



**BUILDING
COLLECTIVE
RESILIENCE**

Open Call for Researchers: Theatre & Performing Arts for Children & Young People (TYA)

Global, Advocacy-Focused Research: A Pilot
Stream 5 - Republished Call

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The Research Selection Committee has decided to republish the Stream 5 call as the committee feels that the applications received in the previous call did not sufficiently cover our ambitions for this research project - and that our aims and intentions should therefore be set out more clearly. We hope that by doing this we will make our expectations clearer whilst remaining fair to all applicants.

Those that have already applied for this stream, as well as any new applicants, are welcome to submit an application if they feel this stream is of interest, given the new information provided.

Stream 5: Collated Evidence on the Value of TYA

Collating a range of evidence through which claims to the value of the performing arts for children might be supported.

Researchers with a strong knowledge of the TYA research landscape, and with a methodological interest in systematic reviews, evidence mapping, evidence-gap mapping, and/or resource mapping would be well placed for this role. The primary focus is on knowledge synthesis – collecting, curating, and signposting to pre-existing published literature, as well as grey (unpublished) literature, that qualifies and quantifies claims on the value of the performing arts for children.

The research may include desk-based analysis as well as community consultation (in-person and online) with ASSITEJ members and other artists in the field on the evidence that they hold and the evidence that they can point towards. This may be completed in consultation with our relevant National Centres and at FAS - ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023 (Serbia) in November. Systematic mapping of existing sources and/or systematic literature reviews may be supported by additional data collection and analysis if deemed necessary.

The outputs may include written reports but may also take the form of other modes of online presentation that offer signposting for the ASSITEJ community (both academics and non-academics) to easily locate relevant research on the Value of TYA (a separate budget exists to implement online presentation that can be utilised, if necessary).

The systematic reviews, evidence mapping, evidence-gap mapping, and/or resource mapping should build upon the work of Tom Maguire's "Value Frameworks" in the following (as yet unpublished) Interim Report entitled, "Identifying Theoretical Frameworks for Research". The report may be accessed at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QJd-Nwe6ZeW7NcS9vjqAujmEZsKcwmkS/view>

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Please note that whilst this interim report contains “deliberate restriction of scope to literature centred on professional performances for children”, the successful applicant would be asked to conduct the Stream 5 project taking into consideration the full diversity of the Theatre & Performing Arts for Children & Young People (TYA) field as defined below in “Background Information”.

The lead researcher may be supported through our informal partnership with the [Campbell Collaboration](#), an organisation specialised in producing evidence maps and systematic reviews of research on the effectiveness of social interventions.

The outputs may be written in English, French, or Spanish and will be translated into each of the other two by translators appointed by *ASSITEJ International*.

Due Date: 31st May 2024

September 2024:

Online presentation and discussion of research findings to *ASSITEJ* members (National Centres, International Networks, Regional Networks, Affiliates, Artists, Producers, Festival Organisers, and other sector professionals).

Seed Funding Available From *ASSITEJ International*:

3400	EUR	remuneration for professional activities fees
+ 1585	EUR	for expenses relating to dissemination activities

= 4985	EUR	

Background Information

ASSITEJ International is a not-for-profit network of artists and organisations working in the field of Theatre & Performing Arts for Children & Young People (TYA) across over 75 countries who are dedicated to the belief that every child and young person deserves access to the arts, and especially to live performance, from the earliest possible age.

As part of the ‘Building Collective Resilience’ project (which is co-funded by the *European Union*), *ASSITEJ International* is seeking a lead researcher to help us collect and disseminate data, information, practices, ideas, and solutions around the Value of TYA.

ASSITEJ International considers Theatre & Performing Arts for Children & Young People (TYA) to be a broad and diverse field that includes, but is not limited to:

- applied theatre and performing arts for children and young people;
- theatre and performing arts education for children and young people;
- theatre and performing arts in education for children and young people;
- theatre and performing arts performed for, by, and with children and young people;
- youth theatre and performing arts programmes.

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The research is to be advocacy-focused and useful to *ASSITEJ* members, National Centres, International Networks, TYA practitioners, and the wider TYA community, being published on an open access basis. It is intended to be of reference use for their day-to-day working lives to, for example, boost advocacy initiatives and funding applications, offer opportunities for learning, and to foster networking and collaboration.

