



= oead  
erasmus+

YOUNG ARTISTS & YOUNG AUDIENCE  
EXPLORING NEW WAYS OF CREATING THEATRE  
AND ART EXCHANGE

## Call for Participants Season 25/26

We are inviting people with artistic interest, aspiring artists and theatre pedagogues to the European exchange project **EXIT THE ROOM**.

- Age: 18 – 25 years
- Project period:
  1. **Participants Residency: Segni d'infanzia Festival, Mantua (IT)**  
November 3rd - 10th 2025, incl. travel days
  2. **Participants Residency: Starke Stücke-Festival | Frankfurt a. M. (DE) |**  
Feb 23rd - March 1st 2026, incl. travel days
  3. **Participants Residency; Festival spleen\*graz | Graz (AT) |**  
April 10th - 20th 2026, incl. travel days
- Deadline for applications: July 20th 2025
- More Info: <https://exit-the-room.eu/>

# What is EXIT THE ROOM?

From 2021 to 2027, EXIT THE ROOM – funded by the EU's ERASMUS+ programme – facilitates European exchange between young adults with artistic interest. The aim is to turn the next generation into creators of their own programmes and to encourage new forms of art discourse and mediation.

All network partners – festivals and theatres – work for a young audience and are interested in creating a platform for aspiring artists, where they can exchange, grow and explore the field of theatre for a young audience.

EXIT THE ROOM has finished three project cycles, with a new group of participants every year. Many participants stay active and connected to each other, to the project partners and to the other project groups.

## THE NETWORK:

**Bravo! Festival | Helsinki Metropolitan Area | Finland**  
**Bronks | Brussels | Belgium**  
**Junges Theater Bremen | Bremen | Germany**  
**stadttheater spandau | Berlin | Germany**  
**Kliker Festival | Varaždin | Croatia**  
**Maas Theatre | Rotterdam | Netherlands**  
**Segni New Generations Festival | Mantua | Italy**  
**spleen\*graz Festival | Graz | Austria**  
**„Starke Stücke“-Festival | Frankfurt and Rhine Main Region | Germany**  
**TaO! Graz | Austria (accredited institution, Head of Project)**  
**WESTWIND Festival | North Rhine-Westphalia | Germany**



## Residency programs include:

- networking with fellow participants
- expert discussions and networking meetings with the EXIT THE ROOM partners
- visiting performances for a young audience and exchanging with the artistic team
- accreditation to the festivals “Starke Stücke” and “spleen\*graz”
- developing new forms of dialogue, reflection and encounter between young people accompanying theatre performances
- a chance to present performative try-outs at spleen\*graz Festival 2026
- professional coaching by artists from the EXIT THE ROOM partners

## Work Focus for Project Cycle 25/26

The general focus of EXIT THE ROOM is experimenting with artistic approaches to encounters between young audiences and theatre professionals. The goal is to visit different festivals, get an impression on their specific structures and processes and to engage in a dialogue about theatre for young audiences.

During the three mobilities, participants will not only visit performances and get to know the festival makers and artists. They will also get the possibility to work on their own approaches in theatre pedagogy.

The special focus this season is to co-create ideas for art-exchange with kids and youngsters themselves. How do young people reflect on theatre, on the topics and artists themselves. How can we involve them in being co-creators of interaction instead of just consumers. Together with the group and guided by the partners and coaches, participants will have a space to explore and create new ideas.

## Terms:

- Through ERASMUS+ funding, EXIT THE ROOM pays for travel and accommodation costs (board and lodging on project days, entry to all scheduled events) of approx. € 3,000 per person
- Participants will stay in shared rooms of max. 3 people per room
- With your application, you commit to being available for the whole project period and take part in the project programme of all three residencies
- Participants are selected by the organising network partners
- no fees have to be paid or will be paid for participating in the project
- You need to have a travel health insurance for the countries of the residencies. Insurance must be organized by the participants.

## Number of Participants: approx. 22 people

# Cities & Hosts

## Mantua, Italy

<https://www.segnidinfanzia.org/en/>

**Coach: Francesca Necula**



The festival Segni d'infanzia celebrates its 20th edition in 2025. Organized by the *Segni d'infanzia associazione artistica e culturale*, it invites artistic work for young audiences age 18 month and up to play in different locations in the small city Mantua. The programme brings italian and international artists together and facilitates a dialogue between different generations through art.

