

# EUNIC LONDON ANNUAL REPORT 2021





## INTRODUCTION

EUNIC London (European Union National Institutes for Culture) is the network of the cultural institutes and embassies from the member states of the European Union in London. A branch of <u>EUNIC Global</u>, the London network was established in 2007 and has at present <u>31 members</u>.



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The purpose of EUNIC London is to share knowledge and resources in order to promote greater cooperation and develop partnerships between European nations and UK organisations in the fields of arts and culture. EUNIC's activities in the UK are centred around four main directions:

- Develop joint projects: Growing portfolios with stimulating collaborations
- Connect people: Bridging the gap between the UK Arts & Culture scene and our members, with visits, day trips and networking events
- Promoting European Culture and implementing European Cultural policy
- Training our members: EUNIC is a platform for knowledge sharing and for capacity building amongst its members and partners



## PRESIDENCY TEAM 2021-22

EUNIC London's Annual Presidency Team Elections took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2021, hosted by the Cyprus High Commission at St. James Square gardens. The 2021 presidency team (appointed from Sept 2021 - Sept 2022) is:

- Marios Psaras Cultural Counsellor, Cyprus High Commission
- Mathias Rambaud Attaché for Books and Ideas & Head of the Book Department, Institut français in the UK
- Ūla Tornau Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Lithuania



Previous EUNIC London presidency team (from Sept 2020 to Sept 2021):

- Claudia Ott Project Manager, Austrian Cultural Forum
- Přemysl Pela Director, Czech Centre London
- Katrin Sohns Regional Head of the Arts Program, Goethe-Institut London



From left to right: Mathias Rambaud, Ula Tornau, Marios Psaras



## PROJECTS 2021

During 2021 EUNIC London reached hundreds of people through its programme. EUNIC London organized six major projects:

- EUNIC AI Science Café Series: A series of 5 online panel discussions around current topics alongside proposals for innovative, bold and inspirational solutions to tackle key issues with experts from the EUNIC member states. Organised from April to October, under the leadership of the Czech Centre London.
- EUNICAST, Meet visionary Europeans: A podcast series presenting seven episodes featuring in-depth interviews by the award-winning BBC journalist Joe Lynam in conversation with leading European personalities from the field of arts, music, arts management and social sciences. Organised under the leadership of the Czech Centre London.
- European Writers 2021: A series of 5 literature events, organised from May to December in partnership with various UK organisations aiming to promote European Literature across the UK.
- **Imagining Futures:** A EUNIC-Global funded project supporting independent UK festivals focusing on performing arts, to explore and develop future thinking and strategies at a critical time. Organised under the leadership of the Goethe-Institute London.
- In Short, Europe Happy Together: The third edition of EUNIC London's short film festival took place online in May and was organised in three strands: Hope, Magic and Life's Little Disappointments featuring 19 short films. The festival also included 3 live events and a masterclass with the acclaimed Austrian filmmaker Jessica Hausner.
- FutureLab: Read, Listen, Connect: A project developed withing the framework of Europe Readr The Future of living, initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia on the occasion of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, realised in cooperation with EUNIC. Organised under the leadership of the Slovenian Embassy London.



### **AI SCIENCE CAFÉ SERIES**

- Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (13 April 2021) with philosophers & AI experts Janina Loh, Charlotte Stix and Dita Malečková, exploring the ethical impact of the use of artificial intelligence. The virtual event was chaired by Erin Young from <u>The Alan Turing Institute</u>. Organized by the Czech Centre in collaboration with the ACF. Attendees: 62
- AI & Art (12 May 2021), exploring the impact of AI on our creativity and art with artists and AI experts Marie du Chastel, Mario Klingemann and Jana Horakova. The virtual event was chaired by Melanie Lenz, curator of Digital Art at the V&A Museum. Organized in collaboration with the <u>WBI</u>, <u>Goethe</u> <u>Institute</u> and the <u>Czech Centre</u>. Attendees: 101
- AI & Smart Mobility (8 June 2021), exploring the future of smart mobility and its implications with Laura Ruotsalainen from University of Helsinki, Michal Čáp from MIT spin-off isee AI and Zsolt Szalay from Budapest University of Technology. The virtual event was chaired by Michael Keith, Director of COMPAS at the University of Oxford. Organized in collaboration with Finnish Institute, Hungarian Cultural Centre and Czech Centre. Attendees: 58





