



Project Ref: 2015-1-ES01-KA203-015734

ACT MULTIPLIER EVENT E 9 Accessibility workshop and showcase Gent, May 4th 2018

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1. Accessibility of the Scenic Arts: a way to open up experience for all

This multiplier event has been organised as an accessible workshop and showcase related to IO7 and IO8 of the European ACT project.



Picture 1: frame form 'Menuet' (accessible showcase)

Do you know the difference between sur- and subtitles? Did you hear about audio description or a sound shuttle to use in a play? Looking for practical tips to organise an accessible event and assistance for your spectators?





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The sensorial experience by sound and vision are important aspects in the participation to activities in the scenic arts. It is not evident to include disabled people who have a visual or auditive handicap and to offer those target group an equal 1 experience. Also persons who have a cognitive handicap or persons who deal with behavioural problems do have difficulties to follow the flow of an event and to follow the clue of the story on the stage.

The goals of this accessibility workshop and showcase is to bring the theme in a very practical way and to connect to the direct work area of professionals working in the cultural sector. The day combines more theoretical point of views to sharing insights from organizations who already offer accessibility solutions and tips from end users. By ending up with a real-life showcase (where we act as accessible possible!) we give participants the opportunity to experience the whole picture. In that way we promote to see accessibility as a challenge for optimizing your organization and encourage participants (and brother) to take the theme by hart and start practicing it in their own organisation.

2. Particpants of the multiplier event

This day was open to all professionals in the cultural sector and specific in the scenic arts like: management, organisational and technical crew, performancers, theatermakers, artist, public workers, educational-, communication- and PR crew, policy makers ...

The workshop and showcase was disseminated by several media: website, newsletter, Facebook and mailing list (see annex 1).

The invitations has been send to several contact list from Inter and NTGent with a focus on professionals in the cultural sector, like f.e.: department of Culture (Flanders), all regional CC, VVC (Federation of Flemish CC's), Open Doek (Federation of amateur Theatre), STEPP (professional association of producers, designers and technicians of the arts and event sector),...

50 people took part at the workshop. There were 21 participants form the cultural sector, 2 participant from events and playgrounds, 8 participants from the field of policy makers (1 Flemish and 7 local), 7 disabled and private individuals, 2 participants from academics, 7 accessibility experts and 3 translators Flemish sign language (day program).

For the workshop we have demographic information of 32 local participants (Belgium) and 3 participants from the Netherlands.

The language in the workshop and showcase was Dutch, during the day and evening there were at all times 2x2 Interpreters Flemish sign Language present.





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3. Accessible workshop (day program)

9u00: Registration and coffee



Picture 2: Entrance of participants of the day

- 9u30: Day opening by Pablo Fernandez Alonso, from NTGent opened the day with a welcome to all.
- 10u15: The introductions of an new European profile in the scenic arts, By Dirk Crommelinck, responsible public work NTGent

To introduce participants to the accessibility of the scenic arts, Dirk presented the aims of the ACT project and the new profile on accessible performing arts. He introduced the several IO's and the outcomes, in special the Mooc.







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Picture 3: Dirk Crommelinck introducing the ACT project

• 10u30: Quality appreciation for an accessible offer, By Fien Van den Abeele, Advisor Accessibility and Universal Design Inter

Because Fien Van den Abeele from Inter could not be present (because of illness), her colleague Kathleen Polders, also Accessibility advisor by Inter took her part about the results (till know) and the challenges for an EU Accessibility certification or Label. The proposal of what an accessible event should be has been illustrated by 4 lessens we can take out of the ACT project.



Picture 4: Kathleen Polders pointing out the 4 topics of an accessible event (ACT definition)

 10u55: Tips and tricks for a more accessible offer. By Lesley De Ceulaer, Kurt Vanhauwaert and Robin Jorissen, experiential experts, moderated by Bart Parmentier, coordinator events Inter

Seen from the point of disabled persons, there are some important topics when we speak about an accessible experience for all. Three experiential experts gave practical tips about how an organisation can make their cultural events accessible, tailor-made for every kind of impairment. An important aspect is to work together with disabled people and their user organisations in order to make the right choices and to have their support in the promotion of the event. Lesley De Ceulaer could not be present and had been replaced by Eric Van Damme (Vebes).

