



**theater:
playstation e.V.**

AERO – A European Refugees Odysee

**Transnational project on contemporary
performance and theatre**

- Workshop skills and seminar formats for theatre projects
- For projects by / for / with refugees, artists and activists
- Networking for institutions and individuals
- Four international meetings in Valencia, Hamburg, Calabria and Lublin

Planned Meeting Dates 2026:

- April 9 – 14: Camini, Calabria
- June 17 – 21: Hamburg
- September 7 – 12: Lublin

A project by theater: playstation e.V., Hamburg, Fabrika12, Valencia; Eastern Theatre, Poland; Nastro di Moebius, Italy

If interested, contact us: theaterplaystation@gmail.com or www.theaterplaystation.org

Short description:

In this transnational project institutions from Germany, Poland, Italy and Spain - all working in contemporary performance theatre and / or with refugee artists - are sharing their artistic approaches to develop a toolbox of workshop skills, best practices and seminar formats. In four national meetings the participating institutions and their local networks will connect and develop new work perspectives.

The experiences and expertise of the partner institutions and participants are important resources that we present and exchange during the meetings. Also, participants get to know

special projects on site and gain insight into artistic and administrative areas as well as practical implementation.

We welcome people from all backgrounds:

- Local and international artists and cultural activists
- People interested in performance, theatre, dance-theatre, writing
- People with refugee backgrounds and those who work with them in social or cultural field.

Basic english language skill are necessary. If in doubt, contact us!

We cover travel and accommodation costs. For inputs, you will receive a fee. You can participate in all our activities or choose only some of them, depending on your availability. You may join workshops or contribute by offering your own workshop inputs.

If you're interested in participation in one of the international meetings, let us know, and we can discuss your possible contribution!

Project description:

theater: playstation from Hamburg and institutions from Poland, Italy and Spain join together and start the transnational project "AERO - A European Refugees Odyssey".

We are sharing our artistic approaches for a toolbox with workshop skills, seminar formats, but also experiences and general thoughts about performative work. We will combine artistic methods, such as documentary theatre and creative writing, with tools for project management and implementation.

In this process, this project is just a first step. Aim is not to publish a perfect toolbox, but to collect inputs that can become part of it, and especially discuss why.

For this collaboration, we are organizing four transnational artist meetings in which we will simultaneously create a pool of experts who can work with tools in different countries.

An important impulse for this project came from Calabria in southern Italy. In this economically isolated region, many traditional villages have been largely abandoned as a result of emigration. At the same time, many refugees are crossing the Mediterranean. As a result, models have been developed there to settle refugees in such depopulated places. Impressive examples have been the villages of Riace and Camini.

Through "Nastro di Moebius" a local cultural institution, theater: playstation got to know this region and started to become active there. This way, the idea of a documentary theatre project there was born.

Refugees in Calabria often come from Middle Eastern or African countries. In north Europe many refugees artists arrived from Ukraine and Belarus. Eastern Theatre in Lublin started platforms that enable them to work artistically in their new environment.

In a project with Ukrainian actors, theater playstation in Hamburg developed the question of "home" as a fictitious place of belonging in the process of flight, and searched for points of reference from Homers Odyssey.

Now we want to use this question now for this new cooperation project: For a European Refugees Odyssey.

Refugees in Europe are experiencing more and more discrimination, organizations working with them are being viewed with criticism. Italy has an ultra-right-wing government that massively restricts support for projects. Similar developments can be seen in Poland, Germany and Spain. What does this mean for the future of our work?

Refugee artists can hardly find work matching their qualifications, and suffer from social and regional isolation. They are largely excluded from trans-European travel and thus from networks.

This project responds to these challenges with artistic and cultural resources: theatre workshops, creative writing and documentary theatre projects can make the institutions and refugees more visible through public presentations and lead to a direct dialogue with local communities. They can have an impact on society and counter anti-refugee tendencies. And they can empower refugees and activists, making them more aware of their own background and potential. Additionally our meetings enable refugees to participate in Europe-wide mobility and networking.

In our meetings, we explore specific strengths and skills of the partner institutions and participants. We look for concrete workshop tools like exercises, as well as aesthetic considerations and seminar structures.

At the same time, public presentations by the participants take place during the meetings: Readings of produced texts, open workshops, presentations of workshop results. There will also be public discussions, lectures and performances by the participating artists. All of this has an impact beyond the participants in the respective locations. Attending artists can get to know other protagonists and make connections.

One more important aspect of the Meeting Points is that participants get to know special projects on site. We provide additional information on administrative fields such as funding and applications, as well as ways of implementation. All of this enables the development of new European partnerships and further perspectives. The aim is, as a follow-up, to create a professional platform presenting the toolbox and work on a major project for a trans-European documentary theatre project for / with refugees and activists.

Practical Things, Timetable, Finances

The four intensive, one-week seminars and network meetings take place in four partner countries, in Hamburg, Valencia, Lublin and Calabria (Camini).

At these meetings, around 10 participants develop and test tools for workshop formats and do the activities described above.

Between these meetings there are national work phases.

We want to enable a more intensive networking by refugee artists with the respective locals - and vice versa. Therefore, both groups are equally represented in our team.

Our first Meeting Point in Valencia already took place in 2025.

Our next meetings will be in Calabria and Hamburg.

For this, we especially want to invite artists and cultural activists.

Main venue in Italy will be the village Camini, near Riace.

You can participate in all our activities, or also just in some, depending on your availability.

You can join our workshops, both as participant, or give own workshop inputs.

For inputs, you will receive a fee (we are currently calculating the details, if you have specific questions, please contact us directly).

We are still open to participants from all over Europe, for whom we cover travel and accommodation costs, but we must point out that budget for this is nearly used up.

There will be also other activities. In Camini, there will be especially encounters and workshops with the refugees and activists who live there.

In Hamburg and also Lublin one main focus will be doing public presentations.

The central focus of all meetings is the work on tools and pools for performance and theatre workshops.

Please let us know, if you would like to take part in Camini / Calabria or in one of the other international Meetings.

Here again the dates for all Meetings:

9 - 14 April: Meeting in Calabria/Camini

17 - 21 June: Meeting in Hamburg (in collaboration with the Altonale Festival)

7 - 13 September: Meeting in Lublin

(Dates are still subject to change)

If you're interested in one of the international meetings, let us know, and we can discuss your possible contribution and travel expenses.



Camini (Calabria) –
Entrance to
Cooperativa Jungi
Mundu