



SINCE 2006 OUR MISSION IS TO STIMULATE
CULTURAL PARTICIPATION AND ARTS
EDUCATION IN THE **BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION**

WE DO THIS BY CREATING
QUALITATIVE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
AND COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN **ARTS**
AND HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS AND
PROFESSIONALS FROM OTHER DOMAINS
SUCH AS **YOUTH WORK, SOCIAL WELFARE**
AND EDUCATION.

In these domains we focus on hard-to-reach or **vulnerable audiences**, in order to increase and improve the participation of more inhabitants of the Brussels Capital Region based on their own wants and needs.

Our starting point is the belief in the personal competences of each individual. In our work, we focus on facilitating the actions of the individual by counting on and working with the **expertise of organisations and key persons** who support social inclusion and personal development for youth, for people with disabilities and for people in vulnerable situations who face (extra) thresholds to participate (actively and passively) in the rich cultural offer of Brussels.

Finding ways of **sharing information, knowledge, experience and expertise** on cultural participation and arts education is our main goal. Lasso serves as **an intermediary actor** between the professionals of the above-mentioned domains and stimulates partnerships through **various projects and long-term connections** and collaborations.

The fact that Lasso is Brussels based, is a bliss: the Belgian capital offers a great deal of opportunities and challenges.

The **regional scope** in our mission is a strength: we closely overview what happens in the field of cultural participation and arts education, and initiate and/or facilitate it in all the different domains.

Until 2015 our primary partners and thus projects were mainly in Dutch. Since then we also have **multilingual (Dutch/French) projects** and made also a publication in English. Our focus are organisations based in the Brussels Capital Region but we occasionally collaborate with partner organisations in other Belgian regions.

LASSO HAS EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE IN



MAPPING

the needs, the wants, the interests and thresholds of hard-to-reach audiences concerning cultural participation and arts education.



BUILDING

cross-sectorial projects and long-term collaborations that correspond to the needs, wants and thresholds of different hard-to-reach audiences.



STIMULATING

the exchange of information concerning cultural participation and arts education between different organisations and key persons, based on the mapping with and within the different sectors we work with: arts / heritage / culture, youth work, social welfare and education.



DOCUMENTING

good practices of cross-sectorial collaboration and creating tools that we share with a wide range of professionals of different domains in order to convince them of the positive effects of these kinds of collaborations.



NETWORKING

bringing together professionals from different domains by creating the platforms (network events, trainings, conference days, study visits,...) they need to get in touch, to be inspired, to evaluate their own practice, to share expertise, all in order to grow and improve the quality of the work being done.



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS



KUNST VOOR KETJES (2011-2020)

The key action of Kunst voor Ketjes is supporting a **network of professionals** from the fields of youth, social welfare and culture. Via interpersonal meetings, networking events, long term collaborations and mediation actions we try to narrow the gap between **the cultural offer in the Brussels Capital Region and the needs regarding cultural participation of children (< 12 y)**. Brussels' organisations who work with children (not in school-time) can be part of the program. The cultural partners engage in the project to offer **additional mediation and support** according to the needs and wants of each group, and by doing so, they lower the threshold for cultural participation.

→ www.kunstvoorketjes.be



TRY OUT TEENS (2016-2019)

In this project Lasso tried to find a way to connect the way teenagers (want to) experience cultural life and the existing cultural field in the Brussels Capital Region. We have coordinated different **cross-sectorial collaborations** to set up projects for and by teenagers, made **some publications** and **a documentary** (Dutch/French).

→ www.lasso.be/tryoutteens



MOVE IT KANAL (2015-2021)

Move It Kanal is a multi-year urban and bilingual (Dutch/French) project on the cultural participation of youngsters in the Brussels Canal Zone. We focus on this target group because of the extra thresholds that exist for cultural participation in this area: high youth unemployment rate, high amount of school drop-outs, vulnerable living conditions,... The project started with **research** focusing on the cultural **experience of young people (12-18 y) from the Brussels Canal Zone**. The results of this research were published in 2017 (D/F/E). In addition we created **a network** for cultural organisations, youth centres and educational institutions that are active in the Canal Zone. We encourage them to get to know each other and set up **cultural projects for and by young people**. We also gather best practices and set up training programmes for professionals.

→ www.move-it-kanal.be • www.vimeo.com/lassovzw



BABELART

One of the results of the Try Out Teens project is BabelArt. This bilingual **tool** (Dutch/French) stimulates youngsters and adults **to talk about their cultural interests and artistic talents**. It's helps youth workers, cultural workers and teachers to get to know the artistic talents and cultural interests of their groups.

→ <https://www.lasso.be/babelart>