinging Europe's cultural network and our cultural efforts in both Denmark and abroad.



2.1 Grænseløs (Borderless)

The orchestra Grænseløs was created in 2013, where Swinging Europe and Jazz Danmark selected 10 talented musicians with different nationality.

When I first arrived at the workshop and was for the first time was thrown out into an improvisation in Arabic I became curious to learn more, and this wish was granted, when I became a part of the orchestra Grænseløs (...) It was both a challenges but also very instructive to find out how different things are done whether you are from Denmark, Syria or Turkey. – Jamile Alfer, member of Grænseløs.

Grænseløs developed quickly and the orchestra has played several concerts at music venues, churches and asylum centres all over the country.

Bilal Irshed is mentor and conductor in Grænseløs, and he has been a part of the orchestra from the beginning.

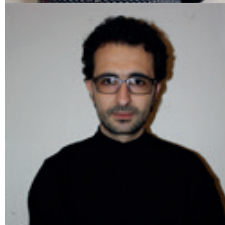


Grænseløs has been a very interesting project and a great learning process for both the musicians and for me personally. One of the exiting challenges was to get all the musicians to play together and to create a united sound despite ethnical and musical differences. As the mentor my job was to show them how we could work together and use our differences to our advantage. It has been really awarding to se the development of the musicians and our common sound. – Bilal Irshed, mentor in Grænseløs.

In 2015 Swinging Europe and Jazz Danmark, in consultation with Bilal Irshed, chose three members of Grænseløs to take part in a personal mentoring programme to strengthen their continued musical development and their way into the music business.



Jamile Alfer (mentor Rikke Frisk) worked together with Søren Møller, who helped her to record her music.



Maher Mahmoud (mentor Kat Jarby) worked on a personal website and to get more gigs in both Denmark and abroad.



Chaher Ali Murtada (mentor Bo Stief) received personal music lessons from Bo Stief.

The most important thing in Grænseløs was that it gathered musicians, which are still new in the Danish music scene. (...) It was a great help to begin as a new music-citizen in Denmark. – Maher Mahmoud, member of Grænseløs.

At the end of August, the orchestra recorded their music in the studio The Village in Copenhagen. The recording is the culmination of the two-year project, which in its present form is nearing completion. It has been two years filled with sensuous musicality, and we are looking forward to releasing the album in 2016.

Activities in Grænseløs 2015

Date	Aktivity
Jan. – Aug.	Personal mentoring program
Aug. 29 th – 30 th	Recording in the studio The Village, Copenhagen

Musicians in Grænseløs 2015

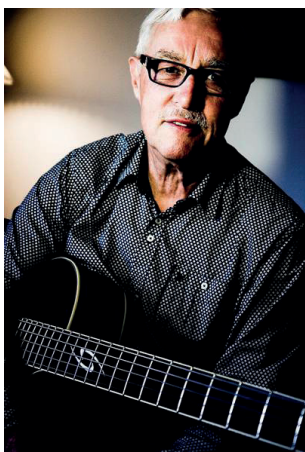
Name	Instrument	Nationality
Bilal Irshed	Oud & Mentor	Palestine
Doğan Şahin	Kemane, Saz & Vocal	Turkey
Chaher Ali Murtada	Bass	Syria
Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup	Percussion, Davul & vocals	Denmark
Maher Mahmoud	Oud	Syria
Jamile Jamal Alfer	Vocals	Lebanon
Emil Palme	Mandolin, Guitar & Saz	Denmark
Saer El-Jaichi	Percussion, Darbuka & Cajun	Palestine
Adam Woer	Transverse flute	Denmark
Ayman Khattar	Arabic Violin	Palestine



2.2 PLAY!GROUND LIVE

PLAY!GROUND LIVE is a national talent orchestra that is created each year with talented musicians in the age of 15 to 22, which play between 10 and 15 concerts in an annual one-week Denmark tour. The young musicians are selected annually through two try outs. Bo Stief, who is the leader of the orchestra, emphasises on both the musical and social balance in the final composition of the orchestra.

Young people are a group that I have always loved to work with. I want to give young people an opportunity to develop as musicians, and to experience the professional music scene – a unique opportunity, which they only receive through PLAY!GROUND LIVE. – Bo Stief, Composer and Conductor in PLAY!GROUND LIVE.



Bo Stief is an acclaimed musician at both a national and international level. He composes and conducts the music in PLAY!GROUND LIVE, which is since given new life in the hands of the young musicians. Bo has many years of experience working with young people and talent development, and he takes a lot of effort in both the high musical level and the social aspects of the tour.

It has been instructive to be on tour and see how hard it really is, when you are really tired but still have to look happy on stage and play well every time. The whole experience has been instructive. Bo is so full of joy and good stories that you just listen to him and get inspired. Bo has certainly given me the inspiration to practice and make my own music.” – Alberte Svenningsen, musician in PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2015

In April 2015 10 young, talented musicians played 12 concerts on a six-day tour. Besides the annual tour, the orchestra gathered again in July to play at respectively Copenhagen Jazz Festival and Aarhus Jazz Festival.

They are quite young and probably without a great concert experience. But here they showed what talent, contemplation, joy, and not least hard work can lead to. We heard ten young musicians, all of which will go far if they stick to playing music. (...) I had to shed a tear of joy over the enthusiasm and the enormous potential that awaits other music lovers around Denmark. - Excerpt from a review by music consultant Niels Christensen

In 2016 PLAY!GROUND LIVE has its 15-year anniversary and we are pleased to present even more concerts across the country including an anniversary concert at the Town hall of Herning municipality.

