



Press release

Pearle* launches "Behind the Stage"

Pearle* launches "Behind the Stage", an innovative project aimed at empowering the role and capacity of employers associations and strengthening social dialogue in the European live performance sector

Thanks to the financial support of the European Union, Pearle*-Live Performance Europe has recently launched Behind the Stage. The project seeks to improve industrial relations in the EU live performance sector by strengthening the capacities and improving the functioning of national employers organisations in a rapidly changing working environment.

Pearle's president Géza Kovács underlines: 'Policy makers, players in the sector and the wider audience are often not aware of the wide spectrum of activities, knowledge and services that are offered by employers associations. As the European Union has expressed a renewed start for social dialogue, Pearle is aiming to contribute to this process by undertaking this project'.

In order to achieve results throughout 2018 and 2019 Pearle* will undertake a series of activities that make up the core of the project.

- **Capacity building meetings** will take place in Tallinn, Estonia (May 2018); Antwerp, Belgium (November 2018); Sofia/Plovdiv, Bulgaria (May 2019) and Porto, Portugal (November 2019). Composed of three parts: Academy, thematic seminars and workshops, these activities will undertake training for representatives of employers associations and management in the live

performance sector in order to strengthen their knowledge and therefore their capacity, as well as providing them with the opportunity to develop and exchange experiences and best practices

- On 22nd November 2018 the **Pearle*-Live Performance Europe Awards** will take place in a ceremony held at the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels. The high level event is designed to highlight the role of employers associations that normally undertake their activities 'behind the stage', and will reward good practices undertaken by associations in categories as: Diversity & Equal Opportunities, Cooperation, Social Dialogue/Collective Bargaining, Sustainable Development, Skills/Training/Lifelong Learning and a special award for an individual organisation's outstanding achievement in Cultural Heritage. The Awards serve as a source for inspiration for other associations and make visible the associations in their own respective countries as well as internationally.
- Throughout the duration of the project the Capacity building meetings and the Pearle*-Live Performance Europe Awards will be accompanied by an **awareness raising campaign** through communication, dissemination and information to Pearle* members as well as to other target groups, with the aim of making social dialogue better known in the sector and the wider public.
- The Project will be brought to a close with a **report, including a forward looking roadmap** indicating possible options for employers to strengthen cooperation, social dialogue and their capacities in their respective countries.

Note to editor:

PEARLE - Live Performance Europe, is the European employers federation of music and performing arts organisations. Pearle* represents through its members associations the interests of more than 10,000 live performance organisations across Europe (such as theatres, theatre production companies, bands and music ensembles, orchestras, opera houses, ballet, dance companies, festivals, concert venues, producers, promoters, agents, comedy, variété, circus, event suppliers and others). The Live Performance sector is the biggest employer of the cultural*

industries with over 1,2 million employees.

Pearle represents the employers in the European sectoral social dialogue committee 'live performance', facilitated by the DG Employment of the European Commission.*



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