

#2 CROSSROADS

A DIGITAL WORKSHOP ABOUT MIGRATION



INTRODUCTION

About Europefiction and the Academy

EUROPEFICTION is an association of 10 youth theatres from 6 European countries. In a network of five theatres for young audiences from the Ruhr area and five European partner theatres, we want research transnational encounters and develop new aesthetic forms together with young people and other partners.

Every year a group of young theatre people come together a summercamp for an encounter and exchange with performances, workshops, conversations and firetalks. Encountering creates the basis of our society: community and solidarity. We want to develop an artistic utopia for a common future through art.

After two years of working together on the project of Europefiction, the Europefiction Academy is a next step to strengthen the partnerships between the co-working theatres, their local networks and to reflect on innovative methods in collaboration between the professional group leaders, talented ex-participants and students from a variety of theatre minded studies.

With this academy we want to develop new artistic and communicative strategies to convey the value of a democratic future with an interplay of political issues and art to a wide professional public of formal and non-formal youth-education.

Want to know more about Europefiction and the Academy?

<https://europefiction.org>



What you need to prepare in advance

A good internet connection

- Participants must be able to connect with their own medium: computer, cell phone or tablet.
- They can be in a group in the same room in front of the same computer for the plenary sessions, but they will need their own medium and a space away from each other for the small group work and some conditioning games (energizers, icebreakers...).
- If they all use the same wi-fi connection, make sure that it supports as many connections as possible without affecting the speed.

Create a Whatsapp group with the participants before the workshop

- A few days before the workshop, make sure to collect the numbers of all participants and add them to your group.
- Whatsapp, or any other such channel like Discord for example, will allow you to facilitate the practice of the presentation exercise we propose, but also to ensure a communication link in parallel to your video connection to respond to technical problems!
- Choose a channel that allows you to exchange text, voice/sound recordings, images and videos.

A Zoom session with the ability to create multiple breakout rooms

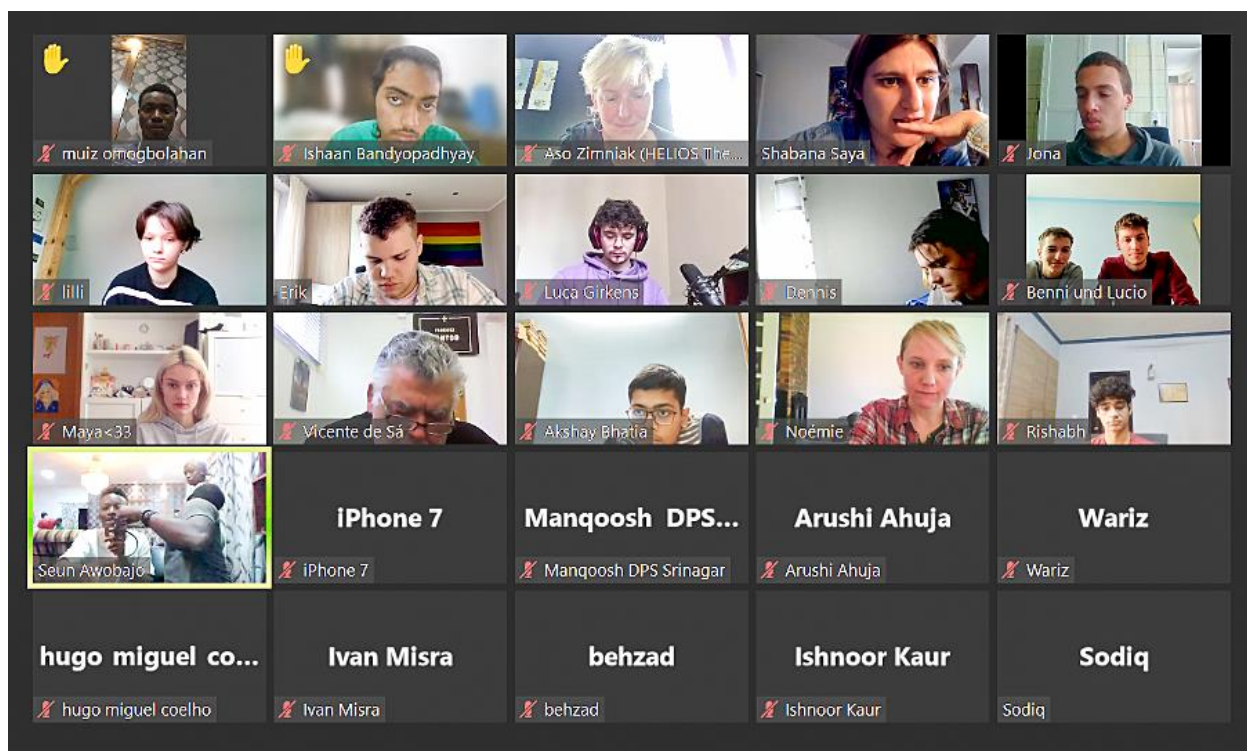
- We have tested our workshop on Zoom but you can use another means of group video calling on a computer (Teams for example).
- Make sure, however, that you can create several rooms for breakout sessions. It is the administrator of the video call session who has the rights to open/create these rooms. It is also this person who will be able to assign the different participants to these rooms when the time comes. This person must therefore master this tool!
- This technical aspect can be very time consuming! We therefore advise you to assign a person whose role will be solely to manage these technical requirements. This person can also be the reference person to help participants who are faced with a technical problem.