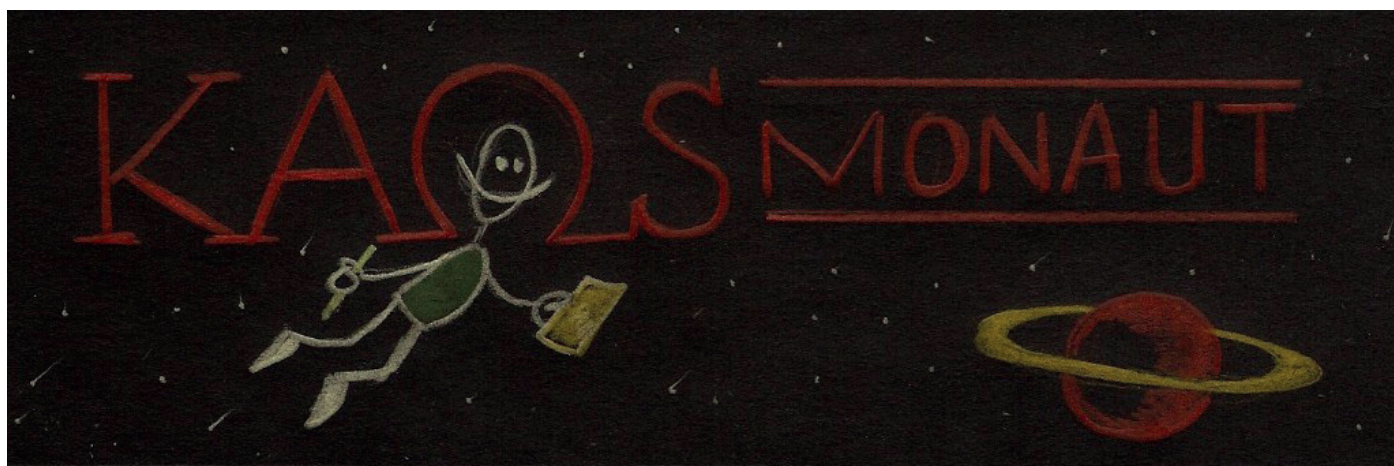


Activities in PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2015

Date	Aktivitet
Jan. 11 th	Try out for PLAY! GROUND LIVE 2015, Herning
Jan. 18 th	Try out for PLAY! GROUND LIVE 2015, Gentofte
April 2 nd - 5 th	Band Camp og rehearsal at Nørgaards Højskole, Bjerringbro
April 5 th	Concert at Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelts Museum, Herning
April 6 th	Concert at Brandbjerg Højskole, Jelling
April 7 th	Concert at Ikast Gymnasium, Ikast
April 7 th	Concert at Produktionsskolen, Herning
April 7 th	Concert at Herning Bibliotek/library
April 7 th	Concert at Familiehøjskolen, Herning
April 8 th	Concert at Rudolf Steiner Skolen, Vejle
April 8 th	Concert at Klejtrup Musikefterskole, Klejtrup
April 8 th	Concert at Den Kreative Skole, Silkeborg
April 9 th	Concert at Rosengårdsskolen, Odense
April 9 th	Concert at Den Rytmske Efterskole, Asperup
April 10 th	Concert at PH Cafeen, Copenhagen
July 12 th	Concert at PH Cafeen, Copenhagen Jazz Festival
July 13 th	Klostertorvet, Aarhus Jazz Festival

Musicians in PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2015

Name	Instrument
Alberte Svenningsen	Saxophone
Bo Stief	Bass, Conductor & Composer
Gustav Meding	Guitar
Gustav Hagelskjær	Drums
Iris Poparic	Vocals & Rap
Julius Georg Jensen	Keyboard
Justo Gambula	Bass
Lasse Vistisen	Bass
Lucas Nygaard	Drums & Percussion
Paakow Tawiah	Trombone
Rasmus Broegaard	Guitar



2.3 KAOSmonaut

In KAOSmonaut Cüneyt Pala offers creative services through Swinging Europe. During 2015 we have benefited from Cüneyt's graphic capabilities in the making of information materials and posters - for instance in connection with The innovation festival Afsnit I and The Culture Meeting at Mors.

At The Culture Meeting at Mors Cüneyt also drew a graphic summary of the panel discussion, Strategic intelligent conversation with many perspectives - Thinking across, moderated by Helle Solvang.



2.4 MoorJazz

In the past decade MoorJazz has organized jazz concerts in both Herning and the surrounding region. In cooperation with the music venue Fermaten in Herning MoorJazz annually organizes about 10-12 concerts.

The purpose of MoorJazz is to bring major national and international jazz musicians to the region, and to spread the passion of jazz music and its many subgenres.



The Chairman of MoorJazz is Niels Overgård, who is a passionate music lover and jazz nerd. Niels is also responsible for the blog Scandinavian Jazz, which is one of the most read blogs on Jazz.



