



**UNIMA PUPPETRY
COLLABORATORIUM**

PRESENTATION

**CONNECTING NATIONAL CENTRES
THROUGH PUPPETRY ART**

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PRESENTATION SCOPE

Unveiling the UPC Project

Introduction

Defining Purpose and Goal

Values and Mission

Is It Achievable?

Project Goals

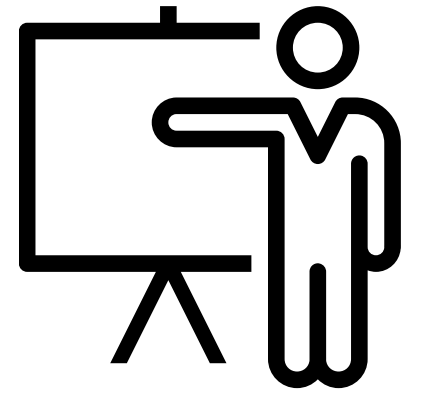
Empowering Success

Steps to Establishing Collaboration Between National Centers

Conclusion - Goran Zelic, Irish UNIMA President and Councillor

Word of Mr. Dimitri Jageneau, General Secretary of UNIMA





INTRODUCTION

HOW IT BEGAN ?

The UPC originates from the fervor of 2 national centers, fostering connection and collaboration. After a successful initial partnership between Croatian and Irish UNIMA centers at the SLUK Festival in Croatia in June 2023, the concept was inspired by UNIMA's General Secretary, Mr. Dimitri Jageneau, more aiming to encourage similar actions, to unite centers globally. The goal is to enable UNIMA centers worldwide to create, meet, collaborate, and collectively advance UNIMA's mission of promoting peace and understanding through puppetry.

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DEFINING PURPOSE AND GOALS

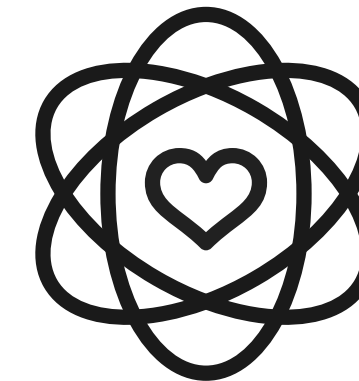


WHAT IS OUR VISION?

We envision a global puppetry community in which national centers unite, collaborating to foster friendships, networks, and the advancement of puppetry. UNIMA PC belongs to all centers of UNIMA International and it should be under direct supervision of the General Secretary and UNIMA International Board. It shouldn't pertain to any continental or regional commission to alleviate boundaries among continents. Every center can use this platform to initiate collaboration with others. We strive for open communication, ensuring that all members, not just leaders, actively engage and contribute to our shared journey. Through these efforts, we aim to spread the transformative power of puppetry, fostering understanding and connection across cultures and communities.

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VALUES



WHAT ARE OUR VALUES?

- **Peace:** Puppetry's transformative potential inspires unity among diverse cultures.
- **Understanding:** We encourage dialogue and appreciation across communities.
- **Creativity:** Puppetry brings stories and emotions to life through limitless creativity.
- **Collaboration:** Together, we amplify impact and extend initiatives.
- **Respect:** Everyone is valued, regardless of background or beliefs.
- **Inclusivity:** We welcome all, promoting equal participation.
- **Innovation:** We explore puppetry's power to effect positive change.
- **Exchange:** We enrich puppetry through global traditions and stories.
- **Sustainability:** We uphold puppetry's vitality and the environment.
- **Community:** We nurture a global, supportive puppetry network.
- **Transparency:** We operate openly and honestly, fostering trust and accountability.

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MISSION



WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

UNIMA's Mission is to foster the highest human values, including peace and mutual understanding, through the medium of puppetry, regardless of origin, political or religious convictions and differences in culture, in accordance with the respect for fundamental human rights as defined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10th 1948. In that way, UNIMA works for the cultural diplomacy.

The UNIMA PC is dedicated to upholding this mission, actively working to achieve it in the contemporary context.