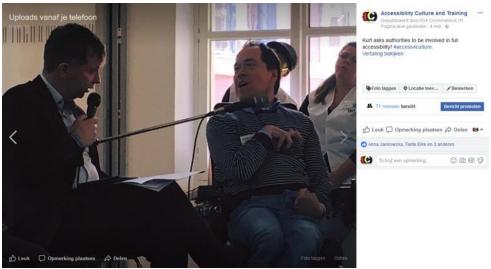




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Picture 5: Part Parmentier moderating a question to Robin Jorissen.



Picture 6: Part Parmentier moderating a question to Kurt Van houwaert.

• 11u45: We are not doing so badly in Flanders! by 3 representatives of regional cultural organizations

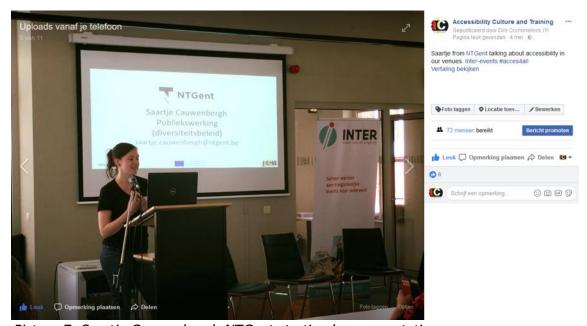
In Flanders there are a lot of organizations (culture and arts) that already integrating some or more accessibility solutions in their operations. Three of them propose their approach and method. Saartje Cauwenbergh presented the actions NTGent takes to succeed in good accessibility in their events. For years they have experience, they created their own checklist and could already learn a lot from their own actions (technical, communication, cooperation etc).





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Afterwards, Bart Vermandere form the city of Gent gave examples how the city invests in accessibility and supports the accessibility of cultural events. Evelien Kempeneers from 'Theater op de markt' (translation: Theater on the market) explained participants how they organize live-event during summertime and how they try to increase accessibility as much as possible.



Picture 7: Saartje Cauwenbergh NTGent starting her presentation

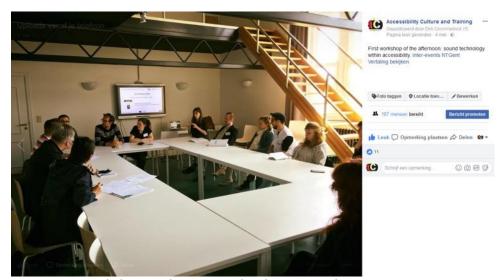
- 12u45: lunch
- 13u45: Practical tools for an accessible organization by different speakers.
 Participants are divided in tree groups and simultaneous followed every workshop.

The 1sth workshop focused on Sound-enhancing solutions and was given by employees of NTGent in collaboration with Pieter Remmerie from Inter. They explained the use of sound-reinforcing solutions in theaters. What do you need to know to make the best choice, what do you need to know about the technical installation, etc.



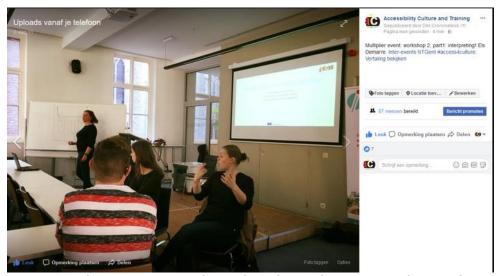


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Picture 8: workshop 1 about Sound-enhancing solutions

The 2nd workshop had focus on the topic of translating words and images and the work of interpreters at an event. This workshop was moderated by Thomas Desmet from Inter, together with Gert Vercauteren from the University of Antwerp and Els Demarre, experienced event-interpreter. Together they gave some topics that are important to realize a qualitative experience for all spectators.