### **AI SCIENCE CAFÉ SERIES**

- AI & Personal and Cybersecurity (29 September 2021), invited the audience to learn more about the threats and risks in online environment and most efficient approaches of cyber security and privacy with Karoliina Ainge, Cybersecurity and Technology Lead at Independent Diplomat, Dr Luis Espinosa-Anke from Cardiff University and Jiří Berger, forensic expert in Cybersecurity. The virtual event was chaired by PhD. Joanna J. Bryson, the Professor of Ethics and Technology at Hertie School of Governance. The AI Science Cafe is organized by EUNIC London in collaboration with the Estonian Embassy in the UK, Embassy of Spain and the Czech Centre. Attendees: 72
- Al & Theatre (21 October 2021), was the last event of the series inviting the audience to learn more about the collaboration between Al and theatre with artists and Al experts Piotr Mirowski (DeepMind, Improbotics), Marcel Karnapke (CyberRäuber) and Rudolf Rosa (THEaiTRE). The virtual event was chaired by Tracy Harwood, Professor of Digital Culture at the De Montfort University and director of the award-winning Art AI Festival. Organised in collaboration with the Polish Cultural Institute, Goethe Institute and the Czech Centre. Attendees: 59





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ONLINE on Zoom



# AI SCIENCE CAFÉ SERIES

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### EUNICAST MEET VISIONARY EUROPEANS

A podcast series of EUNIC London presenting seven episodes featuring indepth interviews with leading European personalities from the field of arts, music, arts management and social sciences. In a discussion with awardwinning BBC journalist Joe Lynam, they talk about the current situation and its impact on society in terms of their professional field and reflect on future developments.

Interviewees include: Sir John Tusa, Tamara Rojo, Silke Ackermann, Paavo Järvi, Catherine Petitgas, Tomo Keller and Lina Lapelytė. All episodes are available for free on <u>Spotify.</u>

Prepared by EUNIC London under the leadership of Czech Centre London. Total downloads so far: 1,112. All episodes are available for free on <u>Spotify.</u>







MEET VISIONARY EUROPEANS

## EUNICAST







Přemysl Pela, co-President of EUNIC London (2020-21) and initiator of the EUNICAST series explains how the project came to light:

"The Meet Visionary Europeans podcast series has been on my mind for some time and the execution of Brexit and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has just expedited my decision to go ahead with the project. The main objective of the podcast series was to enrich and uplift our spirits through positive and inspirational testimonies and personal life stories of some of the most accomplished personalities, European and British visionaries, as well as to address and debate most pressing issues of our current and in many respects historical times".



## **EUROPEAN WRITERS 2021**

#### • European Literature Night: Writing the World

12 May 2021, online

Writing the World for European Literature Night was an event exploring civilisations, boundaries, and the drivers behind cultural exchange with the writers Laurent Binet, Jenny Erpenbeck and Anna Kim, chaired by Alex Clark. This event was organised in partnership with the British Library and the Austrian Cultural Forum London.

#### Meet the World - Journeys of Discovery

8 June 2021, online

This event brought together three exciting European writers – Djaimilia Pereira de Almeida from Portugal, Goran Vojnović from Slovenia and Wioletta Greg from Poland. All three writers and their books bring us stories of young people who are coming of age and understanding their place in the world. They explore the vagaries of identity and belonging, family, self and history. Their protagonists are discovering own path the world, whether it's in post-Soviet Poland, post-colonial Portugal or 20th century Slovenia. The authors share an interest in experimenting with form, resulting in a hybrid novel with digressions; a novel composed of intertwining stories; and a short novel making poetry out of daily life. Djaimilia, Goran and Wioletta are in conversation with our chair Erica Hesketh, chief executive of the Poetry Translation Centre.

Organised in partnership with the National Centre for Writing and supported by the Embassy of Portugal in the UK, the Embassy of Slovenia in the UK and the Polish Cultural Institute London. Total views: 164 Watch the event <u>here.</u>







## **EUROPEAN WRITERS 2021**

## • Voice and Form in Contemporary Fiction: Women Authors from Wales and Europe in conversation

4 November 2021, online

In partnership with Literature Wales and Swansea University's Cultural Institute featuring the authors Rebecca F John, Caryl Lewis, Efa Lois (Wales), Nora Ikstena (Latvia) and Alena Mornštajnová (Czech Republic). The participating authors explored approaches to fictionalising history and writing family, community and place. The event was chaired by Dr Kathryn Jones and supported by supported by the Czech Centre London, Latvian Literature and the Embassy of Latvia. Attendees: 99

#### Our Relation with Nature

(postponed, new date TBC)

Organised in collaboration with Scotland House London and the Italian Cultural Institute in London with the authors Donald S. Murray and Marco Balzano. Chaired by Chitra Ramaswamy. The event was postponed and will be planned for 2022.