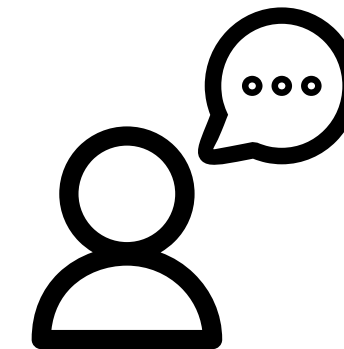
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**“WITH FRIENDSHIP AND
WILLINGNESS, THE GREATEST
UTOPIAS BECOME REALITY”**

Jacques Félix (1923 — 2006), General Secretary of UNIMA
International, 1980-2000

IS THIS ACHIVABLE?



WHAT HAPPEND AT SLUK?

Now that we have clarified our vision, mission, and values, we need to establish a simple strategy to make our goals achievable.

UNIMA PC had its initial trial at FESTIVAL SLUK, and it was a truly collaborative experience. At the SLUK Festival, we successfully brought 2 Irish puppet makers to present their work at the Croatian Academy in Osijek. This was followed by the president and secretary of the national center, who collaborated with members to create a Giant Puppet for the festival alongside Puppetry Technology students from the first three years at the Academy of Arts and Culture.

A workshop was held as well focusing on stop-motion animation. The puppet was brought to life through workshops that fostered collaboration and ethical experiences for the students, with a strong emphasis on teamwork and friendship.

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PROJECT GOALS

Henryk Ryl (1911-1983),
Polish stage director and managing director,
holds up the participating countries of UNIMA, circa 1950s

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Establish online platform for UNIMA centers leaders to connect and share resources.
- Foster partnerships among UNIMA centers worldwide to collectively advance puppetry's impact and reach.

GLOBAL COLLABORATION:

- Facilitate cross-border sharing of puppetry traditions, techniques, and stories, enriching the global puppetry landscape.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE:

- Initiate international puppetry workshops, panels, exhibitions, film screenings and partner with both young and established puppetry festivals.
- Facilitate artist exchanges and residencies between centres.



PROJECT GOALS

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INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES:

- Support research and development of new puppetry techniques.
- Collaborate with other art forms for interdisciplinary projects to foster development of puppetry art.

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE:

- Offer masterclasses and training programs for advanced skills.
- Recognize outstanding puppetry members with awards.

FOSTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Organize puppetry workshops for communities and schools worldwide as part of UPC.
- Empower members to leave a lasting legacy. This approach also enhances visibility when seeking funding opportunities from relevant institutions.



PROJECT GOALS

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SUSTAINABLE GROWTH:

- Promote eco-friendly practices in puppetry creation and performances.
- Advocate for responsible resource management. This approach also enhances visibility when seeking funding opportunities from relevant institutions.

ADVOCACY FOR PEACE:

- Partner with organizations focused on peace and conflict resolution.
- Create puppetry-based contents addressing global issues.

VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION:

- Utilize social media channels to amplify your impact and extend your reach. Remember to consistently post and share updates regarding your collaborative efforts and achievements.
- Utilize UNIMA International's social media channels to reach a wider audience.



EMPOWERING SUCCESS

By implementing these **SIMPLE** strategies we can work collectively to achieve our goals, fostering a vibrant and impactful UPC that contributes to the advancement of puppetry and its positive influence on the world.

Henryk Ryl (1911-1983),
Polish stage director and managing director,
holds up the participating countries of UNIMA, circa 1950s



Steps to Establishing Collaboration Between National Centers:

01 EXPRESSING INTEREST AND INITIATION

- If you hold a desire and idea as a president or board member of a national center, send an invitation expressing your interest to the UNIMA board by emailing info@unima.org. The UNIMA board will subsequently extend invitations to all interested centers for collaboration.

03 FACILITATING COMMUNICATION

- Foster communication between the president and secretary of the two participating centers. Encourage open dialogue and active exchange of ideas.

02 ASSESSING CAPACITY AND NUMBERS

- Considering your financial capabilities, decide on the number of participants you aim to involve—whether one, two, three, or five centers. It's recommended to start with a smaller number to ensure successful collaboration.

04 IDENTIFYING THEMES FOR PROMOTION

- Engage in thoughtful consideration of themes and approaches that can promote peace and mutual understanding. Embrace cultural differences, finding value in diversity, and identifying a common language for effective communication.



