

Independent Performing Arts in Europe

A Field Between Institutional Consolidation and Precarity

Presentation topics

- Consolidation of a European organizational field
- Social status between low income, a lack of security and inadequate working conditions
- Responses from political advocacy groups

**“The largest subsidy for the arts comes not from governments, patrons or the private sector, but from artists themselves in the form of unpaid or underpaid labor”
(Neil 2019:6).**

Proportion (%) of independent performing arts individual agents and organizations, by country.

Country	n	Individual agents	Organizations
Austria	140	83%	17%
Bulgaria	79	57%	43%
Czech Republic	55	35%	66%
Finland	27	74%	26%
Germany	177	81%	19%
Hungary	68	44%	56%
Iceland	112	75%	25%
Italy	147	47%	53%
Romania	48	77%	23%
Slovenia	25	60%	40%
Sweden	70	31%	69%
Switzerland	51	80%	20%
Other	32	72%	28%
Total	1,031	65%	36%

Proportion (%) of occupational groups represented in the sample, by country.

Country	n (individual agents)	Working in artistic capacity (i.e. as artist, curator, designer, dramaturg)	Working in producing capacity (i.e. as producer, art manager, technician)	Other professions
Austria	116	66%	17%	17%
Bulgaria	45	60%	26%	14%
Czech Republic	19	54%	28%	19%
Finland	20	69%	16%	16%
Germany	144	67%	19%	14%
Hungary	30	46%	44%	10%
Iceland	84	69%	22%	9%
Italy	69	57%	31%	12%
Romania	37	74%	16%	10%
Slovenia	15	47%	34%	19%
Sweden	22	72%	13%	16%
Switzerland	41	49%	36%	15%
Other	23	53%	19%	19%
Total	665	62%	24%	14%

Proportion (%) of organization types represented in the sample, by country.

Country	n (organizations)	Artist group (i.e. company, collective, ensemble)	Presenting platform (i.e. venue, production house or festival)	Producing platform (i.e. rehearsal space or residence space)	Other organization
Austria	24	51%	34%	14%	0%
Bulgaria	34	59%	28%	10%	4%
Czech Republic	36	34%	38%	24%	4%
Finland	7	40%	31%	20%	10%
Germany	33	49%	31%	8%	13%
Hungary	38	58%	29%	8%	4%
Iceland	28	55%	33%	10%	3%
Italy	78	41%	35%	16%	8%
Romania	11	50%	28%	17%	6%
Slovenia	10	25%	50%	18%	7%
Sweden	48	63%	23%	12%	3%
Switzerland	10	53%	27%	20%	0%
Other	9	100%	0%	0%	0%
Total	366	48%	32%	14%	5%

Selected Core Data

Female	61.4%
Average age	$M = 39.6, SD = 10.6$
University degree	72.4%
Work in large cities	76.9 %
Identify with two + Genre	69.3%
Org. with non-profit status	80.39%

Institutional Definition

The process of institutional definition, or “structuration,” consists of four parts (DiMaggio and Powell 1983):

- an increase in the extent of interaction among organizations in the field
- the emergence of sharply defined interorganizational structures of domination and patterns of coalition
- an increase in the information load with which organizations in a field must contend
- and the development of a mutual awareness among participants in a set of organizations that they are involved in a common enterprise”

Institutional Definition

*5-point rating scale ranging from
1 ("strongly disagree") to 5 ("strongly agree")*

Structuration score **3.93**

- *Iceland = min structuration score 3.82*
- *Finland = max structuration score 4.14*