Concerts in MoorJazz 2015

Date	Concerts at Fermaten
Feb. 5 th	Sinne Eeg
Feb. 11 th	Jakob Bro
Feb. 19 th	Doktor Doktor
March 8 th	Jan Harbeck
April 15 th	Bremer/McCoy
May 7 th	Dino with Strings
May 15 th	Ibrahim Electric
Sept. 17 th	Søren Ulrik Thomsen & Det Glemte Kvarter
Sept. 27 th	Pierre Dørge & New Jungle Orchestra
Oct. 25 th	Jarrold Lawson
Oct. 27 th	Indra
Oct. 30 th	Chr. Vuust & Aaron Parks
Nov. 3 rd	Snarky Puppy

2.5 The Danish Music Week

In The Danish Music Week, which always takes place in week 44, we celebrate Danish and Danish-produced music all over the country. In this occasion Swinging Europe arranged a free double concert on Wednesday evening in Gullestrup, Herning, where the trio Mellem Linjerne (Between the Lines) and the duo Thomas Hermannsen & Anika Nielsen played. Thursday the people travelling by train between Herning and Silkeborg got an additional musical experience on their journey. Rolf Heitman & Cüneyt Pala played for the passengers in the morning, while the trio Mellem Linjerne played for the passengers in the evening.

Activities in The Danish Music Week 2015

Date	Concert	Place
Oct. 28 th	Mellem Linjerne	Gullestrup, Herning.
Oct. 28 th	Thomas Hermannsen & Anika Nielsen	Gullestrup, Herning.
Oct. 29 th	Rolf Heitman & Cüneyt Pala	The train between Herning and Silkeborg
Oct. 29 th	Mellem Linjerne	The train between Herning and Silkeborg

2.6 Culture in the Dark

November 20th Culture in the Dark was held for the second time in Kulturgården (The Culture Yard) in Herning. The Culture Yard, which is an association of all the cultural institutions in Nørregade 7, and the libraries in Herning are behind the annual project. Culture in the Dark is an event where we open up our doors for each other and people from outside and give an insight into the cultural work that takes place in the municipality. The evening began with music, speeches and a singing procession that walked with small shining lights in the dark. Subsequently, visitors could walk around and visit all the institutions at The Culture Yard and participate in the many different activities. At Swinging Europe we transformed our office into a cosy cinema, where we showed our self-produced documentaries about the orchestras Grænseløs and Blood, Sweat, Drum+Bass.



Organizers behind Culture in the Dark 2015

DSI Swinging Europe	Den Jyske Sangskole	Ensemble Midt Vest
Herning Filmværksted	Kulturelt Samråd Herning	Herning Bibliotekerne
Herning Billedskole	Herning Garden	Herning Musikskole
Huset No7	Scene 7	Team Teatret

2.7 The Cultural Conference at Mors

From the 20th to 22nd of August, the traditional Cultural Conference at Mors took place. Swinging Europe participated in the conference, and through various activities we informed about the organization and our project, Festival on the run!. This we did through a drawing debate between politician, Uffe Elbæk, and illustrator, Anders Morgenthaler. They discussed art's influence on people and our communities, and how to use cultural experiences to build bridges between people with different cultural backgrounds.



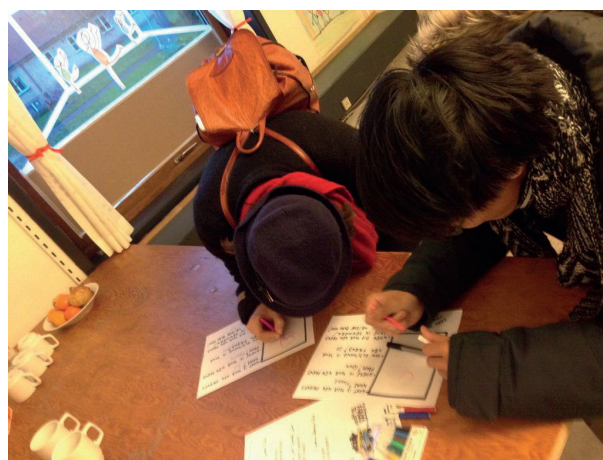
Marie Lilholt participated in the panel discussion, Global or Local mindset, organized by the Danish Cultural Institute EU in Brussels, which discussed the value of international cultural cooperation. As an additional activity Swinging Europe had brought instruments to the conference, and could thus invite to pop up jam sessions where everyone could take part in the music.

Activities at Cultural Conference at Mors 2015

Date	Activity	Actor	Subject
Aug. 20 th	Drawing debate	Uffe Elbæk & Anders Morgenthaler	Art and culture's influence on man and community Project, Festival on the run!
Aug. 21 st	Graphic summery of a panel discussion by Cüneyt Pala	Charlotte Weitze Helle solvang Lene Andersen Steen Rasmussen	<i>Strategic intelligent conversation with many perspectives</i> - <i>Thinking across</i> Art and culture in society.
Aug. 22 nd	Panel discussion	Boguslawa Sochanska Dennis Wright Frantz Nielsen Jacob Vedelsby Lennart von Haffner Marie Lilholt Mathias Lysholm Faaborg Per Høgh Ulla Astman	Global or Local mindset International cultural collaboration.
Aug. 20th -22nd	Pop Up jam sessions	Open event	Music an community

