

YOUNG DANCE NETWORK

Objectives and aims

The main objectives and activities for which the network will be established is to promote the diffusion of dance as a performing art for children and young people and, in a wider sense, to promote and enhance a culture for growing up and living with dance.

The two general goals of the network are: creating exchange possibilities among the professionals and empowering the sector within the field of dance and of TYA.

Within the network we have agreed to work without judgement about quality of work.

The principles of the network are:

Aim 1

to amplify the visibility of dance for young audiences by:

- empowering and 'educating' the audience through offering strategies to artists for audience engagement
- lobbying decision makers in the field of performing arts and (dance) education

Aim 2

to increase the awareness and appreciation of professionals in the field of dance by:

- stimulating and influencing debate about the impact of dance for young audiences in everyday life

Aim 3

to identify dance for young audiences as a distinct form with global commonalities as well as local specificities and to create vehicles for connection and exchange within that framework by:

- designing and delivering new formats for artists to work together

Aim 4

to foster exchange, knowledge, experience and the spark of ideas by:

- facilitating and encouraging collaboration, meeting points, encounters and networking

Aim 5

to acknowledge and promote the importance of dance for young audiences as an essential instrument in the development of children and young people by:

- facilitating and encouraging dance play and appreciation within familial, cultural and educational structures

Aim 6

to include dance for young audiences as an artistic partner in audience development and to stimulate a conversation between professional dancers and audiences

Aim 7

to share the specificity of dance for young audiences

Guidelines of the network

Preamble

The aim of the network is to enable a collegial interaction and exchange. The guideline of the network is intended to serve this goal and to enable members to have a structure with which they can work independently and collegially with each other. The network also aims to work in a transparent and trusting manner. All members work on a voluntary basis.

The structure of the network consists of general members and a core group of up to a maximum of 12 core group members. General members as well as core members can organize under different working groups and regional networks.

Relation to the ASSITEJ International

YDN takes part in the 3 events of the ASSITEJ International within a 3-year-rhythm

- World Congress
- Artistic gathering 1
- Artistic gathering 2

General Members

Members must be engaged with children and dance. Members can be:

- choreographers, companies, dancers, theatre-venues, producers, production houses, festivals, dramaturges, promoters and any other people working or interested in working in the field of dance for children;
- school teachers, school directors;
- exceptional membership: In order to create consultants of the network we also allow children and families to become member. Children are an artistic partner in the network and can have a role in the development of new formats, audience development, sparring partner and setting the agenda in politics.

The general members are invited to 2 online meeting per year, and general Council to the yearly ASSITEJ International event where YDN is going to be part of.

Every 3 years the members vote for a new core group (except in the first round where the election will be in 2022 and in 2024). In case a core group member wants to quit, a mechanism will be developed to fill up the core group.

Core Group

The general members will elect the Core Group.

Core group members of the YDN will be elected on 28 of November 2022 and will be in charge till the World Congress of ASSITEJ International 2024. The YDN elects a new core member group every 3 years during the World Congress.

Composition

The Core Group must be assembled in such a way that it is formed by people from different backgrounds and different countries/continents in the sense of a global network.

Minimum of number of core group members: 7

Maximum of number of core group members: 12

Mission and general tasks of the Core Group

The core group is responsible to keep things going on in the YDN and to have the overview of its development. Core members have to be active. Everybody has to take over responsibility in general and in special with a defined task within the group. General tasks are:

- Taking part in (monthly) zoom chats with the other YDN core members. Number of meetings: at least 11 times per year;
- Meet with all YDN members 1 times per year in chat or/and in real time during a live event;
- Participate in at least 1 meeting of ASSITEJ International in the 3 years-period ASSITEJ is working;
- Participation in at least 1 meeting/event of the YDN during a live event, responsible for a contribution (lecture, workshop, moderation or other);
- Being an ambassador for YDN.

Tasks of the Core Member

Everybody has to take over responsibility with a defined task within the group.

Specific tasks of the core group to be shared:

- Organize the monthly core group meetings, as well as two meeting for all members during the year;
- Takes notes from the monthly meetings, putting together the reports that the EC of ASSITEJ International will be asking for;
- Represent the network in relation to the other networks and to the EC;
- Being responsible for the for social media;
- Being responsible for the website;
- Being responsible for the finance controller;

- Being responsible for the mail communication;
- Confirming or rejecting membership applications;

Working groups

A member may propose a topic for a working group and if there are at least 2 other members who are interested in working on this topic, a working group can be set up. New suggestions and ideas have to be presented to the core group so that the core group can give feedback. The working group works autonomously and communicates its work or concerns regularly into the core group.

Once a year, at the General Council, the continuation of a working group is confirmed by the working group itself or decided by the General Council to dissolve it.

Local and regional networks

Local or regional networks can be created. A member may propose a regional network and if there are at least 2 other members who have interests to work on it, so a group can be set up.

All suggestions have to first presented to the core group, so that the core group can provide feedback. Members of local and regional networks have to be general members of YDN. The network works autonomously and communicates regularly its work to the core group

Once a year, at the General Council, the continuation of a local or regional network is confirmed by the local or regional network itself or decided by the General Council to dissolve it.

About working groups and local networks

The working groups and the networks are intended as non-hierarchical working tools in which everyone meets on an equal footing. It is desirable that the working groups should be found in such a way that they are formed by people from different backgrounds and different countries/continents in the sense of a global network. When setting up a working group or a local/regional network, it would be desirable to find a structure that involves other members from the entire network, f.e. in the function of an exchange partner, ambassador.... People should change at greater regular intervals.

It is possible to set up any number of working groups.

Membership fee and financial regulations

Until 2024 members are not required to pay any membership fee and the network does not have a legal body (association). During the general council in 2024 it will be decided how to proceed.

All members work on a voluntary basis.

Members of the YDN and specially core members of the YDN do not receive financial compensation if they facilitate events or deliver workshops in the frame of YDN. In case of presence to specific events

the costs of travel, accommodation and food needs to be covered, possible fees have to be devolved to the YDN to cover costs of the network. In case of specific members organizing a whole event a fee can be charged.

The network refers to the policy of ASSITEJ International to fight possible conflict of interest.

If there is a desire to submit a financial application for a project, this must first be agreed with the core group and confirmed by the possible financial partner. A working group, a local or a regional network is not allowed to decide on their own. In order to prepare an application, it is necessary to address the Core group at its regular meetings. The core group and its members must unanimously approve the request. In case the network will constitute an association, this decision will be taken by the Board of the Association in consultation with the Core members.

Contact for the network: youngdancenetwork@gmail.com

Extension of the paper from the 13 of June 2023

1. The list of general members will be published on the YDN website.
2. Being the ambassador of the YDN at different events.
 - a. Every member can appear as an ambassador of the YDN at different events. The member that wishes to do so is obligated to inform the core group about the event beforehand.
 - b. It is possible to announce the event on the YDN website and social media. Our understanding is that the aim of these events, under the name of YDN, is not for selling productions or for self-promotion, but to enable collegial interactions and exchanges.
3. Another specific task of the core group is to notify the general members about current activities of the network.