

The Drama War Project

Swinging Europe and AREA-network with The Jam Factory Lviv (Ukraine)
In cooperation with many organisations in Midtjylland.

We apply at Ringkøbing Skjern Kommune for a subsidy of 30.000 dkk.

Applicants: Swinging Europe in cooperation with AREA-Network

Swinging Europe: The Independent Institution Swinging Europe is a non-profit institution and has been working internationally with arts and culture since 1998. In our work, we prioritize developing and participating in cultural collaborations both locally, regionally, nationally and internationally by creating a solid foundation for the exploration of cultural projects. Internationally, projects focus on expanding and creating a strong foundation for international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

AREA-network is an active network of artists, organisers and policymakers that promotes art practise in rural areas in Europe. The network started in 2021, has members in more than 10 European countries and is based and registered in Denmark. From July 2022 it has it's office in Holstebro/ Slagteriet. AREA-network is initiated by Kunstneren Tæt På's project leader in cooperation with other artists working together in KTP like Inge Agnete Tarpgaard and Morten Mosgaard.

The jam factory is an art and cultural centre in Lviv. The centre works for artists in Ukraine and has a strong international reputation for the quality of it's artistic work.

Partners:

- Slagteriet, Holstebro; offers productional support and workspace.
 - Odin Theater, offers overnight accommodation for Ukraine artists and representatives of the Jam Factory.
 - the libraries in the cooperating municipalities: Varde, Ikast Brande, Herning, Skive, Struer, Holstebro. And we expect a positive answer from Lemvig as well. Libraries are a perfect place to present the artistic work; they have a good communicationsystem with a broad audience and a low threshold (tærskel).
 - in Ringkøbing Skjern we work with Frivilig Vest (the library offers space) and with the Sogneforening Stadil Vedersø.
 - Museum Flugt: the cooperation is 'under construction' they will cooperate in August.
- and
- LIFT – London festival of Theatre: partner of AREA, has offered to present the work in their festival.
 - Festival Passage in Helsingør is a partner and will support the project in a next period.
 - Archa Theatre Prague: supports the writers and will present the performative readings.

Brief project description

During the AREA network on line meeting of 12 th April, partners developed the plan to join the Drama War Project of the Jam Factory art center in Lviv, Ukraine. Two experienced, female playwrights are selected to write a play, reflecting the experiences of Ukrainian people during the Russian invasion. A war in Europe. The two plays will be translated from Ukraine into Danish. In cooperation with the playwrights and artistic team of the Jam Factory we will organise so called 'performative readings'. This means that the

actors are directed into their roles, they read the text as if they perform but we do not use a theatrical building, scene, lights and sound system. All technical (expensive) elements are basic.

We develop cooperations with with partners in the 8 municipalities who participate in Kultursamarbejde. The project takes place from June (start translations) till the end of October / beginning November. We reach out to a broad audience with at least 18 performative readings. We have a special focus on youngsters. And we want to reach out to a mixed audience of Ukraine workers/ refugees and Danish citizens.

In October 2022 we know the interests of theater- and festival programmers to work further on with the texts, with the Jam Factory and with us. Then the performative readings will turn into another form: video and live-acting. But that is not part of this application.

The jam Factory

Jam Factory Art Center was established in 2017 in Lviv, Ukraine and has been doing art projects in Ukraine and across Europe, working with visual arts, theatre and music. Jam Factory Art Center's vision since its beginning, was to open a revitalized space in a post-industrial building in Lviv. This space was due to open in August 2022. Bozhena Pelenska (the director) and Liuba Ilnytska (dramaturg, curator and manager) of the Jam Factory are our main contacts. <https://jamfactory.ua>

The Jam Factory is member of the international network AREA, along with Can Rebecca Canoe/KTP, Teater Jaevn, Urban Goods.

The Jam Factory initiated a plan with the work title Drama War project. The aim of the plan is to tell in Ukraine and in the rest of Europe what the war means to common people. What the effect is on their daily lifes, their families, their values and their future. And secondly, what it means for us all; living a life in which we thought freedom is normal.

The Jam Factory has chosen two drama writers, Anastasiia Kosodii and Olha Matsiupa (more info below), who are asked to create a theatrical text, based on interviews with UA people. Secondly a transaltor will translate these texts in English and German. We will commission a Danish translation.

Danish actors will be selected by us to read / perform the translated work for a Danish audience.

Internationally we create podcasts to broadcasts these artworks all over Europe and the world. Swinging Europe, AREA-network, KTP and partners want to produce this project in Denmark.

