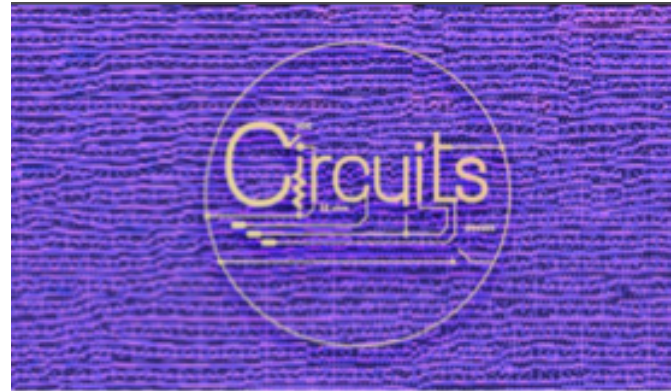


Annual Administrative Report – Year 2021

30th April 2022



Electronic Music Malta is supported by Arts Council Malta

Contents List

1. Introduction – Chairman's Statement
2. Launch of the Elektronika Project
3. The Rise of the Synths Film Screening
4. Elektronika Project Data processing phase
5. Circuits Festival Weekend
6. Screening of Sisters with Transistors
7. Gear-Mania! Event
8. Build your DIY Synth Device Workshop
9. Marketing and PR runway
10. Engaging the online audience
11. Circuits 2021 Focus Group Meeting
12. EMM Committee for 2021
13. EMM Strategic Partners for 2021
14. Income Statement

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1. Introduction – Chairman's Statement

Throughout 2021, EMM held a record number of events and initiatives thanks to a number of projects it was running. The year started with a new research project that our organisation managed in conjunction with the M3P foundation – Elektronika; a Historiography of electronic music in Malta. This is a first for the electronic music scene in Malta whereby two organisations have set the path to trace a historiography of the electronic music culture on our islands. In fact, I can say that 2021 was a year in which we witnessed 6 events related to the Elektronika Project, two screenings and four other days of activities related to the Circuits programme (which commenced on the 23rd October). This notwithstanding the fact that all attended events had to stop during the months of April and May.

In total, EMM invited a total of 32 local and 6 foreign artists to contribute to events it organised in 2021.

This was the year of records, with a total of 3 funded projects and one self-funded; it was the first year in which EMM participated in a programme for teen-agers (with Festivals Malta) and a year in which EMM collaborated with another local venture, Sawtooth Audio Academy, in the organization of the workshops during the Circuits Festival Weekend.

In conclusion, I look forward to new challenges and exciting times which the end of the pandemic can finally bring to us. If 2021 was our best year ever, we look forward to making 2022 even better! Onwards and upwards for Electronic Music Malta.



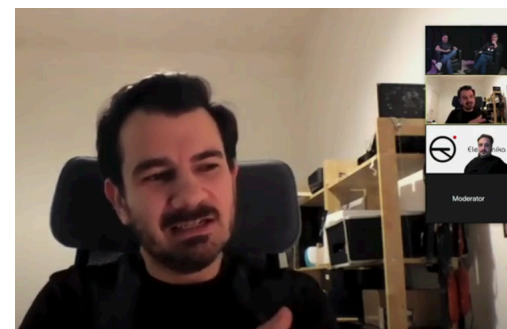
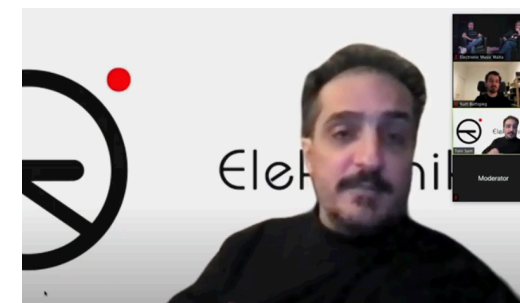
Edwin Balzan, Chairman – Electronic Music Malta.

2. Launch of Elektronika - 3rd February 2021

Before Elektronika was formally launched, a visual identity needed to be established, and this was designed by Enrique' Tabone.