## Frankfurt, Germany

[www.starke-stuecke.net](http://www.starke-stuecke.net)

**Coach: Hanna Keinath**



„Starke Stücke“ is an international network festival for young audiences of all ages. It takes place in the Rhine-Main-Region in around 40 different venues. The locations range from big theatre stages to schoolyards, community centres or libraries. In the beginning of 2026, the festival will host its 32rd edition and invites national and international companies and guests to explore the region and to engage in different theatre experiences.

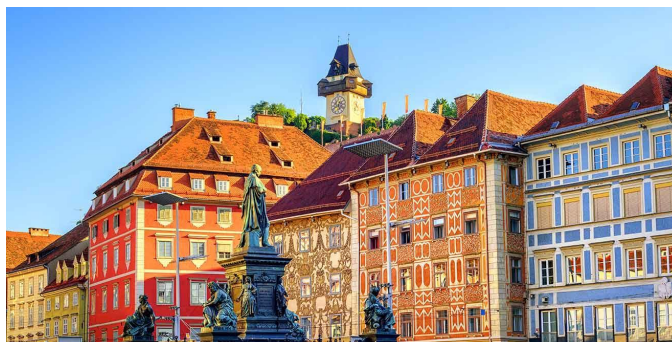
## Graz, Austria

[www.tao-graz.at](http://www.tao-graz.at)

[www.mezzanintheater.at](http://www.mezzanintheater.at)

[www.spleen-graz.at](http://www.spleen-graz.at)

**Coach: Azlea Wriessnig**



Every two years, spleen\*graz is a festival for young audiences, organized by a collaboration of Theater am Ortweinplatz – TaO! and Mezzanintheater. For more than 20 years they have invited international productions for young audiences and explored different kinds of aesthetics. The festival aims for collaborative, creative processes and invites especially the next generation and emerging artists to try out their own works and ideas.

# PARTICIPANTS

## You are

- between 18 and 25 years old
- young artist, student, or recent graduate in one of the following areas:
  - Performing or Visual Arts, Theatre
  - Dance
  - Music Pedagogy, or similar
- open-minded and interested in exchange with other artists
- from Austria, the Rhine-Main region, North Rhine-Westphalia and Italy

## You are interested in

- theatre and art for a young audience
- travel and international exchange
- new artistic inputs
- developing artistic output with others

## Barriers

We seek to make the programme accessible for applicants with disabilities. If you have any questions regarding your possible participation (such as mobility barriers, hearing or seeing barriers etc.), please contact the people listed on the following page.

The programme will be held in English language. The performances within the respective festivals might be performed in different languages.

# TIMELINE

- [Application Deadline](#) | July 20th
- [Participant Selection Announcement](#) | September 1st
- [Participants Residency: Segni d'infanzia Festival, Mantua \(IT\)](#)  
November 3th - 10th 2025, incl. travel days
- [Participants Residency: Starke Stücke-Festival | Frankfurt a. M. \(DE\)](#) |  
Feb 23rd - March 1st 2026, incl. travel days
- [Participants Residency; Festival spleen\\*graz | Graz \(AT\)](#) |  
April 10th - 20th 2026, incl. travel days

# Application:

## In order to apply, please send

- Letter of Interest (your motivation, expectations and interest in the project max. 1 page)
- CV (max. 1 page)
- this signed application sheet

## to:

- Applications from Austria to Anna Frizberg: [a.frizberg@tao-graz.at](mailto:a.frizberg@tao-graz.at)
- Applications from Rhine-Main region to Sara Gröning: [sara.groening@krfrm.de](mailto:sara.groening@krfrm.de)
- Applications from North Rhine-Westphalia to Christiane Müller-Rosen:  
[kontakt@westwind-festival.de](mailto:kontakt@westwind-festival.de)
- Applications from Italy to Christina Cazzola: [segreteria@segnidinfanzia.org](mailto:segreteria@segnidinfanzia.org)

With my signature I confirm to be fully available and take part in all three residencies and their programme.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date, Place

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature