



Annual Report 2016



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Introduction

2016 has been an enriching, but also inspiring and cultural year for Swinging Europe. Not only in terms of creating interdisciplinary collaborative projects, there have also been exciting developments both regionally, nationally and internationally as far as maintaining and creating new network connections and partnerships.

Nationally 2016 was the year where Swinging Europe's annual talent orchestra together with the international musician Bo Stief, PLAY! GROUND LIVE, celebrated its 15th anniversary with a jubilee concert and reception at Herning City Hall. It was also the year that resulted in further development of the same musical concept, which will ultimately lead to an unprecedented Nordic version of the orchestra, namely PLAY!GROUND LIVE NORDIC. The extensive planning for the tour, which will count the countries Denmark, Sweden and Finland in the period February - March 2017 was carried out this year. Another project that also came to fruition this year was the uploaded online album on Soundcloud by the intercultural band, Grænseløs. Apart from the now local contributions during the cultural events Culture in the Dark and Danish Music Week, we were also responsible for managing and facilitating Gullestrup Town Festival.

Regionally, it was the planning and development of ideas concerning our musical contribution to Herning as well as Central and Western Jutland's forthcoming cultural festival in April 2017 called Off Road, which took shape. Additionally, we ran workshops in Ringkøbing-Skjern Municipality in the context of our project, InVITation Lab.

2016 was also the year in which we have planned, coordinated and developed several new international projects, among these the Erasmus + project, Culture ShoX, which will take place in 2017. The project aims to investigate new methods of integration and intercultural dialogue between young Europeans and migrants. NIMPE is another international project, which materialised during 2016. With an ongoing correspondence regarding the objectives, the project's vision was formulated and the distribution of tasks between a total of six European partners was carried out, as the collaboration will run from 2017 to 2019.

In 2016, we also participated in the Tandem program – a cultural collaborative program that strengthens social relations between European countries and Ukraine. In 2017, the final result of our cooperation with The State Museum of Natural History in Lviv will become a reality.

Swinging Europe not only aims to engage in international cultural work, but also regionally and locally. We still want to bring together and extend the existing cultural network connections around Herning and facilitate new opportunities for further collaboration between the institutions. The local event, Culture in the Dark, is an example of a project with inherent potential for further development.

We wish to invite succesful projects and partners to the municipality and thus help ensure a lively local art scene, while we strengthen Herning's cultural relations at both a national and international level.

A continued focus on talent development and the unexplored possibilities inherent in interdisciplinary cultural coope-
rations has Swinging Europe's particular interest. Our mission is to create cultural synergies across cultural, social and
geographical borders, and we are convinced that with our strong foundation in Herning and good international relations,
we are able to continuously bring the municipality out into the world and – not least – bring the world here as well.

We hope you will enjoy reading about our various projects, existing as well as those forthcoming!

Acting Managing Director and CEO – Mette Pilgaard Nielsen and Marie Lilholt

Mette Nielsen Marie Lilholt

1 About DSI Swinging Europe

1.1 Board Members

This year Swinging Europe's board changed due to replacements; Chairman Per Kap Bech Jensen and Vagn Buch Pedersen respectively withdrew back during the spring and winter of 2016, while Knud Jeppesen was installed as chairman.

Chairman	Knud Jeppesen
Board Member	Anne Damsgaard
Board Member	Birgit Jonassen
Board Member	Martin Pihl
Board Member	Niels Overgård

1.2 Employees

CEO (On maternity leave from the 1st of August 2016 - July 2017)	Marie Lilholt
Project Coordinator	Cüneyt Pala
Project Coordinator & Fundraiser (1st of August 2016 - July 2017 – Acting Managing Director)	Mette Pilgaard Nielsen
Project Coordinator	Steen Norman Storm Mikkelsen
External Bookkeeper	Kristina Lindberg / Lindberg Economy
Multimedia and Design (Until the 1st of November 2016)	Anitta Falsig Laurberg
Communication Officer	Anne Sophie Parsons

1.3 Contact

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4.1 Collaborative Partners and Network

Regional Partners

Den Jyske Sangskole	Højskolen Skærgården	Fermaten
Fællesbo i Gullestrup	Herning Musikskole	Herning Bibliotekerne
Herning Billedskole	Huset No. 7	Kulturelt Samråd
Herning Produktionsskolen	Scene 7	SceneKunstSkolen
Remisen Brande		
Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelts Museum	MoorJazz	Gullestrup Efterskole
Plads til Forskel	Børnecenter Nord	Kreativ Klub
Skovsnogen Artspace	Kulturhuset Da Winti	Museum Midtjylland

National Partners

Aarhus Jazz Festival	Copenhagen Jazz Festival	Hammerum School
Brandbjerg School	Steiner School in Vejle	Rosengård School
Nyborg High School	The Rhythmic School in Båring	PH Café
Jelling Asylum Center	Idom Parish	Sønder Felding Folk School
Ringkøbing-Skjern Municipality		
Struer Municipality		
Ikast-Brande Municipality		
Skive Municipality		
Holstebro Municipality		
Lemvig Municipality		

