



## ERASMUS NETWORK FOR THE HIGHER ARTS EDUCATION SECTOR IN EUROPE

### Artesnet and the future of Higher Arts Education

Lars Ebert

**ARTESNET EUROPE** tries to remain on top of what goes on in of Higher Arts Education and in touch with its future. As such it can be seen as the think tank of ELIA. The network's strength is based on individual expertise and experience put into the international perspective. The chosen peer-to-peer approach proves not only valuable in terms of sharing of best practice. Its potential lies especially in the pro-active development of standards (not standisation!) for institutions and programmes. Outside observers like Andrée Sursock confirm the network's strong and leading role in informing policy makers through the creation of a shared standing point of the Higher Arts Education sector in terms of its future role in society. Especially the decentralized organisational structure of the project proves to be an effective innovation.

Immediately preceding ELIA's 10th Biennial conference in Gothenburg, an artesnet Europe all partners meeting was held on 28 October 2008. The project presented itself as a platform for ongoing discussion on

*Creative partnerships (strand 1)*  
*Qualifications frameworks (strand 2)*  
*New Strategies, New Programmes (strand 3)*

45 partners from 23 countries were present and participated in strand working groups. The progress so far was presented to the plenary. Snežina Tankovska (project chair, NATFA) said:

"Artesnet has proved that we dare to dream and that our collective expertise has brought about an impressive collection of best practice, partnerships and discussion papers. Let us all bear in mind to only by sharing our own ideals and experiences we will be able to shape the future of Europe's creative talent."

Artesnet was visible at ELIA's 10th Biennial conference with the following outcomes:

- A project leaflet was published. If you wish to order copies for dissemination in your institution or at national meetings please write and email to [Ute Kohlmann](#).
- Strand 1 presented its work-in-progress in the brochure Creative partnerships as a process of knowledge creation and cultural participation, which you can download [here](#).

□ Two symposia held at the conference were organized under the auspices of artesnet: *Standards not Standardization* by Strand 2 leaders John Butler and Kieran Corcoran, and *What Impact?* by Strand 3 leader Marje Lohuaru in cooperation with project leader Lars Ebert and ELIA head of R&D Truus Ophuysen. Furthermore, artesnet was visible in many presentations and several fringe sessions.

The interim report is due April 2009. Due to immense input from a broad partnership a substantial body of outcomes will be visible for the network partners, ELIA members and a broad European audience. All partners will be approached to report on their activity within the project.

#### NEXT TO COME

□ **DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP** of strand 2, Ankara (Turkey), 27 March 2009  
This english-speaking workshop offers looks beyond the national context and is intended for academic and administrative personell of artistic programmes in Turkey as well as its neighbouring countries who are interested in learning about the work on Quality Enhancement that has been done in the Thematic Network artesnet Europe and intend on sharing their own experiences in establishing quality processes in their institutions. The methodology of external quality reviews that has been developed and tested in various on-site visits of European art schools will be introduced. The workshop will close with parallel working sessions on the writing of learning outcomes to which participants should bring their own examples for discussion and demonstration. In order to achieve a real working atmosphere the number of participants is limited.

□ **ALL STRANDS MEETING** at Hacettepe University, Ankara (Turkey), 28-29 March 2009.

□ **TEACHERS' ACADEMY** in Sofia (Bulgaria) 1-4 July 2009. You can find the call for presentations and workshops further on in this newsletter. Attention: the call closes 8 December.  
For any questions or other input please contact Ute Kohlmann: Ute.Kohlmann [at] elia-artschools.org

### HOW TO BECOME ACTIVE

If you want to become active and are not connected to one of the mentioned strand activities, please get in contact with the project leader to discuss possibilities. The artesnet network is fuelled by a broad representation of disciplines and European regions. It is vital that the outcomes are widely discussed and disseminated in order to reach a shared standing point and to speak with authority. We therefore encourage all partners to participate in the milestone events (see above), to comment on the published discussion documents, to send us reference documents for the website, and examples of best practice from your national and discipline context.

Do you have a groundbreaking idea for reaching our aims and objectives? Do you want to organise a regional meeting or set up an interest group? Get in contact with Lars at [lars.ebert@elia-artschools.org](mailto:lars.ebert@elia-artschools.org)

### STEERING GROUP

**Snejina Tankovska**, NATFA – Steering group chair

**Thera Jonker**, Utrecht School of the Arts, Netherlands – chair strand 1

**John Butler**, Birmingham City University, Institute of Arts and Design, UK – chair strand 2

**Marje Lohuaru**, Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Tallinn – chair strand 3

**Kieran Corcoran**, Dublin Institute of Technology, School of Art, Design and Printing, Ireland – chair Teachers' Academy

**Lars Ebert**, ELIA – project leader

### PROJECT TEAM / CONTACT

**Lars Ebert**, Amsterdam - project leader, [lars.ebert@elia-artschools.org](mailto:lars.ebert@elia-artschools.org)

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**WWW.ARTESNET.EU** is a key source of information for partners and other higher arts education institutes interested in artesnet subjects. It provides online resources (discussion papers, background material, toolkits and reference docs, registers of experts, best practices) compiled as a tool for networking and collaboration.