

#4

ARTcoWORKers Newsletter

**Program: Erasmus+ KA2 Cooperation
for innovation and the exchange of
good practices, KA227 Partnerships for
Creativity**

**Duration: 01.04.2021. – 31.03.2023.
Contractor: Nationale Agentur Bildung
für Europa beim Bundesinstitut für
Berufsbildung, Germany**

**Contract No.: KA227-3E79C94F
Coordinator: Verein zur sozialen und
beruflichen Integration e.V., Merseburg,
Germany.**



ARTcoWORKers



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The sole responsibility of this publication lies with the author. The European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



Creative Commons Copyright, 2021, Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International Licence, BY-SA. You are free to share, and adapt this material under the terms of the authors' Creative Commons Licence.

Dear readers,

We are pleased to be able to present you the fourth "ARTcoWORKers" newsletter. "ARTcoWORKers" stands for "Arts and People with disabilities - cooperative digital working for inclusion during the pandemic". It is a project within the framework of the European Erasmus + special program for strategic partnerships in the creative industries to cope with the consequences of the pandemic.

ARTcoWORKers presents project results and invites you to participate - final conference on March 30th, 2023 in Pécs. At the end of the 2-year ARTcoWORKers project, we invited to an international final conference in the Pepita in Pécs on the penultimate day of the project. Including the participants of our final ARTcoWORKers training, around 80 people took part in the all-day conference on March 30th, 2023.

Mr. Tamás Horváth, Chairman of the Culture Committee, delivered the greeting from the Pécs City Council. During the conference, video presentations of the ARTcoWORKers shadow theater performances at the locations of the individual project partners alternated with the presentation of the project results. Shadows and Clouds brought their shadow theater equipment from Skopje and performed their shadow theater game live. The multinational participants in the final training then presented their shadow theater plays. The participants of the conference were then asked to participate and discuss about ARTcoWORKers.

Finally, the project coordinator presented the results of the workshop on the future of ARTcoWORKers conducted during the 5-day training program. Concrete suggestions and measures were developed as to how the ARTcoWORKers training program, the ARTcoWORKers platform and the ARTcoWORKers shadow theater games can be continued or transferred to other fields of activity of the project partners.

Thanks go to the People First team as excellent hosts and the participants of the ARTcoWORKers final training for organizing the final conference.

Roger Schmidtchen, coordinator

We have a growing Virtual Forum

The aim of blended mobility is to bring together different target groups who are familiar with or interested in the topic. Develop networks and generate collaborations.

We already had a 3-day blended training with artists and people with disabilities in Macedonia/Skopje, so we already had a core of people who could and want to work together. However, before us there was another 5-day very active blended training in Hungary/Pécs. In preparation for this, we launched a virtual forum, which took the form of an open Facebook group at the very beginning of February.

Additional benefits of the virtual blended mobility:

- international cooperation
- improving communication skills of participants
- developing digital skills of participants

We met four times online on Teams, and there were always more and more of us. At first we thought that 2 participants from each country would be enough, but the more interested people joined, the more exciting the forum became. We discussed the topics, while posts went back and forth in the Facebook group, examples, ideas, curiosities from all countries.

How did it end?

It's not over, in fact, it's just beginning!

During the five-day training and closing conference in Hungary/Pécs at the end of March, the Facebook group became a kind of community space. Since then, everyone has been sharing their experiences, photos, links...

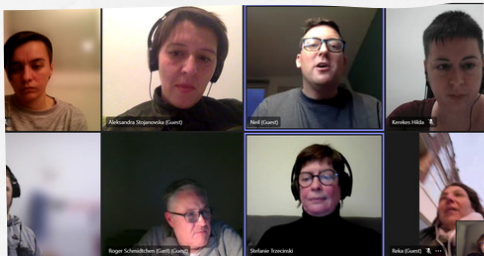
From the initial few participants, the group now has 27 international members. Virtual cooperation has become a real community, which will continue, hopefully also with realized collaborations.

Come join a group if you are interested in the possibilities of connecting art and disability, unexplored areas, new business ideas! Link to the group: [ARTcoWORKers virtual forum | Facebook](#)

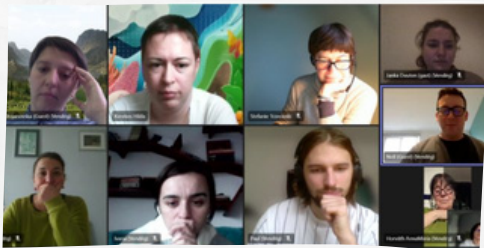
by Veronika Pataki /Hungary

Objectives of the Virtual Forum

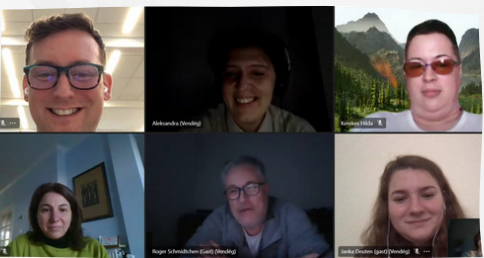
Collaboration between the 2 target groups (people with disabilities, art workers: not only artists, but also those who work in the field of art, and we also welcome artists with disabilities.)