International Partners

TheatrEtc	The State Museum of Natural History in Lviv, Ukraine
Assomusica Associazione	Riksförbundet Unga Musikanter
Korsholm Musikinstitut	Musikinstitut Legato
Mousikes Ekdilosis Syntonimost Organosi	Technopole Quimper Cornouaille
Root Music Ltd	Drustvo Studentski Kulturni Center

Network

Creative Europe Desk Denmark
Culture Action Europe
Europe Jazz Network
Oracle Cultural Network
Kulturelt Samråd Herning
Kulturgården
Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland
Tandem Ukraine
Central Denmark EU Office

2 National Projects

The national work which Swinging Europe carried out during the year consisted of getting involved in regional and local projects that were already established or ready to be launched. Specifically in Herning, we contributed to the events Culture in the Dark and Danish Music Week, while we also started the process of running workshops in Ringkøbing-Skjern Municipality with our project, InVITation Lab. In Gullestrup, Swinging Europe was the project coordinator on planning Gullestrup Town Festival, where local residents were invited to work together across nationalities. We participated in the annual culture meeting on the isle of Mors for the second time together with Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland in order to network and expand our cultural horizons. The year also saw us planning and concretising our future contribution to Central and Western Jutland's major forthcoming cultural festival in 2017 called Off Road. In addition, 2016 also saw the exclusive opportunity to mark the anniversary of one of our longest running and most successful projects, namely PLAY!GROUND LIVE.

2.1 PLAY!GROUND LIVE

In 2016, Swinging Europe's talent orchestra PLAY! GROUND LIVE celebrated its 15th anniversary. The talented musicians are picked through try-outs, where a focus on both a technical and social developmental curve is of importance in the specific selection. The young individuals' musical skills are honed at the same time as they are part of a rewarding collaboration. The project selects young prodigies aged 15 to 22 each year, who are then mentally and professionally prepared for a tour in Denmark through training sessions in band camps. During the tour, their technical skills as well as performance skills are put to the test. The tour in 2016 brought the traveling gifted musicians to a total of 17 venues, among these Hammerum School, Steiner School in Vejle, Nyborg High School and Jelling Asylum Center, to mention but a few of the visited places.

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary, the reception took place at Herning City Hall on the 29th of March 2016. Here the chairman of the Culture and Leisure Committee in Herning, Johs. Poulsen, spoke on behalf of the municipality of Herning and both conductor Bo Stief, as well as former chairman of Swinging Europe, Per Kap Bech Jensen, gave acceptance speeches.

PLAY!GROUND LIVE is a project that Swinging Europe has facilitated annually since 2001. Since the concept's establishment, conductor and musician Bo Stief has been a partner and has guided the newly affiliated twelve musicians each year. With more than 50 years of experience as a musician, Bo Stief is a versatile composer and bassist, who has tried his hand at everything from swing, hard bop, funk, rock, Afro, Latin and Nordic live music, with great commitment and concentration.

With a focus on both the development of social and musical skills, PLAY!GROUND LIVE wants to unite talent and cohesion, as well as provide a framework where the young people are able to explore their musical skills and competences:

“
*Young people are a group,
I have always specifically
loved working with.
I want to give young people
a chance to develop as
musicians and experience
the professional music scene*”
– Bo Stief



PLAY!GROUND LIVE provides a platform where the unique opportunity for the talents to try their hand at tour life, as well as personal musical expression and experiences can take place. This year, the focus on PLAY!GROUND LIVE also led to a TV spot on the TV station TV MIDTVEST on the 16th of August, where footage from the band's extra mini-tour was shown. The extra concerts took place at an asylum school in Jelling, in Idom parish, Herning and Gullestrup. In the latter town, Swinging Europe also fulfilled the role of being project coordinator on an engaging town festival the same year.



2016 was also the year where we worked on expanding the project to create a platform for young musicians from our neighbouring Nordic countries in the shape of PLAY!GROUND LIVE NORDIC, which will be launched in 2017. The overall goal is to provide musical talents with practical experience and relevant tools which will develop and enable them to actively take responsibility for both the produced live music they create, as well as their careers. The Nordic tour which counts Denmark, Sweden and Finland will take place in late February to early March 2017.

PLAY!GROUND LIVE has received positive feedback, as the concept both develops and promotes musical skills, but also social relations as is reflected in the statement one of the participating musicians has reported back:

”

I was part of PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2016. We started the process with a comprehensive and well-thought out band camp at Hammerum School, and then we went on a week's tour to various schools, high schools and venues throughout Denmark. We finished the entire tour with concerts respectively during Aarhus and Copenhagen Jazz Festival in July.

PLAY!GROUND LIVE gives a clear idea of what it means to be a performing and professional musician, because you are exposed to a performative and artistic approach to music and you learn to play with other talented peers. In addition, having Bo Stief lead the project with enormous integrity and experience is both compelling to the audience and participants in the project. This type of project is particularly important in order to promote creative and live music in regards to the Danish music scene, as well as challenge and propel young musicians forward who are heading towards a professional music career.