Picture 9: Els Demarre, Translator Flemish sign language explaining the position of an interpreter in a theatre.





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Picture 10: Gert Vercauteren explaining the different possibilities to implement audio description in cultural events.

The 3th workshop introduced participants to the approach of Inter when organizing an accessible activity or event and was given by Jelle De Smedt, from Inter. She gave an overview about tickets and service, an accessible communication, the practical issues during a performance etc.



Picture 11: Jelle De Smedt in the workshop about organizing an accessible event.

• 17u00: Dayclosure by Wendy Metten director Inter.

4. Accessible showcase (evening program)

However the 2 showcases who has been applied - in the initial project application of the ACT project - has not been hold back, NTGent and Inter took the change to add a





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real life accessible showcase to the E9 accessibility workshop. This showcase took place the same day as the accessibility workshop, at evening. Between the day program and the evening showcase participant could join a network diner at the NTGent café.

The showcase was open to all people as a regular theatre performance in the season of NTGent. It was one of the seasonal performances in which NTGent works together with Vebes (user organisation for the blind and visually impaired).

From the ACT project we took additional actions/ efforts:

- to offer this performance as a fully accessible event.
- to disseminate this performance to other local disabled organisations and by Platform K (https://platform-k.be/).

The program of the evening was:

• 19u30: Introduction for spectators with disabilities (visual, auditive and cognitive aspects)

For this play there were two introductions for the spectators. A 3th introduction with focus on the cognitive aspect was prepared. Because there were no persons with mental disabilities who booked a ticket, this was cancelled.

• 20u: play Menuet (https://www.ntgent.be/nl/productie/menuet)

This play was introduced for all spectator as NTGent usual does. In Menuet, the author sketches a triangular relationship between a worker, his wife and the maid. The book has an explicit sexual theme, as a result of which some of the literary criticism, especially that of the Catholic circles, reacted indignantly to Boon's so-called 'rubbish' and 'filthiness', as a result of the fantasy fantasies and the unfaithfulness of the storyline. But above all, Menuet is a magisterial novel about emotional loneliness and existential alienation, and an absolute highlight in Boon's literary oeuvre.

For the play we had:

- Accessibility assisitance by Inter (entrance, ticketing, going to places, sound shuttles...)
- Audiodescription of the play with portable sound shuttles (headsets).
- Interpretation Flemish sign language and surtiteling: because of the play it was not able to plac a interpreter on the stage so we tried out sign language tob e followed on a screen. This was combined with surtiteling on the screen.
- Around 22u: Aftertalk with NTGent, actors and spectators with and without disability.





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After the play there was an aftertalk with Inter, NTGent, 1 of the actors and disabled spectators. The type of performance, storytelling theatre, turned out to be a big challenge to offer all spectators an 'equal' experience. Some issues to learn from:

- Because of the type of play, there was little space for the AD to interpretate, there was little description needed, a lot of text to be told in a short time.
- The sound of the headsets was not for every spectator well adjusted: the relation of the sound of the actors and the music was different then for people who listened without a support.
- On the stage there was no option to let interpreters stand inbetween the actors. Therefore we tried out an experiment with screens. The experiment to show interpreters on screens (and not on the stage) was not positive evaluated by the user (s). They constantly have to switch from screen to scene.
- The color of the surtitles (white on screens) was found too strong and caused distraction when viewing the interpreters/ actors.
- The content of the play was 'heavy' and not so accessible for all spectators, it was a difficult play to understand. This was one of the reasons we attracted public (with a disability), in specific people with a mental disorder. The moment we set up the showcase and made the choise for the play, the performance was not ready, actors were still working on the making of. There was consultation with both actors and director, but we could not fully estimate this in advance.

5. Conclusion and next steps

Accessibility solutions and tools do exist, but to include them in daily work field and program (not only booking a show, also cooperation with artists!) asks knowledge, a plan of action, budget, engagement of the crew an artistic team et. Shortly, it ask a professional approach! With this workshop and showcase we succeed to introduce the participants in a very practical and meaningful way to the most general issues that are involved to accessible arts and events.

