PERFORM MIGRATIONS

People Are the Territory

Presentation dossier

EU Culture Programme
“Cooperation Projects with Third Countries”
Strand 1.3.5 - Budget 2013
Coordinator

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DI LINGUE, LETTERATURE E CULTURE MODERNE - LILEC

Co-organisers

Athena Research Center
Research and innovation campus in Knowledge Communication and Technology

inet®
network of excellence

ALPEN-ADRIA UNIVERSTITAT
KLagenfurt i Wien Graz

Third Country
(Canada)

BLUE MET METROPOLIS BLEU FOUNDATION

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IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

Associate Partners

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S”T senza titolo

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Winchester Centre for Global Futures in Art Design & Media

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Each immigrant is a performer: no matter the reason for the move, relocation forces one to adjust to a new territory and to play a new role. Therefore, the visible map is not the real territory; people are the territory, and they are mobile. They are an intricate territory made of stories and experiences. For this reason, EU is more than a geographical space: it is a space of storytelling transcending visible borders. Each time Europeans relocate inside or outside EU, they change their inner and outer landscapes because they are performing changes. Similarly, every time newcomers join the EU, the EU territory changes, too.

Together, ICT & performative arts can help us to develop new ways to express our mobile selves/belonging, in turn mediating among different cultural heritages. Expanding this idea, Performigrationss develops an interactive & performative art-installation to make visible the mobile territory created by the movements of people across EU, and between EU & Canada. More traditional forms of art integrated with new ICT will develop an accessible multimedia interactive platform that will use new geo-locative technologies to display old and new forms of storytelling. This interactive medley of words, images, sounds, and video-performances will connect territory with place and enable the construction of a communal narrative through the on-going addition of materials as the installation moves from location to location.

A network of 16 high-profile European and Canadian Institutions have created a joint venture to promote and implement this project; their goal is to consolidate a new approach to peoples’ storytelling and promote awareness of what brings us together as both Europeans, Canadian and world citizens in spite of (or because of) cultural change. A web-based collaborative platform and customised cultural events will make the project accessible to online & live audiences alike, engaging people across the same mobile territory they contribute to moulding.
Performigrations investigates the crucial themes of ‘immigration and identity’ through a multi-layered network project involving a great number of world renowned Canadian and European Institutions and Organizations. Partners in this project are committed to engage a broad transnational audience through an interdisciplinary approach which combines traditional and experimental forms of artistic and cultural expressions.

Traditionally, Canada has been considered as a ‘model country’ for all people dealing with complex and ethical issues such as ‘diversity’, ‘human rights’, ‘multiculturalism’; that is, issues of great relevance for people working in the cultural sector. However, in the past decade the so-called ‘Canadian Mosaic’ – an image which has been conceived as the ‘iconic rendering’ of Canadian multicultural society – has started to be questioned as never before. Both critics and citizens alike seem now to acknowledge that, no matter the good intentions that led Canada to pass the Multicultural Act in the 1980s, such a model did not necessarily lead to a shared sense of ‘being’ or ‘belonging’ among different Canadians.

Over time, old and new waves of immigrants to Canada have shared a Country without necessarily sharing the same perception of what being Canadian might imply. In terms of ‘shared identity’, it is a situation which can be compared to the one experienced by Europeans today: even though we are a ‘Union’, we belong to various national realities and a shared sense of being/belonging to Europe remains a work-in-progress. This project intends to offer new ways to ‘feel’ Europeans, also learning from and confronting old and new Canadians approaches. To achieve its goal, the core of this project is people, especially Europeans. Throughout the 20th century, many Europeans left Europe in search of a better future, many in Canada. Since 2004, a new idea of Europe has prompted old and new European citizens to move freely across the continent, whether hoping to improve their status, to address their curiosity or to deal with personal or family reasons. At the same time, the number of newcomers to Europe has increased and, in spite of the economical crisis, Europe is now the target area for different groups of immigrants.

This evolving situation, makes a dialogue with Canada particularly intriguing. Also from the cultural point of view: we will involve older communities of Europeans abroad, but also engage Canadian communities of non-Europeans which, in fact, represent ‘visible minorities’ now also inhabiting Europe. All these ‘Europeans’ are encouraged by this project to share their stories through the arts and technology; as well as, through a series of performative events. Their storytelling will form a shared cultural territory of human experiences, which transcend the more traditional European cartography. Together, we will learn how to map that augmented territory, looking for patterns to be read as archetypes consolidating our way of being and feeling ‘Europeans’.
The project “Philosophy” and Objectives

**Performigrations** does not intend to ‘preach’ or ‘teach’ preconceived notions on ‘heritage’, ‘identity’ and ‘migrations’; instead, partners will collaborate to make audiences aware of the complexity inherent in all ‘processes of change’.

