

The following manifesto was born out of a series of workshops held in 2016 in the framework of Tandem Europe.

WHAT IS TANDEM

Tandem is a cultural collaboration programme that strengthens civil society in Europe and neighbouring regions.

Tandem offers a space to build real, meaningful and sustainable relationships that can grow through shared artistic interests, enthusiasm for creative discovery and the joy of making things happen together.

Since 2011, Tandem has brought together around 400 independent cultural organisations and supported the professional development of over 320 cultural managers coming from more than 160 cities and 35 countries in wider Europe. Tandem is an initiative of European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam) and MitOst e.V. (Berlin). Each programme round is implemented with regional partners and supported by various funders.

PA.PA.PA!, A TANDEM PROJECT

Pa.pa.pa! heritage for social innovation is the result of the collaboration between ABCittà (Milan) and 4Is (Aveiro, Portugal). The project aims to enhance the relation between communities, heritage and social innovation. Testing different participatory methods of identities of social objects and the value of different cultures, pa.pa.pa! builds a social and cultural intervention model alongside with an international movement of knowledge and practices.

A MANIFESTO

Museums have always been changing, even though in the past their educational and social value was largely underestimated and misunderstood. Nowadays they are facing a relevant change, with a renewed attention to visitors and social impacts.

Museums are safe places for dialogue: they can inspire and support real change not only for themselves but for the whole society.

In our view, a museum not connected to society but only to its own discourse is a contradiction.

Museums represent who we are. They have to speak about ourselves, to tell where we belong and what we are becoming in a participatory, critical, experimental and complex way.

Within this frame, difference is to be intended as a value related to contents, audiences, as well as internal resources. Difference is a very concrete concept: it has to be lived and experimented, while reflecting upon it. No more high discourses in theory and lack of practice: we need both. Museums have to learn from themselves, from within. They have to anticipate social changes, not to follow them anxiously, sometimes when it is too late, such as Alice's white rabbit.

Reflections regarding the power of leadership confirm this vision: a museum having developed a firm awareness of its inclusive role is a stronger, more outspoken cultural landmark in its territory.

But in the end, what is the connection between leadership and inclusion?

We intend new museum leadership as a process, not an aim in itself.

It means that the museum has to:

Provide good examples of its listening power and will

Share its practices, both at curatorial and educational levels, through every possible means (be transparent)

Be welcoming and accessible, at physical, sensorial and cultural level

Conceive itself as a part of the city or the territory

Promote intergenerational understanding

Promote interdisciplinary understanding

Take public stances, speak its mind

Be a scholar, be a pupil, be a school.



IL LAZARETTO