Ask participants to bring sheets of paper (or newspaper), markers, and tape.

Have a playlist of music ready in advance

- The music will be used during energizers, creative moments, and may be played during breaks when everyone closes their cameras.

DAY 1 3 Hours



Arriving 5 min / Welcome 5 min / WhatsApp group 10 min

Ask participants to share:

- **Photo from your place – what do you see**
- **Photo in front of your door**
- **Voice message:** Your name, where you are from, and 30 seconds of atmosphere in your place
- **Send your position**

WARM UP

Something new, something blue... 10 min

- The facilitator asks the participant to find and show to their camera something blue, something to cook, something whose name begins with the letter B (in any language), something alive, etc...
- Participants have one minute each to find the object in question around them and show it to the camera. All participants play at the same time (not in turn). Each participant then presents his or her object and explains his or her choice if necessary (e.g. the name in his or her language).
- You can ask for 4 or 5 objects.

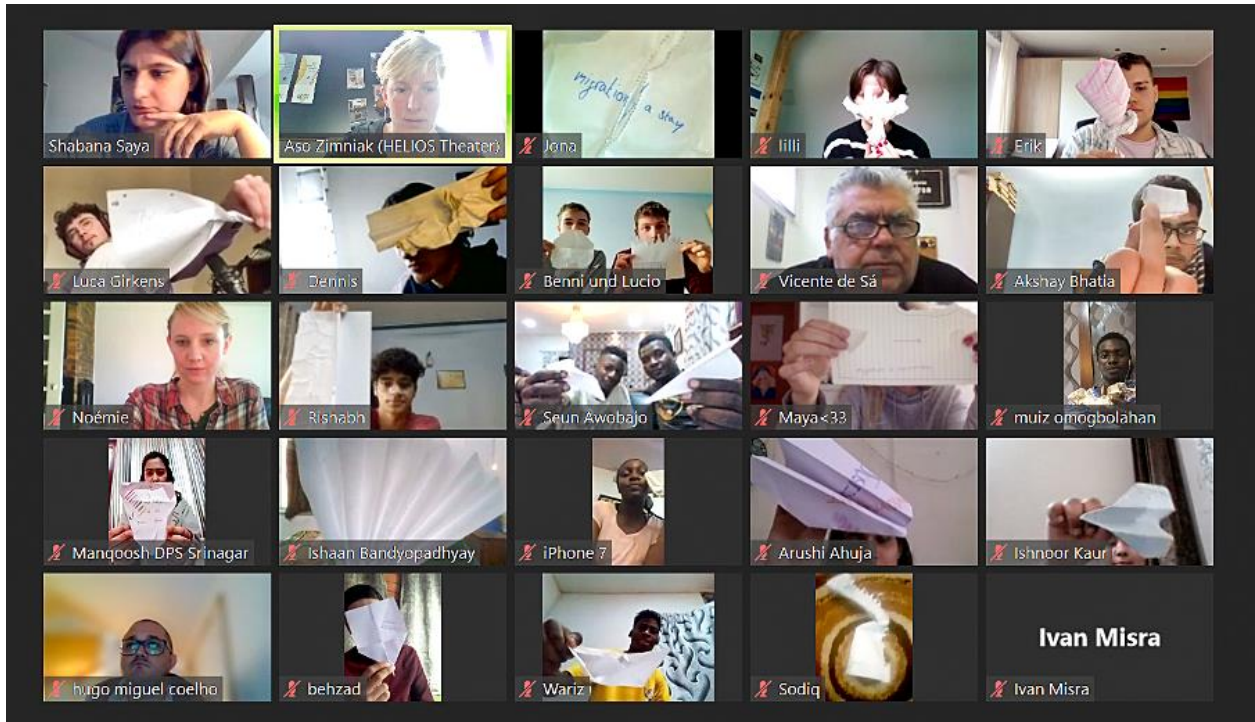
Mirror exercise with Hands 10 min

- The facilitator asks the participants to reproduce the movements of his or her hand with their body to music. There is no right or wrong interpretation. This exercise allows for physical involvement in the session and physical expression. Then, for those who wish, participants can take turns to try out the role of leader.

EXCHANGE

Migration is... 75 min

- **Everybody writes their answers in the Zoom chat 5 min**
- **Breakout Rooms (3-4 P. each; different one for every #) 45 min (15 min each)**
 - #1 Tell more about one of your own words
 - #2 Tell more about one interesting / mysterious word of another person
 - #3 Share a story of / about migration that you know
- **Paper Sculptures ca. 10 min**
