

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.
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Extension of the paper from the 26th of November 2025

Decision-making process of The Core Group:

- The Core Group members aim to reach a consensus on every issue discussed concerning the Network,
- If consensus cannot be reached, the decision is made by a majority vote of participants present at the meeting, provided that all members of the Core Group have been informed about the time and place of the decision-making process,
- In the event of a tie, a repeat vote must be held at a later designated date,
- Meetings and voting by Core Group may also be conducted online.

Election of Board Members:

- Board members are elected by all YDN members (both general and core).
- The reporting and election meeting is held once every three years, in the same year as the ASSITEJ World Congress.
- All of the above-mentioned association members must be informed of the time and place of the reporting and election meeting at least one month in advance.
- Candidates for the Core Group need to be nominated no later than two months before the General Council that is at the same time and election meeting.
- The organizational responsibilities to organize the General Council are handled by the actual Core Group,
- The Core Group consists of 5-10 members.
- All core members are elected through voting by all YDN members present on the General Council.
- The General Council as well as voting will take place online.
- The Core Group consists of the individuals who receive the highest number of votes. In order to be elected the candidate shall receive at least 2 votes. Every member has 10 votes and can give a maximum 1 vote to 1 candidate.

- If candidates receive the same number of votes, and the number of available places of Core Group does not allow for all of them to be admitted, a second vote will be held with only those candidates who received the same number of votes.
- The Core Group is aiming to have representatives from all regions of the world.

Approval Process for Changes to the Code of Conduct:

- the Code of Conduct can be updated maximum once per year,
- the voting on the updates of the Code of Conduct is happening during the yearly General Council,
- the proposition of the update must be sent to all members no later than 3 weeks before the date of the voting General Council,,
- the members can give the feedback to the proposition no later that 7 days before the voting,
- a proposed update of the Code of Conduct will be approved if receiving a qualified 2/3 majority of the members with the right to vote, present at the meeting.

Communication:

All correspondence between the board and the members takes place exclusively via electronic means.

Membership and Legal Status (2024–2027):

Until the YDN General Council in 2027 members are not required to pay any membership fee, and the network does not have a legal entity (association). A decision on the future course of action will be made during the General Council in 2027.

Actualisation of "General Members" chapter:

We had: The general members are invited to 2 online meetings per year, and the General Council to the yearly ASSITEJ International event where YDN is going to be part of. Now we go for: minimum one online meeting per year and minimum one General Council online event that happens every year when ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering is taking place. The YDN will also organise at least one live meeting per year, that will take place live during the ASSITEJ International events - AAG or AWC.

Actualisation of the "Mission and general tasks of the Core Group" chapter:

- We had: Number of the monthly meetings: at least 11 per year. Now we go for: at least 6 per year.

- We had: The core group is responsible to keep things going on in the YDN and to have the overview of its development. Now we go for: The core group is responsible to take care of the structure that allows the possibilities for members to appear.

Actualisation of the “Tasks of the Core Member” chapter:

- to the list of tasks that are shared, we add:
 - organize activities linked to the ASSSITEJ AG and WC,
 - coordinate YDN's members activities in frame of ASSITEJ projects,
 - actualisation of the code of conduct if needed.

The procedures of leaving the core group will be developed in the further actualisations.