



## Project Butterfly

Boosting environmental  
awareness in opera creation

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### PRESS RELEASE

Launch of the EU co-funded [Creative Europe Project Butterfly: Boosting environmental awareness in opera creation](#) aiming to co-create and co-produce a new opera dedicated to environmental sustainability

Opera is undeniably a great instance of European cultural history and the only cultural heritage that has united audiences across Europe while maintaining its linguistic diversity. Being born in the tradition of allegorical celebrations and the European courts' Baroque extravaganza, environmental sustainability was not among the priority of a performing art genre that sometimes happened to build an entire theatre for a single performance. Opera houses around the globe have been transforming into modern and technological machineries ever since, combining beauty, efficiency and tradition. Today they are taking the next step to become increasingly sustainable for the environment and even to convey to the public the awareness needed to live well and save our planet.

[Butterfly: Boosting environmental awareness in opera creation](#) aims to create a new attitude towards sustainability in theatre and opera houses by exploring new green practices related to opera production and circulation. To do so, the project will go through the entire process of opera co-creation and co-production of a sustainable opera - from the opera commission to the public attendance and the sharing of the sustainable practices experimented, with a particular focus on engaging young audiences throughout the whole process.

### PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES

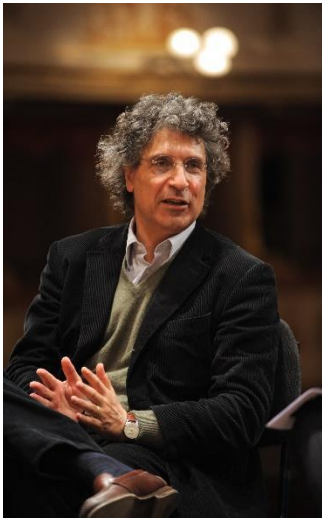
The opera created within Butterfly will combine three acts of thirty minutes each (one for each country), made up of three stories dedicated to an environmental theme: water, earth and air. The co-production will involve three composers (and librettists) from the project's three partner opera houses.

The conception of the work and the opera's libretto will begin with a co-creation phase implemented by high school students in three partners' countries - Italy, Poland and Finland - through a cycle of webinars. It will be followed by an International Call for Composers to select the three authors who will write music for the stories created by the students in the previous stage. Then, the selected composers and lyricists of the play will work hand-in-hand with the creative team and the artistic directors of the project within two artistic residencies in Italy and Poland. Finally, after two years of work, the project will culminate, in May 2025, in the premiere of the newly created opera in the partner theatres and online. The final production will strongly rely on advanced digital technologies and showcase the pathways for a more sustainable opera production.

In parallel, workshops about the co-creation and co-production of sustainable opera and theatres, including sharing the green practices experimented with and applied throughout the whole process, will be diffused thanks to new technologies (AR,VR). The project will be closed with a Final Event in Belgium. The key outputs and outcomes will be presented and discussed in a panel gathering all project representatives, researchers, along with selected stakeholders and experts.



## THE VISION OF THE PROJECT'S LEADER



*"The world of Performing Arts has long been concerned with the theme of sustainability and the lifestyle of contemporary society. With this project, we want to start precisely from the suggestions expressed by the new generations to build an ambitious path that, on the one hand, reflects on environmental and energy issues and, on the other, experiments in operatic practices with an approach inspired by the sustainability of production processes. The Butterfly project, thanks to the characteristics of the Creative Europe program, is an important opportunity for meeting, exchange, and confrontation among institutions, young people, and professionals from different European countries."*

*Aldo Sisillo, director of Teatro Comunale di Modena*

## PARTNERS

*Butterfly: Boosting the environmental awareness in opera creation* is a project co-funded by the European Commission under the Creative Europe Programme that will run until January 2026. It is implemented by a Consortium led by [Teatro Comunale di Modena](#), one of the leading opera houses among the Italian "Teatri di Tradizione". The Consortium is joined by two other opera theatres - [Opera BOX](#) from Finland and the [Baltic Opera in Gdańsk](#) (Poland). The non-profit association [AESS](#) from Italy will bring its expertise in sustainable practices, while [Heimspiel](#), the agency for digital storytelling formats from Augsburg (Germany), will lead the audiovisual production part of the project. [CUMEDIAE](#), a Brussels-based international non-profit agency providing consultancy services in the field of CCIs European-wide, will ensure the project's communication, engagement with stakeholders and allow for its widest dissemination.

## ASSOCIATED PARTNERS AND NETWORKS

[Kyiv National Academic Operetta Theatre](#) (Ukraine) - a multi-genre musical theatre staging musicals, operas, concerts and festivals.

[ARS Electronica](#) (Austria)- a festival, a prize, a museum centre with a permanent platform for presentation and production, a laboratory for permanent experimentation in art, technology, and society.

[GARR](#) (Italy) is an ultra-broadband network dedicated to the Italian research and education community. Its main objective is to provide high-performance connectivity and to develop innovative services for the daily activities of researchers, professors and students as well as for international collaboration. It will support the project through the Lo.La project for remote video rehearsals of musicians.

[City of Modena](#), a founding partner of Fondazione Teatro Comunale di Modena, is particularly active in the field of digitalization, environmental sustainability and European policies. Since 2021 it has been a UNESCO Creative City for media arts; from 2019 to 2022 it has implemented the European Zero Carbon Cities project to reduce carbon emissions and the EU strategy for zero net emissions to 2050.

[Opera Europa](#), the European network of more than two hundred opera houses, leader of Next Stage Creative Europe Project, will be involved in the dissemination of sustainability results. The project activities will start in April 2023 and end in 2026.



## CONTACTS

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