

Atelier for Young Festival Managers

3-10 April 2014

Atelier for Young Festival Managers EDINBURGH 2014

Welcome by Darko Brlek

President of the European Festivals Association (EFA)

Opening, 3 April 2014, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dear colleges,

a warm welcome to the Atelier participants – young curators and festival managers!

EFA was established more than 60 years ago with the goal to spread the festive/festival spirit throughout Europe which was tired and exhausted from wars and revolutions. The aim was to bring joy and cultural experiences to the wider audience and to give them the opportunity to see and respect the differences between nations and countries. Festivals have always been a means for intercultural and intercultural dialogues, a way to communicate and to cooperate.

After 60 years the global situation is almost the same – although generated by different problems as before. We are, again, facing problems mainly because of a lack of dialogue – not just because of the differences between nations or countries, but mainly because of a lack of the sense for reality and humanity of political, economic and social elite groups.

And again it is culture that should take the initiative to find and to show the way how to connect, how to create and how to lead a dialogue, how to be productive and human.

The Atelier offers a unique opportunity to meet, to share, to learn, to cooperate, to build relations and to stay connected. These are also the values and advantages of the big family called EFA. Use them and upgrade them.

“Follow your intuition. Have courage. Do what you imagine. Be completely present in the moment,” are the words of Marina Abramović, one of the most famous contemporary artists in the world.

“A great artist has to be ready to fail,” she said, too.

As curators and cultural managers you will fail. Don't be afraid to. It's important that you have the courage to never stop believing that our lives would be boring and empty without culture.