

**SuSy – Life Long Burning
Internship at Workshop Foundation 2019
Brigitta Kovács**

I took part in the SuSy program from January-July 2019 at Workshop Foundation, Budapest, Hungary.

The internship has offered me a unique chance to improve my skills as a cultural manager, and get a better understanding of the contemporary performing arts scene. Coming from a business background this was extremely crucial for me.

The program has highly contributed to the following results in my professional development:

- gaining a complex overview of the contemporary performing arts, especially contemporary dance field in Hungary;
- getting involved in the international contemporary performing arts scene and related networks, starting to build international professional connections;
- getting a deeper understanding of the needs and expectations of artists;
- identifying challenges of the current structure of the performing arts scene;
- finding potential collaborators with whom we can further develop the field.

Concrete activities and projects during the program:

Life Long Burning program

One of the goals I set when I entered the program was to get involved in the international performing arts scene, and get opportunity to network, especially regarding the international sales of productions, as in that I barely had any experience, while in Hungary it is something that is vital for each artist.

Gergely therefore introduced me to **Beatrix Simkó, who is currently a selected artist in another LLB program, Creative Crossroads**, and who at that moment was looking for a production manager for her piece, “Long time no see!”, that was created with the support of another Creative Europe program, the SOURCE project. We started to work together first on that show, but fortunately our cooperation has proved to be successful, and she has asked me to become her manager for her upcoming projects as well.

Also, I’ve become responsible for **working on the Creative Crossroads program from the Workshop Foundation’s side.**

This cooperation has opened new horizons for me as a manager, and I am really grateful for it.

EDN Atelier

In the frame of European Dancehouse Network and Trafo House of Contemporary Arts cooperation an Atelier was organized in Budapest in January 2019. Workshop Foundation was one of the hosts of the event, and therefore it was the first event I took part in as a member of WSF and SuSy program. It immediately gave me great insight to the international scene, especially considering its topic: Expression of Freedom and Mobility.

Conference/workshop series organized in the frame of Imre Zoltán Program (ADD Bele Magad!)

The workshop series is a great example for the cooperation of different management & service organizations and host institutions active in the independent performing arts scene in Budapest. The aim of the workshops is to train the artists and cultural professionals who are at the beginning of their careers, and provide them with the necessary skills to be able to produce and sustain a production or cultural project.

I was responsible for organizing a tour management workshop, led by Anikó Rácz from Sin Arts Center. This occasion gave me the opportunity to also take part in the workshop, and learn the crucial skills and practicalities of organizing a tour, as well as putting together a budget for it.

The Research into the Unknown

A unique program implemented by the Foundation is a residency program called "The Research into the Unknown", offered for Hungarian creators with the aim of giving space for interdisciplinary or cross-sector collaborations. A contemporary dance artist's concept for working with an expert from a different discipline or field is selected for an 8-week residency, during which experimentation is the only goal.

I took part in this program as the facilitator, manager of the 2019 spring residency, working on Dávid Somló and Dániel Makkai's project that explores choreographic possibilities of public spaces. I enjoyed this opportunity very much, as I find it very important to give space for experimentation and process-focused creation, without the pressure of producing in a short time. I hope this program will get more funding in the upcoming years, as there is a huge need for it.

NORSE Conference

NORSE was a three-day conference on an international network of residencies in the field of contemporary performing arts, with special focus on contemporary dance. It was organized by Nomad Dance Academy and Kino Šiška with the purpose to build a network of residencies in South-East Europe as a model of institutionalized and decentralized center for contemporary dance.

It was a real honor that after such a short time with the Foundation Gergely trusted me with representing WSF at the NORSE Conference in Ljubljana. He also joined the conference, but gave me the task of presenting about the current situation and structure of the contemporary performing arts scene.

Also, this opportunity again widened my international network, having met the representatives of key institutions of the region.

Anya Cloud's visit in Budapest – Contact Improvisation workshops and related events

In the frame of GPS we invited Anya Cloud (San Diego, CA) to Budapest, and we managed to put together a very complex program:

- a 2 days training with the group of Contact Improvisation Teacher Training program,
- a Performance Research Lab and Performance Jam, involving local contact improvisation dancers,
- an open level Contact Improvisation Community Workshop and Underscore event, to which we also invited participants from GPS partners.

I was responsible for organizing the program in cooperation with Gergely, and the CI TT Team. The program was absolutely positive from all aspects, and received really good feedbacks, due to the good cooperation between the partners and to Anya Cloud's open-minded approach and high professionalism.

Follow-up afterwards the SuSy program:

Even though I truly enjoyed taking part in the above-mentioned programs, the most important takeaways were more connected to the structural and strategic learnings that I gained due to my mentor, Gergely Talló.

Mentoring is a very important part of the program, especially when done right. I appreciate Gergely's attention he dedicates to each mentored trainee, and by which he is able to personalize the program so that the most can be brought out of it.

Gergely also offered me further mentoring and to work from their office even following the end of my SuSy internship, for which I cannot be grateful enough.

I feel very lucky to have been selected for the SuSy program and to have gained the knowledge, connections and practice due to it. I aim to use this for the development of the performing arts field in Hungary, that is so very rich in talent, but that is facing huge challenges nowadays. Nevertheless, this just means that there is a great need for managers in the field, and this program and Workshop Foundation is definitely a great place to train for it.

Thank you!
Brigitta Kovács