Old forms of expression and new technologies will converge to make people experience the very ideas of ‘mobility’, ‘change’, ‘diversity’, ‘relocation’. Similarly, **Performigrations** will make people experience the different ways “movement” inhabits a territory and touches also those who are ‘permanent’ and who have solid roots in it.

**Performigrations** encourages people working in the cultural sector (artists, researchers, professionals, companies) to collaborate in the making and the dissemination of an interactive and performative art-installation. The purpose of the collaboration is to make visible the mobile territory created by the movements of people across Europe, as well as between Europe & Canada.

In addition, **Performigrations**:

- Creates new forms of collaborations between local realities and international actors
- Promotes the inter-generational dialogue through a renewed interplay of new ICT/Mobile media and more traditional forms of artistic and cultural expressions
- Develops an innovative dialogue between different ‘agencies’ representing strategic departments of national realities: universities & centre of research, festivals, cultural operators, companies, foundations, associations and communities.
- Promotes the trans-national mobility of people working in the cultural sector.
- Offers supports for trans-national circulation of cultural and artistic works and products.

Encouraging both intercultural and inter-art dialogue, the purpose of Performigrations is to promote awareness of complex and ongoing cultural processes through:

- the development of an accessible multimedia art-installation that will tour Europe and Canada;
- the organisation of a related series of cultural events to disseminate and discuss the shifting migratory processes of belonging/becoming European or Canadian among a broader set of audiences.
Art-Installation

The art-installation will be developed through open-sources platforms that will use new easy to use geo-locative technologies to display old and new forms of storytelling and make those accessible to a broad audience.

The art-installation will bring together different forms of storytelling to map different experiences and renderings of “mobile Europeans”. Stories on display will be selected on the basis of four archetypical and symbolic narrative patterns characterising migration as a life experience: Generations, Routes, Cities & Islands.

The collected narratives will be displayed in two overlapping ways:

1. **People talking to people**: Close-ups of old/new EU/Canadian citizens/immigrants commenting on their experience shown through geo-locative technologies on a mobile landscape visualising the ‘territory’ matching each narrative;

2. **Art listening to people**: Symbolic rendering of archetypical migration patterns through a montage of different art-works (sounds, video-art, images, performances, etc), in turn visualising and mapping overlapping and evolving ethnoscapes expressing responses to change and migration across Europe and Canada.

The art-installation will be ‘social’ (that is, interactive and mobile) in two simultaneous but different ways as audiences will be engaged through both mobile technologies and more traditional forms of arts:

1. Audiences will be able to access the art-installation and interplay through mobile media, in turn also contributing to the artefact evolving storytelling;

2. At each location, the art-installation will become social in more traditional ways, as it will be ‘extended’ through artistic/cultural events enhancing one of its specific art-components (sound, images, films, storytelling, etc.). By singling out and extending different components of the installation multimedia-narrative through customised and more traditional artistic and cultural events, various target audiences will be given the opportunity to learn how to read, question and engage a composite artefact mirroring the complexity of people’s mobile and evolving territory.
Artists and Events

To complete and integrate the art-installation, Performigrations Partners have selected seven artists through a public call: their projects represent the involved cultural and artistic realities in Europe and in Canada. These artists form our international creative team and will contribute specific artistic content to our art-installation. These artists were selected on the basis of a proposal conceived as a match to the various cultural events already planned.

Iannis Zannos, Greece
Electronic/Computer Music.
Project: “Osmosis/Migrations”

Hannes Andersson, Sweden

Ioana Paun, Romania,
Performance, media, ready-made.
Project: “Natalia, turn the lights on”

Dominic Mancuso, Canada.
Musician, songwriter, producer.
Project: “The Sub-urban Gypsy Experience”.

Natalie Doonan, Canada
Multimedia, performance, curator, writer.
Project: “Cloudberry Dreams”.

Basile-Buiani-Sutti /Transitions In Progress,
Canada. Multimedia, Video.
Project: “Making Space for Place”

Juliana Saragosa, Canada.
Multimedia, video. Project: “Italian-Canadian Queers Chat in East Van”.

