



## DECOMPRESSION:RESTART 2022 REPORT

“Decompression: Restart” event in Vilnius, Lithuania, traditionally took place in November. It was a perfect place for burners to practice the art of rest and ease themselves back to the default world after the burn, whether it was a cozy regional or a big dusty event in the Nevada desert. Guided by Burning Man principles it was created by a big bunch of amazing volunteers.

### Details

Date: November 19, 2022

Location: Vilnius downtown, next to Town Hall square

Tickets total sold: 121

Attended total: 111

Performances, activities, workshops: 17

Music/DJ: 7

Virgins vs Veterans: 24/76 %

### Planning

First discussions started at the end of September, and we decided to do a decompression event on one of the first weekends of November, to have enough time to prepare, but later postponed it to the 19th of November. Meetings were happening weekly live and/or online via zoom and in total we had 9 meetings.

### Structure of the crew

Surprisingly, many new and inexperienced members took a challenge upon themselves for leading roles, keen to learn proactively referring to information from previous burn events, reports and had sessions with old time burners. That was exemplary collaboration and co-creation. Some people changed their roles late into the organization that was a bit confusing, and some tasks were left not covered or not clear until the last minute.

Overall, we are happy with the result and there was lots of positive feedback.

## **Tickets**

No registration prior to the event. Quicket was used for ticket sale. Everything went smoothly. Decided to keep the ticket sale simple: a burner goes to Quicket link, answers a few questions in a questionnaire and buys the ticket.

Single pricing 21 € for adults, and free tickets for kids. 104 adults attended out of 113 adult tickets sold, and 7 kids out of 8 kids tickets sold.

## **Location**

We kept the location secret to avoid people without a ticket trying to enter the event, as the location is in an active nightlife area. It was communicated in the survival guide only to ticket holders. There was lots of positive feedback about the location, cozy and comfortable, because it was in Vilnius downtown.

## **Gates and greeters**

One of the first departments to have most of the shifts filled in with active volunteers and interesting concept, which was upon entrance asking people of their least used principle out of 10 principles, the principle that least resonates with one, so people stopped to think, reflect, and discuss.

Stamped on wrists upon entering with a red fire sign, however the tint was lost and found only after the event was over, so some late comers did not get a stamp.

There was a problematic person who was trying to get into the event without a ticket several times throughout the night and he succeeded in the morning. Communication with him was impossible so we called the police to take him out. We are glad due to collaboration with the police, they helped a lot!

## **Communication**

Internally we communicated on Discord and Facebook.

Externally, at the initial phase of planning Discord and Facebook were used. Newsletter was sent only 10 days prior to the event. We realized late about the importance and the need of the newsletter, because some people do not check Facebook or Discord. It could have been sent earlier. We had lots of fun and success with event promotion on Instagram as a special video has been created about the burners culture and the event.

Email communication was used for ticket holders to share survival guide and the program, but it did not go smoothly. Quicket does not have a possibility to use the ticket purchaser's email for further communication. Later we noticed an issue - the emails for some people ended up in the spam box. There was no time to look for a solution, so we had to post additional information for people to check their spam boxes. In the future we should have a dedicated IT person to help to find a different way to send information for ticket holders.

Fantastic graphic design used in media.

## **Program**

The start time was a time when everyone can come and have fun while helping to prepare at 10 AM and the program had to start at 1 PM. There were a lot of interesting activities planned that filled the spaces and time of the event fully and many community members liked the combination of daytime and nighttime format of the event.

Unfortunately, it took longer to prepare the location (decorations, etc.) than we anticipated, so most of the activities happened later. And a few surprise activities happened that were not in the program. So, most of the negative feedback was about the program not happening as planned.

### **Art, performances, activities**

An amazing art installation - illuminated phoenix decorated DJ area. The whole event concept was about restarting our body, our mind and balancing our chakras. All the areas were decorated with chakra colors.



Workshops such as choir, poems reading with techno music, waffles baking, Burning Man Quiz and other activities brought the community together.

The temporary Burning Man exhibition, where many people brought their relics from previous burn events also received lots of attention and created an atmosphere for sharing experiences.

Some burners commented on the feeling of attending a big and cozy family gathering.

## Infrastructure

Several volunteers took leading roles to light up the spaces and to install music equipment and all went well.

## Rangers

To feel safer, we had security at the door to ask if a person had a ticket before letting them in, and to support rangers in case some issues at the gates or inside would happen. It was a very good decision. Survival guide noted if anything illegal will be found it will be confiscated before entering the event, if you wish to keep the restricted items with you - you won't be let into the event. Everybody's safety and security as well as legal compliance is our top priority, and our mutual responsibility.

Not enough volunteers on shifts.

## Leave no Trace

We created a system of recycling bins in the most necessary spots of the event: bar, kitchen and next to the snacks table. Each of these spots had one bin for plastic, paper and metal together, second bin for glass and third for general. This was done according to the disposal of recycled trash next to the location and was successful. Deposit was collected in the bar.

## Bar

Full of active volunteers with an amazing flaming drink performance.

## Logistics

Leads were not so proactive as expected and some logistics tasks were covered by other volunteers.

## Budget

Planned expenses 1810 € and we needed at least 91 people to attend to cover our expenses, which seemed quite realistic considering attendance from the last year. We have an idea for next time to have an early bird ticket to motivate people to buy tickets earlier.

Actual expenses 1954,17 €.

Income from 121 tickets sold 2373 € and donations 169 €, summing up to 2542 €.

Balance 587,83 € that we will use for future events art grants

#	Expenses	Eur
1	Location rent	€500.00
2	Insurance	€116.00
3	Graphic design	€30.00
4	Bar	€171.14
5	Kids Village	€31.26
6	Leave no trace	€14.62
7	Logistics	€43.89

8	Art / decor + signs + sanctuary	€122.53
9	Finance - tickets system fees	€161.43
10	Sound	€318.30
11	Security	€144.00
12	Team building	€201.00
13	Unexpected expenses	€100.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€1,954.17</b>

### **Strike**

We had to clean up from Sunday morning until 4 pm and there were enough people to help.

### **Lessons**

November 19th is late for a decompression; an earlier date would be better.

Clearer external communication, plan with more volunteers to share tasks (maybe one person responsible for one communication channel: Facebook, Instagram, email, etc.). To make sure emails with important information to ticket holders do not go to spam we should have responsible IT people. We are planning to use a newsletter platform to avoid this in the future. And a placement lead is an important role to have.

Sobriety on shifts remains an issue.

More time to prepare prior to the event and to keep the program happening as communicated.

Keep daytime and nighttime format.

Find ways to educate ourselves and everybody in the community and strengthen the perspective that there are no participants and organizers.

### **Summary**

To sum up, the event went smoothly with some minor issues to keep in mind for the future, for example, that we should have someone to lead placement and IT, the program must be happening on time, engaging the community to volunteer, and educating how to volunteer.

Nevertheless, there were a lot of successful practices, such as: well-planned budget, inclusive event program, LNT.

Also, the event was happening in a comfortable location with the suitable format for most: daytime and nighttime activities. Exemplary collaboration of veterans with newbies taking lead roles, proving that each one of us can make it happen, each of us can and should take part in whichever way one finds satisfactory: create, volunteer and/or lead. There are no visitors and organizers, but only participants and all of us make it happen.