All participants concluded that this day has been an inspirational day for them, that gave them a good insight and gave them new ideas to take the accessibility of the arts into account in their own organisation.

The experience and results of the E9 accessibility workshop and the accessible showcase will be integrated in the outcome of IO8, a guide that about the opportunities of an EU label methodology for the scenic arts. The showcase 'Minuet' will be documented and will be part of the guide as an example of an integral accessible event in the scenic arts. The lessons learned will be added.

In Belgium, the ACT project, the content of the E9 workshop and the showcase did already resulted in a structural cooperation with the Flemish department of culture.





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6. Annex 1: Dissemination of the E9 workshop

A. Invitation by e-mail (Dutch):

The invitations has been send to several contact list from Inter and NTGent with a focus on professionals in the cultural sector, like f.e.: department of Culture (Flanders), all regional CC, VVC (Federation of Flemish CC's), Open Doek (Federation of amateur Theatre), STEPP (professional association of producers, designers and technicians of the arts and event sector),...

vrijdag 04 mei 2018, Gent



Verruim je publiekswerking: toegankelijkheid in de podiumkunsten studiedag op vrijdag 04 mei 2018, Gent

Ken je het verschil tussen onder- en boventiteling? Al gehoord over een audiodescriptie of een ringleiding bij een voorstelling? Op zoek naar praktische tips voor het organiseren van een toegankelijk evenement en assistentie voor personen met een beperking?

NTGent en Inter nodigen je graag uit om deel te nemen aan een **inspirerende dag rond het thema toegankelijkheid in de podiumkunsten (theater, muziek, festivals...)**. Op deze dag delen we graag de inzichten uit het Europese ACT project (Accessible Culture and training) en maken we u warm om toegankelijkheid te zien als een uitdaging voor het optimaliseren van jouw organisatie. We bieden je een programma waarin we de uitdagingen, maar vooral ook oplossingen, mogelijkheden en winsten van toegankelijkheidsinspanningen op een zeer praktische wijze tonen. Als sluitstuk nodigen we je 's avonds uit op onze **showcase 'Menuet'**, een theaterbewerking naar de gelijknamige roman van Louis Paul Boon (1955). Een voorstelling die we zo toegankelijk mogelijk maken.

DOELGROEP





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Deze dag staat open voor iedereen die professioneel actief is in de sector van de podiumkunsten. We mikken op een gevarieerd publiek zoals managers, organisatoren en technische medewerkers, theatermakers, artiesten, publiekswerkers, educatie-, communicatie- en PR-medewerkers, beleidsmakers...

Stuur deze uitnodiging gerust door aan potentiële geïnteresseerden.

PROGRAMMA

Bekijk het programma en de inschrijvingsmogelijkheden

PRAKTISCH

Wanneer	Vrijdag 04 mei 2018
	van 9u30 tot 17 u en van 17u30 tot 22u
Locatie	Dienstencentrum Sint-Baafshuis
	Biezekapelstraat 2
	9000 Gent







Accessible Culture & Training, ACT

In het project ACT werken NTGent en Inter, het Vlaams Expertisecentrum toegankelijkheid en Universal Design mee aan de ontwikkeling en het opleidingsaanbod van een nieuw profiel in de podiumkunsten, namelijk dat van een toegankelijkheidscoördinator. Bijkomend worden ook de good practices rond beleid en labelmethodieken geëxploreerd.

Het ACT project heeft als doel de toegankelijkheid in de podiumkunsten te vergroten door o.m. opleiding en certificering te ontwikkelen zodat mensen werkzaam in de culturele sector zich kunnen bijscholen rond toegankelijkheid. Lees meer over het ACT project en de partners

B. Disseminatie online:

The workshop and showcase was disseminated by several media: website and Facebook.





