

# **Memorandum of Understanding for the foundation of the Federation of European Storytelling: FEST**

## **Definitions**

### **The organisation**

The Federation of European Storytelling (FEST) is an international collaboration between associations and projects in Europe devoted to the perpetuation and development of live oral storytelling.

### **Membership**

Membership is open to any national or regional storytelling association, or other organisation in Europe which unites storytellers and storytelling groups in a collaborative framework and subscribes to the aims and purposes of FEST. Applications are made to the FEST Council's Steering Group and approved by the Council.

### **Storytelling**

Storytelling is understood to be the live oral telling of stories, engaging directly with listeners to create a shared experience of storytelling. While welcoming and affirming technological means of communication, the primary experience is in real time and person to person.

### **Traditions**

Traditions are storytelling practices and bodies of narrative which have been passed down through the generations. The work of FEST is based on respect for such traditions and the desire to both preserve and develop their essential characteristics for future generations.

### **Languages**

Linguistic diversity is essential to storytelling in both its traditional and contemporary forms. The work of FEST respects and encourages diversity while also encouraging translation and communication between the languages of Europe.

### **Culture**

FEST recognises and seeks to apply UNESCO definitions of culture along with UNESCO'S international agreements on cultural expression, languages, minority cultures, education and the preservation of non-material culture.

## **Structure**

### **Council**

FEST is governed by a Council consisting of one representative of each of the members. Including at least one representative of each national association and interest group network, meeting at the FEST Gathering.

### **Steering Group**

The Council of FEST will elect no fewer than five members who will form a Steering Group to support and advance the work of the Council, including the annual FEST Gathering, between the FEST Gatherings.

**Interest Group Networks**

It is within the power of the Steering Group, with the approval of a three quarters majority of Council members, to form task and theme specific working groups or networks, involving the wider membership of FEST, and any national, international or regional groupings committed to the relevant task or theme.

**Attendance**

It is within the power of the Steering Group, to approve attendance at Council meetings to ensure a wide and balanced representation of the members, and also including representatives of other international cultural bodies, individual advisers, or observers from storytelling organisations from outside Europe.

**Administration and Finance**

The Council can appoint professional associations or organisations based in member countries to carry out delegated tasks of administration, finance and event organisation. Such appointments will be time limited and task specific. Appointments can be made by the Steering Group between Council meetings, subject to consultation with Council members.

Professional associations or organisations nominated in this way will be accountable to the Council through the Steering Group and must subscribe to the aims and purposes of FEST.