#### Poetry Residency (online)

#### December 2021/ January 2022

This residency aims to bring together 3 European poets Nora Nadjarian (Cyprus), Ligija Purinasa (Latvia) and Ulrike Almut Sandig (Germany) together with 3 British poets (tbc) to work together over a month in a new piece of work or in translating an existing one. The outcome of their collaboration will be presented in an online event in 2022.Organised in collaboration with the Poetry Society and supported by the Cyprus High Commission, The Latvian Literature and the Embassy of Latvia in the UK and the Goethe Institute London.



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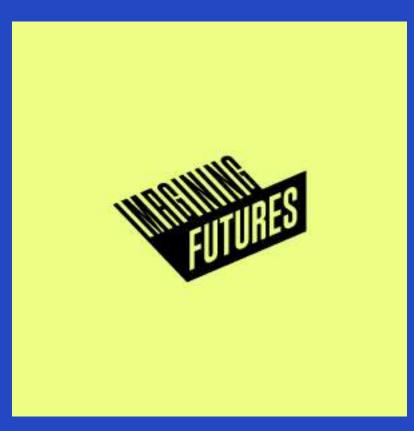
## IMAGINING FUTURES

A EUNIC-Global funded project supporting independent UK festivals focusing on performing arts, to explore and develop future thinking and strategies at a critical time. It connects visionary festival leaders from the UK with European counterparts to dissect pressing challenges facing festivals today (post-Brexit and post-Covid19 era). Together with their partners, they bring to life European cultural collaboration in more than 90 countries worldwide with a network of over 120 clusters, drawing on the broad experience of our members from all EU member states and associate countries. The nine EUNIC London member institutes who are actively working on the programme represent Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland.

The project was led by the Goethe-Institut London.

#### **Festival partners:**

Gateshead International Festival of Theatre, England, Outburst Queer Arts Festival, Northern Ireland, Take Me Somewhere Festival, Scotland, Transform Festival, England, Submerge Festival, England, Alkantara Festival, Portugal, Baltic Circle Festival, Finland, Batard Festival, Belgium, auawirleben Theaterfestival, Switzerland, Theaterformen, Germany, Buffer Fringe, Cyprus and ImageTanz, Austria.





## IMAGINING FUTURES



Image of a group of partner festival leaders and artists gathering outside during the Artist residency at PAF, St Erme, France. Photo: Violeta Gil The first two phases of Imagining Futures took place between March and November 2021.

Imagining Futures found an important role with the participating organisations and artists during what continued to be a challenging time for the performing arts and international festival sector. The group of festivals representing EUNIC member countries gathered, each represented by their Artistic Director. The network became a key part of their planning during moments of crisis.

#### **Digital Residencies**

Festival leaders came together to exchange best practice and consult one another on challenges. Some key questions from the four Digital Residency sessions can be found in the annexed document.

#### **Artist Residency**

From 8-13 November nine artists were involved in the Imagining Futures residency, developing artistic responses to the project themes.

The final phase, publication of documentation, will take place in early 2022.

'What happens if you reimagine your festival through the lens of care entirely? Not just the way you work with artists, but the way you exist in every interaction you have with the world.'

Kate Craddock - Festival Director at GIFT, Gateshead

'We get carried away by 'impact and reach' and stuff that we have internalised, because we're so used to using that in our arguments'

Nicolette Kretz - Festival Manager at auawirleben Theaterfestival, Bern'

