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Originators:

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Nordic Center for Digital Presence initiative by Network for Theatre and New Technology (TNT)

Regional cohesion in the Nordic countries through digitalisation.

A new remote format for connecting performing arts and music education.

During the recent visit to Åland Islands the Nordic prime ministers stated that:

“The Nordic region is very well integrated in a global comparison. The focus forward for the Nordic countries is to further increase integration through digitalisation and removal of cross border obstacles”.

Creating the next Nordic center of excellence

In recent years digitalisation has made cross-border networking easier in the scarcely populated Nordic region. Telepresence is a functional model of work in many occasions with the exception of theatre and music. Until now the latency of tens of milliseconds has kept the professionals and young minds involved in music and theatre from enjoying the benefits of this integration.

A new format that works around built-in sources of latency in every technical component and piece of software, enables musicians to play together over distance. It is the result of a Nordic network of universities, private companies, NGO's and skilled individuals that have been working on solving this problem.

The work that has been conducted within the Nordic project TNT (Theatre & New Technology) could accomplish the vision of the Nordic prime ministers. The outcome of the TNT and the subsequent DÅMI projects is a unique low latency format that has torn down the barrier to integration for those in music and theatre. It enables music teachers in one country to play alongside their students in another and it now makes it possible to connect multiple theatre stages and concert halls for one large performance.

Theatre & New Technology

TNT capitalizes on the development conducted in the previous Swedish-Finnish collaboration Scen utan gränser/ Stage without borders. One of the network's objectives is to create a Nordic center for digital presence (NCDP) in order to maintain the knowledge from previous projects and to support long-term development using cutting-edge low-latency technology. At the TNT workshop "Bridging the Gap" a new element was introduced. The University of Tampere produced avatars and captured the motion of the actors that was streamed in real-time to Högskolan Lillehammer, and set design and other related elements were put together by Riksteatern in Hallunda. The playwright was from Reykjavik and the set designer in New York. The low latency format allowed this to be done in real time.

The academic and artistic research and education represented by the higher education partners of the TNT consortium are committed to operating within the network and the infrastructure enabled by NCDP. The academic community involved will continue the development of the embodied learning- and the multicast production methods.

Research and education conducted in this field would benefit from a sustained platform (as piloted by the TNT project between 2015 and 2016) for remote productions and training sessions within all fields of the performing arts. By seizing the opportunity the Nordic countries could become a leader of development of cultural and educational activities that use low latency technologies and distributed presence in cultural correspondence. Applying sufficient resources and funding at the current stage of development ensures the commercial and institutional capacities for turning the Nordic region into a major exporter and educator within cultural use and advancement of the networked society.

Nordic Center for Digital Presence

There is a need for a Nordic center with a pragmatic approach to providing know how, technology and support to Nordic institutions and creators of performing arts and music education. One of the first tasks of NCDP would be to bring the technology to music education in remote locations all over the north. The center would subsequently develop know-how on remote education of music and theater, which can be shared by all members of the network. Other branches of education and research relying on complex remote performance and human interaction, such as medicine and engineering, will directly benefit from the technology and the user-based approaches developed in the network. The vast array of performance art and education services only found in the larger cities could be shared on a daily basis by our growing network even in remote Nordic regions.

A shortlist of benefits a Nordic center would bring

- music education for young people in all regions
- cultural equality between urban and remote areas
- reinforcement of the democratic process by increasing equality and access
- export of educational quality of environments with distributed live presence
- support for minority languages
- stage art development
- the new concept of learning through low latency interaction
- development of remote music education
- shared faculties, shared skills and training
- simulation scenarios relevant for remote operations on complex systems (medicine, engineering etc.)
- creating new Nordic technology with export potential
- a need for a Nordic regulatory framework for remote presence IP
- developing new business models within the creative industry
- pan-Nordic content for private production companies and public service
- less travel - environmental benefits, more time and cost effective education

3 Formats

During the course of development three formats have been identified.

Format A 1 x 50-60" + 2 x 24" monitors. One-on-One remote music education, band rehearsals.

Format B Half stage 3-5 m projection. Smaller ensembles, multiple stages, rehearsals, theatre.

