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**SECURITY AT LIVE EVENTS :
THE SAFE PROJECT PRESENTS
ITS CONCLUSIONS TO LIVE EVENT PROFESSIONALS AFTER 3 YEARS OF WORK**

Launched in 2018, the European cooperation project entitled 'SAFE' has been working to improve the safety of public event spaces in the broadest terms. The project, coordinated by PRODISS has eight other European partners: Le LABA (FR) , iSSUE (CH), Mind Over Matter Consultancy Ltd (UK), TSC Crowd Management (NL), Wallifornia MusicTech (BEL), ILMC (UK), BDKV (GER) and the European Arenas Association (NL).

After three years in development, the conclusions of the SAFE project were presented to professionals working in live event sector.

Initiated by PRODISS (France) and supported by the Erasmus+Adult Education programme, the SAFE project provides a European health, safety and security project in live events, which spans borders aiming to create a robust and resilient pan European health and safety culture. By disseminating knowledge and innovation, the project aims to develop the skills of professionals managing and working in the health, safety and security of events and music venues across Europe.

Initiated after the 2015 terrorist attacks, the project evolved with the Covid-19 crisis at its core to ensure that health, safety and security were seen as priorities.

During the project, those participating in the SAFE project were able to present the results of their research and experimentation, this included :

- The implementation of two innovative safety education programmes for event professionals;
- Four tests of these training formats on site with European experts in the field, at La Seine Musicale (Paris), Hamburg Barclays Arena (Germany), MaMa Festival (Paris) and Eurosonic (Groningen - Holland);
- Two moments of collective reflection on the challenges of welcoming and securing audiences in an original hackathon format, one in person at Wallifornia Music Tech (Belgium) and the other online in 2021 to develop a toolbox of new technological solutions available to organizers;
- An overview on European experiments (and lessons learned from them) in the face of the pandemic crisis emerging in March 2020;
- Five events which were used to disseminate the results of the project.

Resources for professionals are available on the project website: www.thesafeproject.eu/

These results were presented during an online webinar on February 26 (in French), as well as during an exceptional conference during this year's International Live Music Conference (ILMC) (in English). More than 800 people were able to follow these two SAFE events live or in replay.

At the end of the webinar, 98% of the participants indicated that they found the webinar relevant to their issues; 67% plan to use the SAFE project resources and 70% want to share the information presented with their network.

The replay of this webinar is available on the SAFE project [channelYoutube](#).

Focus on the training programme and the hackathon

1. A training programme for professionals

The SAFE project proposes the development of two innovative training programmes: an **operational programme** and a **strategic programme**. They create the conditions in which solutions to the challenges of the pandemic. The knowledge is based on the reflections of experts, certified trainers and high-level event organisers.

These programs are aimed at all event professionals in charge of welcoming and safety of the participants. The strategic program is aimed at decision-makers (technical management, production managers, security coordinators), while the operational program targets those working in the field (reception and security agents). They aim to develop a common culture around event health, safety and security across Europe in order to convert academic and training led knowledge into practically applied delivery in the workplace, establishing the European standards of tomorrow.

These certification courses are delivered by a pool of accredited trainers who are experts in their fields. The full list of courses is available [the SAFE project website](#).

Modules available through the Operational Programme: "Event Security and Awareness", "Event Crowd Management", "Customer Services and Communication", "Event Health and Safety", "Incident and Emergency Management".

Modules accessible via the strategic programme: "Legal aspects of event management", "Health and safety management in crowded spaces", "Leadership and event management", "Risk assessment", "Incident and emergency management".

2. A hackathon to find concrete solutions to the health crisis

In order to respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis, the SAFE project organised a hackathon in January 2021, bringing together a group of recognised experts in the live performance and security sector from across 20 countries.

Under the guidance of Pascal Viot, head of the Health, Safety and Security Department of the Paléo Festival in Nyon (Switzerland) and director of the Swiss Institute for Urban and Event Security (ISSUE) and the LABA team (pole of competence on European projects dedicated to culture based in Nouvelle Aquitaine / France), and in collaboration with The Lynk, these experts worked on four issues:

- **Data tracking**, to ensure compliance with the processing of participants' data in line with legal principles.
- **The public's journey**, to imagine and design the implementation of COVID protection measures throughout a participant's journey ensuring reduced contact at all times.
- **Flow and distance management**, to consider the most appropriate tools to facilitate crowd management and meet the requirements of physical distancing.
- **Social acceptance**, to address the social acceptability of protective measures against Covid-19 and to try to find a balance between control and freedom.

This collective intelligence has allowed solutions to emerge from which concepts and prototypes capable of responding to the unprecedented constraints facing the performing arts sector can be developed.

Several avenues are envisaged for sharing good practice: a shared database of technological solutions, a repository of "user" data throughout the spectator experience. In addition, a European survey is planned to measure the social acceptance of security measures.

These prototypes and concepts must now be subjected to a phase of testing, experimentation and feedback. This testing phase will include the search for new partners, to enable the collective formed during the hackathon to continue this innovative *thinktank*.

About SAFE :

Launched in 2018 in a context of increasing attacks on events and venues, SAFE is a European programme coordinated by PRODISS aiming to develop the skills of people in charge of security at events and music venues. In 2020, SAFE has evolved to include health security in its remit, in order to rapidly provide practical and theoretical approaches to the main challenges of crowd management in times of health crisis. SAFE is funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ Adult programme.

About PRODISS :

Founded in 1984, PRODISS is the first representative employers' union for the musical and variety live industry in France. PRODISS brings together more than 400 businesses: producers, promoters, venue operators, festival organisers, everywhere in France. They are working in the field of variety shows, contemporary music (jazz, popular music, musicals, etc.) and one-man shows. Together they form the entire value chain of creation and distribution of a show. Mainly SMEs and VSEs, our members generate nearly 2 billion euros in turnover, i.e. more than 3/4 of the turnover of the musical and variety live industry in France.

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