### **IN SHORT, EUROPE:**

7-16 MAY 2021

## IN SHORT, EUROPE FILM FESTIVAL Third edition, 7-16 May 2021

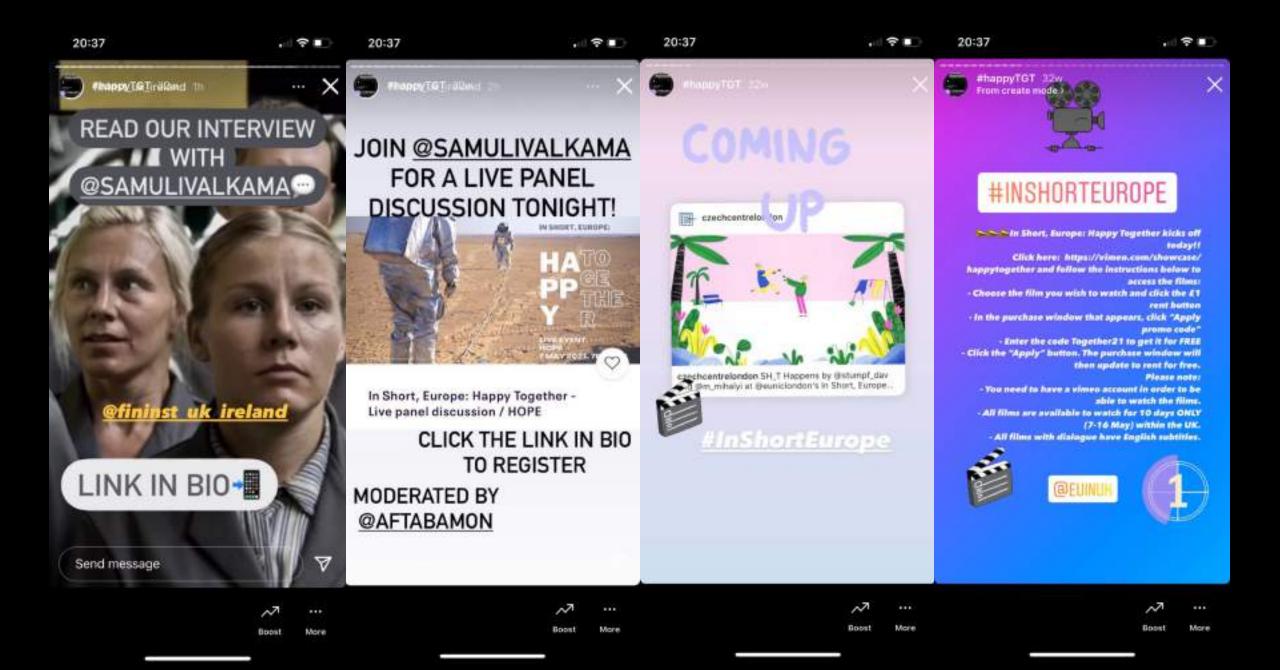
#### In Short, Europe - Happy Together:

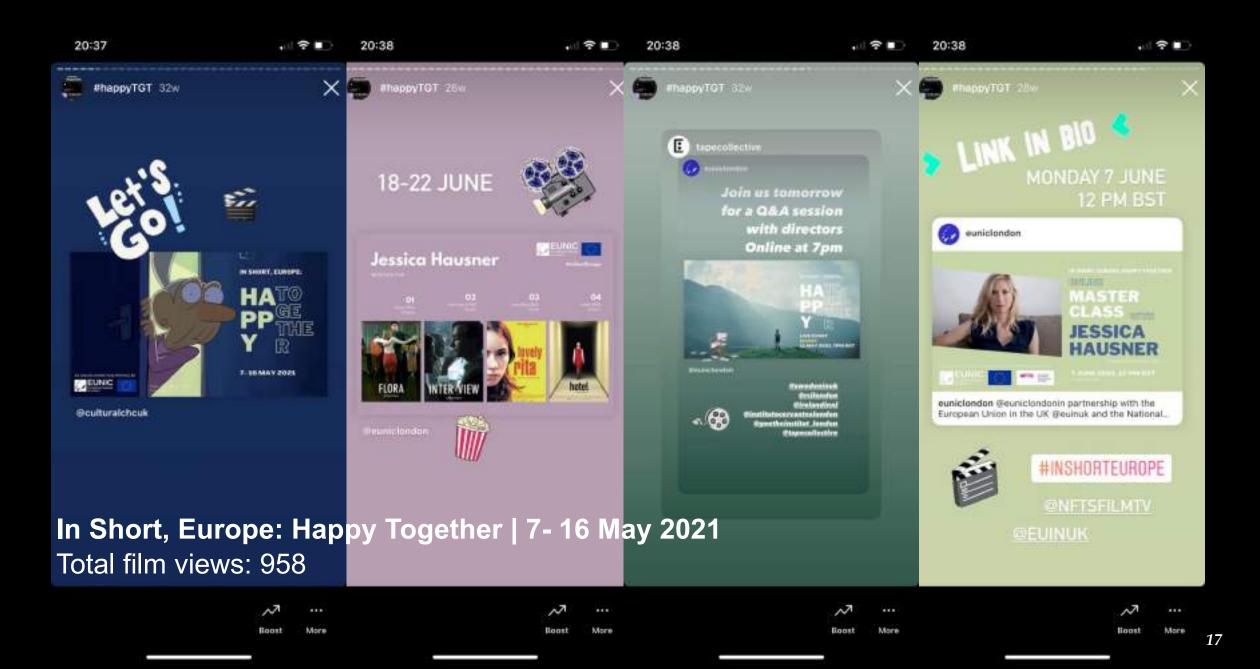
The 3rd edition of our short film festival took place 7-16 May 2021 and was organised in partnership with the EU Delegation to the UK. The festival's programme was curated by Shira MacLeod and included 19 screenings, 3 side events (on 7, 11 and 13 May) with the directors Leonor Teles, Samuli Valkama, Tauno Mee, Vanessa Del Campo, Alia Ghafer, Adam Šoltéz, Jonathan Etzler, Hannes Lang, Bonnie Dempsey, Carlos Ruano, Lia Bertels, Bogdan Mureşanu, Albert Meisl, Savvas Stavrou, Michaela Mihályi, David Štumpf, Ignas Meilūnas, Jolanta Bańkowska and Barnabás Tóth. The event moderators were: Danny Leigh, Isra Al Kassi and Kaleem Aftab. Additionally, a masterclass (7 June) with the Austrian filmmaker Jessica Hausner and a retrospective of her films (18 - 22 June) was organised as part of the festival in partnership with the National Film and Television School (NFTS).