2.8 InVITation Lab

Invitation Lab is a regional initiative between seven municipalities, with the libraries of Herning as project holders. The initiative runs from 2015 to 2018 and the purpose is to use culture as the foundation and drive for concrete, democratic solutions. The principal values of the project are: Local ownership, young people's ownership, community, and co-creation of positive change. Our mission is to reinforce the active citizenship of young people between 14 and 25, while developing a number of new methods for youth participation in general. It will ultimately provide strengthened capacity and awareness among the cultural institutions in relation to act as an educational institution for the democratic citizens of the future, and to promote active citizenship among young people. InVITation Lab is going to be a developing laboratory that engages young people to invent and test new democratic, inclusive processes of problem solving through workshops, using methodologies from art and culture. Specifically we invite groups of young people to participate in an inVITation Lab workshop where they work together to create new solutions to local challenges and act on them. The workshops will take place in the collaborating municipalities Herning, Holstebro, Ikast-Brandø, Lemvig, Ringkøbing-Skjern, Skive and Struer, all of which are included in the project. The local libraries are project holders, while Swinging Europe and SceneKunstSkolen (The Performing Art School) travel with inVITation Lab, and facilitate the workshops in the specific municipalities. There are going to be a total of seven InVITation Labs until a final joint InVITation Lab Festival in 2017.



Additionally we engage educational and other cultural institutions locally in each municipality, as the project moves around the region. We have also made contact with an English / Spanish research team led by Professor Rafael Rodriguez, who works with young people and new forms of democratic participation. The research team contributes with international contacts and partners. Contact is made to Frontløberne (Frontrunners) and KaosPiloterne (ChaosPilots) regarding the development of methodologies and facilitation of the processes in InVITation Lab.

Activities in InVITAtion Lab 2015

Date	Activity
Aug. – Dec.	Gathering the municipalities. Setting down the project group. Developing visions and the founding concept of InVITAtion Lab.
Dec. 3rd	Development conference and workshop for all actors in InVITAtion Lab: - Developing concrete ideas to content and physical frames for the workshops in the municipalities. - Budget presentation.

Collaborators and municipalities in InVITAtion Lab 2015

Municipalities	Collaborators
Struer	The library in Struer
Skive	The library in Skive
Ringkøbing-Skjern	The libraries in Ringkøbing-Skjern
Lemvig	The library in Lemvig
Ikast-Brande	The library in Ikast-Brande
Holstebro	The libraries in Holstebro
Herning	The library in Herning
DSI Swinging Europe	
SceneKunstSkolen in Herning	

2.9 Festival on the run!

Festival on the run! is Swinging Europe's vision of art and culture's capacity to build bridges across ethnic and cultural differences. The specific objective is to create a travelling cultural festival designed and carried out in co-creation between newly arrived refugees and local citizens. It is our wish that the festival should reflect the communities, in which it takes place, so the concept is not a package deal for a travelling festival, but a framing that can be deployed and adapted into the individual communities. In this way, Festival on the run! helps to create understanding, dialogue, and mutual respect between refugees and host communities. The framework of the festival is big and includes art, music, food and sports - the common denominator is experiences that you can share with each other. The increased migration of refugees puts a lot of pressure on municipalities and local communities, and we have to take on this challenge from all the platforms we have available. We believe that a welcoming reception of the refugees strengthens the possibility of successful integration in the local communities.

In 2015 we have continuously been working on the development of the Festival on the run!. In the process, we have gained valuable inputs from potential partners and other interested, all of whom have contributed with their ideas on how best to make cultural initiatives that make a difference for those involved. Festival on the run! was at the centre of all our activities at The Cultural Conference at Mors. As mentioned, we facilitated an alternative drawing debate between Politician, Uffe Elbæk, and Illustrator, Anders Morgenthaler, who discussed the question of art's ability to build bridges across cultural differences. This resulted in some very exciting views, which inspired the development of the festival.



In October Marie Lilholt and Mette Pilgaard Nielsen were on a network visit to Brussels with main focus on Festival on the run!. Here, they attended meetings with the Danish Cultural Institute in Brussels and with potential partners. They received inputs on the project, and they strengthened the network around Swinging Europe. (Read more about The Danish Cultural Institute EU in Brussels in the section 4. Networks).



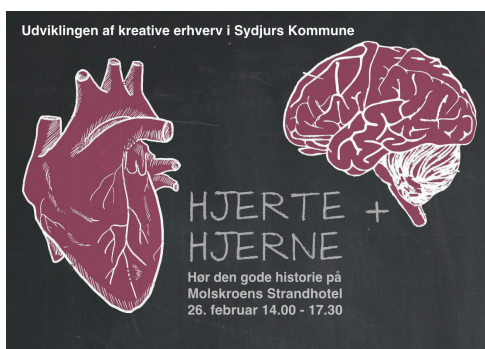
In November Swinging Europe was among the finalists in the international innovation competition, Afsnit I (Section I), with the theme “Rethink Living”. We did not win the main prize, but we got a lot of good inputs and new network contacts that will benefit the development of the project. (Read more about the Afsnit I in the section 3. International Activities). Festival on the run! is still developing and many of the individual elements of the festival will be used in other future projects that focus on positive diversity and on bringing people together across both small and large borders.

2.10 Work in East and West

Swinging Europe participates in many large and small national activities throughout the year. The following is a selection of the activities from 2015, which goes beyond our regular project work.

Innovatorium in Herning

Innovatorium is a local innovation and business network, which facilitate new cooperation and business models. In collaboration with The Creative Cooperativ Movement – amba2, Innovatorium has initiated a new development to rethink the visions of the network. Swinging Europe is participating in this process, and on the 10th of December Marie Lilholt took part in a workshop concerning the development. The wish is to create a work community for creative companies that take the sense of community one step further in relation to the exchange of work and competences. This is to support the professional collaboration, and to give visibility to the network's competences.