Steps to Establishing Collaboration Between National Centers:

05 CHOOSING STRENGTH-ALIGNED TOPICS

- Select a theme that aligns with your center's strengths. If your center specializes in puppetry, focus on performance-related topics. If technology is your forte, concentrate on practical applications and more. You know the professional strengths of your members.

06 COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK AND CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

- After establishing collaboration with the partner center, create a collaborative framework, taking into account the country's context and needs. For instance, in Bosnia, there was a lack of designers and technologists, prompting us to set up a panel. Similarly, Croatia lacked giant puppet and stop-motion experts, which led us to organize workshops.

07 FORMAL INVITATION AND FACILITATOR SELECTION

- After you have set up the potential framework, officially invite members to express their interest in participation. Conduct a fair selection process for facilitators who will collaborate with you to design concepts within the agreed framework.

08 PARTNER CENTER INTERACTION

- Connect with the partner center by sending your representatives for interactions and exchanges. This practice promotes cross-cultural learning and the sharing of ideas. Provide continuous support throughout the process, bearing in mind that this benefits the members of your center.



Steps to Establishing Collaboration Between National Centers:

09 IDENTIFYING SUITABLE FESTIVALS

- Find a suitable festival in the host country or region. The objective is to participate and simultaneously contribute to the growth of the festival on an international scale. Showcase your center's work and elevate the festival's significance through your presence.

11 SEEKING GUIDANCE

- Consult the previous UNIMA PC leadership to gain insights, guidance, and valuable experiences. Learn from their expertise in navigating collaborative endeavors, and enhance your knowledge and network by learning from each other.

10 COLLABORATIVE WISDOM

- When choosing a festival, prioritize younger events where your center's presence can have a lasting impact and enrich the local community. In cases of limited resources, consider requesting festivals to provide food and accommodation for participants. With more resources available, there are broader possibilities for engagement.

12 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION

- Master the art of timely communication with the office of General Secretary and UNIMA Board. Leverage their support for effective promotion and networking. Ensure you keep them informed and updated.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our collaborative journey among national centers reflects resourcefulness and determination. Despite limited funding, we successfully orchestrated partnerships in Osijek and Mostar, with festivals providing accommodations and meals. Our commitment remains steadfast in seeking funding for these impactful initiatives.

Our efforts have gained recognition from esteemed quarters. The UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee endorses our "Relation Ships" project, while the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) shows interest, amplifying the broader resonance of our work.

With newfound momentum and fortified partnerships, we're poised for a more prosperous puppetry future, driven by collaboration, innovation, and our global community's enduring spirit.

Esteemed leaders of UNIMA centers, this project invites you not only to join us but also to take it in your hands, creating a legacy of puppetry excellence. Let's unite in shaping a vibrant future that echoes with our shared vision and impact.

Goran Zelic
Irish UNIMA, President

DIMITRI JAGENEAU

General Secretary of
UNIMA International

UPC embodies the spirit of ECCENTRICITY, characterized by qualities of uniqueness, creativity, and a departure from conventional norms. This signifies an embrace of innovative approaches, fostering connections and projects among UNIMA centers. It aims not to merely renew, but to reinvent collaborations between centers and UNIMA International. Festivals, workshops, conferences, meetings, exchanges, research, and other initiatives will interlace connections among centers. The project's goal is to break continental limitations, igniting global connections and projects.

This center-driven initiative is not guided by Commissions; instead, the Board actively invite centers' engagement in expanding abroad. UNIMA International's scope extends beyond Commission projects. It evolves into a realm of international center-based cooperation, fostering transcontinental collaboration. UNIMA represents more than a network of contacts; it's a conduit of creativity.

Imagine the synergy between countries like Portugal, Benin, Brazil, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, and India, or between Denmark, Iceland, Egypt, Mexico, and Thailand. Even envision collaborations between Indonesia, Algeria, Congo, Argentina, and Slovenia. Picture a tapestry of collaboration woven by every member of a center—a UNIMA International member. Dream of 100 UNIMA international projects ignited by centers, and even more. The possibilities are boundless.