This research project is a pilot and *ASSITEJ International* hopes that the learnings from this first-round will enable the association to secure future funding towards further research.

This pilot research package is to be completed between now and 31st December 2024.

Eligibility

This open call seeks to appoint a lead-researcher to lead Stream 5 of the research package. We are seeking help from:

- Individual / independent researchers;
- Named individuals at research institutions (including universities, research bodies, and research agencies);
- Named individuals within the relevant practitioner field (including artists, management, and other creative professionals).

Joint applications between a Principal and Co-Investigator are also welcome.

The research will be globally focused and researchers from anywhere in the world are eligible to apply. We particularly value applications from researchers who want to engage cross-nationally with *ASSITEJ* members across a diversity of the 75 countries where we are represented.

Please note that secondary calls for research assistants/collaborators on a national level will likely follow the appointment of the lead researcher depending on the design of their research. We are not currently recruiting for this, however, if you wish to express an interest at this early stage in participating in the research on a national level, you can do so here: <https://assitej.typeform.com/to/blcaR2GU>

Resources

As a pilot project, *ASSITEJ International* is able to grant seed funding to the lead researcher who is appointed. This funding comes from the 'Building Collective Resilience' project which is co-funded by the *European Union*. It is expected that most applicants will need to leverage institutional and/or third-party resources (whether in their staff time or in finance) in order to cover the 'full cost' of the research activities. If the appointed researcher is able to identify suitable external funding opportunities, *ASSITEJ International* is willing and able to provide support with funding applications wherever possible.

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Research colleagues/assistants are very welcome to join the research where they can be recruited. However, it is anticipated that the lead researcher would maintain overall direction and responsibility for the research output as coordination with *ASSITEJ International* and the research committee.

The seed funding granted by *ASSITEJ International* will provide the lead researcher with modest remuneration for their professional activities - as well as funding to cover travel costs in order to engage in research and dissemination activities at the *ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering* in Novi Sad and Belgrade, Serbia (20th-24th Nov 2023) and the *ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival for Children & Young People* in Havana, Cuba (24th May – 1st Jun 2024). Both events may be attended either online or in-person.

The seed funding on offer is listed below alongside the detailed explanation of Stream 5.

The lead researcher will become a member of the Research Committee along with the Chair of *ITYARN (International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Network)*, Tom Maguire, and Managing Director (Knowledge & Network) of *ASSITEJ International*, Chris Blois-Brooke. The purpose of the Research Committee is to provide a space to explore and discuss the research activities in a supportive environment and to identify commonalities between the research streams.

In summary, *ASSITEJ International* can offer:

- Seed funding to cover modest remuneration for professional activities - as well as a grant to cover travel costs in order to engage in research dissemination activities;
- Support with third-party funding applications wherever possible;
- Secretariat staff and the research committee to administer and support;
- Research access / contact arranged by our international Secretariat to our network of members in over 75 countries and, in particular, our National Centres in 64 countries who may assist in research activities;
- Access to *ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2023* in Serbia (Nov 2023) and *ASSITEJ World Congress and Performing Arts Festival for Children & Young People 2024* in Cuba (May 2024) to complete research activities, network with sector professionals, and share research findings;
- Translation (where indicated in the descriptions below), graphic design, and online publication of research outputs;
- Web publishing of research outputs (on an open-access basis) as well as online presentation seminars to disseminate the research findings to sector professionals.

Please note that financial resources are to be used solely for remuneration for professional activities fees and for expenses relating to dissemination activities. Indirect costs are NOT eligible.

Application Requirements

This open call seeks to appoint a lead-researcher to lead Stream 5: “Value of TYA”. The application deadline is 20:00 UTC on 3rd April 2023 (click [here](#) to see this in your time zone). Please submit your CV along with a maximum 2 page (A4) covering letter explaining: your motivations for conducting this research stream; your relevant

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experience and expertise; a brief outline of how you might intend to approach the research stream; an estimated timeline for the production of the research; and (optionally) any details about expected institutional and/or third party resources that you may be able to leverage to support the seed funding from *ASSITEJ International*.