The need for art, to tell the story of people living in Ukraine and to share their experiences with people all over Europe is now more urgent than ever. We need to know, we need to understand, together we need to create a free future for all. So that we can feel at home where we live. This project put's the seeds for such a future in the soil. That's why we all want to help to develop this plan and make it happen in RegionMidt, to begin in the 8 Samarbejde kommuner.

"They tried to bury us, they did not know we were seeds"

From the words of Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos,

Projektets formål og

From the JF website:

"Because of the terrible full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine, the plan to open the Art Center in August 2022 has been shattered. But our will to pursue our goal is and will remain alive.

Now we work in an emergency mode to meet the needs of our country at war. Our halls and basements have become distribution centers for humanitarian aid and are giving shelter to refugees and civilians from the neighborhood. Individually, the members of our team are volunteers and provide security for our own families and friends.

As an art institution, our special concern remains the cultural sector which we consider to be our country's major soft power. In response to the ongoing full-scale war against our country, we are launching the "Artists in War" program to support the communities of independent art and culture in Ukraine"

Elements of the project

Project team:

We have formed a project group with The Jam Factory (JF). The director Bozhena Pelenska and Liuba Illytska (dramaturg, curator and manager) of the JF are our contacts. They work with a young talented team and have a huge network of artists in Ukraine. They took the initiative for this Drama War project. The JF is 'owner' of the project: they have the artistic responsibility, they know the situation, they know the UA artists. In Denmark we formed a team to realize the project in DK. Through the AREA-network the project is transformed into a European project. The project team (started 12 April) has members in the UK, Czech Republic, Wales, France, Germany and is still growing. In Denmark Marie Lilholt and Henk Keizer are the project leaders in cooperation with Pia Stræde Palmelund and Maria Vandborg.

The artists

The selected writers are Anastasiia Kosodii and Olha Matsiupa. Anastasia and Olha are well-known young Ukrainian authors who work on the topic of historical memory, ecology, and documentary material. Working with documentary stories and researching Kosodii and Matsiupa in their texts transform the picture of reality into a multilayer poetic form. For us it was important that both playwrights participated in international theatrical projects working with Ukrainian topics and know how to bring the Ukrainian context closer to the international community. See bilag.

The project in Ukraine

The JF's plan, to be realized with money collected by special actions as "Artists in War" is to have the two texts ready in June (2022). The texts will be translated to English and German. The JF organises so-called performative readings to show and test the texts during public events. In these events the JF organises also informative sessions and talks. Stage Directors and actors in Ukraine will be invited to work on those readings. The Danish project team will use the UA experience and program format.

The project in DK

The project in Denmark will be organized in close contact with the Jam Factory. Starting point are the two different theatre texts. These texts need to be translated in the right way: not only the words but also the meaning and poetry of the texts needs to stay strong and alive. Translation needs to be done by professionals with Danish actors in regular contact with Ukrainian writers. Each play is about 25 pages - A4 - / between 45 - 60 minutes, depending on the director and actors.

Performative Quality

When the texts are ready to start rehearsals for the performative readings, the two writers and dramaturg from UA, plus the two leaders from The JF are invited to Denmark to work on the text/

translations/ and performative theatrical aspects (tone, tempo, intention, silences and emphasis etc). The result will be that listening to the reading is an interesting theatrical and social experience. This means that not only the informative content will communicate with the audience but also the poetic layers, the emotions will touch the audiences.

One per day

The texts will take about 45-60 minutes, followed by a short break and a follow-up discussion. This means that we will offer every partner/ municipality library to organise two days. We expect that at least one time per municipality we organise a follow-up discussion. We count with 8 municipalities, 2 plays is in total 16 performative readings, plus two extra in FLUGT, is a minimum of 18 performative readings.

Public Event

The follow-up discussion after a performative reading is one of the public events that will be developed. The aim of these events is to tell / talk about the context of the performance, the dramatic situation in Ukraine and to discuss what this war means in their/ our daily lives, how it affects the future of all and how we can be reactive, both in Ukraine and the rest of Europe.

We will ask partners, and libraries and museums where the project takes place about their expertise in public discussion to be sure that the discussion connects with our audiences. We hope to find local moderators to assist the professional moderator.

Cooperation : Swinging Europe, AREA-network, Slagteriet and Kunstneren Tæt På

The three organisations have enough experience to produce the events. We all contribute as much as we can. As our financial resources are very limited, we need financial support from the municipalities, funds and others. Our productional skills are not limited: we can cover all tasks in the project. We intend to find more partners where and when needed.

Part of the preparation and production will be to work together with more regional/local organisations. Local recognisability of the co-organiser is important to reach a broad audience.

