



SNG MARIBOR

## Sustainable mobility

19 December 2023 | Maribor, Slovenia

**DRAMA  
OPERABALET  
MARIBOR**  
SLOVENSKO NARODNO GLEDALIŠČE  
SLOVENE NATIONAL THEATRE

### WORKSHOP CONTENT

Three experts, namely Karina Sirk and Pavlina Japelj, both from the Institute for Spatial Policy (IPoP), and Davor Kontić from the Jožef Stefan Institute (IJS, Ljubljana) took part in the workshop on mobility, which appeared to us (upon first findings of the preliminary self-analysis) as the first most plausible area for improvement in the sustainable operations segment.

In the context of sustainable mobility, the guest lecturers shed light on various researches and problems of mobility in modern society, especially related to cultural activities, i.e. the so-called creative industry.

As Karina Sirk pointed out, SNG Maribor as an economic entity is itself a producer of specific traffic (employees, external participating artists, visitors), so in the context of pursuing sustainable mobility goals, it is necessary to draw up the so-called mobility plan, which, in addition to analysing the initial situation (i.e. the mobility habits of employees and visitors), also contains an action plan aimed at a permanent change in mobility habits that are aligned with the concept of sustainable mobility.

*In her presentation dedicated to tactical urbanism and the creation of new spaces within the existing urban environment, Pavlina Japelj highlighted some examples of good practises (such as Piazze Aperte in Milan, Italy, Kreative Räume and Grätzloase in Vienna, Austria; Odprta ulica in Velenje, Škofja Loka and Postojna Slovenia), which on the one hand aim at greening urban areas, but at the same time also at creating new forms of creative and social spaces that serve sociability and different target groups. The lasting positive aspects of creating new spaces in the urban environment include calming and gradually eliminating heavy traffic, mitigating the effect of heat islands, creating new communities and attracting people to the city, especially revitalising old city centres or neighbourhoods that were previously considered unpopular and unfrequented.*



*In his presentation on active mobility, researcher Davor Kontić pointed out the various health risks of those who are still using traditional means of transport (such as the car), as well as the many health benefits of those who opt for more active forms of mobility, such as cycling. In addition, Kontić also highlighted the pressing economic problems that arise from unsustainable forms of transport, such as the aforementioned individual transport by car. The use of existing public transport (train, green buses) and transport by bicycle or on foot is demonstrably the most effective way to reduce environmental pollution, as various studies have shown.*

*Already during all three presentations and after the first of all presentations, discussions with employees of SNG Maribor followed, highlighting various personal experiences related to mobility, as well as possibilities for infrastructural changes at the level of the entire SNG Maribor, which is considered a central cultural institution in the city of Maribor.*

After the discussion, researcher Davor Kontić also presented the results of a survey among the employees of the SNG Maribor on the topic of mobility, which we conducted in the form of a structured online questionnaire. According to the population of 114 participants in the survey (out of 345 employees), as many as 46% of respondents come to work by car, while the number of those who come to work by bike is relatively low. As the results of the survey show, there are at least 25% of respondents who could permanently change their mode of mobility if certain conditions were met.

Among the most important potentials that could influence a change in the mobility habits of employees in the form of short-term measures, better infrastructural connections at the level of public transport and local transport and the possibility of parking bicycles in the SNG Maribor bicycle shed (or in a suitable proctor intended for the storage and protection of bicycles) should be emphasised.

The survey with basic parameters (gender, age, method of travelling to the theatre) was also conducted among a small sample of visitors to the Maribor SNG, most of whom came to the performance by car, and to a lesser extent by bus, bicycle or on foot.

Other activities based on the results of the survey of SNG Maribor employees include several measures in the context of sustainable mobility in 2024 and 2025, the effects of which will also be empirically analysed. We will pay particular attention to reducing the proportion of employees travelling by car. When adopting further measures to promote sustainable mobility, we will primarily be guided by the suggestions from employees, which have received the most support. In addition, more activities in the following two-year period will also be aimed at raising awareness among visitors regarding their mobility habits and their potential alternative transport choices.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTISTS:**

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### **MOJCA KOLAR**

Mojca Kolar is a theatre producer, translator and language consultant. She studied philosophy and language interpreting and translation at the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor. During this time, she worked intensively, first as an assistant to the language consultant at Maribor Theatre and later as an independent language consultant (Tisti občutek padanja, Fant, dekle in gospod, Mica pri babici, Titanik, Učene žene) at the Slovenian National Theatre Maribor. Since 2013, she has been working as a theatre producer for the Maribor Theatre Festival (Festival Borštnikovo srečanje), the most important national theatre festival in Slovenia. She also works as a discussion moderator and event organiser in the field of culture, particularly theatre.