 - Take a nice piece of paper, not too small (newspaper is also possible), take up one or more of the words from the sessions that stuck to your mind. Make an associative paper sculpture with the word(s) you chose. Post one or more photos of it to the WhatsApp group.
- **Talk about the sculptures ca. 15 min**
 - And the most interesting thoughts from the breakout rooms



Homework for the next session **10 min**

- The facilitator divides the participants into groups of 3 or 4. They are then invited to create their own fictitious country, which can be realistic or idealistic, as they wish!
- For the next session, they have to answer the "Country" questionnaire to establish their country ([see the document attached](#)). They are also asked to prepare a presentation of their country to be performed by them live in the next session (E.g. advertisement spot, sightseeing tour, video conference with people abroad). To do this, they will have to create visuals, audio, costumes, and any other elements that will enrich their performance.
- Participants are invited to use Whatsapp to communicate with each other until the next session.

Saying goodbye

DAY 2 **3 Hours**

Arriving **5 min** / **Welcome** **5 min**

WARM UP

Chinese Portrait **10 min**

- Each participant has to find an object that represents him or her and present it to the camera. In turn, a participant chooses an object in the mosaic that is not their own. He/she explains what this object inspires in him/her and why he/she has chosen it. The owner of the object tells the story of the object and why it is important to him or her, or why it represents him or her.

Whack-A-Mole-Remix (Get up/Sit down) **10 min**

- In front of their screen, the participants have to stand up one after the other, making sure that no more than two people are standing at the same time. There should also always be two people standing! The same people can stand up several times, but each participant must have stood up at least once.

