



Warsaw, June 2nd 2004

Recommendation

Europe needs a cultural infrastructure built by civil society organisations. Their presence is vital and crucial. They not only enable the fulfilment of citizen's activity in the cultural field, but they also serve various functions: managing, co-ordinating, funding, etc. In this way they effectively complement the role of the state in the field of culture and help to diminish the negative impact of the market.

It would be however difficult to say that the built by the efforts of citizens cultural infrastructure is evenly spread throughout Europe. The old European democracies can take pride in their resources. This can not be said about the new European democracies, whether they are already members of the European Union or are remaining outside it. Therefore we should welcome the initiative of establishing the Balkan Cultural Foundation with great contentment. The co-ordinating and funding functions which the foundation has decided upon are very much needed in the Balkans. Furthermore having Dimitri Vujadinović among its creators, an experienced cultural policy researcher and activist, is a guarantee of reliability and creativity of the Foundation. We are looking forward to the future co-operation with the Balkan Cultural Foundation, both through CIRCLE and the Warsaw Research Institute on Culture.

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Empfehlung

Hiermit will ich die Schaffung der Balkan Cultural Foundation durch BalkanKult - dessen bisheriger Arbeit ich gut kenne und schätze - ausdrücklich unterstützen.

Auf dem kulturellen Gebiet ist gerade für den Balkan Region heute von außerordentlicher Bedeutsamkeit nicht einfach sporadisch zu arbeiten, sondern kontinuierliche und langwierige Kontakte herzustellen und sie auszubauen. Dafür sind aber integrative Faktoren gefragt. Mit der Cultural Foundation wird es einen solchen integrativen Faktor für den gesamten Region geben. Somit werden die einzelnen positiven Cultural Events gebündelt und fortgeführt, somit wird auch die Einsetzung der Ressourcen optimiert. Durch die Cultural Foundation können günstige Bedingungen für die Entwicklung von kultureller Diversität, wie auch von kulturellen Brücken und dialogischen Foren innerhalb der Region und darüber hinaus geschaffen werden. Das ist für die Entstehung einen neuen cultural enviroment auf dem Balkan, aber auch für die Überwindung der alten Vorurteilen gegenüber den Balkan, auch angesichts der Erweiterung der EU geradezu zwingend.

Ich hoffe, daß Balkan Cultural Foundation bald eine Realität wird.

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Ljubljana, 5 May 2004

Subject: Recommendation to BalkanKult organization for the establishment of the Balkan cultural foundation

I was asked by BalkanKult to give my personal opinion regarding the idea to establish Balkan cultural foundation. I am glad to be able to express my support to this initiative.

Cultural diversity and cultural contradictions demand an active cultural co-operation and at the same time the formation of conditions for the development of common cultural life in Balkan cultural area. The regional co-operation will enable the foundation of cultural cohabitation between different ethnic communities, which were during the past mainly divided, and help to create a common Balkan cultural area as a part of broader European cultural area. The nongovernmental organizations, included the Balkan Cultural Foundation, will play an enormous role, as the role of state in the cultural area is decreasing, while the role of civil society and the third sector is increasing. Therefore, the Balkan Cultural Foundation will implement some public cultural functions, form new cultural bridges and cultural bonds in Balkan, it will finance many projects and co-operate in creation of strategic goals of the development of cultural symbiosis in the framework of Balkan cultural diversity.

The financial support to artists, users of cultural goods and other nongovernmental cultural development carriers should be ensured, as the regional integration of Balkan cultural diversity will be in this manner enabled. The Balkan Cultural Foundation will contribute to Balkan symbiosis, common cultural welfare and cultural development; therefore, its operation should have to be formally recognized. The foundation should be provided with legal security and stable material, financial and other conditions on all levels of operation, as stable cultural foundations are those factors, which will contribute to cultural symbiosis and creative Balkan, which will represent the other pole of restless and turbulent Balkan. For all these reasons we support the establishment of Balkan cultural foundation.

Best regards,

Vesna Čopić