The project was launched in a live streamed public event held at Spazju Kreattiv. During this event, Michael Bugeja, Dr Toni Sant and Edwin Balzan outlined the aims of the project and also made a call for assistance from the electronic music community. At this stage, this project was already hosted in a webpage as part of the m3p.com.mt website.

As part of this launch, M Bugeja interviewed the experimental music artist Kurt Buttigieg about his participation to this project and the electronic music producer, Sonitus Eco who also performed a dj set (consisting entirely of own composed material) after the presentation.



3. The Rise of the Synths - 5th and 10th June 2021

This documentary directed by Javi Moreno was screened twice. During the first screening, we featured a Q&A session with the director (in a Zoom session), whilst during the second one, a short DJ set by local synthwave act K.A.R.R. preceded the screening.



4. Elektronika (Data processing phase) – July to October 2021

With a considerable database of artists, record labels and also key persons, the project entered the phase of the processing of this information with the help of 4 oral history sessions which allowed for the interviewing of artists based on the information gathered. Two particular periods were explored: the Evolution of the Electronic Dance Music Culture in Malta (3 sessions) and Maltese Electronic Music in the Eighties (1 session).

The events were held as follows:

- Session 1: Evolution – focus on the DJ Era – Thursday 22 July 2021
- Session 2: Exploration - Focus on Productions – Thursday 12 August 2021
- Session 3: Promotion – Thursday 23 September 2021
- Maltese Electronic Music in the Eighties (part of Circuits 2021 Festival Weekend) – Saturday 23 October 2021

4. Elektronika (Data processing phase) continued

Session 1: Evolution – focus on the DJ Era

This session consisted of an interview to four of Malta's pioneering dj's in the electronic music scene: Coco, David Dee, Brian James and Owen Jay. The session was followed by a 1 hour dj set from 'Tres Moody' which is a project consisting of David Dee, Brian James and Owen Jay.



4. Elektronika (Data processing phase) continued

Session 2: Exploration - Focus on Productions

This session focused on productions featuring DJs, producers, duos, bands and projects. During this session, Mike Bugeja interviewed two of Malta's pioneering duo / producers in the electronic music scene: Duo Blank and Spooky Monkey. The session will be followed by a 1 hour performance from 'Duo Blank' who playing their original material spanning 25 years.



4. Elektronika (Data processing phase) continued

Session 3: Promotion

The third of these oral history sessions was about the promotion of homegrown events which took on an international aspect, radio presence and its impact. During this session, Mike Bugeja interviewed three dj's who were active also in promotion and broadcasting from the nineties onwards in the electronic music scene: Adrian V, Bryan S and Junior B. The session was followed by a dj set from Junior B.



4. Elektronika (Data processing phase) continued

Maltese Electronic Music in the Eighties:

In the fourth (and final) of the oral history sessions, Mike Bugeja interviewed members from three groups that were formed and active from the eighties – these are Art in Glass (Simon Psaila), Structure (Pierre Caruana) and X-Tend (Charles Dalli, Eric Calleja and Godwin Debono).



5. Circuits Festival Weekend – 23 / 24 October 2021

This year's festival weekend was held at Spazju Kreattiv and showcased EMM's flagship projects Away from the Comfort Zone, Storbju, and Elektronika. This year, "Away from the Comfort Zone" focused on internationalisation and paired German, Dutch, Belgian and Italian electronic music and performance artists with Maltese artists in performances which were held during the festival weekend.