”

– Ellen Østervig Nielsen, singer

PLAY!GROUND LIVE 2016 Tour Plan:

Sunday 27th of March:	Premiere concert at Carl-Henning Pedersen & Else Alfelt's Museum
Monday 28th of March:	Folk High School Skærgården
Tuesday 29th of March:	Hammerum School Gullestrup School 15th anniversary jubilee concert in Herning Brandbjerg Folk High School
Wednesday 30th of March:	Steiner School Rosengård School Steiner School
Thursday 31st of March:	Nyborg High School The Rhythmic School in Båring
Friday 1st of April:	Roskilde High School
Saturday 2nd of April:	PH Café
Friday 3rd of June:	Jelling Asylum Center Herning Open By Night
Saturday 4th of June:	Gullestrup Town Festival Idom Biennale
Sunday 10th of July:	Copenhagen Jazz Festival
Monday 11th of July:	Aarhus Jazz Festival

2.2 Gullestrup Town Festival

Gullestrup Town Festival took place on the 4th of June – Swinging Europe fulfilled the role as project coordinator on a day packed with art, culture and community. In collaboration with Plads til Forskel (Space for Difference), Children's Center North, DGI, FDF, GBIF, Kreativ Klub (Creative Club) and other local associations, the event was celebrated and accompanied by smiling faces under a cloudless sky on a shining day. The idea behind Gullestrup Town Festival was to involve all residents in the area and get the different neighbourhoods to meet and cooperate. The intention of the town festival was to promote diversity and inclusion in the community by building cooperative bridges between local residents and the area's many different culturally diverse communities. Together we needed to create space for a meeting and interaction between different cultural traditions and involve the various groups' individual experiences, skills and perspectives.

Swinging Europe was responsible for planning and facilitating the initial meetings: On the 14th of September 2015, a meeting with the local cultural institutions took place and an assembly meeting followed on the 8th of February 2016.

In cooperation with Plads til Forskel, the representatives from local institutions and associations were invited to brainstorm ideas in regards to the town festival. The meetings then led up to a public meeting for everyone involved. The festival kicked off with a parade, which was carried out in collaboration with Children Center North – 80 people showed up to walk a preplanned route

through the neighbourhoods with additional festive balloons and live music. In addition, together with conductor Bo Stief, the orchestra PLAY! GROUND LIVE, performed for a happy audience in the activity tent and helped send the participants on their way earlier that day.

In cooperation with Kreativ Klub, a huge painting was also provided for the participating guests, who were encouraged to add their own artistic inputs upon the canvas. The painted canvas was later included in a huge painting, which was hung in selected public buildings in Gullestrup.



2.3 Culture in the Dark

Cultural institutions located in Kulturgården opened their doors and offered an inquisitive audience inside as the cultural event Culture in the Dark (Kultur i Mørket) took place for the third time the 18th of November 2016. With creative features and workspaces in the form of open workshops, opportunities to swap unused personal items for new ones, and books traveling between locations, the evening was enjoyed in the glow of a shared creative light in the winter darkness.

Examples of two events included the 'Bring a Book on Tour' and 'creative selfies'. The first concept consisted of the audience being given a book at the first visited cultural institution, and then they were allowed to bring it around to all the other institutions. The second activity which was named 'creative selfies' gave cultural institutions the opportunity to provide a framework for various types of staged 'creative selfies,' which the visitor had the opportunity to snap at each location. In addition, Swinging Europe's documentary about the intercultural orchestra, Grænseløs, was enjoyed in good company with our neighbouring institution, Scene 7, to the delight of music lovers as well as film enthusiasts.

'Culture in the Dark' is still in the process of establishing itself as a recognisable and annually recurring event offered by Kulturgården to engage the public. Swinging Europe looks forward to welcoming everyone with open arms to next year's event, as well as seeing Culture in the Dark become a fixed event in Herning's cultural life.

Cultural institutions that participated in Culture in the Dark 2016 :

Swinging Europe

Herning Art School

House No. 7

Scene 7

The Jutland School of Singing

Herning Music School

Herning Libraries

2.4 Danish Music Week

Week 44 was as usually defined by Danish music when Spil Dansk Ugen (Danish Music Week) unfolded in Herning Municipality from the 31th of October to 6th of November with various musical performances arranged by cultural institutions taking place. On the 3rd of November, Swinging Europe welcomed passengers in the Arriva train between Silkeborg and Herning with the duo, Heitmann and Pala, who offered a harmonious performance featuring an acoustic guitar and drum as the two musicians performed exclusively for the travellers.

In 2016 Herning Municipality received the award for Danish Music Week Danish Municipality of 2015, which was celebrated with a festive event at the library with Danish Music Week cupcakes and music.

