A Novel Production Workflow and Toolset for Opera Co-creation Towards Enhanced Societal Inclusion of People

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Opera co-creation for a social transformation

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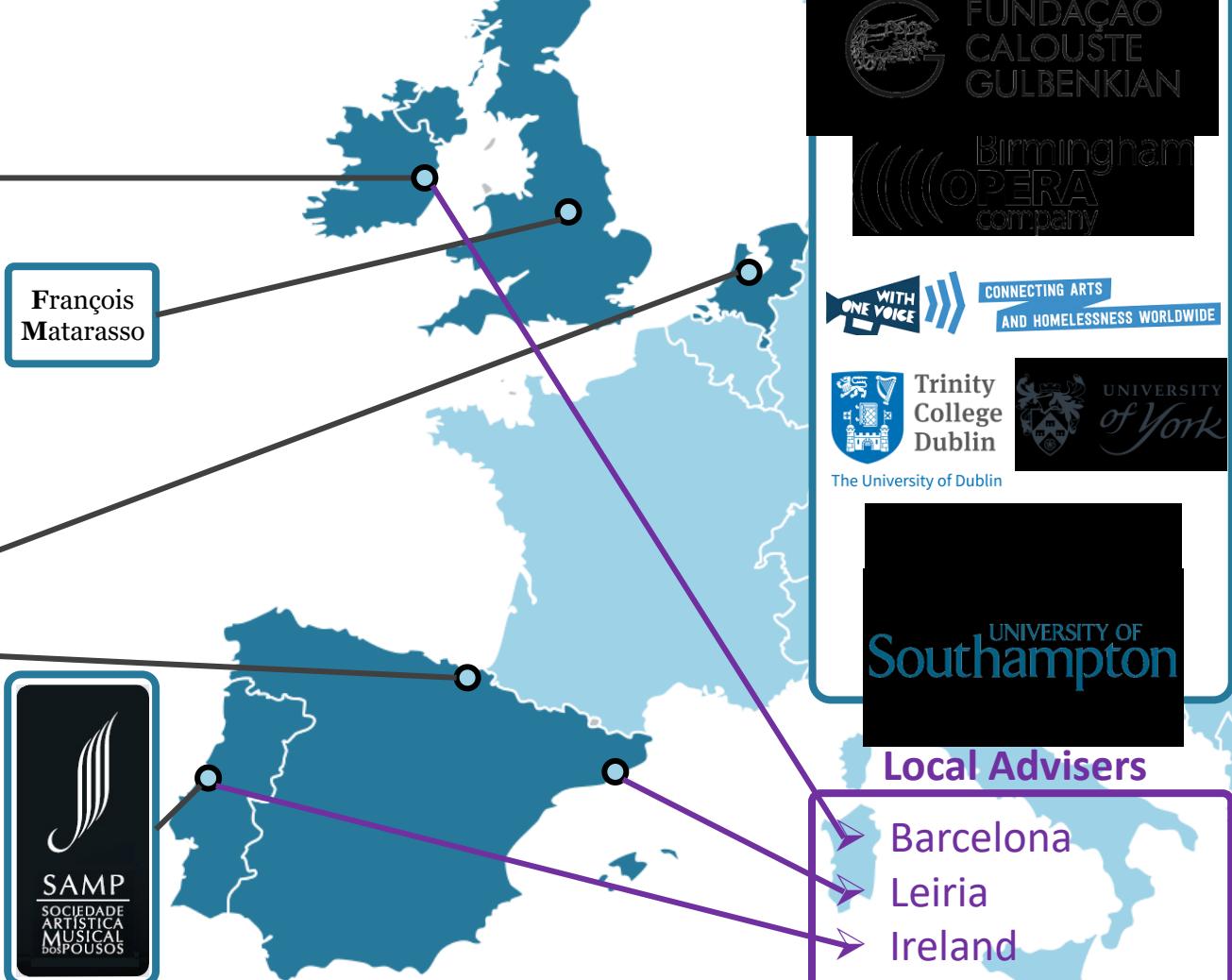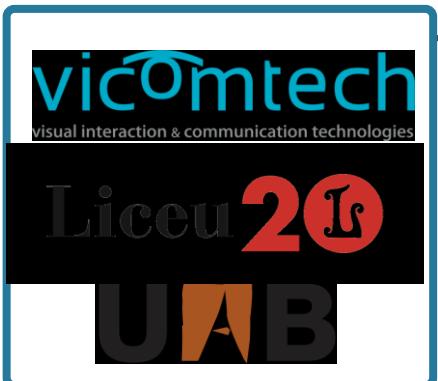
Motivation