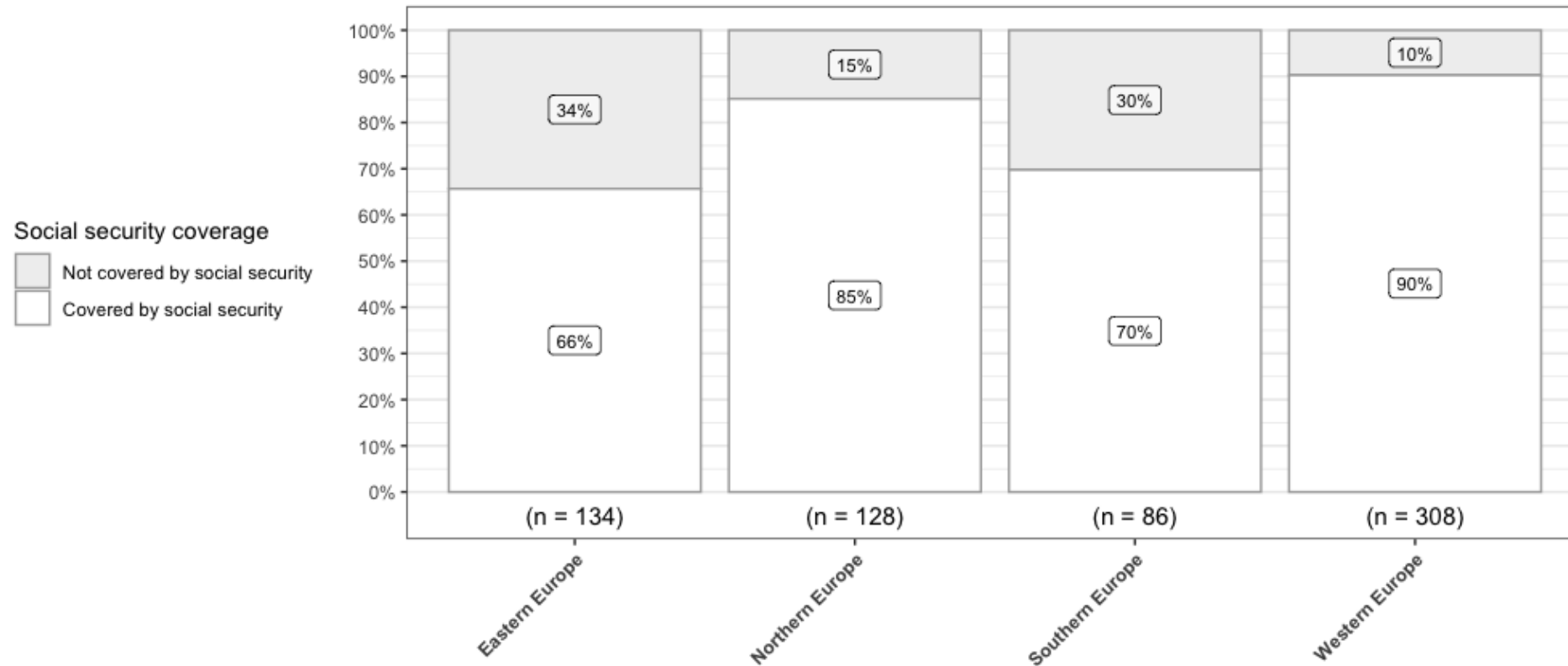
Income and poverty risk in the independent performing arts in Europe in 2019.

Country	n	Median income of respondents	At-risk-of-poverty threshold in the country	Respondents at risk of poverty in %	Female respondents at risk of poverty in %	Male respondents at risk of poverty in %
Austria	110	13,000 €	14,212 €	62,7	64.9	56.2
Germany	138	15,900 €	14,109 €	43.5	48.2	34.6
Bulgaria	39	5,113 €	2,534 €	15.4	22.7	5.9
Italy	65	10,500 €	10,299 €	41.5	51.4	25.9
Iceland	69	26,080 €	23,951 €	44.9	41.9	50
Switzerland	39	26,081 €	24,755 €	46.2	42.9	50
Romania	32	5,502 €	2,310 €	9.4	14.3	5.6
Hungary	28	8,190 €	3,511 €	10.7	12.5	8.3
Slovenia	15	16,244 €	8,440 €	33.3	25	50
Sweden	20	14,326 €	14,684 €	50	64.3	16.7
Finland	20	15,000 €	14,927 €	40	50	16.7
Czech Republic	18	14,005 €	5,997 €	27,8	30	25

Income from activities outside the producing performing arts

No income from other activity	22.68%
Up to half of income from other activity	47.64%
More than half of income from other activity	27.25%
All of income from other activity	2.44%

Social Security Coverage in Europe's Regions



Access to social security systems specifically designed for the arts

Such systems exist in:

- Germany → 49% of respondents have access
- Slovenia → 47% of respondents have access
- Austria → 28% of respondents have access
- Finland → 10% of respondents have access

In the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy and Switzerland, this type of support systems do not exist

Working Conditions

*5-point rating scale ranging from
1 ("strongly disagree") to 5 ("strongly agree")*

Adequacy & sufficiency of income	2.3
Job security	2.2
Over-exploitation	3.6
Meaningfulness of work	4.4

Working conditions **2.8**

Incoming Difference Between 2019 and 2020

Country	n	Average income in 2019	Income difference 2019 - 2020	Decline in income in %
Austria	110	15,371.81 €	-2,037.73 €	13.26
Germany	138	17,283.63 €	-4,367.22 €	25.27
Bulgaria	39	6,541.77 €	-1,543.64 €	23.6
Italy	65	14,185.38 €	-2,113.03 €	14.9
Iceland	69	26,180.16 €	-2,938.59 €	11.22
Switzerland	39	29,473.67 €	-7,591.08 €	25.76
Romania	32	8,559.72 €	-3,583.18 €	41.86
Hungary	28	8,811.36 €	-2,625.43 €	29.8
Slovenia	15	18,070.47 €	-3,611.47 €	19.99
Sweden	20	17,971.30 €	-3,647.15 €	20.29
Finland	20	18,752.20 €	-294.50 €	1.57
Czech Republic	18	14,402.44 €	-2,639.33 €	18.33

Participation in Governance

Providing sufficient information **2.74**

- *The value is lower in the south (2.41) and east (2.65) of Europe than in the west (2.9) and north (2.97).*

Engagement in consultation and dialogue **2.81**

- *The values in the south (2.45) and east (2.58) are lower than in the those in the north (2.96) and west (3.05)*

Agents' participation in policymaking **2.66**

- *The values in the south (2.36) and east (2.43) is lower than in the north (2.85) and west (2.87) of Europe*

This assessment was mirrored by the association representatives

Concluding Remarks

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