

Questionnaire on Cultural rights and public spaces.

Please, find below some inputs from Førde Traditional and World Music Festival, Norway.

As we understand the definition of public spaces, it includes outside and inside arenas open for individuals, organizations and institutions to use for free or to rent. The idea is to offer an accessible space for all people, with certain set of rules connected to it. (For ex. it is not allowed to use alcohol at public spaces without certain permission, it's not allowed to play loud music without special permission etc.)

In Norway, women and men have access to all public spaces without any restrictions (except from gender separated restrooms).

Norwegian authorities claim that all indoor public spaces shall be accessible for persons with disabilities, i.e. you must be able to access the space by wheelchair for ex.

Norwegian regulations also claim that promoters who receive public grants, must accept free access/seat for an assistant following disabled people.

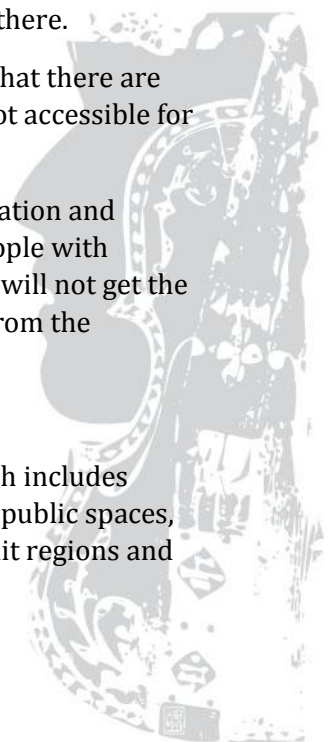
There might be an impediment for accessibility and adequacy that public spaces can be too expensive for certain groups to rent, and/or there are lack of localities adapted to the activity that possible users want to perform there (like rehearsal rooms with satisfying acoustics for music rehearsals/performances, useful floor for dancing, adequate localities for different religious services etc.) Also lack of equipment both indoors and outdoors can be an impediment (stage and back stage facilities, such as sufficient power supply, PA, light, wardrobes etc.)

For the audience, both high ticket prices for events, lack of public transport services at adequate times of the day/night, and/or high prices for public transport, might also be an impediment for the accessibility to public spaces and the events happening there.

Privatization may result in an opinion among politicians/public authorities that there are less need for public spaces, at the same time as these private premises are not accessible for all promoters, from different reasons.

When it comes to virtual/digital spaces, where more and more of the information and marketing of cultural events etc. are performed today, there is a risk that people with disadvantages or lack of competence when it comes to use digital platforms, will not get the full information about such events and therefore possibly will be kept out from the possibility to take part in them.

Our recommendation would be that every states prepare a cultural law which includes expectations for a certain volume, variety and quality of outdoor and indoor public spaces, with certain standards as mentioned above, and that this law also will commit regions and

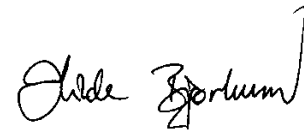


municipalities to follow up on their respective levels. On a local level, such regulations could also include suggestions around max. rental prices, ticket prices, transport services etc.

The Førde Traditional and World Music Festival is the largest festival for traditional and world music in Scandinavia, presenting about 90 acts from 30 venues and 300 artists from all over the world for 25-30 000 visitors each year. In addition, the festival arrange concerts and other events during the year. The festival is regarded among the most important in Norway, and receive grants from the National Arts Council, the region and the municipality of Førde. The festival is covered by national and international media. The 30th edition of the festival will take place from 3.-7. July 2018. The festival has been awarded among the 25 best world music festivals worldwide for the latest 6 years by the international music magazine Songlines, rated on the Guardian's top 10-list of small town festivals in Europe, and The Guardian's top 7 festivals in Europe, as the only Norwegian festival. HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit is the festival's royal patron.

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Per Idar Almås (s)
Artistic and managing director



Hilde Bjørkum
Senior adviser

