



February 12th -25th 2023

MUSAE project in Antwerp-REPORT

From February 13th to 24th MUSAE community met in Belgium for a two-week work at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp, 41 artist-students and 53 teachers from Palestine (Birzeit University, Palestine Polytechnic University, Dar-al-Kalima College of Art and Culture), Tunisia (University of Sfax US-ISAMS, Université de Tunis), Uzbekistan (The State Conservatory of Uzbekistan, National Institute of Fine Arts and Design, Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent), and teachers from Belgium (Artesis Plantijn University College Antwerp), Finland (JAMK University of applied science), Italy (Conservatory of Music, Fine Arts Academy and University of L'Aquila).

1st week

The focus of the first work week was the **development of an idea into a concept**.

After an impactful speed dating on Monday 13th, a discussion of first-stage ideas on Wednesday 14th, an early pitch moment with feedbacks on Thursday 16th, and daily brainstorms with advice by teachers and creative coaches of the Conservatoire, 7 project teams were installed, based on international and interdisciplinary presences, in a mix of the variety of universities and a gender mix. Every day, early in the afternoon before the daily brainstorm session, there were multiple 20 minutes lectures on entrepreneurial topics given by Musae teachers. At midweek teachers also started discussing an action plan towards the final work week in L'Aquila.

On Tuesday 14th, MUSAE people visited the Sint Lucas Antwerp School of Arts and its Research center, and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp; afterwards Jeroen Malaise showed the old city center of Antwerp.

It is noteworthy that some organizational aspects had to be faced and solved like buying new SIM cards working in Europe, and managing the (only-)cashless payment at the student restaurant.

2nd week

The focus of the second work week was the **development of the concept** (definition of group workflow and project roles, inclusion of a suitable business model, work on a Value Proposition model, creation of an as attractive as informative presentation of the project). The work plan **in between Antwerp and L'Aquila** and what will happen in L'Aquila was also discussed.

Musae groups working sessions continued. Project groups rehearsed and performed try-outs at the Conservatoire. At the end of the week, on Friday 24th, seven groups gave presentations of the following projects: Art Detective, CoCreate, Artist Collective, Memory of World, BePart, The Beech, Conceptcia. The presentations were recorded, put on Google Drive

(https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mAlqUuC78a7ni_JSrjykcwcnFwqla_23?fbclid=IwAROPPykP-QSxd8POXttdWQaWZwplccjgIDgp6tln3PFz63Sntdr6604mQWI) and made available through the private facebook group page “MUSAE artists” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/807221110586356>).

On Wednesday 22nd, the representative of the ISBAT University of Tunis (which only very recently joined MUSAE) visited the working sessions, going from group to another for preparing an as much smooth as possible involvement of new students in the existing groups.

On Monday 20th and Thursday 23rd Jeroen Malaise and teachers from L’Aquila showed the trajectory over the time in between Antwerp and L’Aquila, where the projects will be introduced as an exhibition and each group will build what Malaise has called its own “experience room” where the project will be presented. The groups will continue the development work online, on its own platform, through meetings with mentors and reports to both content and management committees. Mentorships will be both fixed and variable (a mentorship sign-up list has been created). Instead of fixed deadlines, content committee, mentors and groups will work according to frequently updated timeline.

During both weeks, in the evenings and nights, MUSAE people had the opportunity to attend specific Conservatoire’s activities, and a variety of shows, movies, concerts. On Tuesday 21st, the State Conservatory of Uzbekistan presented a concert featuring music of Uzbek composers.