Swinging Europe did not only contribute to the week in terms of our duo, but also as the coordinator and contact person in connection with the concept 'DMA Winner on Tour.' In collaboration with Jazz Denmark, World Music Denmark and Rosa People, 'DMA Winner on Tour' was a concept which consisted of sending Danish Music Awards winners on a Danish tour. We were responsible for folk-artist Lil Lacy who ended up performing a concert at Sonder Felding School for 50 students on the 3rd of November 2016.

We have previously contributed to the music week with musical performances and will undoubtedly contribute with yet another innovative performance during the next Danish Music Week. Swinging Europe has every intention of continuing to remain an attending cultural institution during the now well-known week.

2.5 MoorJazz

In 2016, MoorJazz and the music venue Fermaten were able to celebrate 14th years of being partners with Fermaten serving as the designated venue where MoorJazz's numerous live concerts have taken place over the years. MoorJazz has had a good eye for national and international jazz names and strives to bring musicians to the region of Central Jutland. Everything from improvisational jazz to popular bands and solo artists are of interest when the concerts are planned. Niels Overgaard, board member of Swinging Europe and chairman of MoorJazz, has booked performances with current bands that include Girls in Airports, Mezzoforte, Banda Magda, and Snorre Kirk Quintet.

Concerts at Fermaten 2016:

Music Acts:	Date:
Alex Jønsson Spy on Your Friends	Wed 24th of February
Snorre Kirk Quintet	Tue 15th of March
Cæcilie Norby & Lars Danielsson	Wed 30th of March
Girls in Airports	Sat 2nd of April
Banda Magda	Fri 8th of April
Mette Juul & Band	Sat 9th of April
Scott Bradlee Postmodern Jukebox	Fri 29th of April
Kresten Osgood Kvintet	Sun 1st of May
Steen Rasmussen Quinteto feat. Leo Minax	Sat 24th of September
I Think You're Awesome	Thurs 6th of October
Mezzoforte	Fri 28th of October
Martin Schack Jazz	Sat 17th of December

2.6 Cultural meeting on the isle of Mors

The annual cultural meeting on the isle of Mors took place for the fourth time from the 20th – 22nd of August, during which talks and discussions about culture and art yet again unfolded between celebrities and personages from the Danish art and culture scene. We attended the meeting for the second time where Cüneyt Pala, project coordinator at DSI Swinging Europe, presented the project, InVITation Lab, through the means of a workshop, which took participants on a dream journey through the power of their imagination. The workshop has since blossomed even more extensively in connection with the InVITation Lab work carried out in the municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern during the year.

Attending the meeting together with the Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland, Swinging Europe contributed to the cultural days with our workshop. The Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland's contributions consisted of a schooner named Marilyn Ann, which docked at Nykøbing Mors' harbour, at the same time they had a 'Cultural Farm' on the mainland, where various cultural activities took place. In addition, we also established network connections with other cultural personalities and stakeholders at the annual meeting and we were able to spread the message about our institution's specific objectives and visions.





Activities during the cultural meeting on the isle of Mors:

Date:	Activity:	Representatives:	Subject:
26th of August	Workshop	René Foshammer and Cüneyt Pala	Presentation of InVITation Lab in the form of a dream trip with workshop participants

2.7 InVITation Lab

InVITation Lab is an initiative taking place in seven co-municipalities, which count Ringkøbing-Skjern, Struer, Ikast-Brande, Herning, Skive, Holstebro and Lemvig with Herning Libraries as coordinator. The initiative runs from 2015 to 2018, and the purpose is to examine culture as the foundation and impetus for concrete, democratic solutions.

InVITation Lab's intention is to rethink and increase cultural institutions' capacity to be active players in creating a living, rooted democracy with committed citizens. This will be achieved through giving local youth aged 14 - 25 the opportunity to create positive changes locally, as well as inspire neighbouring municipalities in the region.



The project wishes to involve young people in each municipality and by planning and carrying out activities where co-creation and co-ownership have priority, positive relationships between local cultural and educational institutions and the young people will consequently happen as a result.

InVITation Lab will inspire youth through workshops to invent and test new democratic and inclusive processes for problem solving using methodologies from art and culture. Specifically picked groups of young people are invited to participate in an InVITation Lab process, during which they must work together to create new solutions resolving local challenges and act on them. In addition, educational institutions and other cultural institutions will be engaged locally in each municipality as the project travels from municipality to municipality.

The two affiliated cultural institutions, which consist of Swinging Europe and Herning Performing Arts School are facilitators in relation to conducting and carrying out InVITation Lab workshops, while libraries in each municipality are local coordinators and project coordinators.

In 2016, InVITATION Lab workshops have run in Ringkøbing-Skjern Municipality in November. In collaboration with Ringkøbing-Skjern Production School, InVITation Lab created a community centre called 'The Room' for young people aged 17-21 in the library and the municipality. On the 20th of February 2017, an overall evaluation of InVITation Lab in Skjern Municipality will take place, during which it will be discussed whether the project has worked and what it has ultimately resulted in. There will be a final evaluation of the whole InVITation Lab project in 2017, summarising the effects and results of the project in the seven municipalities.