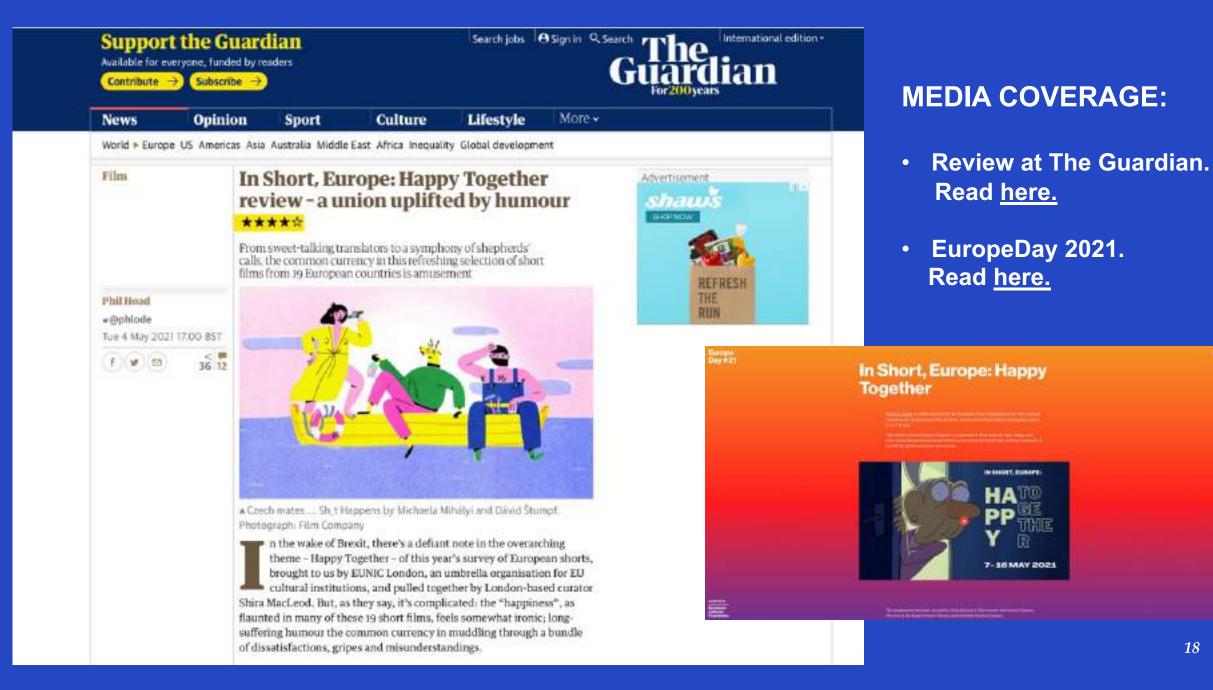
#### AN ONLINE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL BY:



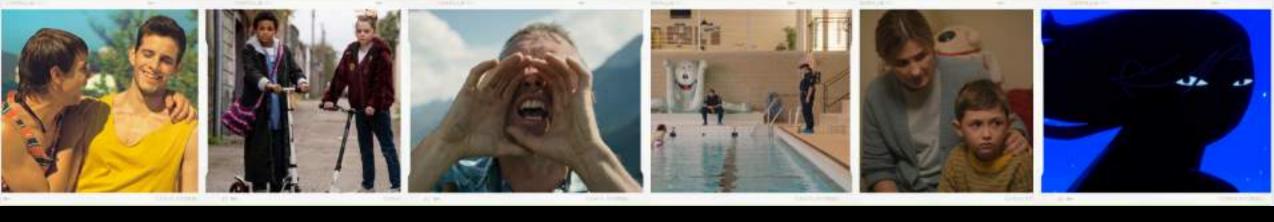
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### **IN SHORT, EUROPE** Third edition, Happy Together Parallel Events

Parallel to the festival we hosted four live events on Zoom (also live streamed on EUNIC's Facebook page). The events included panel discussions and Q&A sessions with the filmmakers as well as a masterclass.

- **7 May 2021**:Live panel discussion with the directors: Leonor Teles (Portugal), Samuli Valkama (Finland), Tauno Mee (Estonia), Vanessa Del Campo (Belgium), Alia Ghafer (Scotland) and Adam Šoltéz, (Slovakia). Moderator: Kaleem Aftab. Live attendees: 37 Total Views on Facebook: 131
- 11 May 2021: Live panel discussion with the directors: Jonathan Etzler (Sweden), Hannes Lang (Germany), Bonnie Dempsey (Ireland), Carlos Ruano (Spain), Lia Bertels (Belgium/France), Bogdan Mureşanu (Romania). Moderator: Isra Al Kassi Live attendees: 31 Total Views on Facebook: 458
- 13 May 2021: Live panel discussion with the directors: Albert Meisl (Austria), Savvas Stavrou (Cyprus), Michaela Mihályi, David Štumpf (Czech Republic, Slovakia, France), Ignas Meilūnas (Lithuania), Jolanta Bańkowska (Poland) and Barnabás Tóth (Hungary). Moderator: Danny Leigh Live attendees: 27 Total Views on Facebook: 310
- **7 June 2021:** Masterclass with the Austrian filmmaker Jessica Hausner and online screenings/ retrospective of her films (available online 18 - 22 June). Organised in partnership with the National Film and Television School (NFTS). Live 20 attendees: 73 Total Views on YouTube & Vimeo: 27



### **FUTURELAB: READ, LISTEN, CONNECT**

This project was part of **Europe Readr** - The Future of living, initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia on the occasion of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and realised in cooperation with EUNIC. Our cluster under the leadrship of the Slovenian Embassy in London developped three main projects:

#### • #EuropeReadr libraries:

The digital Europe Readr platform brings current social issues to readers around the world. It encourages reflection on the world we want to live in, presenting us with an opportunity to consider the European Union as a community in all its diversity and interconnectedness and as a community with a common future. From 1 July to 31 December 2021, a curated set of European literature entitled "The Future of Living" is available for reading free of charge. There is one literary work from each EU Member State in the original language and the English translation. EUNIC London has created four Europe Readr bookshelves, hosted at the Institut français UK, the Goethe-Institut London, the Delegation of the European Union to the UK and the Cervantes Institute London from September 2021 to December 2021, offering to the audience access to a selection of physical copies of the books included in the digital platform.

#### • #EuropeReadr PODCAST SERIES:

The Riveting Interview - A special series of author interviews to celebrate the Europe Readr project, presented by Rosie Goldsmith, in partnership with the European Literature Network; featuring the authors: Drago Jančar, Lukas Jüliger, Axel Lindél, Akvilė Kavaliauskaitė, Tiziano Fratus, Ann de Bode, Sanna Pelliccioni, Alexander Shpatov and Mária Ferenčuhová. This project was supported by the EU Delegation to the UK and the Slovenian Embassy London, Goethe-Institut London, Embassy of Sweden in the UK, Lithuanian Embassy in the UK, Italian Cultural Institute London, Finnish Institute UK+ Ireland, Bulgarian Cultural Institute London, Flanders House in the UK and the Embassy of Slovakia in the UK. Total downloads so far: 856. All episodes are available to listen for free on Spotify.