Strengthening self-interest of disabled artists. Opportunities, experiences.



Develop the sustainability of the ARTcoWORKers project: create joint business between the two target groups, and create an international cooperative network.



Experiences to IO2 (pilot training), IO3 (shadow theater play) and IO4 (platform). Test these project outputs, piloting them, examine their good and weak points.

Are we ending, or are we actually starting?

The word final is associated with a grand finale and a full stop.

But not in our case, not in our ARTcoWORKers project! After taking part in their local training and jointly working on a shadow theater performance, the cohesive and inclusive group joined forces to do a sequel joint performance during the final conference in Pecz.

Instead of starting from scratch, coming up with a story, dividing the roles and orchestrating a massive show, where most likely one would wait 30min to perform only for a minute, we took a different turn. We built upon a mindset and a feeling that was already present in the group, freshly built during a heart-warming art therapy workshop for crafting teddy bears. There we had it, right in front of us, a group of people already connected to the character of a Teddy Bear so might as well put it under the spotlight and multiply that effect!

And have not 1 but 4 more intimate performances, give 4 different Teddy Bears a chance to win the audience's hearts. So they did, all of them in their own way. Some of them traveled the Universe, while others traveled to school. Some of them were in colors while others were black and white. Some of them were accompanied by live music, while others by music from our phones. But they all became dear to us, the audience and most importantly to them the inclusive group of performers. Why? Because they were all designers, writers, actors, dancers, directors, crafters and did it all by themselves,

together
!!!



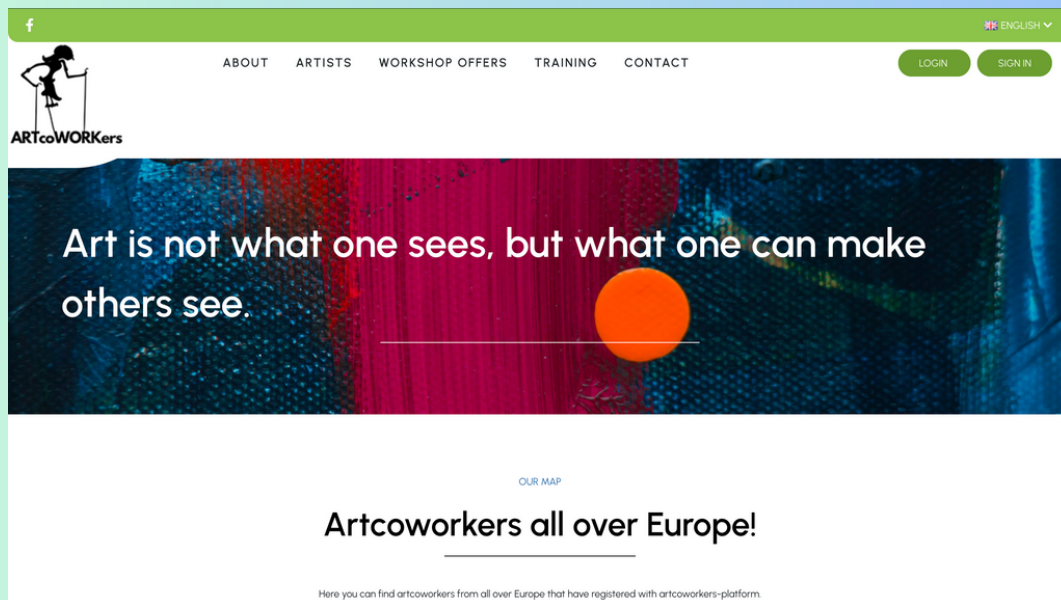


**Easier said than done,
in a very creative and amusing way of course! All of a sudden
you have this very vibrant group of participants, with all sorts of differences
among them - their backgrounds, their needs, their nationalities and many more. But all
have in common at least one thing - the will to change things for themselves with the help of art.**

Our days were voiced in German, English, Hungarian, Macedonian, Dutch, Simple language, drawing, dancing, crafting, performing and playing music. We'd switch hats constantly - participants were becoming facilitators and vice-versa. This fluidity was much needed and welcomed as the group started to feel comfortable and ready to explore one's needs, abilities and disabilities. One of the important elements of working on a performance is making sure everyone feels appreciated, which is the next level of inclusion. Nothing is impossible as art knows no boundaries.

Nevertheless, this compact concept of working on a joint final performance has given proper space for stage time to all participants, no matter their skills and abilities. But most importantly, due to the tight creative collaboration in a pleasant atmosphere among a smaller team (5 people), the experience is full of enhanced feelings, enrichment and motivation to keep on researching with shadow theater. As it turns out, our final performance ended up opening doors to new beginnings.

ARTcoWORKers Platform



The online platform ARTcoWORKers offers artists the opportunity to publish and advertise their workshops free of charge. The platform is available in various languages such as German, English, Macedonian, Hungarian and Dutch and is thus aimed at a broad audience.

Artists from all over the world can post their workshops on ARTcoWORKers and thus reach potential participants who can register on the platform. Participation in the workshops offers participants the opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge and to benefit from the experience of the artists.