Heart + Brain

On February 26th Marie Lilholt participated in a network event at The Malt Factory in the municipality of Syddjurs on behalf of Swinging Europe. The event was about international work, and the development of creative industries, and offered inspiring presentations from key figures in Danish cultural life, and an international perspective from Cultural Consultant, Georg Justus Schwarz, from Munich.

Store Blæsedag (Great Brass Day)

On March 4th Swinging Europe participated in a combined workshop and network conference about the growth layer of brass players in the Central Region. The event was organized by Holstebro Music School, and ended with a fine concert from brass players of all ages.

The European Council's information event

As representative of Swinging Europe, Mette Pilgaard Nielsen attended the European Council's information event, Enlightenment, inspiration and network, in Aarhus on May 28th. The theme of the event was communications and networking across borders in Europe. It provided both inspiration and tools for our transnational work.

EUROPA
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Dialogue event on Regional Music Venues

On September 10th Swinging Europe, represented by Mette Pilgaard Nielsen, attended a dialogue event in Aarhus about the visions and strategies of regional music venues in the future.

Swinging Europe participated to influence the musical agenda and to support local initiatives.

Culture meeting at Nørre Vosborg

From November 26th to 27th Marie Lilholt participated in a meeting for culture leaders at the manor, Nørre Vosborg.

The meeting was moderated by Jesper Bay, and here the participants discussed the common challenges for cultural institutions, the opportunities of cooperation across institutions and municipalities, how to create awareness of individual projects, and not least the potential of wanting to “achieve the impossible”.

The meeting gave rise to good professional inputs, the development of new projects and relations, as well as a strengthened cohesion within The Culture Collaboration.



3. International Projects

Transnational cooperation is part of Swinging Europe's DNA, and we give very high priority to cultural exchange across borders. This year we have participated in several cultural projects and networking events, where we have strengthened our international position, and created a breeding ground for new projects, fruitful networks, and collaborative relations.

3.1 Afsnit I (Section I) – Innovation festival

In November, Swinging Europe was among the finalists in the international innovation festival Afsnit I. Afsnit I is a mobile festival, which changes host municipality every year, and in cooperation with the host municipality creates the framework around an innovative festival. Here, selected projects have the opportunity to receive competent inputs, and eventually compete for a cash prize.

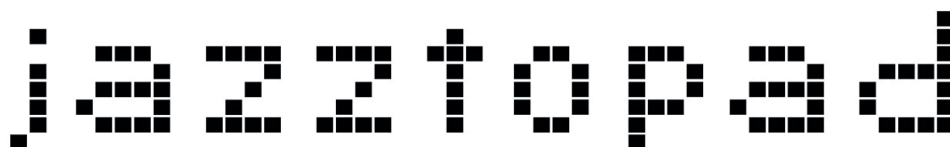


In 2015 the municipality of Egedal organized the festival, and they did a really good job as host. It was obvious that there were great support from the surrounding community, and Egedal managed to highlight and promote many of the city's own forces during the festival.

I am proud that the Municipality of Egedal is hosting this year's innovation festival, which I hope will engage many innovators, citizens and businesses - also in the preparation and conduct of the festival. Innovation and development are crucial if we are to plan for the future. This festival will certainly give us a lot innovative solutions. Furthermore, the festival is fully in line with the council's vision of a closer partnership with citizens to create a better Egedal. – Mayor, Willy Eliassen.

The theme of this year's festival was "Rethink Living" and the participating projects should all rethink everyday life, society, and global relationships, in a way that challenge negative social structures and establish new relationships between people.

Out of 133 applicants, Swinging Europe's project Festival on the run! was one of 26 selected to participate in Afsnit I. We developed the project through workshops and input sessions with mentors, judges and visitors. Swinging Europe did not win the first prize, but we got a lot of inputs, networks, and visibility, all for the benefit of the project and our organization.



3.2 Melting Pot

Melting Pot is a European initiative created by the organization, Jazztopad, where Swinging Europe is one of the actors. The project aims to open the stages for young European musicians, who create new compositions through improvisation and collaboration across genres, art forms, and aesthetic point of view. There have now been a total of seven Labs and in 2016 Melting Pot culminates as part of the European Capital of Culture 2016 in Wrocław, where artists from Melting Pot will participate in improvisations and concerts around the city. The former Melting Pot Labs have focused on improvisation in jazz and world music, the interface between music and respectively pictures, sculptures, film, poetry, and sound as installation. The focus of this year's Melting Pot Lab 7 was the interface between music, dance, and movement. In 2015 the partner countries were Belgium, Luxembourg, Poland, Germany, and Denmark. Our representative from Swinging Europe was Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup, who is a singer and percussionist, and member of the orchestra, Grænseløs.

