



## MIND AND JUMP THE GAPS

a Latin American-European initiative for  
ART inspired DEVELOPMENT

“Mind and Jump the Gaps” is an international initiative of Community-Art organisations oriented to common action, as part of a scaling-up process of reflections, actions, and dialogue between Europe and Latin America.

Prime concern is to continue the dialogue and to set up and intensify the cooperation between Latin American and European organisations, artists and young talented actors, who get involved in their artistic practice for social change (“art and social transformation”).

A series of collective transcontinental activities and offers will promote mutual learning. Common fields of activities will be developed and new spaces for development explored - in the specific areas of respect and integration, local and global development, transformation, education, lifelong learning, capacity building and training.

In this dialogue between Europe and Latin America, various European experiences in community art teamwork will be tied together in “Mind and Jump the Gaps”.



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*Dialogue is a starting point,  
working together much better,  
learning from each other the best.*



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## Exchange

Community-art projects have been remarkably effective with a large variety of methods. They have opened up playful development areas and generated dynamic networking with relevant social sectors. All these experiences will be exchanged and developed with mutual dialogue and practical cooperation.

## Transfer

To make the potentials and resources of projects based on art education and social change more effective and efficient, successful experiences or best practices will be raised and shared under the idea of multiplying the lessons learnt.

## Catalyser

In particular, young players will be encouraged and empowered to acquire experience and knowledge and to see themselves as initiators of new ideas in new fields of action.

"Mind and jump the Gaps" idea is based on many years of experience both in LA and EU. In each continent many organizations have designed and implemented projects of social change from the artistic practice in their territories. This is how the need for knowledge exchanges and the improvement of the North-South dialogue arises as a main challenge. During the build-up phase, the initiative will be supported by Avina Stiftung, based in Switzerland.

The executive main partners are Expedition Metropolis Berlin and its European partners, and the Latin American Network Red Latinoamericana de arte para la transformación social.

"Mind and jump the Gaps" offers various levels of activities in which young participants, community-art projects, specialists in art and social change issues and partners from other areas (Inter-sectorial cooperation) can be active - by exchanging, learning from each other or testing different spheres of participation.

# Activities

Considering the insights gained, the initiative MJG, the European as well as the Latin American Partners increasingly see their skills rather in capacity-building. Knowledge gained by working experience arising out of respective partnerships will be integrated into workshops, co-productions and publications followed up by the scientific discourse.

## 1. „Young leaders“

Communication and specialization platform

In a pilot exchange MJG “young leaders” - with local community-art experience from a European sending organisation - will participate for seven months in a pre-selected and relevant project of the Latin American network. As assistants, they will support the local daily work of the hosting organisation with a specific pre-defined mission. Common quality standards of the participating hosting and sending partners ensure an adequate support of the “young leaders” (preparation, realisation and follow up). Here, the transfer of the gained experience into a follow up project in Europe will be of utter importance. The MJG Young Leaders personify the aspects: junior training and capacity building.

Mind and Jump the Gaps itself will only be able to send out quite a few young people. It will be much more important to advise and direct the many interested European solicitors to existing Young Leaders programmes.

## 2. Artistic cooperation

Young participants and artists from Latin American and European organizations will meet to cooperate in a project, of which the theme has been agreed upon beforehand. In this project collective productions will be made. Simultaneously, experiences and methodological knowledge about art and spaces for development will be exchanged and transferred.

### 3. Events and Transfers

A symposium on the topic “Focus on Art for Social Transformation: Art is a Right” including contributions from all sectors of society, performances and accompanying workshops will take place in Dresden in May 2009. The combined workshop conference symposium will be organized in cooperation with the ‚Hellerau - Europäisches Zentrum der Künste‘. The subtitle of the symposium - “a catalyst for political, economic, social and environmental development” is reflecting on both the experiences made and the future orientation of the initiative: it will focus more and more on the integration of community art in the context of local development and education. The symposium and future events of a similar kind are going to be vital steps in the process of gaining and focusing on impulses, energies and knowledge transfers out of the MJG context and to help to foster the transcultural cooperation in Europe as well as in Latin America. From the European perspective the initiative Mind and Jump the Gaps will be in close contact with various European decision makers such as the EU Commission and other European institutions.

## Conclusions

The initiative „Mind and Jump the Gaps” will have impact on the following points:

-Young people are encouraged and trained as mediators and initiators of projects whose development is inspired by ‘arts and social change’.

-Artists, researchers, organizations, politicians and other decision-makers can explore and identify the diversity of community-art activities.

-The intercultural dialogue created by young artists, social leaders and civil society actors affects the global political agenda.

The initiative “Mind and Jump the Gaps” focuses at first on the dialogue between the Latin American and the European continent, but won’t remain limited to these areas through the course of time.