#### • The Festival of the Future City:

Eunic in partnership with Bristol Ideas and the Festival of the Future City organised two roundtable discussions on:

- Smart Shrinkage: the Imagination of Mid-size Cities, that took place on the 18 October 2021, with the experts Aurélien Bellanger, Matevz Celik and Ilinca Păun Constantinescu of Collective Ideilagram. Attendees: 36
- <u>Relevance of History in Imagining our Urban Futures</u>, that took place on the 19 October 2021, with the experts Goda Palekaite, Monika Platzer and Fiona 21 McDermott. Attendees: 51













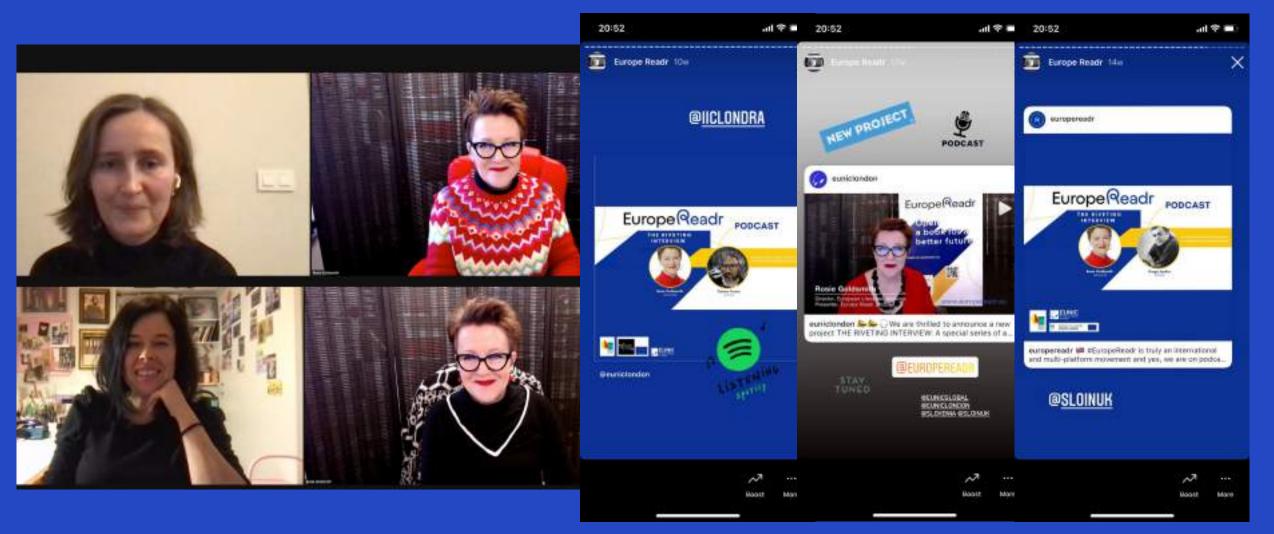


## EUROPE READR PODCAST





## EUROPE READR PODCAST



# FESTIVAL OF THE FUTURE CITY

What is the Relevance of History in Imagining Our Urban Futures?

**Panel discussion** 

TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021, 18-DE - 19-DE CROWDGART 1 PREM



What is the Future for Mid-size Cities? Panel discussion

> MONDAY 18 OCTOBER 3021, 18:00 - 18:00 CROWOCAST | FREE

SHARE THIS # f D DO TEAMS AND CONDITIONS

Our panel discusses the role of history and historical research in understanding urban public spaces.

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FESTIVAL OF THE FUTURE CITY

Our panellists discuss how artists, writers and architects can help us understand the shift from big to mid-size cities. 25



2021 Visiting Speaker series: EUNIC London welcomed numerous specialists from UK Arts and Culture organisations to its monthly meetings, representing various fields and discussed challenges faced by Covid-19 Pandemic and Brexit.Guests included: Sebastian Quack- Director of Now Play This! Festival, Amy Letman- Creative Director of Transform, Charlotte Jones-Management Association for theatre's independent sector ITC Arts, Jonathan Heawood- Executive Director at Public Interest News Foundation, Marc Ball- Creative Director of MIF and "The Factory" / Manchester, Valentino Catricalà- Curator at SODA Gallery and a lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, Nick McDowell and Nicola Smyth-Arts Council England, Edward Gilman- Director of Auto Italia South East and Adrew Kelly-Director of Bristol Ideas, Daiva Citvariene, Curator, researcher and cultural producer of Kaunas2022 Memory Office and Dovile Butnoriute and Monika Incervte from Kaunas2022 International Press Team.

**Post-Brexit sessions:** EUNIC London organised two informative sessions with specialists exploring post-Brexit regulations: a training session on *EU Immigration Post-Brexit - Creative / Artists* (8 February ) led by Christopher Benn-Seraphus Solicitors and a workshop on *Mobility & Cultural Exchange* in collaboration with Cultural Attaché Network, (21 April), welcoming representatives from <u>Arts Infopoint UK</u>, and from <u>On-The-Move</u>.