5. Circuits Festival Weekend – continued

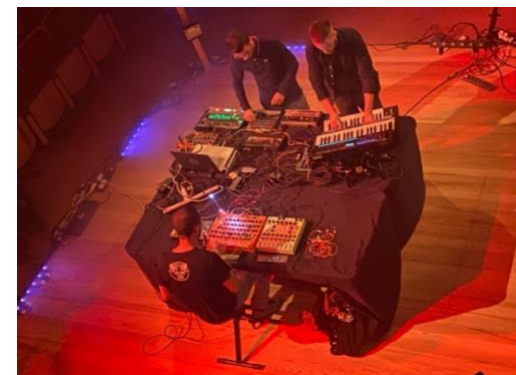
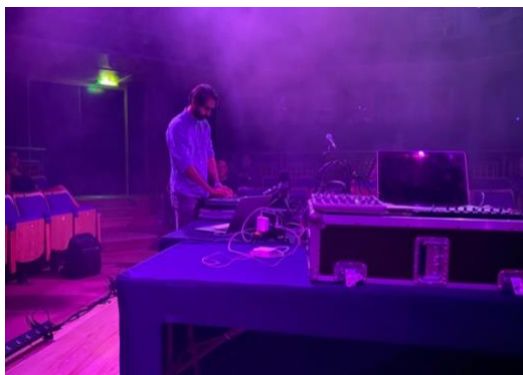
A series of public discussions on topics related to sound and electronic music were held in a public discussion area; whilst a marathon of workshops was organised with the participation of Sawtooth Audio Academy. Besides the support of Arts Council Malta and Spazju Kreattiv, this year's edition of Circuits was also supported by the German Maltese Circle and AirMalta.

For the Away from the Comfort Zone project, Maltese singer Clare Ghigo performed with Italian electronic musician Paolo Gatti; Maltese dancer Rochelle Gatt with German electronic musician Sabine Ercklentz; and the Maltese/Belgian electronic duo Ayn il-Widen (Kurt Buttigieg and Carla Said) shared the stage with Dutch vocal artist Han Buhrs.



5. Circuits Festival Weekend – continued

Two contemporary electronic music concerts were performed during the festival weekend, one by Iranian/Dutch composer Siamak Anvari and the other by Belgian pianist Marlies Debacker. A further performance by established Maltese electronic music producers Neil Hales, Keith Farrugia and Christian Attard closed the theatre performances on the final Circuits Festival weekend night.



5. Circuits Festival Weekend – continued

New Storbju “Terramaxka” Device Launched

Following last year’s successful launch of Storbju Noise Monger, which was the first electronic noise drone device designed and built by a Maltese, a brand-new device named Storbju Terramaxka was launched during a presentation held in the public area during the Circuits Festival 2021 weekend.

This device has been designed and produced by Mike Desira and was available for sale, fully assembled and at a very affordable price, on the Circuits website shop section. The device launched in 2021, together with the one launched in 2020 (Storbju Noise Monger) have provided an alternative income stream to the Circuits Festival as they were sold as merchandise in the Circuits website. Proof of this is the fact that currently, both are now completely sold out.



5. Circuits Festival Weekend – continued

Public Discussions together with Workshops and Masterclasses organised in conjunction with Sawtooth Audio Academy

Other public presentations included the launch of a double CD compilation featuring numerous Maltese electronic music artists by Wirebox records (curated by Neil Hales and Christian Attard); a session on Tinnitus delivered by Dr Andrew Sciberras; a talk on the “People and Dancefloors” study by Karen Mamo; and a talk on copyright by Steve Vassallo from PRS Malta.

Workshops and Masterclasses were organised in collaboration with Sawtooth Audio Academy. These included the participation of: Robert Babicz, Polaris Group, Neil Hales, Chris Goa, Simon (Yama Gata), Edd, Aidan Somers, Edwin Balzan, Owen Jay and Melchior Sultana.



6. Screening of Sisters with Transistors – 13 November 2022

The Circuits Festival programme continued with a screening of the documentary “Sisters with Transistors” at Spazju Kreattiv. This movie is about the remarkable untold story of electronic music’s female pioneers, composers who embraced machines and their liberating technologies to utterly transform how we produce and listen to music today.



7. Gear-Mania! Event at Ivy House – 21 November 2022

An event named “Gear-Mania” was held at Ivy House, Pembroke. This event included a synthesizer expo which was hosted by Black Box Pro and Duo Blank and featured performances by artists Robert Babicz, Keith Farrugia, Owen Jay, Tina and Giacinte, and a presentation and performance on a DIY synth built by Toni Gialanze who also held a spontaneous jamming session with Maltese electronic music producer Intrawerks.