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Figure 12: invitation on the ACT website (dd. 03/2018)

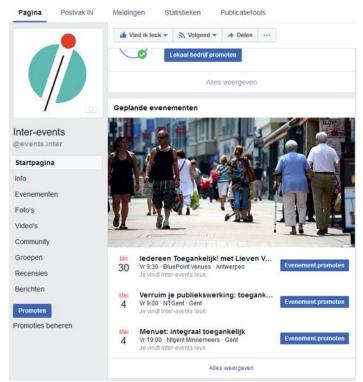


Figure 13: Planned event at FB inter-events





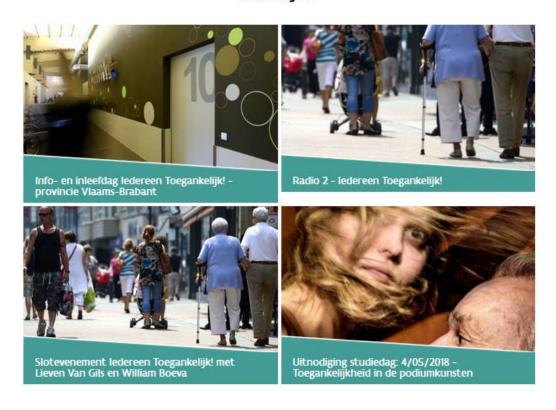
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Domeinen



In de kijker



Snel naar

Figure 14: Announcement at the Inter website www.inter.vlaanderen





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Aanbod

Over Inter

Domeinen

Toegankelijkheid & Universal Design



Home > Uitnodiging studiedag: 4/05/2018 - Toegankelijkheid in de podiumkunsten

Uitnodiging studiedag: 4/05/2018

Verruim je publiekswerking: toegankelijkheid in de podiumkunsten

Ken je het verschil tussen onder- en boventiteling? Al gehoord over audiodescriptie of een ringleiding bij een voorstelling? Op zoek naar praktische tips voor het organiseren van een toegankelijk evenement en assistentie voor personen met

NTGent en Inter nodigen je uit om deel te nemen aan een inspirerende dag rond het thema toegankelijkheid in de podiumkunsten (theater, muziek, festivals...). De sensoriële ervaring zoals het geluid en zicht zijn in dit type culturele evenementen een belangrijk aspect van de beleving. Het is niet zo evident om ook voor bezoekers met een visuele of auditieve beperking een evenwaardige ervaring te realiseren. Ook personen met een verstandelijke beperking of personen met een gedragsproblematiek hebben het soms moeilijker om het verhaal op de scène te volgen.

Toegankelijkheidsoplossingen en tools in de dagelijkse werking of programmering van uw organisatie aanbieden vraagt kennis, een concrete aanpak en professionalisering. Binnen het Europese project ACT. 'Accessible Culture & Tralning' zijn de eerste stappen hiervoor gezet.

Lees meer over het ACT project en de partners





Op deze dag delen we graag de inzichten uit dit project en maken we je warm om toegankelijkheid als een uitdaging te zien voor het optimaliseren van jouw organisatie. We bieden je een programma aan waarin we de uitdagingen, maar vooral ook oplossingen, mogelijkheden en winsten van toegankelijkheidsinspanningen op een zeer praktische wijze aanreiken. Naast eigen bijdragen brengen we getuigenissen en voorbeelden.

Als sluitstuk nodigen we iedereen 's avonds uit op onze **showcase 'Menuet**', een theaterbewerking naar de gelijknamige roman van Louis Paul Boon (1955). Een voorstelling die we zo toegankelijk mogelijk maken. Op die manier krijg je de kans om, wat je gedurende deze dag hoorde en zag in een real-life setting te ervaren!

Doelgroep

Deze dag staat open voor wie professioneel actief is in de sector van de podiumkunsten. We mikken op een gevarieerd publiek zoals managers, organisatoren en technische medewerkers, theatermakers, artiesten, publiekswerkers, educatie-, communicatie- en PR-medewerkers, beleidsmakers...

Praktisch

Figure 15: Inter website http://www.inter.vlaanderen/uitnodiging-studiedag-toegankelijkheid-podiumkunsten





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Figure 16: short invitation for the E9 workshop