- **Inequality** is the defining issue of our time
  - It makes the easy promises of populists seem attractive
- **Europe is a cultural space or it is nothing**
  - Preserve the 'European values'
- **Opera** is the unavoidable heart of this challenge
  - Its colour, passion, beauty and drama have inspired generations
  - Today's typical spectator is a 54-year-old woman with higher education, who travels by car and spends an average of €159 on her evening of culture
- Opera is in danger of becoming a **symbol of European inequality**
  - **Renew itself** and **be once again the root of living culture**

Challenge

1. New ideas of **co-creation and participatory art** to involve citizens in the creative process
   - Prioritise those who are currently marginalised or ignored by opera: *the poor, migrants, people living outside dominant cities or in institutions, disabled people, those of non-white heritage, in short, the majority of our fellow citizens*
   - **Empower people and communities** to become creators in their own right and express their version of European values

Challenge
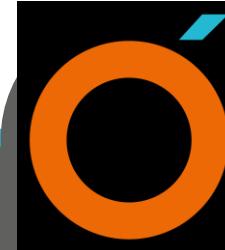
Challenge

Challenge

Vision

Opera professionals
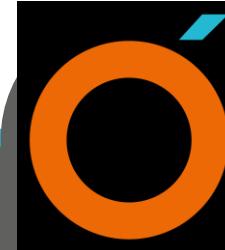
Communities at risk of exclusion
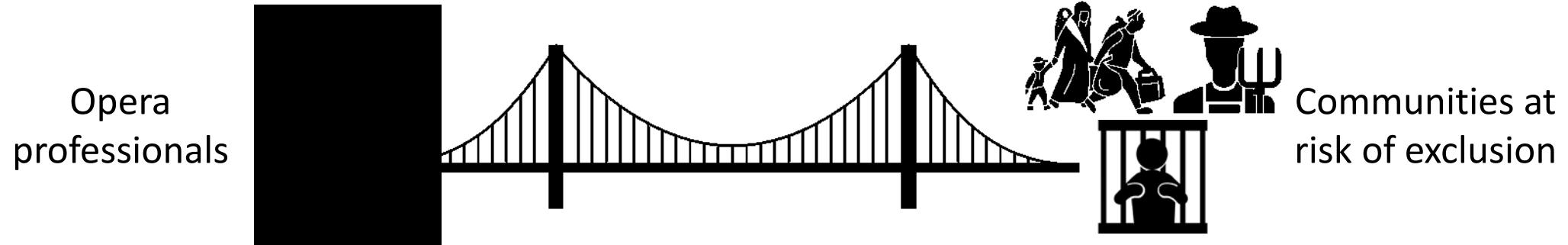
TRACTION will **provide a bridge** between **opera professionals** and **specific communities at risk of exclusion** to foster an effective community dialogue between diverse individuals and collectives:

- Research, design and develop a **collaborative and participatory production toolset**
- Define and implement **a community-centric research and evaluation methodology** to conduct an effective dialogue with, within and between heterogeneous communities

Promote a **sustainable, capable of evaluation and replicable approach for other art disciplines and communities**

Vision

Three trials fostering a co-creation approach:

Opera with neighbours in Raval

Opera co-creation with young inmates and the community in Leiria

Co-creating opera with diverse communities

Barcelona

Raval is a culturally diverse neighbourhood that brings together different nationalities and cultures. TRACTION aims to promote social inclusion of migrants through co-design and co-creation of a new opera piece between professionals in LICEU and neighbours of Raval.

Leiria

A prison for young inmates, EPL-J, has been chosen with the objective of lowering the rate of criminal recidivism among young inmates by engaging them in an opera co-creation process.

Ireland

Use new technology and novel audio-visual formats to create a new digital community opera.
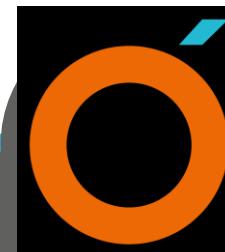
Objectives

1. Promote, through their empowerment, a transformation of communities at risk of exclusion

2. Establish an effective collaborative and participatory production workflow for the co-creation and co-design of art representations

3. Lay down a community-centric research and evaluation methodology to conduct an efficient and measurable community dialogue that will last in time and be replicable

4. Explore novel audiovisual formats based in European cultural heritage, such as opera

5. Maximise the social and market impact of the TRACTION results

TRACTION TOOLSET

- Three different tools, according to the different stages of the co-creation
    1. Media Vault – Co-creation process
    2. Real-time performance engine – Representation phase
    3. Immersive installation

# TRACTION TOOLSET: Media Vault

- It allows for the storage of a heterogeneous group of media objects (2D and 360 videos, volumetric media)

- It enables asynchronous communication between users around the uploaded content, for conversation and co-creation

- Includes functionality for generating stories based on the stored content

- A strong requirement on accessibility at the user interface, for supporting its use by people with cognitive and sensory disabilities