Activities during InVITation Lab 2016:

Date:

5th of April:	Representatives from all libraries meet in order to provide feedback on the process. They were presented with a workshop consisting of a dream journey, asked to pin-point the challenges in relation to the project, as well as vote and brainstorm ideas. Afterwards, they were asked to give feedback to the facilitators, René Foshammer and Cüneyt Pala.
October:	Start-up meetings
November:	InVITation Lab in Ringkøbing-Skjern Municipality
7th of November:	Lab 1 took place
14th of November:	Lab 2 took place
21st of November:	Lab 3 took place
28th of November:	Lab 4 took place

Partners and Municipalities involved in InVITation Lab:

Municipalities

Ringkøbing-Skjern
Struer
Ikast-Brande
Herning

Skive

Holstebro

Lemvig

Partners

Ringkøbing-Skjern Libraries
Struer Library
Ikast-Brande Library
Herning Performing Arts School
Herning Libraries
Skive Library
Holstebro Library
Lemvig Library



2.8 Migrant Music

Migrant Music is a project which wants to establish contact between migrants and local citizens through culture and dialogue and will be our contribution to the festival Off Road in 2017. Swinging Europe will manage two events the 30th of April 2017 together with our partners, Skovsnogen Artspace and Kulturhus Da Winti. The events will be a combination of concerts performed by a trio, followed by public debates about politics, the EU and the refugee situation.

The concerts will help to show migrants' cultures and through these to give the opportunity for a dialogue between immigrants and Danes to take place. In addition to the musical entertainment, our partners contribute to the project through means of their art exhibitions and by serving food that represents national diversity.

After the concerts, there will be public debates about politics, EU and the refugee situation where both specialists and local citizens are encouraged to express their individual opinions.

With art and culture as a tool, we want to combat the stigmatisation of migrants by presenting migrants' culture through music and through dialogue and debate. The aim is to facilitate cohesion, intercultural understanding and dialogue, and encourage active participation amongst citizens.

On the 5th of April 2016, a matchmaking meeting revolving around Off Road took place at Spøttrup Castle in Skive Municipality, where the opportunity to meet a collaborative partner as each individual cultural institution's project or event was presented.

2.9 National Meetings and Workshops

2.10 Cultural meeting with Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland

During the 24 – 25th of November, cultural institutions were invited by Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland (Kultursamarbejdet i Midt- og Vestjylland) to take part in a cultural management meeting at Skarrildhus. With over 20 years of experience in arranging and organising festivals and cultural events, lecturer Paul Gudgin presented an inspirational approach to the subsequent discussion and presentation of the various project, which will be part of Central and Western Jutland's major cultural festival, Off Road. Off Road Festival will take place from the 11th of April - 6th of May 2017. The focus of the meeting – apart from introducing the cultural institutions' projects – was to match the various cultural institutions with each other most beneficially. We were among the participants, where we presented our upcoming musical event, Migrant Music. The meeting offered a good opportunity for professional sparring, development of co-operative relations with other cultural institutions, as well as inspiration for reflecting on how to run cultural events and festivals most productively.

2. 11 Debate about the new cultural policy with Kulturelt Samråd

From the 4th - 5th of March 2016, a kickoff meeting revolving around Herning's new cultural policy took place. Cultural leaders were invited to brainstorm ideas and give input regarding the newly introduced regional cultural policy. On the 11th of May, Kulturelt Samråd Herning (Cultural Consultation Herning) invited us to participate in a debate concerning the policy in question. Swinging Europe was represented by Mette Pilgaard Nielsen, Swinging Europe's Acting Managing Director. During the meeting, the new cultural policy was discussed - future visions and considerations of what these visions may consist of were voiced by participants. In groups, we brainstormed potential contributions, as well as which long-term results for the regional cultural life, the cultural institutions wish to see produced and brought to fruition. On the 25th of May, a successive meeting took place at Herning Libraries, where the previous discussions and presented ideas during the meetings were viewed anew and reevaluated through analytical eyes.

3 International Projects

The international projects as Swinging Europe embarked on in 2016 was to develop cooperation with our various partners European partners. For example, we planned and established the guidelines for our Ukrainian audiovisual collaborative project, Sound Becomes Life with The State Museum of Natural History in Lviv, and our Cypriot project, Culture ShoX, along with the theater group TheatrEtc. The focus and tasks associated with NIMPE - network for the internationalization of music producers in Europe - were also decided upon and defined, which means that a kickoff meeting with our partners will take place in early 2017 in Greece. In addition, the extensive planning regarding the Nordic project, PLAY!GROUND LIVE NORDIC, was completed, which means that the newly established orchestra will tour during February-March in 2017.

3.1 PLAY!GROUND LIVE Nordic

The new Nordic pilot project, PLAY! GROUND LIVE NORDIC, aims to create a touring talent development orchestra assembled across the Nordic countries, guided by the well-known Danish musician and conductor, Bo Stief.