### **NETWORKING EVENTS**







EUNIC meeting at Flanders House, Guest Presentation by Andrew Kelly (Director of Bristol Festival of Ideas) November 2021





## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE EU DELEGATION AND EUNIC LONDON

On 7 May a signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Union Delegation to UK and the EU European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) London Cluster took place. The MoU is an important step in enhancing a closer cooperation between the two strategic partners.

The 2016 Joint Communication "Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations" stipulates that the EU's international cultural relations contribute to making the EU a stronger global actor. The Agreement strengthens the strategic partnership between the EU Delegation to the UK and EUNIC London in areas of intercultural relations and the promotion of European culture. It reinforces one of the priorities of the EU Delegation to the UK to engage with local stakeholders and to mutually foster joint cultural activities which raise the visibility of EU creative sector in the UK.

A discussion, with the presence of HE Ambassador Vale de Almeida, Dr Federico Bianchi, the EU Delegation's Head of Press and Public Diplomacy and Katrin Sohns, Přemysl Pela, and Claudia Ott (of EUNIC London Presidency Team) as well as Waltraud Dennhardt-Herzog (Director of ACF London) and Katharina von Ruckteschell (Director of Goethe-Institut London), followed the signing ceremony of the MoU. At least six large cultural projects were agreed as a basis for cooperation throughout 2021, including a <u>European short film</u> <u>festival</u> and <u>EUROPE Readr:The Future of Living</u>, a project dedicated to exploring intersections between literature, sustainability, architecture, urbanism and digitalisation.



From left to right: Katrin Sohns, Přemysl Pela, HE Ambassador Vale de Almeida, Katharina von Ruckteschell, Waltraud Dennhardt-Herzog and Claudia Ott.



## EUNIC ECOLOGICAL GUIDELINES

Climate change is the defining crisis of our time. Rising temperatures are fuelling environmental degradation, natural disasters, extreme weather events, food and water insecurity, economic disruption, conflict and terrorism. Faced with already irreversible damage from global heating, the need to form a bold, collective, international environmental and sustainability policy for the arts has never been greater.

In alignment with both EU and UK emission goals, EUNIC London has put together this green policy document covering all levels of our activities and programming and providing practical operating guidelines for all members.

Download the document here.

























## PARTNERSHIPS

EUNIC London in 2021 has developed partnerships with:

- The British Library
- The National Centre for Writing
- London Craft Week
- London Design Festival
- The Poetry Society
- The Scotland House London
- Voila!Europe Theatre Festival
- Raindance Festival
- London Film Festival
- Arts Council England
- The European Literature Network
- Cultural Attaché Network
- Infopoint UK
- Bristol Festival of Ideas
- The Festival of the Future City
- National Film and Television School (NFTS)
- Literature Wales

- Swansea University's Cultural Institute
- Goldsmiths University Cultural Diplomacy Programme
- Transform Festival, England
- Gateshead International Festival of Theatre, England
- Outburst Queer Arts Festival, Northern Ireland
- Take Me Somewhere Festival, Scotland
- Submerge Festival, England
- Alkantara Festival, Portugal
- Baltic Circle Festival, Finland
- Batard Festiva Festival, Belgium
- auawirleben Theaterfestival Festival, Switzerland
- Theaterformen, Germany
- Buffer Fringe Festival, Cyprus
- ImageTanz Festival, Austria



## 2022 PROJECTS & PLANS

- □ Networking trip to Cambridge (14 January 2022)
- □ Night of Ideas 2022 Books for Thought Series (EUNIC Global funded project, starting 27 January 2022)
- □ In Short, Europe Film Festival (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 7 May 2022): A continuation of our Short Film festival in May 20212 with a hybrid edition comprising European Short films screenings and satellite events, including talks, interdisciplinary performances and a VIP reception.
- □ Europe Day Week (7-14 May 2022)
- □ Networking trips to Northern Ireland (June/ July 2022)
- Visiting Speaker series: EUNIC London continues to invite specialists from UK Arts and Culture organisations to its monthly meetings, representing various fields (performance, visual arts, innovation, design) to discuss challenges faced (also in light with the Covid-19 Pandemic and Brexit) and to develop cooperation.
- Capacity building sessions & work groups (including website update and social media presence development)
- **European Writers Project**



## CONTACT

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