

Balkankult fondacija, 11000 Beograd, Nemanjina 4, Srbija
Tel/fax: + 381 11 3621763, 3621762, 3621760, web: www.balkankult.org,
Email: atwork@balkankult.org



Culture is our thought, feeling and knowledge. It posses wisdom and represents fundament in building creative society. In that context, Mobility fund for artists and cultural practitioners is one of the main strategic projects of Balkankult Foundation.

Dimitrije Vujadinovic,
president of Balkankult Foundation

The goal

The mobility fund has risen out of the need for intensified cultural life, including the necessity of artists and cultural operators from the region. Mobility program are new trend in Europe's cultural life. Activities of Nordic Ministry Council, EU, European Commission, European Cultural Foundation etc. show the same tendency.

During 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 more than 120 artists and cultural practitioners traveled with Mobility fond of Balkankult support.

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 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! Artists and cultural practitioners are new creative capital in society.

What is Mobility?

Mobility is the temporary cross-border movement of artists and other cultural professionals. Certain forms of mobility relate to the individual (e.g. networking, residencies etc); others are intrinsically connected to the mobility of works or performances in another country.

Mobility is not only understood as occasional movements across national borders that may be useful to gain professional experience required for career advancement, as well as advance artistic endeavor, but more as an integral part of the regular work life of artists and other cultural professionals.

The rules

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

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).

Traveling needs to be in the context of expertise, connecting to the cultural institutions, participating in the activities of artists-in-residence centers, workshops, visiting important organizations, cultural events, making projects etc. The call for proposals is open throughout the calendar year.

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.

In my opinion, the key words for mobility of artists are tolerance, understanding, freedom of self-expression. Every trip I take is a new inspiration, a chance to travel and write. Because, writing itself is traveling, but in mind... Besides inspiration and encounters on trips, it is getting out of routine, everyday life, that is important for writers, and it stimulates writing a lot.

Morelle Smith,
Scottish writer and translator