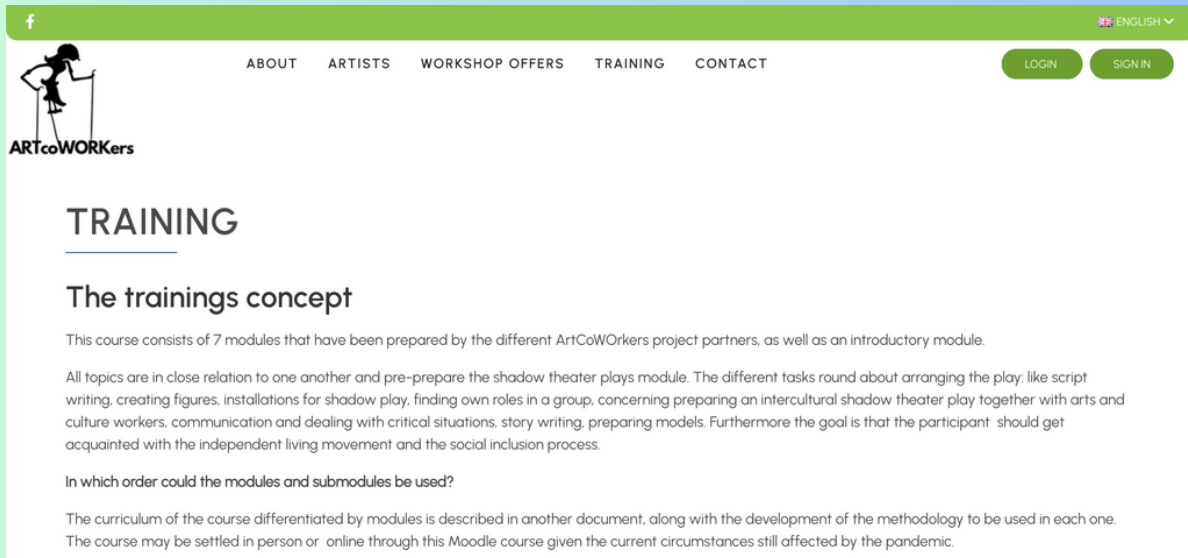
ARTcoWORKers offers a wide range of creative workshops led by talented artists. The platform is easy to use and allows participants to find and sign up for a workshop quickly and easily.

The regular ARTcoWORKers newsletters inform participants about the latest workshops and events on the platform. In this way, users always stay up to date and have the opportunity to participate in the latest and most interesting workshops.

Overall, ARTcoWORKers offers a great opportunity for artists to present their workshops and reach potential participants who are interested in the arts and want to improve their skills.

<http://artcoworkers-platform.eu/>

The ARTcoWORKers Tutorials - learning made easy!



f ENGLISH

ABOUT ARTISTS WORKSHOP OFFERS TRAINING CONTACT LOGIN SIGN IN

ARTcoWORKers

TRAINING

The trainings concept

This course consists of 7 modules that have been prepared by the different ArtCoWOrkers project partners, as well as an introductory module.

All topics are in close relation to one another and pre-prepare the shadow theater plays module. The different tasks round about arranging the play, like script writing, creating figures, installations for shadow play, finding own roles in a group, concerning preparing an intercultural shadow theater play together with arts and culture workers, communication and dealing with critical situations, story writing, preparing models. Furthermore the goal is that the participant should get acquainted with the independent living movement and the social inclusion process.

In which order could the modules and submodules be used?

The curriculum of the course differentiated by modules is described in another document, along with the development of the methodology to be used in each one. The course may be settled in person or online through this Moodle course given the current circumstances still affected by the pandemic.

We are pleased to present the ARTcoWORKers Tutorials!

Through the 15 different films, you will learn everything there is to know about the project. The short and clear tutorials explain the basics of inclusion, give an overview of the project and show how people with and without disabilities can work together artistically.

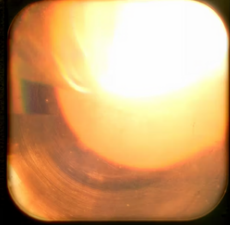
An important component of the project is shadow theater. Here you can learn what it's all about and how it works. The tutorials also show how people with different abilities can work together on shadow theater to create something unique.

The tutorials are not only informative, but also entertaining. The entertaining and engaging nature quickly introduces you to the topic and allows you to start learning right away. The ARTcoWORKers project thus offers a unique opportunity to learn about the topic of inclusion and artistic collaboration.

We hope you are as excited about the project as we are. Check out the tutorials and discover the world of the ARTcoWORKers project!

<http://artcoworkers-platform.eu/>

**What is
Art Coworkers
about?**



**with
Roger Schmidtchen**

**INCLUSION
ACCESSIBILITY
SELF-DETERMINATION
INDEPENDENT LIVING**



CREATIVITY
NOUN [U]
/KRI:EI:TV.Ə.TJ/



**IN THE WAY
IT COMMUNICATES
WITH YOUR AUDIENCE**



**VIEL MEHR
DAFÜR
ZU TUN**



**Module 6
SHADOW
THEATER**



**with
Aleksandra Stojanovska**