



Capacity Building  
for European Capitals  
of Culture

## Community development through creative action

ECoC Academy Camp 4  
Timișoara, 2, 3, 4 March 2022

Outline programme: subject to change.

9 February 2023



Centrul de Proiecte al Municipiului Timișoara

# Presentation

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The fourth Academy Camp of the Capacity Building Programme for the European Capitals of Culture addresses 'Community development through creative action'. Based on the principles of cultural democracy, community development and participatory art, the programme was elaborated in cooperation with Timisoara Centre for Projects and the project team from Interarts.

The Academy Camps are a space for training, peer learning and in-depth exchange. For the Timisoara Camp a total of 18 training hours are planned:

- The growing importance of cultural participation across Europe
- Community development and empowerment through cultural action

The three-day Academy Camp will combine theoretical inputs with practical group work of the on-site participants and build participants' skills and confidence in working with professional and non-professional artists, citizens, NGOs and other groups interested in developing projects with the community.

**Priority groups** are ECoC staff, professionals and stakeholders from the cultural sector in Timisoara, and Timisoara 2023 European Capital of Culture programme, as well as guests from other selected ECoCs. There is capacity for up to 25 on-site participants.

**Programme design and moderation:** François Matarasso

**Technical features and privacy:** The Academy will take place on-site in Timisoara. Online interventions will be streamed. After each intervention, a Questions and Answers session will allow for interaction with each invited speaker. The speaker contributions will be recorded for further dissemination by the ECoC Capacity Building project. Neither the Questions and Answers part nor the discussion parts involving the participants will be recorded or disseminated.

**Key resources:** The programme will draw extensively on two publications by François Matarasso. Participants do not need to have read these beforehand, but they will be useful reference points and are available as free downloads from the links below.

- [A Restless Art: How participation won, and why it matters](#) (2019) describes the history, theory and practice of participatory art in Europe, with over 50 case studies from 17 different countries.
- [Living Heritage: Community Development through Cultural Resources](#) (2005) is the report of a 4 year local cultural programme run by the King Baudouin Foundation in Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Bosnia Herzegovina. The approach used then will be one of the key strands in the Academy Camp.

## Wednesday 2 March 2022

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**09:00 Welcome**

Timișoara Center for Projects and Interarts

**09:15 Introductions and expectations**

All the session leaders and the participants

**10.00 CULTURE, DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION**

FRANÇOIS MATARASSO: An overview of the key ideas of the Academy Camp

**10.30 Questions and discussion**

Responses to the idea of participatory art

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10:45 COFFEE BREAK

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**11:00 THE LIVING HERITAGE APPROACH**

FRANÇOIS MATARASSO: Lessons from a successful programme in South-Eastern Europe

**11.30 Discussion**

Thinking about applying these ideas to Timișoara projects

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12:00 LUNCH BREAK

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**13:30 INVOLVING COMMUNITIES IN TIMIȘOARA 2023**

DESPINA UNGUREANU (City of Timișoara) and FLORENTINA FEKETE-MULLER (Center for Projects): Outline of open calls for community-based projects

**14:00 Group work**

Thinking about Timișoara community projects through the Living Heritage Principles

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15:00 COFFEE BREAK

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**15:15 Sharing progress**

Feedback from each group on the projects and thinking so far

**16.00 Reflection and preparation for Day 2**

What progress have we made? What obstacles do we foresee? What are our hopes?

# Thursday 3 March 2022

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**09 :00 Welcome and recap**

Reflections on the day before

**09:15 THE ŠANČIAI COMMUNITY AND THE CITY OF KAUNAS**

ED CARROLL AND VITA GELŪNIENĖ: A case study from Lithuania

09:45 Questions and discussion

**10.00 IRISH NATIONAL OPERA**

JAMES BINGHAM: A case study of community arts work in Ireland

10.30 Questions and discussion

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10:45 COFFEE BREAK

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**11:00 Group work: The Timișoara Principles**

How could the Living Heritage principles be adapted for Timișoara 2023?

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12:00 LUNCH BREAK

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**13:30 WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES**

FRANÇOIS MATARASSO: Methods and guidance for community art work – François Matarasso

14:00 Group work

Outline plans for projects

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15:00 COFFEE BREAK

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**15:15 Sharing progress**

Feedback from each group on the projects and thinking so far

**16.00 Reflection and preparation for Day 3**

What progress have we made? What obstacles do we foresee? What are our hopes?