### **BENJAMIN VIRČ**

Benjamin Virč is a musicologist, translator, theatre scholar, critic and researcher. He studied music education at the Academy of Music (University of Ljubljana). During his studies he was already active as a journalist and critic, especially in the field of opera and classical music. Since 2004, he has worked as an essayist, critic and author for the newspaper Večer (in Maribor). He has also published reviews, essays and articles in various magazines such as Revija 2000, Zbori, Glasba v šoli, etc. In 2007, he collaborated on the project German Music Culture in Eastern Europe (Deutsche Musikkultur im östlichen Europa), which was led by the University of Bonn. In the same year, he graduated with honours (summa cum laude) and continued his postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Humanities in Koper in the field of philosophy and theory of visual culture. In 2009, he was appointed co-editor of the Cultural Fields section (for the field of music) in the journal Monitor ZSA, published by the Koper Science and Research Centre under the auspices of the University of Primorska, for two years. In February 2009, he began to work more intensively with the Maribor Opera House as an editor, dramaturg, translator and musicologist, and the following year (2010) he was appointed the first editor of the new music magazine Glasna, published by Glasbena mladina Slovenije (Jeunesses Musicales Slovenia) (he edited the magazine until the beginning of 2012). In 2019, he began his doctoral studies in humanities and social sciences, specialising in musicology, at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana and is currently in his final year. During this time, he has published several scientific articles in the journals Muzikološki zbornik (Musicological Annual) and De musica disserenda (with another article in preparation for the conference proceedings on multimodal translation published by Cardiff University) and prepared an independent chapter on the translation of opera libretti, art songs and pop songs in the two-volume scientific monograph Zgodovina slovenskega literarnega prevoda (History of Slovenian Literary Transla-



tion, 2023). As a co-author, he has collaborated in the post-opera performance *La bella Opera* (Opera SNG Maribor, 2011) and the contemporary dance theatre performance *Guernica Continuum* (August 2012). He has also translated numerous libretti into Slovenian, including the fairytale opera *Puss in Boots* by César Cui, Mozart's Singspiel *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Orff's stage cantata *Carmina Burana* and the fairytale opera *The Jungle Book* (2023) by Giovanni Sollima and Pier Francesco Maestrini. He is also the author of the first Slovenian translation of Wagner's music drama *Das Rheingold* (2017).

## **MOJCA KASJAK**

Mojca Kasjak is a professional independent artist specialising in dance, choreography and dance education at the London Contemporary Dance School in the UK. Kasjak is also the executive producer and artistic director of the Platform of Contemporary Dance festival (Slovenia). She graduated with a BA in Geography and Sociology. She is the author of numerous projects, dance performances, creative movement workshops and professional seminars. In 2017, Kasjak founded a private institute for contemporary dance art, creativity and the art Zavod MOJA KRECIJA, Maribor. She is currently completing her master's degree in art therapy at the University of Ljubljana. In 2020, Kasjak received a state plaque for her pedagogical work and artistic achievements, as well as for her indispensable contribution to shaping Slovenian dance culture. She is also a national dance selector at the Public Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities. She currently works as a dance teacher at the Laško-Radeče School of Music in the contemporary dance department.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF THE SCIENTISTS:**

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### **DAVOR KONTIĆ**

Davor Kontić (PhD) is a senior researcher at the Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana. His current position is a leader of the Modelling, Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment group at the Department of Environmental Sciences. He has extensive experience in risk assessment and policy making in relation to air pollution and climate forcing from industrial and transport related activities. He has gained the experience through domestic as well as EU funded large-scale research projects (CIVITAS "City-Vitality-Sustainability" initiative, ICARUS "Integrated Climate forcing and Air pollution Reduction in Urban Systems" project), where he was engaged in evaluation and monitoring activities concerning the implementation of air pollution reduction measures. He was also involved in various other projects related to life cycle analysis and GHG calculations.

## **PAVLINA JAPELJ**

Pavlina Japelj obtained an MA in Sociology – Spatial and environmental studies and a BA in Communication Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana and the Department of Sociology at the University of Vienna. In recent years, she worked in Vienna as an associate in one of the urban renewal offices, where she was engaged in temporary use projects and public participation in spatial planning processes. At IPoP, she is currently working on a European project in the field of sustainable mobility and placemaking.

## **KARINA SIRK**

Karina Sirk has a master's degree in Sociology. Her previous work experience includes work in public administration, non-governmental sector and education. For the last decade, she has been active in various European projects as a content and administration coordinator. At IPoP, she is currently working in the field of sustainable mobility.

### **UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) LINKED TO THE WORKSHOP**

