

D'Art question 5

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CONTEXT:

Siân is working on the *Auditoria* project, which is a strategic review of performing arts venues and facilities in Ireland. She is seeking information on research and policies on optimal provision levels of performing arts venues and facilities.

SIÂN WRITES:

The *Auditoria* project was established by Ireland's arts councils (The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and The Arts Council of Northern Ireland) to review planning, programming and provision of performance arts venues in Ireland. The objectives of the project are:

- To prepare a benchmark relational database containing information about the physical infrastructure for the performing arts in Ireland. Information includes location, design, capacity, performing configuration, seating configuration, technical equipment, flexibility of use, ancillary facilities, disabled access/facilities etc for each venue.
- To provide the Arts Councils with sufficient information to enable them to make strategic decisions on both capital and programme/touring expenditure in the performing arts.
- To provide the Arts Councils with the means to offer advice to their respective parent Departments and Local Authorities on capital investment, building maintenance and operating costs.

The project has involved a comprehensive survey of the technical facilities in approximately 90 performing arts venues in Ireland (surveys to be published on the web soon). Research was also carried out on the programming of venues and on audience attendances (for 1999 and 2000).

QUESTIONS

- Do any countries have policies governing the provision of performing arts venues, spaces and facilities?
- Are there any guidelines or recommendations for the minimum desired levels of provision of performing arts venues (eg. minimum distance between venues, minimum venues/seats per head of population)?
- Do any countries have research or policies regarding the ongoing viability of venues?

I would appreciate any information about these questions. If any research or policy reports do exist, I would be grateful for copies or for details on where I can obtain copies. I would also be very interested in the contact details of people who could help.

END