The concept and idea behind PLAY!GROUND LIVE NORDIC stems from Swinging Europe's 15-year project, the national talent development orchestra PLAY!GROUND LIVE. The orchestra has had great success touring Denmark annually.

Each partner country chooses three musicians aged 15 to 22, who will participate in the orchestra and the Nordic tour. The project starts with an intensive three-day boot camp in Herning. During these three days, the musicians live and play together under the leadership of Bo Stief, who instructs the young musicians as far as handling musical instruments, solo performances, band interaction as well as performing as a harmonious orchestra.

Bo Stief focuses on creating a safe and welcoming learning environment throughout the process, which helps to let loose the young musicians' creativity. Through differentiated teaching, he pays attention to the band as a whole, but also solo lessons where he looks at the individual musician's strengths and weaknesses.

Learning by doing is a prevailing principle throughout PLAY! GROUND LIVE NORDIC,

which concerns itself with sending the young talented musicians into the real world. This gives them new cultural insights and practical experiences as professional musicians through the means of a Nordic tour.

The music is broad and not defined by a fixed genre. The orchestra will play a kind of now-music, which is youthful and full of challenges. This will allow the musicians to explore and express themselves musically without being limited by certain genre understandings or definitions.

Before the boot camp in Denmark is over, the orchestra will have rehearsed between 10-15 songs. The tour will consist of songs that both rely heavily on ensemble songs, as well as moments where each musician is given creative space to step forward alone or in musical interaction with another band member.

The tour will include a selected number of concerts in each country, as well as seminars and workshops for music teachers and students. We wish to share experiences and generate new knowledge about talent development in the Nordic countries with these specific seminars.

All in all, three partners will work with Swinging Europe to make PLAY!GROUND LIVE NORDIC happen: Riksförbundet Unga Musicians (RUM), Korsholm Music Institute and the Music Institute Legato. During the 2nd – 5th of October 2016, we had a kick-off meeting with our Finnish and Swedish collaborative partners, as well as our conductor, Bo Stief. The meeting which took place at the Folk School Skærgården consisted of discussions concerning the choice of musicians and venues, general practical planning, as well as a designated marketing strategy.

The project will be funded by the Nordic Cultural Fund and Culture Agency and the A. P. Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation for General Purposes, the Ege Fund and the State Arts Foundation.

PLAY!GROUND LIVE NORDIC Partners:

Riksförbundet Unga Musicians, RUM

Riksförbundet Unga Musicians is an organisation for children and young people, who play musical instruments, sing, dance or act. With 40,000 members and 400 local associations, RUM offers a wide range of musical and artistic activities. RUM offers courses, concerts, workshops and festivals to its members.

Korsholm Music Department

Korsholm Music Department is a municipal music institute, which offers music lessons and dance. Korsholm is a member of the Association of Finnish Music Schools, which is an umbrella organisation for music schools and conservatories with more than 100 members throughout Finland.

Music Department Legato

Music Institute Legato is an artistic educational institution which was founded in 1990. Legato is also a member of the Association of Finnish Music Schools.

3.2 NIMPE

NIMPE is an abbreviation for *Network for Internationalization of Music Producers in Europe* and is an EU-funded project under Creative Europe, which wishes to support the internationalisation of live music and especially newly established companies and start-ups in Europe, so they can better assess the market and promote their international musical activities. The Italian organisation Assomusica Associazione is the project manager of NIMPE and Swinging Europe is a partner, along with four other organisations respectively from Greece, Great Britain, Slovenia and France.

NIMPE also wants to create a network of music producers, technicians and stakeholders in this particular field by developing cross-sectorial education and cooperative activities. NIMPE wishes to develop and create a specific work manual – an online database and a printed manual with guidelines that covers the international needs of music producers – as well as facilitate NIMPE Factory, an international event with the intention of creating networking opportunities and helping the desired target groups.

Along with the French partner, Technopole Quimper-Cornuaille, and Slovenian partner, Društvo Studentski kulturní center, Swinging Europe will research and gather pieces of information in order to use in a specific online NIMPE database. We will be connected to as well as participate in the different task phases, which intend to share overall information and practical tools regarding new international strategies designed for music producers and venues dealing with live music.

3.3 Culture ShoX

Culture ShoX is a European collaborative project and is part of the Erasmus+ program. By applying new methods of integration and intercultural dialogue, we will explore how young Europeans and newly arrived refugees can relate to each other specifically through art and culture. We will facilitate an exchange of knowledge, understanding and relations between European youth and newcomers through informal youth-to-youth inclusive learning through two artistic collaborative activities – one in each of the two partner countries.

Swinging Europe is the project manager and will develop the project in cooperation with the theatre group, TheatrEtc, from Cyprus, who have theatre youth camps as their focus. The organisations differ aesthetically and methodically from one another and focus on different performative art forms. This given framework will provide the artistic means to encourage creative co-creation and co-operation between the young participants aged 18-25 through the informal youth-to-youth meetings.