Taking part of the Melting Pot Lab in Wrocław, Poland, was a great experience. In the rehearsals we, the musician group, cooperated with a local modern dance troupe, where I were able to use my experience from previous similar projects. Thus I worked as one of "facilitators" musicians / dancers in between. It was interesting to meet other musicians from, respectively, Poland, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. The musician group had a good musical collaboration from the beginning and a good sound together, and we all had a lot of respect for each other's differences. - Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup, musician in Melting Pot 2015



Aktører i Melting Pot 2015

Country	Organisation	Actor	Instrument / Art form
Poland	Jazztopad	Piotr Damasiewicz	Trompet & curator
		Igor Gawlikowski	Guitar
	Niezależnej Manufaktury Tanecznej	Ewa Staroń	Dancer
		Joanna Potkowska	Dancer
		Kaja Osóbka	Dancer
		Agnieszka Durzyńska	Dancer
		Agnieszka Kabath	Documentary
		Paweł Kiliński	Documentary
Belgium	Handelbeurs Concertzaal	Simon Segers	Percussion
Germany	JazzWerkRuhr	Caspar van Meel	Contrabass
Luxembourg	Music LX	Michael Reis	Piano
Denmark	DSI Swinging Europe	Mette Marie Jensen Ørnstrup	Vocals



3.3 Like a Jazz Machine

The Jazz Festival, Like a Jazz Machine, is organized by Music: LX and has existed since 2012. It takes place in Dudelange in Luxembourg, and works as a transnational platform for professional and upcoming artists, cultural workers and citizens with an interest in experimental jazz music. From May 14th to 17th Cüneyt Pala represented Swinging Europe at the festival. Cüneyt used the opportunity to extend the organization's network and to establish contact with potential partners for our future project Culture ShoX.

3.4 Abracadabra – Platform for engaging Europe through music

Abracadabra (ADAPTOR) is a platform that aims to engage cultural forces through international and interdisciplinary art projects across Europe. We want to promote openness and cohesion in Europe through cultural exchange and cooperation. We will do this through the enhancement and promotion of upcoming talents from a wide variety of music genres. The international platform consists currently of 20 players from 16 different countries. The project is a further development of the former platform European Circuit of Interludes, which we initiated in 2014. In 2015 Abracadabra was in the finals to receive funding from European Platforms by Creative Europe. The project received 81 out of 100 points, and was thus only 3 points from receiving economical support. We are therefore still working on the project and hope to realize it in cooperation with the other actors.

Collaborators in Abracadabra 2015

Country	Organisation	Focus
Belgium	Noordstarfonds vzw	Concert organizer – Handelsbeurs.
Bulgaria	Austrian-Bulgarian Art Project	Cross-aesthetic art project.
Bulgaria	Eclectica Association	International dissemination of art.
Denmark	JazzDanmark	Promotion of jazz music.
Belgium	Europe Jazz Network	European network for jazz music.
Finland	Helsinki Arts Initiative OY	European and Asian cultural collaboration.
Grece	Terzi Petroula	Event management and mentor program.
Ireland	Improvised Music Company LTD	Support of upcoming artists.
Italy	Bass Culture S.R.L.	Booker and disseminator of cultural events.
Croatia	B GLAD Production (B GLAD)	Promotion of performative art and international exchange.
Croatia	Glazbena Mladež Split	Mentor program and promotion of young upcoming artists.
Lithuania	Art Factory LOFTAS/ Menu fabrikas	Promotion of other non-profit projects.
Luxembourg	Music:LX	Promotion of international music exchange
Macedonia	Youth Forum Bitola	Anti-discrimination of marginalized groups.
Poland	Filharmonia im. Witolda Lutoslawskiego we Wroclawiu	Concert and festival organizer.
Portugal	Associação Sons da Lusofonia (ASL)	Cultural social work.
Spain	Auditorio de Tenerife (ADT)	Promotion of regional culture in Spain.
Spain	Fundacio Privada Taller de Musics	Music education.
Spain	Fundacion Hispania Musica	Education and development of Camber music.
Sweden	Norrbottnens Lans Landsting	Two professional ensembles and mentor program for upcoming artists.

3.5 Work in East and West

Swinging Europe is participating in several international activities during the year. The following is a selection of the activities from 2015, which goes beyond our regular project work.

Network activities in Brussels

From October 5th to 8th Marie Lilholt and Mette Pilgaard Nielsen were on a network visit to Belgium - specifically at the Danish Cultural Institute in Brussels, who is an important partner for Swinging Europe.



The main focus of the trip was the project Festival on the run! and the role and capacity of culture in relation to the integration of refugees and migrants. Marie and Mette had several good meetings in the Danish Cultural Institute in Brussels and with other organizations and people who are working with culture and integration.

The trip resulted in important inputs for Festival on the run! and gave inspiration for further development of the project. It was also a good opportunity to nurture and expand the organization's international network.

Meetings in Brussels 2015

Organizations	Participants	Focus
Central Denmark EU Office MET-X	Åse Højlund Nielsen Eleen Daneels & Vital Schraenen	Festival on the run!. The Project MegafoniX.
The Danish Cultural Institute EU Brussels	Camilla Polmer Christoffer Krogh Else Christensen-Redzepovic Rosalia Fenger	Festival on the run!
Passa Porta	Mien Stoffels & Nathalie Goethals	Culture and integration. ICORN-residency-programme.
Culture Action Europe	Kathrine Heid	Brokering Migrants' culturel Participation (MCP Broker).
The City Theatre in Brussels (KVS) European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)	An Van der Donckt Aldo Xhani	Culture and integration. Active citizenship.
European Council of Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)	Rita Carvalho	Culture and integration.

