

WOMEX OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT 8 September 2016



WOMEX 17, New Host City Announced

WOMEX 17 in Katowice, Silesia, Poland

Berlin/Katowice: Organisers Piranha Arts have announced the location for the 23rd edition of WOMEX – the World Music Expo next year, the WOMEX pendulum will swing back East:

WOMEX 17 will take place in the creative city of Katowice in the region of Silesia in Southern Poland from 25–29 October 2017.

WOMEX' journey through Europe continues in Silesia, Poland

WOMEX continues its journey of covering the entire scope of European regions, signifying and actively promoting solidarity and unity of Europe through its locations and of all countries of the world through its programme. After, in 2015, WOMEX visited Central Eastern Europe for the first time going to Budapest, Hungary, and after WOMEX returned to the Iberian peninsula, to Santiago de Compostela in 2016, 2017 will mark WOMEX' first visit to Poland as well as to Silesia, a region which features its very own cultural heritage and lies in the heart of Central and Eastern Europe, neighboring Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Three international airports are close to Katowice (Katowice Pyrzowice, Krakow, Ostrava) and prices as living conditions in Katowice promise a pleasant stay for WOMEX delegates.

Katowice - From Graphite to Green

“We are delighted to bring WOMEX into this European region and find new friends there. We believe WOMEX will once again add its part to a positive movement over there: The city of Katowice is an upcoming creative location, recently undergoing a post-industrial flowering where the city becomes a green, cultural hub.” says Alexander Walter, WOMEX Director

Testimony to this development are not only several achievements in the arts but first and foremost the development of Katowice's music scene: Katowice is the only Central European city bearing the title of the UNESCO City of Music. The city has recently opened an amazing Cultural Zone with a highly-acclaimed concert hall – the NOSPR – which will also be one of the main venues for WOMEX 17, as well as state-of-the-art International Congress Centre (ICC). Two popular and critically praised festivals already coin the musical calendar of the city.

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Local Host of WOMEX 17

Throughout Poland cultural and world music festivals; folk, jazz, Jewish culture are celebrated and the Polish presence at WOMEX has been growing steadily in the last years. Local partner for WOMEX 17 in Katowice will be the Polish ICP Group and its subdivision "Poland Concept" who will make dedicated hosts who cherish and understand the concept of WOMEX as much as its message and its community's principles.

WOMEX 17 will be realized with the support of the City of Katowice.

Press contact WOMEX | Photos | Links

Paul Bräuer | T: +49 (0) 30 31 861 448 | E: paul.braeuer@piranha-arts.com

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Background: About WOMEX

WOMEX is *"The most important international professional market of world music of every kind. This international fair brings together professionals from the worlds of folk, roots, ethnic and traditional music and also includes concerts, conferences and documentary films. It contributes to networking as an effective means of promoting music and culture of all kinds across frontiers."* UNESCO Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity

Acknowledged as the most international hub of all professional music meetings worldwide in general, and as the most important annual gathering of the global music community in particular, the 21st edition of WOMEX brought over 2,500 delegates and more than 60 musical acts from 90 countries altogether to its 2015 host city, Budapest, Hungary.

More than 60 acts on 7 WOMEX Showcase Festival stages including the Opening Concert; 680 exhibiting companies at the Trade Fair; more than 20 speakers and mentors at the Conference; a Film Programme and the WOMEX Awards made for 5 packed networking days and rather short nights.

Since its first edition in 1994, WOMEX has been roaming all across Europe from Berlin (1994), via Brussels (1995), Marseille (1997), Stockholm (1998), Berlin (1999 + 2000), Rotterdam (2001), Essen (2002 + 2004), Newcastle (2005), Sevilla (2003 + 2006-2008), Copenhagen (2009-2011), Thessaloniki (2012), Cardiff (2013) Santiago de Compostela (2014) to Budapest (2015). In 2016, WOMEX will take place in Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain from 19 - 23 October.

WOMEX is produced by Piranha Arts, Berlin.

www.piranha-arts.com

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Background: Poland at WOMEX

Several key players of the Polish cultural scene entertain a strong connection to WOMEX already. In the last years, the number of Polish delegates at WOMEX editions constantly grew, rising to over 50 per year.

Companies who exhibited at WOMEX in the last 5 years are:

- ICP Group SA,
- Adam Mickiewicz Institute,
- Song and Dance Ensemble SLASK,
- Katowice- Miasto Ogrodow,
- Janusz Prusinowski Trio,
- Transetnika

Showcase Artists performing at WOMEX:

- Kroke – 1998
- Chudoba – 2000
- Motion Trio – 2004
- Warsaw Village Band – 2004
- Janusz Prusinowski Trio – 2012
- Wołosi – 2014
- Karolina Cicha & Bart Pałyga – 2015
- Muzykanci – 2015
- Sutari – 2015