The project enables young Europeans and refugees to meet and participate in a 10-day workshop in each country. Each partner will prepare a program that reflects the country, society and the organisation in question where the particular workshop will take place. The program consists of workshops, tutorials, discussions, outdoor activities and includes both groups of participants. The project will take place during November 2016 - January 2018. The mentioned activities will take place in July 2017 in Cyprus and October in Denmark.

3.4 Sound Becomes Life

Sound Becomes Life is a collaborative project created together with our Ukrainian partner, The State Museum of Natural History in Lviv. In the combination of culture and science, an interdisciplinary result will be created that has the means to interpret the theme of evolution in a unique audio-visual way.

Musicians from Swinging Europe with artists and researchers from The State Museum of Natural History in Lviv will create an audio-visual experience that interprets evolution through an experience that will stimulate all senses. Through music and visual accompaniment, the project will result in live events during the spring of 2017 which will take place in both Ukraine and Herning.

The musical performances will be conducted by 4-5 musicians from Denmark aged 15 and 25 with Signe Bisgaard as the affiliated music mentor. By visiting the two respective countries of the two institutions, both Swinging Europe and The State Museum of Natural History in Lviv will garner a better understanding of the mutual cultural and social life of each partner's country.

Sound Becomes Life will take place on the 18th of May 2017 in connection with the International Museum Day and will subsequently take place in Herning on the 27th of May at the Textile Museum at Museum Midtjylland.

The collaboration between Swinging Europe and The State Natural Museum of Natural History in Lviv has been facilitated by the Tandem project, which is a cultural cooperation program that wants to strengthen the civilian population and relationships in Europe and neighbouring regions through the means of cooperation across national borders. There are five Tandem programs, each dealing with its own region. The topics are: Tandem Europe, Tandem C & P, Tandem Ukraine, Turkey and Tandem Tandem Shaml. Swinging Europe has participated in the Tandem Ukraine project, through which we established the relationship with our partner.



3.5 International Meetings and Conferences

3.6 European Jazz Conference

During the 22nd – 25th of September, European Jazz Conference took place in Wroclaw in Poland and Swinging Europe attended in order to network and strengthen our connections with international partners.

The European Jazz Conference was organised by Europe Jazz Network, the National Forum of Music and Jazztopad Festival. The theme of the conference in 2016 was 'LISTEN UP!', where the very act of listening was conceptualised and studied in different ways through presentations and debates. The world-renowned musician, Danilo Perez, was responsible for the opening speech, which dealt with how artists can 'listen' to musical environments through their own music.

3.7 Meeting with Tandem Ukraine

During the 20th – 24th of April, Swinging Europe was represented by Mette Pilgaard Nielsen during the Tandem Ukraine Partner Forum meeting in Glebovka in Ukraine. Tandem is an international cooperation program for cultural operators. The Tandem forum has 250 members distributed over 35 countries in Europe.

It was attended by 20 people from Ukraine and 20 people from EU countries, Russia and Belarus. The purpose of attending was to find an Ukrainian partner that each organisation would work together with for the next 1 ½ years. Forum participants spend 5 days exchanging experiences, networking and exploring project ideas both with the Ukrainian organisations, but also with the other European participants. Swinging Europe formed a partnership with The State Museum of National History located in Lviv in Ukraine.

Our project idea was subsequently selected to participate as one of the 12 projects, which will make up the program of Tandem Ukraine 2016/17. From the 28th of June to the 3rd of July, we participated in a kick-off meeting in Munich, where the given budget and scheduling of the project was planned in greater depth.

In addition, a 12-day planned visit to each other's organisations was scheduled, so that we may get an insight into each other's organisations, culture, and work in connection with the project in question.

The two visits will take place respectively in January 2017 and May 2017.

3.8 Presentation at Central Denmark EU Office

Central Denmark EU Office and Cultural Consultant Lone Leth Larsen invited Swinging Europe to give presentations about our Erasmus + application process, as well as our project, CultureShoX, in the autumn of 2016.

On the 14th of September, CDEU organised a cultural consultant meeting in Viborg for 20 cultural consultants and cultural workers with a focus on projects dealing with integration and international collaborations. Mette Pilgaard Nielsen represented Swinging Europe and gave presentations, as well as shared Swinging Europe's experiences based on our experiences with Culture ShoX. This resulted in an exciting dialogue about art, culture and integration, as well as how these aspects can work together.

On the 2nd of November, CDEU organised an event for cultural institutions, which dealt with how to get started on their individual Erasmus + application process.

4 Collaborative Partners and Network

Swinging Europe puts a lot of effort into cultivating local, national and international network connections. We do this to provide sparring, as well as secure an exchange of cultural experiences, and because we know that by working together we can succeed with our goals and help others to succeed with theirs. Locally, our main goals are to facilitate new, as well as expand on already existing cultural network connections around Herning in order to maintain a thriving and innovative culture.

At the same time, we consider our international network to be of great importance, as we are convinced that international cooperation is beneficial to both the Jutlandic region, as well as transnational relations in general.