General assembly of Europe Jazz Network

From September 24th to 27th members from the Europe Jazz Network gathered in Budapest at the annual general assembly. The general assembly was held in connection with the European Jazz Conference, and Marie Lilholt participated on behalf of Swinging Europe. At the general assembly we discussed the increasing pressure of refugees, and the role of culture in terms of integration. This resulted in a manifesto adopted by all present members from the Europe Jazz Network.

As the leading network of 106 jazz promoters from 31 European countries, we celebrate the fact that jazz has always broken down barriers, developed new musical forms through collaboration between cultures, and provided a context in which musicians fleeing persecution in their native countries have been welcomed in other places where they can thrive and develop their art. (...) As a network we pledge that collectively and individually we will do all we can to influence national and European policy and public awareness by demonstrating positive examples through our work of the benefits of cross-cultural collaboration. – Excerpt of the manifesto from the general assembly in Europe Jazz Network

General assembly of Culture Action Europe

Swinging Europe is a member of Culture Action Europe and from October 15th to 17th Mette Pilgaard Nielsen participated in the annual general assembly in Sweden. The assembly was followed by the conference, “Beyond the Obvious”, where more than 200 cultural leaders, practitioners, and thinkers from all over Europe gathered with political representatives from the EU and local institutions. The theme of this year’s conference was the future borders and gaps – the balance between the conditions of a meaningful, cultural public sphere on one hand and the private and commercial interests on the other. This was examined from three perspectives: Express - which examined the factors that threaten freedom of speech and tried to identify new ways of protecting this right. Create – which, with a particular focus on the digital sphere, examined the relationship between the right to create and enjoy culture and the right to remuneration for the artistic work. Participation - which discussed the value of active and contributing citizen in the cultural life.

International Residencies

On behalf of the Swinging Europe Marie Lilholt participated in two international residencies in 2015, which was organized by Association Marcel Hicter. The residencies had participants from both Europe and the Middle East. The first phase in May was held in Gdansk, Poland, at The Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre, while the second phase in October was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, at the Centre for Urban Culture Kino Siska. The themes of the two residencies were European culture and the cultural aspects in relation to globalization and mediatization. Through presentations and inputs from local culture actors Marie had the opportunity to compare working methods and develop ideas of new projects, including Festival on the run!. Furthermore, her participation strengthened and expanded the organizations international network.



4. Network

Swinging Europe takes a lot of effort in local, national and international networking. We do this to receive get and give important inputs, to support cultural exchange, and because we know that by working together we can realize more of our goals and help others realize their goals. Locally, our goal is to facilitate and expand existing and new cultural networks around Herning, so as to maintain a thriving and innovative cultural environment. At the same time we emphasize on the international network because we are convinced that international co-operation is beneficial to both the local environment and transnational relations in general.



4.1 Creative Europe Desk Denmark

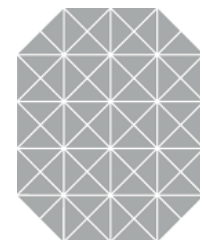
Creative Europe is a program, which aims to strengthen the circulation of cultural work, artistic creations and cultural heritage on a transnational level. Creative Europe Desk Denmark is the primary disseminator of the program in Denmark. Swinging Europe is represented in the network around the Creative Europe Desk Denmark, which work for an open, collaborative and cultural strong Europe.

4.2 Culture Action Europe

Culture Action Europe is a transnational cultural network that emphasizes on culture in the public debate, and believes that culture can form the basis for innovative, sustainable, and democratic development. Swinging Europe is a member of Culture Action Europe.

4.3 Oracle Cultural Network

Swinging Europe is part of the network Oracle Cultural Network, which was founded by people from the organization Association Marcel Hicter in 1993. Oracle Cultural Network focuses on European cultural and transnational projects, and currently it has members from 41 countries. Oracle Cultural Network supports intercultural cooperation across borders in Europe, and wants to promote the sense of cohesion through the sharing of knowledge and acceptance of cultural diversity. This happens through the spreading of cultural awareness, networking, and initiatives in the form of seminars, workshops and residencies.



**ORACLE
CULTURAL
NETWORK**

4.4 The Danish Cultural Institute in Brussels

As mentioned, the Danish Cultural Institute in Brussels is an important partner for Swinging Europe. They work with international networking and mutual exchange of experience across national borders. As part of the network around the Danish Cultural Institute in Brussels, we have access to competent inputs on our projects, potential partners, and a lot of knowledge that we benefit from in our work.



4.5 Europe Jazz Network

Europe Jazz Network promotes creative modern jazz music and musical exchange between European countries. There are over 100 organizations from 31 countries represented in the network. In Europe Jazz Network we advocate for an increased cultural activity, transnational cooperation, and the sharing of knowledge across borders.

4.6 Cultural Council Herning

Cultural Council Herning is an organization for cultural institutions and associations in Herning and their purpose is to support the local cultural initiatives. Marie Lilholt represents Swinging Europe in the executive committee of Cultural Council Herning.



4.7 The Culture Collaboration in Central and Western Jutland

The main purpose of The Culture Collaboration in Central and Western Jutland is to create good conditions for the cultural life in Central and Western Jutland, and to make the cultural initiatives visible at a national and international level. Through a strong regional network, municipalities and individual actors jointly strengthen and expand the cultural activities in local areas.

The Culture Collaboration in Central and Western Jutland is behind a recurring cultural festival, which takes place in the seven member municipalities. In 2017 the festival will be held for the fourth time. We are engaged in the development of the upcoming festival, Off Road, which sets unpredictability and the unexplored in the center. The festival of different and unfamiliar roads will bring big and small cultural experiences to the people. Marie Lilholt represents Swinging Europe in the task force, and in June and October she participated in two development workshops. We look forward to creating a lot of activities around festival Off Road in 2017.