We will have to find good quiet venues to have the performative readings and receive an audience who can listen with concentration. Even when we cooperate with the libraries, there will be a need for some technical equipment such as microphones, a video projector, maybe some extra light. There will be a need for ticket selling and control of tickets, for audience-safety, coffee. We will find a moderator who can lead the discussion, people who contact the local newspaper etc.

Include Ukrainian refugees

With help of frivillig Vest and others, we will try to find refugees in Denmark who have professional experience in theater and can work on the project. They could be of great help for the follow-up meetings, the meetings with schools. Maybe they want to share their ideas and experiences. And who knows, we might find actors for the performative readings in the Ukrainian language.

main tasks:

Swinging Europe

- takes the responsibility for the financial and administrative work including the financial and activity report.
- is co-producer and is experienced in working in small communities and in international projects also the practical production work
- contacted Odin-theater for a overnight-accommodation for the Ukraine writers and JF-representative (residency rooms)

- together with KTP lead in communication / websites

AREA and Kunstneren Tæt På-team

- coordinates the communication with The JF and other international partners and AREA
- finds Danish dramaturg,
- creates podcasts and video
- co producers
- writes applications

Slagteriet

- productional support
- venue and meeting & office space

Extra

1. podcasts

Kunstneren Tæt På's artist Morten Mosgaard is a very experienced creator of podcasts. We have asked him to record the performative readings and work with the authors to create podcasts. By transforming the reading into another artform (podcasts) the texts can reach broader audiences for a longer time.

2. performances on stage

during the performative readings we will - like in Ukraine invite - theater and festival programmers, organisers etc from DK, Germany and Netherlands. They are invited to create performances for their theatres and festivals, by using the texts.

3. performative readings in Ukrainian language

In Jutland we have many workers in the agricultural sector and since the war we give Ukrainian refugees a home. Together with the municipalities we will research where most Ukrainian people can be found. For them we will organise readings in Ukrainian combined with Danish. We hope to organise meetings of Danes and Ukrainians in this way. Expect to do this in two municipalities and the Museum FLUGT.

where

Libraries.

We expect to have performative readings in the 8 Kultursamarbejde municipalities. We prefer to have these readings plus the open meetings in libraries. The advantage of libraries is that the access-threshold is low, they reach a broad audience and also young people.

FLUGT

The brand-new Museum FLUGT is interested to have performative readings. The museum will open in June 2022.

Slagteriet

Slagteriet has a good outreach to young people. We discuss with them how to organise some of the performative readings in cooperation with the schools and other young organisations in their network.

Why

We support The Jam Factories action Artists in War to collect money and give bourses to artists. Today Ukrainian artists and art professionals remain among the most vulnerable professional groups in society as almost all art institutions and other agents of the creative sector have ceased to operate; some have closed or migrated, others lie in ruins. All of the country's financial needs have been redirected to support Ukraine's armed forces in resisting Russian aggression. This effort is crucial for our survival.

We cooperate with The Jam Factories project Drama War Project because we share the same vision: It is in these times of deepest crisis for Ukraine that art and culture are most needed to reflect on human conditions in a reality dominated by violence and pain. We need the hands and the voices of artists to express in a profound and lasting way what happens in our minds and souls today. It is crucial for the democratic rights and European values to resist Russian aggression by making our voices heard all over Europe and the rest of the world.

Who

Lead partners:
Swinging Europe,
AREA-network

Time table

May	find partners in the 8 municipalities, find the right space (libraries, museums, theatres, churches) planning and agreements with all partners / venues. fundraising find a translator for the two texts.
June	text ready for translation agreement translator translator start translation in cooperation with JF and the playwrights. start communication (print and on line) invite festival / theater programmers.
July	translation ready about end July production team ready / local anchors/ publicity social media.
August	rehearsals, text reading, plus playwrights 5 days.

design the follow-up discussions for common audiences and for schools.
re-start the communication / publicity on the spot.
start performative readings from 22 august. with playwrights and -
representatives.
expected end of the performative readings: 30 september 2022.
talks with festivals and programmers about continuation of the project, form,
partners, reach-out/target groups.

september	performative readings continue
and	evaluation of the project with partners
oktober	decisions about continuation of the "Jyske-Cooperation".

the application

we apply for 30.000 dkk. This is the same amount as we ask the other communities.

For 30.000 each municipality will have at least two performative readings, at two places. 15.000 each.

3 actors x 2500 per reading :	7.500
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1 technician x 2500	2.500
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1 production leader x 2500	2.500
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moderator/ travel costs/ equipments	2.500
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In Ringkøbing Skjern we will cooperate with Frivillige Vest to reach a Danish and Ukrainian audience with performances in Skjern, Ringkøbing and Stadil-Vedersø.