Here follows an overview of our local, national and international network connections and partnerships:

4.1 Kulturgården

Kulturgården in Herning (the Culture Yard) is made up of the various cultural institutions housed specifically here. They count Scene 7, Herning Music School, the Jutland School of Singing, Herning Art School and House No 7, in addition to Swinging Europe. In a joint collaboration between the institutions, the annual cultural event, Culture in the Dark, takes place at the various institutions in November. Each institution invites the public inside to experience cultural events, as well as give them the opportunity to meet and hear more about what each institution represents.

This creates a concept that is unique to Kulturgården as a creative hangout place.



4.2 Kulturelt Samråd Herning

Kulturelt Samråd Herning (Cultural Consultation Herning) is an umbrella organisation, covering cultural institutions and associations in Herning and their purpose is to support the local culture scene.

In 2016, Swinging Europe participated in a meeting where a new cultural policy for Herning Municipality was discussed and ideas were brainstormed with other cultural institutions from the region.



4.3 Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland

The main objective of Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland is to create good conditions for a thriving cultural scene in Central and Western Jutland as well as highlight cultural initiatives in both a national and international context. By means a cultural network founded in the region, municipalities and individual cultural stakeholders can strengthen and expand cultural action and interaction in the local areas together.

Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland is behind a recurring cultural festival, which takes place throughout the seven municipalities and will take place in 2017 for the fourth time. We are involved in developing the forthcoming festival, Off Road, which will focus on unpredictability and the unexplored as the given theme. The festival brings big and small cultural experiences to its audience through different and unknown means.

Swinging Europe took part in a cultural leader meeting from the 24th - 25th of November, where Cultural Cooperation in Central and Western Jutland invited cultural institutions from Central Jutland to present their projects, which will be incorporated in the Off Road Festival in 2017 from the 11th of April - 6th of May..

**Kultursamarbejdet
Midt- og
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4.5 Genvej til Europa

Genvej til Europa (Shortcut to Europe) wishes to ensure an international dimension to Central Jutland's cultural scene. Genvej til Europa is financed by Aarhus 2017 and Region Central Jutland. Genvej til Europa targets all cultural institutions in the region and all who work with culture and creativity – museums, organisations, schools, colleges, municipalities, companies, associations and other institutions.

Genvej til Europa is coordinated by the Central Denmark EU Office (CDEU) in Brussels.



4.6 Europe Jazz Network

Europe Jazz Network promotes creative modern jazz music and musical exchanges across European countries.

There are over 100 member organisations in the network distributed across 31 countries. Europe Jazz Network advocates for increased cultural activity and transnational collaborations, as well as exchanging information across borders.

Europe Jazz Network was also responsible for the European Jazz Conference, which took place on the 22nd - 25th of September. Swinging Europe participated in order to network and spar with potential partners, as well as to tell about our institution's visions and objectives.



4.7 Creative Europe Desk Denmark

Creative Europe is a program that aims to strengthen the circulation of cultural industries, artistic business and cultural heritage on a transnational level.

Creative Europe Desk Denmark is responsible for the program in Denmark.

Swinging Europe is part of Creative Europe Desk Denmark's network. They wish to establish an open, collaborative and culturally strong Europe.



4.8 Culture Action Europe

Culture Action Europe is a transnational cultural network organisation, which views culture as being part of their public agenda and believes that culture can form the basis for an innovative and democratic development.

Swinging Europe is a member of Culture Action Europe and we plan to participate in Culture Action Europe's international conference, Beyond the Obvious, in Hungary at the start of 2017 in order to network with other organisations and institutions.



4.9 Oracle Cultural Network

Swinging Europe is part of the network Oracle Cultural Network, which was founded in 1993 by people from the organisation Association Marcel Hicter.

Oracle Cultural Network provides a network within Europe for cultural institutions with a focus on transnational projects and currently has members from 41 countries. Oracle Cultural Network considers

intercultural co-operations across borders in Europe to be of great importance and wishes to foster a feeling of togetherness by sharing knowledge about, as well as promoting acceptance of cultural diversity. Through the means of cultural awareness, creating network connections and initiatives in the form of seminars, workshops and residencies, they wish to accomplish this.



5 Epilogue- Looking Back at 2016

2016 has been an eventful year, but also a year which has kept an eye on the forthcoming one. We have initiated, developed and fine-tuned several projects in both an international and national context: Examples such as PLAY! GROUND LIVE NORDIC, Migrant Music, Culture ShoX, NIMPE and Sound Becomes Life are ready to take place in 2017, as well as the years ahead.

National and international network connections were also nurtured and Swinging Europe is already planning future network meetings: For example the planned kick-off meetings with our partners in the NIMPE and Culture ShoX projects, as well as participating in an international conference such as Beyond the Obvious in Budapest from the 26th - 28th of January 2017, facilitated by Culture Action Europe.

Our work cannot, nor should it be carried out alone - we therefore wish to thank our partners and all the stakeholders in our network, who all work on influencing the cultural agenda.

We look forward to developing new initiatives in 2017. Everything points towards it turning out to be an exciting year, as well as one filled with numerous inspiring projects.