Please submit this as an editable Word Document and PDF via email to:
chris@assitej-international.org

Timelines

Open Call Published:	15 th March 2023
Deadline for Applications:	20:00 UTC 3 rd April 2023 (click here to see this in your time zone)
Interviews for Shortlisted Candidates:	5 th & 6 th April 2023
Appointment of Successful Candidates:	7 th April 2023 (with an immediate start date)

Selection

Selection will be according to the following criteria:

- Track record of relevant research experience (as an academic and/or research-engaged practitioner);
- Relevant methodological and thematic experience;
- Track record of engaging with international and multicultural partners;
- Research proposal and outlook.

Across the 5 different streams we will be seeking a diversity of sociocultural identities and a balance of geographical representation.

The selection committee will consist of:

- The Chair of *ITYARN (International Theatre for Young Audiences Research Institute)*, Tom Maguire;
- Member of the Executive Committee of *ASSITEJ International*, Selloane (Lalu) Mokuku;
- *ITYARN* Board Member and Counsellor to the Executive Committee of *ASSITEJ International*, Paulo Merisio;
- Managing Director (Knowledge & Network) of *ASSITEJ International*, Chris Blois-Brooke.

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Appendix

More Information About *ASSITEJ International*

ASSITEJ International unites theatres, organisations, and individuals throughout the world who make theatre and performing arts for children and young people. *ASSITEJ* is dedicated to the artistic, cultural, and educational rights of children and young people across the globe and advocates on behalf of all children regardless of nationality, cultural identity, ability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or religion. *ASSITEJ* brings people together so that they can share knowledge and practice within the field of theatre and performing arts for children and young people in order to deepen understanding, develop practice, create new opportunities, and strengthen the global sector. The members of *ASSITEJ International* are national centres, professional networks, and individuals from more than 75 countries across the world.

You can learn more about *ASSITEJ International* on our website:
<http://www.assitej-international.org>

More Information About the 'Theatre & Performing Arts for Young Audiences: Building Collective Resilience' Project as a Whole

The project is designed to build collective resilience across the network of cultural and creative organisations working in the Theatre & Performing Arts for Young Audiences (TYA) sector. The sector is highly active, not only in providing children and young people with creative and imaginative theatrical experiences for the sake of art and culture itself, but also in delivering positive social impact to the next generation. After the deeply felt effects of COVID-19, this project is determined to 'build back stronger', creating a Network with sufficient resources and relationships that secures the future of the industry and the young people it serves.

The project aims to fill the gap that currently exists in *Creative Europe*-funded Networks by recognising a significant demographic of art makers working specifically within TYA. It focuses on the impact that the TYA sector has on the cross-cutting priorities of sustainability, diversity, access and inclusion, and representation. It seeks to galvanise the possibilities of broadening cultural contributions and of the dissemination of art for all.

The project centres *ASSITEJ International* as the network catalyst for connection and involvement, for the collation of research and best practice, and for the increase of artistic voices. It focuses on permeable borders and it spotlights children and young people as cultural actors and contributors to the health and resilience of the arts community.

Through live gatherings and a broad online reach, the 'Building Collective Resilience' project will engage the dedication and expertise of a vibrant and highly engaged arts sector and its audience, one that is often forgotten in data and research, and yet one that is most vital to the times ahead. It will empower and connect younger generations

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through theatre and the performing arts as we move towards a future full of possibility, humanity, and extraordinary art.

More Information About the Aims of the Research Package

Aims of Research Activities

- To provide the sector and other stakeholders with collated and annotated quantitative data about access to theatre and the performing arts for children and young people.
- To provide the sector and other stakeholders with collated and annotated data/surveys/research about the cultural and social backgrounds of audiences in theatre and the performing arts for children and young people.
- To provide the sector and other stakeholders with collated and annotated examples of dissemination structures in theatre and the performing arts for children and young people, with a focus on diverse audiences.
- To provide the sector with research on the perception of very young children in different national contexts and how that reflects, shapes, and challenges artistic processes and products.
- To provide the sector and other stakeholders with a range of evidence that supports the value of the performing arts for young audiences.
- To provide the sector and other stakeholders with collated and annotated leadership demographics in the sector of theatre and the performing arts for children and young people.

Aims of Dissemination Activities

- To provide knowledge and create collective reflection about the leadership demographics of the sector.
- To enable sector professionals to understand and use the research on access, dissemination, and the value of theatre and the performing arts in the lives of children.
- To share artistic knowledge and inspirations about creating performing arts for the very young.

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