

## ETC Policy Briefing - Better Dialogue with Local Communities

The European Theatre Convention (ETC) provides actionable insights for policy based on practical and artistic research across Europe on the key themes of diversity, sustainability, and digitality in European theatres. ETC's activities are co-funded by the European Union.

The following recommendations are based on the three-year EU project '[Future Laboratory: A Performing Arts Network Connecting Artists and Audiences to Find the European Narratives of Tomorrow](#)'. They target three audiences: a) European theatre sector, b) Local and National Policy Makers, c) European Policy Makers.

### a) For the European theatre sector:

- Work with a '**framework of care**' to support artists working with local communities, ensuring adequate time, space, and resources for relationship-building.
- **Consider investing** in a department for artistic research that provides coaching and mentoring for artists to facilitate meaningful engagement with diverse communities
- Ensure **transparency and accessibility** in outreach projects by actively including artists and underrepresented groups in relevant decision making processes.

### b) Local and National Policy Makers:

- Support publicly funded theatres in establishing **long-term community engagement strategies** rather than short-term projects and by working to remove economic and social barriers to the arts
- Recognise and promote **artistic research in policymaking**
- Support the development of **departments for artistic research in theatres** to institutionalise community-led creative processes.

### c) European Policy Makers:

- **Strengthen** funding criteria that prioritises sustainability and inclusivity in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034, including support for **cross-border collaboration projects** on participatory artistic research
- Co-ordinate **structured policy dialogue** with the arts sector to ensure inclusive progress on inclusivity
- Set up a **European Observatory** to measure progress on social cohesion among local communities

#### More information:

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Read the casebook, [Future Laboratory: Artistic Research in Theatre – A Casebook](#)