CANADA, MONTREAL
Literature, including oral history and life narratives (Blue Metropolis Literary Festival, April 2015)

ITALY, BOLOGNA
Film, focus on documentary (Biografilm Festival, June 2015)

AUSTRIA, KLagenfurt
Intermedia art (Ingeborg Bachmann Literaturtage, July 2015)

CANADA, VANCOUVER
Video Art (“European/Canadians: Heritage on Show” Exhibition, August 2015)

GREECE, ATHENS

CANADA, TORONTO
Intermedia Art (“Installations & Performances”, October 2015)

PORTUGAL, LISBOA
Music, including oral/improvisational performance (“Musical Dialogues”, intercultural concert, December 2015)
Performigrations brings together an experienced and reliable international team consisting of 6 European co-organisers representing Italy, Greece, Portugal and Austria, 5 partners in the Third Country representing the three largest Canadian cities in the three most populated provinces (Ontario, Québec, British Columbia), and 5 associate partners also representing two additional European countries (United Kingdom, Malta).

All involved institutions/festivals have a successful record of international cooperation and inter-cultural dialogue.

In particular, the Performigrations network encourages a fertile dialogue between different types of institutions, therefore encouraging collaboration between people working in the cultural field: researchers, artists and professionals are equally represented so to assure the presence of different actors in the international cultural scenario.

It is an important asset to assure the project implementation and sustainability, as it encourages an active dialogue among people who will jointly develop new creative modes for approaching a variety of audiences and alerting them to complex ongoing cultural processes related to people’s mobile identities.

Coordinator

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Third Country (Canada)

Montreal
-ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE- EUNIC NETWORK
-BLUEMetropolis FOUNDATION
-MOBILE MEDIA LAB, Concordia University

Toronto
-RYERSON UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Communication and Design

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ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY

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ATHENS CONSERVATORY
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SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS
V.18 European Capital of Culture
La Valletta, Malta

SENZA TITOLO - ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE
Bologna, Italia

WINCHESTER CENTRE FOR GLOBAL FUTURES IN ART DESIGN & MEDIA University of Southampton
Winchester, UK

ICAP - ITALIAN CANADIAN ARCHIVES PROJECT
Toronto/Montreal/Vancouver, Canada
PERFORMIGRATIONS - People Are the Territory
European Commission - Culture Programme: Strand 1.3.5
Performigrations runs over a two-year period. All partners are involved from the start. Activities are categorized as follows:

A. Activities to implement and sustain the project
B. First year activities
C. Second year activities

**ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT AND SUSTAIN THE PROJECT**

Dissemination and promotion of the project mandate and activities through a series of customized online activities (i.e.: website update and implementation; online "ateliers", interactive pages; dedicated apps; etc.)

Planning of project sustainability through the implementation of the communication plan, fundraising activities and targeted meetings.

Artists’ online forum (web-based collaborative platform) to further implement the interplay of artistic components of the art-installation with the ‘live’ activities scheduled in year 1 and 2.

**MAIN GOALS**

To implement the project management and best practices
To assure project sustainability and internationalisation
To generate additional outputs and developments

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**DELIVERABLES**

- **8 CULTURAL EVENTS**
  - Expected audience: 97,000

- **7 ART-INSTALLATIONS**
  - Expected visitors: 35,000

- **4 WORKSHOPS**
  - Participants (artists and professionals): 52

- **356 ARTISTS**
  - Artists involved across Europe and Canada (literature, film, music, performing arts, video art)

- **24 MONTHS**
  - Project life-cycle
  - Web-based collaborative platform

- **8 CITIES**
  - Across Europe and Canada
  - 6 European countries, 3 Canadian provinces

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**Project kick-off workshop**
Researchers, professionals and artists representing the different EU and Canadian involved realities

- **BOLOGNA**
- Participants: 34

**Art-Installation**
Phase 1 - Initialisation
- **WEB-BASED COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM**
- **Start phase**
- **Mobile project developing**

**Artists In-Residence workshop**
Artists and cultural operators representing the different EU and Canadian involved realities

- **MONTREAL**
- Participants: 19

**Online testing workshop**
Researchers, professionals and artists

- Participants: 52

**Phase 2 - Implementation**
**Phase 3 - Finalisation**

**Mobile Project Launch**

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**2014 - YEAR 1**

To jointly develop and implement the Performigrations Art-Installation

To consolidate networking among people working in the cultural sector (artists; researchers; professionals)

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**2015**

To implement the cultural activities planned in year 2
To display the Performigrations Art-Installation in all involved cities/national realities

To involve a broader set of target groups through the organization of a series of Performigrations cultural events expanding and interplaying with the Art-Installation

To encourage peoples’ understanding of cultural processes leading to identity construction
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