5. Future projects

There are several good projects in store for 2016, which will be a very eventful year for Swinging Europe. At a national level, we will, in addition to our regular projects, initiate the first InVITation Labs in the collaborative municipalities in the Region, and develop the local festival in Gullestrup, Herning in collaboration with local forces. On an international level we are going to develop the the Nordic talent development project PLAY!GROUND LIVE NORDIC, the European integration project Culture ShoX, the network project NIMPE and the inclusions project DREAMS. Festival on the run! will be continued in other constellations and several of the elements from the project will be used in other future activities.



5.1 Local activities in Gullestrup

In cooperation with local associations in Gullestrup Swinging Europe will help to facilitate the development of a locally based festival that aims to promote the sense of community in Gullestrup and foster relationships across age and culture. On December 14th Mette Pilgaard Nielsen, Cüneyt pala and Rikke Schmidt Maltesen facilitated the first developmental workshop in Gullestrup. Citizens and representative from local associations participated in the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to bring local forces in play and generate ideas for the project's development. Cüneyt implemented different exercises to help the flow of ideas, and all participants were very positive and contributing. Furthermore the participants discussed potential locations and dissemination of the festival. We are looking forward to the collaboration.

5.2 PLAY!GROUND LIVE - 15th anniversary

In 2016, the orchestra PLAY!GROUND LIVE and Bo Stief can celebrate it's 15th anniversary. We will celebrate the occasion with a big anniversary concert and reception at the town hall in Herning. Here we hope to gather many different cultural actors, interested citizens, and not least former musicians from the earlier orchestras. In 2016 we will furthermore develop the concept of PLAY!GROUND LIVE into a larger Nordic cooperation project: PLAY!GROUND LIVE NORDIC.



With Bo Stief as artistic director, the project will create a platform in motion, from where it is possible to share experiences and knowledge about the talent development of young musicians. The overall aim is to give young Nordic musicians a musical and practical experience on a Nordic tour that develop them and make them take an active responsibility of both the music and their musical careers. We also wish to promote musical exchanges in the Nordic region and create an understanding of the diversity and similarities and a sense of cohesion between the Nordic countries.

5.3 Culture ShoX

Culture ShoX is a European project. Here we will explore new methods of inclusion and intercultural dialogue between young Europeans and newcomers through art and culture. Due to war and political instability a record high number of refugees seek security in Europe. In Europe we have a common responsibility to work together and address the challenges of this situation. The rationale of the project is that the better you know, understand and relate to one and other, the better we can build a sustainable future with each other. We will build knowledge, understanding and relations through informal, non-formal and youth-to-youth learning in artistic co-creating activities in three activities – one in each of the three partner countries. This way we will use art as a mean to promote a broader sense of inclusion in the European saying “United in diversity”.

Swinging Europe is the lead partner and will develop the project in collaboration with the 2-4 European partner organisations. The partner organizations differentiate from each other in terms of aesthetic, methodological and structural approaches focusing different performative arts.. This frame will secure artistic means for non-formal and youth-to-youth learning promoting co-creation and collaboration between the young participants.

5.4 NIMPE

– Network for the Internationalization of Music Producers in Europe

Swinging Europe is the Danish project partner in NIMPE - Network for the Internationalization of Music Producers in Europe. NIMPE will provide tools for small companies that produce live music, so they better can assess the market, and promote their international activities.

It is a cooperative under Creative Europe with a total of six partners: Italy, Great Britain, Slovenia, Greece, France and Denmark. Assomusica from Italy is the project manager for NIMPE. We have applied for funding from Cooperation Projects by Creative Europe, and we await an answer in March 2016.

5.5 DREAMS – Discussions to Reduce European Anti-Migrant Stigmatisation

The DREAMS project aims to combat the stigmatisation of immigrants in Europe by involving European citizens and immigrants in discussions. University of Wolverhampton in United Kingdom is the project holder and Swinging Europe is project partner together with Szkola Wyzsza Psychologii Społecznej in Poland.

The partners will each host an event during a local cultural festival, which will focus on immigration. In Denmark, a “Migrant Music” event will be held in Apr 2017 during the four yearly Off-Road regional arts festival. In the United Kingdom, a “Migrant Week” event will be held in Jun 2017 during the annual Wolverhampton Artsfest. In Poland, a workshop will be held in Sept 2017 during the Festival of Science.

Each event will have a combination of cultural activities and debates or discussions. The objective of this is to publicise the project activities to a wide audience, who may not have a specific interest in politics and/or the EU, and whom the project can engage with through cultural activities, before involving them in debates. With in DREAMS, Swinging Europe will lead the dissemination activities.

Epilogue

2015 has been a year of exciting developments and important networking for Swinging Europe. We have initiated, developed, and fine-tuned several projects that we believe have great potential - not only for Swinging Europe, but also for the cultural spheres that we are trying to influence. Our work cannot and must not be done alone, and therefore we thank our business partners from near and far and all the actors in our network, who are all working to influence the cultural agenda. We look forward to concretize and develop new initiatives in 2016. All indications show that it will be a good and eventful year.

Kind Regards
DSI Swinging Europe
// Marie Lilholt

