



Press release, Brussels 20 January 2020

The Festival Academy receives a grant from the Open Society Foundations to support its activities for 2020-2022

The Festival Academy is delighted to receive support from the [Open Society Foundations](#) in the next three years for its ambitious goal to build bridges between different fields of actions, being the artistic, social, political, digital, educational and business world through its capacity building programmes.

[The Festival Academy](#) provides capacity building to emerging festival and arts managers worldwide. Through its unique life-long learning programmes in the arts festivals context, it brings together an enormous variety of creative minds: individual actors to be upskilled and informed about the state of play of the world today by experts and through peer-to-peer learning infused by people of different backgrounds and perspectives to challenge and provoke future festival leaders' thinking and ways of collaborating.

In this way, The Festival Academy enables and facilitates a global inclusive conversation and critical reflection between arts and festival managers from different art disciplines, origins, generations and social backgrounds and people coming from different fields of expertise on the role that arts, culture and more particularly festivals, can play in a fast changing world.

The Festival Academy was set up by the European Festivals Association in the joint belief that festivals are bridging platforms with a direct link to people and civil society structures. Through its training programmes, it contributes to a critical reflection between arts and cultural managers worldwide that can bring about positive change, informed awareness, ideas and proposals for actions through personal human relations and based on knowing, respecting and tolerating different value and belief systems. It encourages leadership, entrepreneurship and new collaborations and initiatives that come out of the training programmes.

The Festival Academy so far trained 687 festival makers from 80+ countries and all continents in 20+ countries over the last 12 years. It is a growing global community of creative individuals and festival leaders for collaboration and solidarity.

The [Open Society Foundations](#) (OSF), founded by George Soros, are the world's largest private funder of independent groups working for justice, democratic governance, and human rights. George Soros opened his first international foundation in Hungary in 1984. Today, the Open Society Foundations support a vast array of projects in more than 120 countries, providing thousands of grants every year through a network of national and regional foundations and offices.

Thanks to the support of the Open Society Foundations, The Festival Academy will be able to further extend its activities geographically as well as its global community of festival makers. More people worldwide will have the chance to participate in its programmes and will become part of its growing community.