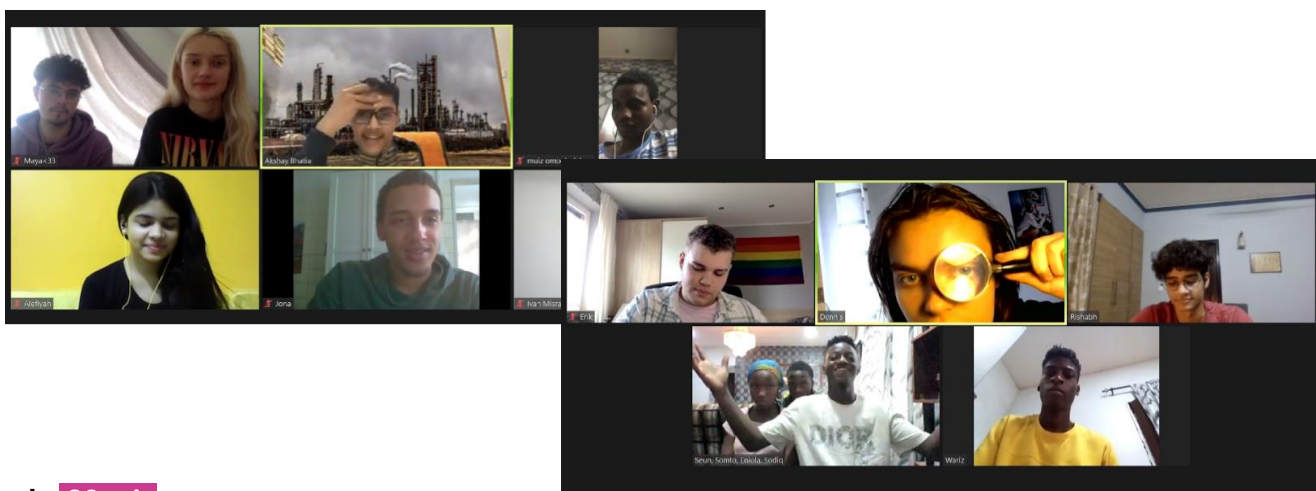
CREATION

Rehearsal of presentations **30 min**

- Each "country group" is sent to a breakout room to rehearse their performance. The facilitator is available to provide technical assistance.

Performances **30 min**

- Each group presents his performance. They have to mention three reasons to visit their country.
- Everybody: Video off, turn on “Hide Users without video”
- After each presentation: 1 word in the Zoom chat



Feedback **20 min**

- What we need to do to live in each country proposed?
- Participants note and notice the differences and correspondences between the fictional countries prese

Welcoming process **30 min**

- Each group goes to a breakout room to think about the welcoming conditions of their country with the help of the questionnaire “Arrival Team” (see the document attached).

Homework **5 min**

- For the next, and last, session, the participants have to write the rules of their country and what they decided about the welcoming conditions.

Saying goodbye

DAY 3 **3 Hours**

Arriving **5 min** / **Welcome** **5 min**

WARM UP

Portraits **10 min**

- Each participant should have a sheet of paper and a pencil. He or she then chooses another participant from the mosaic that appears on Zoom, showing all the participants. Each participant must then draw the person they have chosen. After 5 minutes, the drawings are revealed in turn and we have to guess who has been represented in each drawing.

Crazy walk **10 min**

- The participants have to move from one side of their screen to the other while performing a dance step proposed in turn by the participants themselves. The others then reproduce the same way of moving at the same time. This exercise is performed to music provided by the facilitator. The facilitator can also initiate the first movement to set an example. You can, for example, imitate someone walking down the stairs, walk like an Egyptian... or offer more free or artistic movements!

CREATION

Cards + Visitor's desk **5 min**

One person from out of each group chooses a reason to enter the country. They create a card to explain why they would like to live or visit this country.

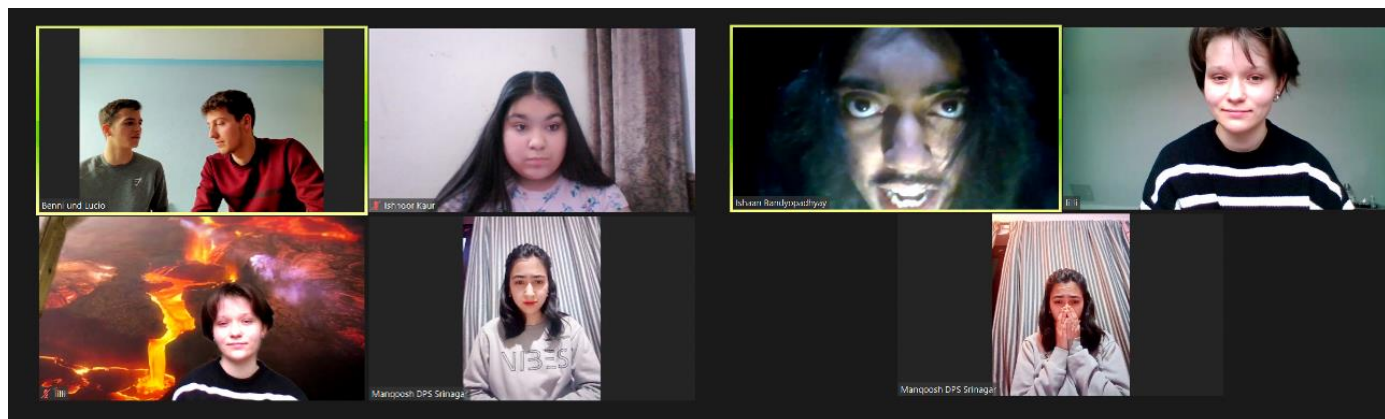
At the same time, each "country group" prepares their visitor's desk for the performances.

