networking nodes
observatories
& granaries
(NNOG)

teatro de lo inestable
www.espacioinestable.com
europa@espacioinestable.com
Networking nodes, observatories & granaries (NNOG)

Networking nodes observatories & granaries is the name of the project coordinated by the valencian company Teatro de lo Inestable. This project is going to be submitted in the next call for Multi-annual co-operation projects, line 1.1, within the frame of the Culture Programme 2007-2013. The deadline is October the 3rd and the project must have a maximum duration of 5 years and a partnership of minimum 6 from 6 different countries members of the EU.

The main goal of NNOG is the creation of theoretical and practical work spaces network of networks that talks about present concepts and ideas such as “identity, body, citizens, the we concept…”. Notice that all these notions will be researched from the performing arts point of view to achieve the development of an interconnected creative network through the implementation of working collective tools, non-conventional structures and different themes. NNOG arises from a social and politic cultural positioning, from an attempt to bear on the society using the scenic tools we usually use. It’s also an approach to the city and its citizen concept from a politic sphere involved in the social becoming.

The questions now are:

- How we will turn a politic and social positioning into a scenic positioning.
- How we will place our concept of “we as a collective” regarding our social positioning.

The project objective will be to do collective works with the city, the citizens and the society. We’ll try to involve different collectives, groups and people interested in reflections about what’s happening around them, always from a critic point of view.

The project is organized around different frames, starting with these two important elements: observatories and granaries.

► Observatories: They are going to be the entities that observe and analyse what’s happening in the granaries and the environment. They aim will be to analyse what we’ve observe; register and record it by means of another tool called “kaleidoscope”. After that, they will make conclusions able to have a good feedback with the own project. The sight and conclusions will be from a social, political, anthropological and cultural point of view. Observatories will study the society from the cultural sphere and they will be hooked on a concrete moment and space.

One of the observatories characteristics is that they will take into consideration the artistic material (performing, visual, textual, art designer…) developed, catalogued and registered by the experts. Those materials will be analysed through the critical vision and opinion of different cultural agents such as: sociologists, anthropologists, philologists…

The project will count with 4 different observatories placed in different European strategic areas, important for us because of their geographic situation. Each observatory will be composed not only of cultural agents but also of seasoned professionals from several areas who will approach to the project to tell us their opinions, critical points of view and analysis of the artistic materials. These professionals will come from the following spheres: sociology, anthropology, philosophy and/or economy. They will be chosen by the project members and their aim will be to contribute though their knowledge on the project’s evolution. Four rapprochements will be held.
in each of the observatories. That means a total of sixteen rapprochements during the project which could be altered each year depending on the necessities.

We’ve chosen these profiles because we think it’s necessary that the project has a social, anthropological, philosophical, economical and cultural sight to strongly accomplish a valid role for the citizenship.

To create a real “we concept”, all these transdisciplinary skills proposed by the professionals will be analysed and visualised by the project’s artistic directors.

These directors will attend two yearly meetings: that means a total of eight meetings along five years in each of the fourth granaries based in the different cities. The aim will be to analyze, assess and dialogue regarding the information they’re getting in the kaleidoscopes. The main goal of these meetings will be to get the conclusions responsible for the next project’s key theme in a way that we manage to transform the “we concept” in a “we concept” that includes “others concept”.

► Kaleidoscope: It’s a tool that will be used by the observatories. The proposal is to develop a tool that possibilities the analysis and cataloguing of the project contents. It will be also a workspace for the networking collaboration and the spreading of the project conclusions. The material got from this tool will generate a feedback that will help us to focus the following steps, to observe the covered path, to define the scenic steps and to find another place from where to watch. Besides, the tool will generate a free multi-reading of cultural contents.

The project will take into account the activities created and developed by the observatories and the materials shown in the granaries. To accomplish this goal, we will develop several activities such as: theoretical and practical workgroups, advanced analytical groups, workshops…

One of the conclusions extracted by the observatories per season (2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017), will be the “Key theme”. This one will follow the steps started by the concept of “citizens”, the responsible to organise all the project activities such as the scenic steps, the nutrients, the pollination, worktables, workshops and expositions. The main theme will be a social, anthropological and cultural key that will examine and value all that will happen in the social environment.
►Granaries: They will be the physical spaces (conventional or not, we mean a theatre, a venue, a hall, a gallery…), that will offer to the audience a regular programming of artistic materials such as theatre and dance performances, visual arts, expositions…

These granaries will be connected by a network and all the material they produce will be networking too. The information they get from the observatories will have a deep influence in their activities and will make a strong connection between them possible. They will share the same artistic materials and they will tour around the granaries. This networking activities will establish a critical reflexive net strongly enough to have an impact on its social environment.