# Friday 4 March 2022

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**09:00 Welcome and recap**

Reflections on the day before

**09:15 PARTICIPATORY ART WITH COMMUNITIES**

EUGENE VAN ERVEN: A case study of The Sharing Art Society (Netherlands) or

SAJIDA CARR: A case study of Creative Black Country (UK)

09:45 Questions and discussion

**10.00 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BULGARIA**

YURIY VULKOVSKY: Deputy Minister of Culture and former Living Heritage manager or

SAJIDA CARR: A case study of Creative Black Country (UK)

10.30 Questions and discussion

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10:45 COFFEE BREAK

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**11:00 Group work on Timisoara Principles**

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12:00 LUNCH BREAK

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**13:30 EVALUATING COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS**

FRANÇOIS MATARASSO: Reasons, methods and limitations

**14:00 Group work**

Finalise plans for projects

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15:00 COFFEE BREAK

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**15:15 Timișoara projects**

Very short project presentations from each group on their plans

**16.00 Reflection and Plans for Next Steps**

What progress have we made? What obstacles do we foresee? What are our hopes?

# Trainers' Biographies

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## François Matarasso

François Matarasso has worked in community arts since 1981, as an artist, researcher, teacher, policy-maker and writer. His 1997 report, 'Use or Ornament?', established influential concepts in cultural policy. Between 2011 and 2015 he produced a series of books on undervalued areas of cultural life under the collective title "[Regular Marvels](#)". His latest book "[A Restless Art – How participation won and why it matters](#)" was published in 2019. He has worked in about 40 countries and held honorary professorships in the UK and Australia. He is a partner in [Traction](#) (2020-22) which is researching how technology can support social inclusion through opera co-creation. [www.parliamentofdreams.com](http://www.parliamentofdreams.com)

## Vita Gelūnienė and Ed Carroll

Vita Gelūnienė and Ed Carroll are community artists living in Kaunas. Vita was co-founder and Executive Director (2006-2009) of Kaunas Biennial and maintains a dedicated education and artistic practice. Ed 's background is Irish, and he was active in Dublin for twenty years with community organisations like Wet Paint, City Arts, Fatima Groups United, the Civil Arts Inquiry and Blue Drum. Since 2011 Vita and Ed share a cultural practice with other people in the Šančiai community, Kaunas.

In 2014, they co-founded a community association Žemuju Šančių bendruomenė which has become a beacon in Lithuania for cultural and civic actions. Together they address the challenges of public interest, community identity and civil participation. They have conceived and co-produced cultural actions like the "Friendly Zone" cycle, the "Cabbage Field" initiative and an annual cultural festival "Šančines".

From a three-year campaign of resistance against a new road project along the river bank, entitled, "Nemuno krantinė", the community developed the project "Genius Loci: Urbanisation and Civil Community", in which the expertise of residents is used to gather memories and living social and ecological data contained within interactive mapping processes – see <https://sanciubendruomene.lt/en/>

In 2018, Vita and Ed began work on an opera and in June 2022 the community is invited by Ville de Differdange to perform the Šančiai community opera "Cabbage Field" in the Esch 2022 European Capital of Culture programme.

<https://differdange.lu/en/events/terre-ferme-lommelshaff/>

## Corina Bucea

Corina Bucea is a cultural manager, with expertise in the coordination of cultural programmes, artistic production, education and art mediation programmes, and policies. She is one of the co-founders of the contemporary art space Paintbrush Factory

(Fabrica de Pensule) in Cluj, Romania, where she worked as a manager and programme director. She has been involved in several international projects, being connected with networks such as IETM, Balkan Express, Tandem. She has worked in various projects representing Romania at the Art and Architecture Venice Biennale, and as project manager at the Cluj Cultural Centre.

### **Teodora Borghoff**

Teodora Borghoff is a local development expert, with extensive experience in facilitating participatory processes with multiple stakeholders, project design and project implementation for various structures ranging from NGOs to public administration. She has contributed in Timișoara's candidacy for the European Capital of Culture Title from various positions and perspectives: first as executive director of the Timișoara European Capital of Culture Association (February-December 2012), later on as community facilitator and content editor of the bidbook (January – December 2016). Her experience in projects which reconcile and activate the members of the community was enriched as an EU-AID senior volunteer, and lobby and advocacy advisor in Ethiopia, and as programme director at the Timișoara Community Foundation.