

The State Philharmonic of Rhineland-Palatinate. A case study on institutional change

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Under the influence of globalization, migration, the associated economic challenges, and a shift in cultural values, all European countries are experiencing significant social transformations. The project *dialoguing@arts* investigates how the performing arts and art education practices can contribute to social inclusion and social cohesion under these circumstances. The ethnographic subproject at the University of Cologne conducts case studies within existing community arts initiatives, in the education sector, and in cultural institutions. The State Philharmonic of Rhineland-Palatinate in Ludwigshafen, not far from Frankfurt, is an interesting case. It is a state-funded concert hall with a symphony orchestra and an education department that collaborates with schools. For several years, the Rhineland-Palatinate Philharmonic has been striving to respond to social changes and has embarked on a journey to become more culturally diverse. The concert hall is working towards institutional change, aiming to transform itself in order to reach a more diverse audience. The starting point was the establishment of a transcultural ensemble, consisting of classically trained musicians from the symphony orchestra and professional musicians from Arab countries, some of whom came to Germany as refugees. The change process involves tensions and touches on the institution's fundamental understanding. The State Philharmonic is an example where the challenges of institutional change and cultural transformation can be discussed.