TRACTION TOOLSET: Performance engine
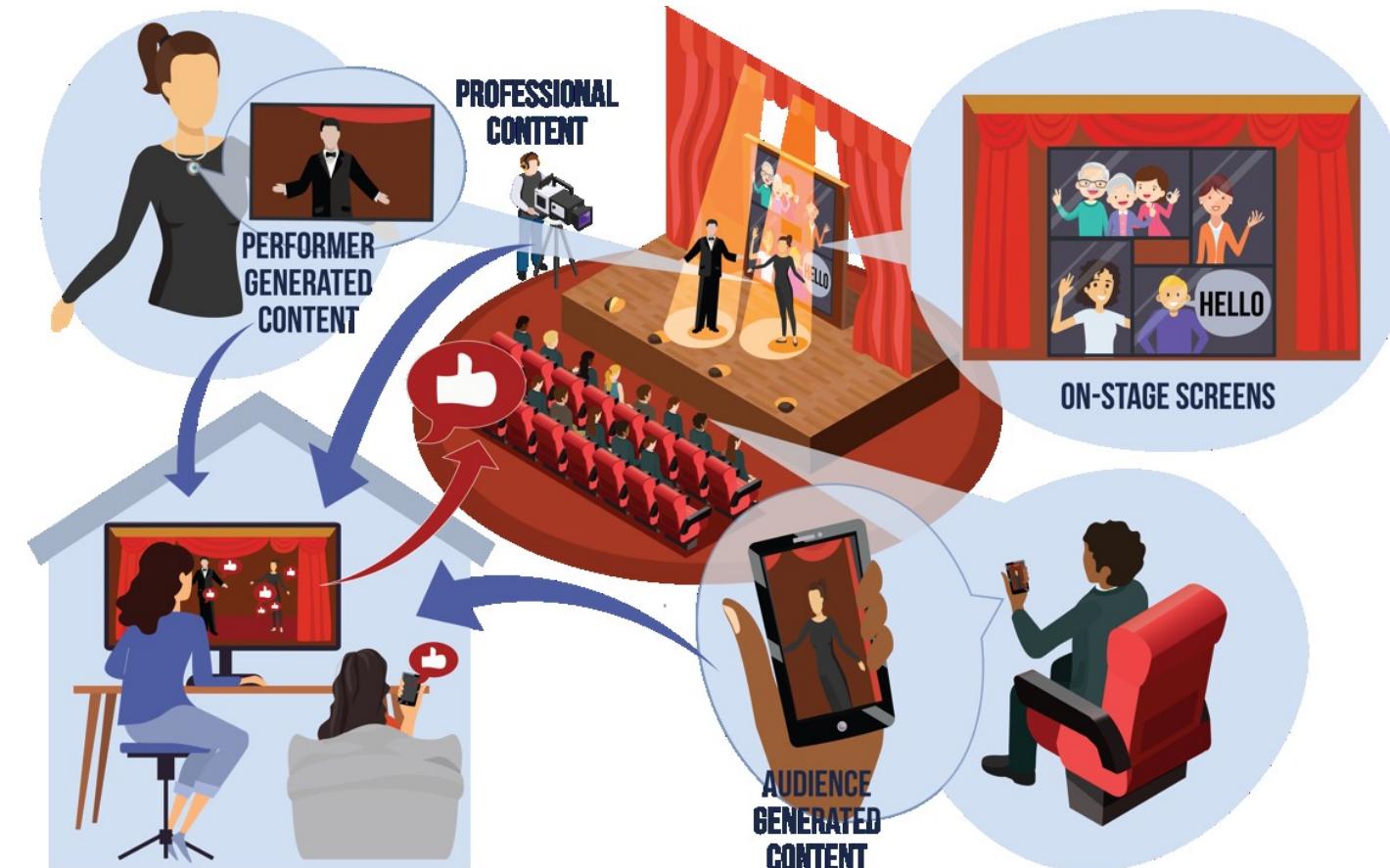
- It is a communication infrastructure, deployed at the theatre or in the rehearsal rooms

- It enriches the live performance by orchestrating in real-time the stage

- It allows for remote participants to see the show and to contribute to it with them on media

- This communication infrastructure does not only enrich the show, but as well enables synchronous communication between actors and spectators.

TRACTION TOOLSET: Immersive installation

- It includes both the authoring tools (for creating) and the rendering engines (for deploying) immersive and interactive experiences in the form of capsules or radically new Opera productions

- This environment will enable static (dome-based) and moveable (HMD based) installations, pushing the boundaries of immersive media consumption

- It will as well enable browser-based remote experiences.
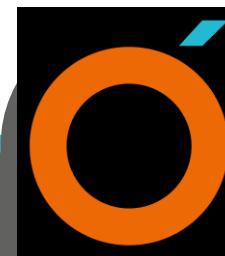
Thank you for your attention

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