

MOBILITY FUND

for cultural practitioners and artists

Mobility fund for cultural practitioners and artists is the Balkankult Foundation's strategic project becoming part of a great European project conducted by the ERICArts Institute in Bonn.

The goal

The arts have been the source of development of the creative potentials in the Western Balkan region. Artists and cultural practitioners represent this *creative capital* as their works show the growth of possibilities of creative industries.

Artists and practitioners are also participants in economic life of the region and their work can easily affect this field.

The importance

Culture is a must in the economic growth, and connects clearly to the milieu of the intellectual property, which is a powerful tool for the economy growth. Therefore, the starter of the new economy growth in the region should no longer be the economy of manufacture and trade but the economy of ideas and creativity. The key to open the door to this new economy is education, science and culture!

The financial structure

Our Foundation is a grant seeking and a grant giving institutional body. At this time, we are addressing potential donors for the purpose of establishing *a grant giving fund for the mobility of artists and cultural practitioners*. An annual financial report will be made available to every donor.

Connecting economy and culture becomes inevitable in the processes of deetatisation of contemporary societies, and in particular transition societies. In this context, we are addressing the **Corporate Social Responsible (CSR) companies** to enhance their involvement in cultural and social life of the region. In this way, companies will also gain wider social significance. This valuable financial support will make artistic work more fruitful.

The rules

The Fund supports the traveling, accomodation or participation of artists and practitioners, including policy makers by covering the mobility scheme costs in various cultural events, institutions, residential centres, workshops, conferences, etc.

This small but effective move would be a great contribution to the opening of the Western Balkans.

The Fund operates flexibly, meaning that potential donors can affect the choice of artists and cultural practitioners according to their own interests and Foundation provides help in suggesting the grantees and their final destination.

By this grantees should be able to comprise this work in Europe as they influence the social development.

For the call for proposals no limitations would be made regarding the *grantees'* age, and the main criteria would be the quality of their professional work (we believe that the stress should be made on the work of the younger generations).

The decision will be made *by the expert* chosen by the representatives of the Foundation and Donor, according to the previously set rules. The Foundation will acknowledge Donor in an appropriate way (through press, catalogues, other printed materials, web sites, etc). The Foundation will also prepare the documentation in order for donor's organization to receive a tax credit on donation.

The call for proposals is open throughout the calendar year.

Support

Idea of establishing Mobility fund for cultural practitioners and artists was supported by cultural institutions and actors within the region, and particularly artists associations and representatives of cultural industries. A special stimulus came from *Mrs. Marianne Moller* (Nordic Council of Ministers), *professor dr Andreas Wiesand* (Zentrum fur Kulturforschung, ERICarts Institute), Delegation of European Commission in Belgrade, *Vesna Čopić* (Ministry of Culture of Republic of Slovenia), *Dorota Ilczuk* (Chairman of CIRCLE network) and institutions such as *Les Rencontres* and European Cultural Foundation.