Performances: A visitor arrives **50 min**

- (improvised) Performances in Zoom
- Everybody: Video off, turn on "Hide Users without video"

Individual participants take turns introducing themselves to the representatives of the country they wish to enter.

Participants go through the process one by one. It is possible that not all participants will have time to experience the "incoming" position. But it is imperative that each "country group" has been in the host country position!



Feedback **20 min**

- Audience / Visitor / Group
- What was interesting? How was it to be received by the group? Which conflicts were there? Which solutions could there be?

Closing the experiment



The workshop is now over.

We suggest that you ask participants to give a final feedback on their experience on the Whatsapp group. They can record an audio, film themselves or simply send a written message. If they wish, they can express themselves in a freer and more creative way.

The content of the Whatsapp group is a production in itself of this workshop.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Below, you will find books and experiences similar to ours that have inspired us or that may be interesting to go further on this theme:

- **Arrival City**, Doug Saunders (Book)
- **The arrival**, Shaun Tan (BD)
- **Othernessproject** (free printable manual)
othernessproject.eu/atividades/imp_act.php?reg=-1&lingua=en (and research)
<http://othernessproject.eu/en/o1/>
- **Copenhagen workshop description** [copenhagen 2016 – \(othernessproject.org\)](http://othernessproject.org)
- **workshop in England** (La Transplanisphère participation) [woolwich 2019 – \(othernessproject.org\)](http://othernessproject.org)
- **HOWGH ! project** = simulation game [SimGame 3 - HOWGH.pdf \(salto-youth.net\)](http://salto-youth.net)
- **Some activities proposed for the Refugee Week:** [Simple Acts | Refugee Week](http://othernessproject.org)
- **video game** [Game changers : Award-winning video games with refugee experiences at the heart – PopChange](http://popchange.org)

Attached Material:

Questionnaire – “Arrival Team”

Imagine you are a person moving to this country.

- What do you need to arrive, to feel good?
- What might be difficult moments for you?
- What would help in these moments?

Now, imagine you are part of the team that deals with newly arriving people in your country. People from outside knock at your door.

- How does the arrival process work? What are the steps of arrival? When is “arriving” finished?
- What does your country do to assist, facilitate or complicate the arrival of “outsiders”? And what is your position in this process?

Define 3 possible motivations / situations in which people move to your country.

- Are there any special conditions / qualifications that people have to meet to immigrate?
- Which steps do people have to take to immigrate?
- When immigrants / visitors / refugees enter your country, who are the first people they meet?
- What does the welcome moment look like? Are there differences between the welcoming of immigrants, visitors, refugees?
- Do you make a difference between “good” and “bad” visitors / immigrants / refugees? If so, how?
- What are the rights and duties of immigrants / visitors / refugees?
- Which resources do you offer to immigrants / visitors / refugees?

Questionnaire – Your Country

- *What is the name of your country?*

- *What is the geography of your country? (e.g. sea, mountains, cities, countryside, desert, river,...)*

- *How many inhabitants live in your country?*

- *What are the three most important values?*

- *What is the “motto” of your country? (Can be a word or three, can be a sentence...)*

- *Are there people who have an especially high esteem in your society? Which/Whose position / work / ... is especially valued? Why?*

- *Who doesn't have a high esteem? Why?*
- *How do you greet each other?*
- *What is safe in your country? What is (maybe) not?*
- *What are you proud of in your country?*
- *What are the weaknesses?*
- *Which special rules are there? What is forbidden? What is mandatory?*
- *Which conflicts play a role in your country?*

- *What are the reasons people travel to your country?*
- *For which reasons do people leave your country?*
- *Are there borders to other countries?*
- *Are there cooperations with other countries? About what, how?*
- *What do people pay money for?*
- *What do you spend your country's income for? Which fields are funded by the state?*

You can also create visuals such as a flag, a motto with a particular typography or alphabet, make a photo montage to illustrate the landscape, ...