After this brief introduction, we are going to develop the different concepts we’ve used in our NNOG project:

►“We” concept: It’s going to be the project’s attitude. Not only a politic attitude but also social and it will be present in all the project activities. The structure will be supervised by this concept and we’ll work from this idea of a common world. We’ll be able to say WE, “we as a Europeans”, “we as a citizens”, “we as a world”. We pretend to transform individualism into a social being; a being related to the environment surrounding him/her.

►Greenhouses (Scenic steps): This activity will be named as “step” because we want to visualise a human walking towards a common objective. Each step, each event and each moment lived will be part of the project. These steps will be worked from a collective point of view, not from an individual and all the management will be horizontal, without a clear boss.

The scenic steps will have a boost in each container. The first one will start in Valencia and the first boost will be “Espacio Inestable” that will joint the rest of the collectives to work next to them without leading the proposal, just suggesting.

The last phase of each step will be a performance of the scenic materials that will be live presented on Internet so that the audience and the rest of the partners will be able to follow it.
**Nutrients:** Our proposal is to co-produce from 1 to 3 companies or collectives in each of the granaries that made up the project each season. These companies or collectives will have creative freedom to develop their artistic material that may have a relationship with the activities and materials developed by the observatories and the scenic steps. Each one of the granaries will have on stage from 1 to 3 performances along the season, merging their programming with proposals jointed around the same concept. All these activities will be placed in the granaries of the different countries: 5 performing proposals per season in each of the granaries.

Each granary will decide their workgroups: a maximum of 3 and a minimum of 1. The process selection will be publicly done and it will be decided in the observatories meetings.

**Pollination:** Once these performances have been shown, the project will chose one from each container to tour around the other ones. The selected project will have a tour around the other granaries; therefore each container will host from 1 to 2 international projects. That means that each workgroup will visit 5 of the granaries and each granary will host from 1 to 3 national performances, plus the international ones, therefore, they will show a cohesive programming with national and international artists. Pollination is the name we’ve given to this international tour around the granaries.

The image below takes the example of one of the workgroups per granary.
► **Main theme: citizens**

This works as a kind of “creative detonator” which function is to promote the materials of the different workgroups: exposed materials, programmed materials and the observatories conclusions.

The first year, the main theme will be “citizens” and it will have an impact on the project activities, mainly on the granaries, observatories, nutrients and pollination. The rest of the years, the observatory will be in charge of developing the following main themes.

► **Expositions:** In every space, theatre, container or venue, different expositions will be proposed and shown to reinforce the main theme and the project objective. In these spaces many different cultural expressions will be shown: we are referring to painting, sculpture, photography, video-art, music installations, performance and any hybrid art forms. This material will tour around the granaries and each artist will also travel with his creations to introduce them to the audience.

► **Workshops:** We intend this activity as different courses imparted by professionals who may be working on the “we concept”. We are thinking about Paz Rojo, Idoia Zabaleta, Antonio Tagliarini, Marina Garcés, Santiago López Petit… They will have a strong impact on the scenic steps and the creations, because they will have the aim to blend the entire project and the entire project’s people sight.

► **Theoretical and practical worktables:** The different concepts arisen in the observatories will be discussed and analysed in these worktables that will also include seminars, laboratories and lectures. The objective of these activities is not only to complement and nourish the participants,
but also to develop and create different practical actions (political, social, artistic, and related to the experience) that meddle in the environment.

► **Magazine:** This will be the theoretical and reflexive foundation of the project and we’ll talk about the “we concept”, the citizens and all the main themes the observatories will be suggesting. It will be also a retrospective of all the project activities such as: workshops, worktables, nutrients, scenic steps…
It will also have a networking running and we’ll invite different national and international researchers to write and research about the main themes and the project conclusions.