Format C Full stage projections. Linking theatres or concert halls together in a low latency environment. From stage plays and opera to combining multiple symphony orchestras.

[Short demo](#)

Since the format allows two or more stages to interact, a third room with less physical constraints is created. It is for content providers in the creative industry, researchers, musicians, actors, scriptwriters and directors to explore this new universe.

From projects to a Nordic center of excellence

The current model of working in projects, has served us well and produced these exciting results. For the Nordic governments to make full use of these results there now needs to be another form of organisation at the core of the process, building and supporting the growing network. A Nordic center would support the very successful Nordic creative industry and inspire the young minds that are our future potential. Wherever they live. This is truly an opportunity to increase integration, a smart way of removing cross border obstacles and bringing people together across all of the north. The groundwork is done and implementation the desired next step. Together we can start bridging the gap and create the next Nordic center of excellence.

The signatories of this petition seeks support from each Nordic Government in our ambition to create a common Nordic center for digital presence.

Partners of the extended TNT network

University of Tampere Centre for Practise
as Research in Theatre T7 (FIN)
Lillehammer University College (NO)
Nordens institut på Åland (FIN)
Media United (SWE)
Artplant (SWE)
Högskolan Lillehammer, INN (NO)

Åbo Svenska Teater (FIN)
Borgarholtsskóli (IS)
Teater Får302 (DK)
Nordens Institut På Åland (FIN)
Ålands Musikinstitut (FIN)
Stiftelsen Folkets Hubb (SWE)
Beaivváš Sámi Našunálateáhter (NO)

Supporting Nordic partners

Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts
Västerbottensteatern
Wasa Teater
Yrkeshögskolan Novia
Operahögskolan – Stockholms konstnärliga
högskola
Studio Acusticum
Betaniastiftelsen
The Centre for Practice as Research in Theatre
Det Samiske Nasjonalteatret Beaivváš
Riksteatern
Lillehammer University College
Borgarholtsskóli
Finlandsinstitutet
Giron Sámi Teáhter
Tekniska museet
ArtPlant ek.för.
Turku Science Park Oy
SMI (Stockholms Musikpedagogiska Institut)
Nordens institut på Åland
Åbo filharmoniska orkester
Åbo Svenska Teater
Kuula-institutet
Nordisk Musik Union
Musikinstitutet Legato

Degree program in Theatre Arts, University of
Tampere
Knopster
Stiftelsen Folkets Hubb
Smålands Musik och Teater
Centralförbundet för Finlands Svenska
Teaterorganisationer
Korsholms musikinstitut
Riksteatern Halland
Ålands musikinstitut
Unga Teatern
Vadstena-Akademien
Vattnäs Konsertlada
Musikskolan Lilla Akademien
Härjedalens Kulturskola
Kulturskolan Krokomb
Gnosjö Musikskola
Tranås Kulturskola
Kulturskolan Skurup
Slottehubben, Ljusdal
Nybro Kulturskola
Eksjö Kulturskola
Musikinstitutet Kungsvägen
Norra Vätterns Musikskola
Tranemo Kulturskola
Kulturskolan Askim-Frölunda-Högsbo, Göteborg
Kulturskolan Enköping

Göteborgs Symfoniker
Kulturskolan Mjölby kommun
Hangö teaterträff
Oblivia rf
Kulturskolan i Nynäshamn
Sigtuna kulturskola
Kulturskolan i Landskrona
Musik i Syd/Palladium Malmö
Trosa kulturskola
Egedal Musikskole
Allerød Musikskole
Musikskolen Vejle Kommune
Bornholms Kulturskole
Hørsholm Musikskole
Kolding musikskole
Lejre musikskole
Riksorganisationen Hela Sverige ska leva
Kulturskolen Skanderborg
Køge Musikskole
Aalborg Kulturskole
Musikskolen Ringkøbing-Skjern
Kulturskolen Viborg
Glostrup Musikskole
Odense Musikskole
Musikskolen i Frederikshavn Kommune
Rødøy Kommunale Musikskole
Sunnal kulturskole

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The National Theatre of Greenland
Kirkkonummen musiikkiopisto-Kyrkslätt
musikinstitut
Strömsunds Kulturskola
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