8. Build your DIY Synth Device Workshop – 9th December 2021

The final Circuits Festival programme event, a DIY synthesiser building workshop, was held at Spazju Kreattiv. This workshop was presented by Mike Desira, Edwin Balzan and Frank Cachia. Soldering stations were setup and participants were assisted to build the Storbju Noise Monger Noise Drone. Other tips about DIY Synthesizer building were discussed.



9. Marketing and PR runway

EMM's marketing and PR in 2021 was mainly focused on the promotion of the Circuits 2021 programme and related projects.

Promotion kicked off in September and consisted of the following:

- Exposure on the Circuits website and EMM Facebook page and Kreattivita.org
- Articles on major newspapers and websites: Sunday Times, The Times, Nazzjon, Malta Independent, Stradarjali, Talk.mt, Newsbook, Ramona Depares
- Interviews on NET FM and One Radio
- Television Feature on Ta' Filgħodu aired on TVM



10. Engaging the online audience

This effort in digital advertising focused on the Facebook platform where, as opposed to 2020 when our events had been completely streamed online aided by boosted posts, this year our posts were intended to attract a physical audience. We recruited an agency, Groovemedia, to handle this aspect.

We created a record total of 64 posts in the period 3rd October to 8th December

The total people reached: 30,374; Engagements: 1,684, Likes: 825.

Last year, given we had online videos as opposed to the static posts the amount of people reached were double.

Event attendance (with coVID restrictions):

Circuits programme – 23 Oct to 8 Dec: 275

Elektronika summer events: 100

11. Circuits 2021 Focus Group Meeting – 11 January 2022

The workshops and talks organised, similar to previous years, were well received.

The style of marketing was positive but we need to invest more in videos especially ones interviewing participating artists.

Artist selection and style to be more balanced out and to include more Maltese artists.

Vjing artists are to be included in all performances.

We should make use of connections with artists like Babicz to invite popular artists to our events.

Less is more in the events, even during the Circuits weekender where by people would not have to miss an event to attend another. We should also include a jamming area.

DIY workshops and also Storbju devices are should continue and be expanded if necessary.

We need to go back to our roots and organise events such as Electric Cafe which was organised in Dec 2015.

We need to choose more interesting venues and need to ensure that they have good priced catering facilities.



12. EMM Committee for 2021

Chairman and Executive Director: Edwin Balzan

Secretary: Martina Camilleri

Treasurer: Owen Bezzina

Members: Charlon Calleja, Keith Farrugia, Toni Gialanze', Adnan Hadziselimovic, Adri Van den Berg

Artistic Director: Luc Houtkamp

Advisory Board: Frank Cachia, Neil Hales

13. EMM Strategic Partners for 2021

- Arts Council Malta: we are collaborating with Arts Council both as part of the ICO grant, and also in the Elektronika project via the Research Grant.
- Spazju Kreattiv: with over 6 years of collaboration with this creative space, we continue using this venue not only for the holding of events, but also for rehearsals and planning phases of our projects.
- M3P Foundation: as part of the Elektronika project, this organization is carrying out the research element of this project.
- German-Maltese Circle: the Circle continue to support us in projects involving German electronic music artists or the German culture.
- Sawtooth Audio Academy: we are collaborating with this small startup in the organization of educational related activities.

14. Income Statement

Income Statement		Electronic Music Malta - VO 1155 01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021	
		EUR	EUR
Income:	Grants income	20,273	
	Membership income	108	
	Merchandise income	1,572	
	Sponsorships and events income	<u>2,671</u>	24,625
Expenses:	Advertising and promotional material	1,273	
	Administration fees	2,100	
	Artist fees	9,216	
	Equipment costs	892	
	Net balances written-off	(164)	
	Cost of merchandise sold	991	
	Event expenses	9,200	
	Licencing and distribution fees	442	
	Paypal and Bank Charges	41	
	Website & survey expenses	<u>296</u>	(24,287)
Surplus/(Deficit)			<u><u>338</u></u>