

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2012

FOREWORD

The unfortunate social situation of Serbia, especially within the culture, has caused us to very carefully plan our activities for 2012 year. Such a situation has led to a reevaluation of our possibilities as well as the lateness of our planning activities for this year.

The plan called for a change of work within Balkankult to accommodate the new context created by changes within the inner organization of the foundation, as well as changes in outside factors.

With the goal of making the Balkankult more efficient, we have established a special sister foundation of Balkankult - *Balkankult Foundation Intereg*, located in the BKF Residency.

The Balkankult Residency was opened at the spring of 2012 year and is the first of its kind in Serbia. The Residency is located in the National Park of Mt. Fruska Gora (20 km from Novi Sad and 50 km from Belgrade) and has a new house that consists of two apartments, 40 m² each, office and a park-orchard of 1,800 m².

It was planned for the BKF Residency to develop in the direction of a creative cultural incubator.

Balkankult Foundation continued work on the Norden Balkan Culture Switch during 2006.

PROJECTS

Culture, Art and Copyright in Serbia - Learn from the Past and Create the Future

The project is intended to disseminate and promote knowledge about copyrights by educating young creators about legal security and possibilities to protect their works.

Places: Centar for visual arts, Belgrad, 19/10; Bursa, Novi Sad, 23/10; Museum of national Theatre, 26/10; Centar for Arts, Kraljevo, 28/10; Cultural Center of Belgrade, 06/11; Cultural Center Sabac, 08/11

Financial support was provided by The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC

Minorities and popular music in Serbia between authenticity and globalization

Serbia is one of the central Balkan countries which is, because of its geographical and geopolitical location and incredibly complex historical heritage, like an infinitely complex mosaic of religious, local, ethnic and other identities.

Research *Minorities and popular music in Serbia between authenticity and globalization* by Misa Djurkovic and Dimitrije Vujadinovic has been published in #2 of Cultural Policy Update – CPU (Boekman foundation, Amsterdam).

NORDEN BALKAN CULTURE SWITCH

Nordisk panorama '12 – ninth Festival

February 17-21, 2012. Belgrade Cultural Center; throughout the year 2012,

Places of realization: Belgrade Cultural Center; Cultural Center Student City, Belgrade; Novi Sad Cultural Center; Cultural Center, Zrenjanin; Cultural Center, Čačak; Leskovac Cultural Center; Kraljevo Cultural Center; Cultural Center, Grocka

Nordisk panorama '12 is film festival of short, documentary and animated films from the Nordic region (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland). The festival program consists of **40** films of **1.062** minutes in total (Nordic Children's Films consists of **5** films which are **71** minutes and the Sami Shorts program consists of **12** films, **92** minutes.

Ingrid Bervin – Pasjon og Polemikk

The exhibition - video installation, Passion and Controversy (Pasjon og Polemikk) Norwegian artist Ingrid Berven was opened in The Center for Cultural Decontamination in Belgrade on Thursday, 16 February. The exhibition was attended by the artist.

RAX - Between Fire and Ice

An extraordinary photography exhibition titled "Between Fire and Ice" by artist Ragnar Axelsson Rax has been opened at the Gallery Artget in Belgrade, on February 21, in the presence of professional artistic photographers and numerous visitors. The exhibition at Artget Gallery is being realized as part of the program of the 9th Nordisk Panorama

DANUBE - ROUTE OF CULTURE

The Danube Dialogue

On the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the settlements of the Germans in Vojvodina throughout 10-day stayed in the BKF Residency center, Nenad Novak Stefanović and Stefan Barth moderated discussions on life as it relates to the Danube. The participants would edit the texts and prepare them for publication - *The Danube Dialogue*

Europe Cafe

Ulm, 15 of September

On the occasion of the Cultural night in Ulm Balkan Anima Bend was held concert in the Hall of Danau Buro. The concert was organized by Balkankult in cooperation with the Danau Buro, Ulm. The concert was excellent received by numerous audiences. Balkan Anima Band (Boban Bjelic accordion; Vladimir Pavlovic, cello; Katarina Misic, piano) is one of the most appealing bands in Serbia today.

Exlibris für einen interkulturellen Dialog

Donauschwäbisches Zentralmuseum - Ulm, 15. September - 16 November 2012

On the occasion of the Cultural night in Ulm an Ex Libris exhibition Danube road of Culture was organized and opened by Mr. Christian Glass, director of Donauschwäbisches Zentralmuseum and Dimitrije Vujadinovic, director of Balkankult.

Drops of the Danube



The workshop was developed by the Danube Cultural Cluster, which is an initiative of the Balassi Institute – Collegium Hungaricum Vienna and the association “Institut für Kulturresistente Güter Wien”. The Balkankult Foundation Belgrade providing the exhibition Ex Libris *Danube road of Culture*. Dimitrije Vujadinovic and Aleksandar Pedovic was a participant on the panel discussion.

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Presentation of the publication - Folk culture and cultural policy of Serbia

16 May, The Museum of National Theater in Belgrade

Key note speakers: Prof. Dr Aleksandar Petrovic and authors of the research (Misa Djurkovic and Dimitrije Vujadinovic)

Serbia lacks cultural policy which would boost the efforts to protect the authenticity, the one that would at the same time place protection within modern context and thus support the vitality of folk culture in fast-growing processes of regional and global changes.

Brain Drain and its' impact on Serbian Performing Arts Scenes

8th / 9th of June 2012, Galerija Matice Srpske, Novi Sad, Serbia

The symposium deals with the impact of brain drain on the Serbian independent performing arts scene. In Serbia, a drain of Performing artists can be observed during the last two decades. Over the last few years we are witnessing a new problem – a new drain specific for Serbia and the region.

Creative platforms – learning from each other

Creative platforms – learning from each other - Representative of Balkankult attended the expert meeting, held on 24 September in organization Ministry of Finance and Economy. Meeting was attended by ten representatives of organization from Serbia and experts from Austria and Germany

Culture of Vojvodina, creative part of Europe – perspectives, visions, opportunities

Culture Institute of Vojvodina Slovaks organized international conference Culture of Vojvodina, creative part of Europe – perspectives, visions, opportunities. The conference was in the Hall of Assembly AP Vojvodina et 27th November. Representative of Balkankult, Dimitrije Vujadinovic held opening lecture entitled Creative Vojvodina

Balkan Culture Policies

Belgrade, 28 November

At the conference “Balkan Cultural Policies - What Is (to be) Done”, speakers review the cultural policies implemented in the Balkans. The conference brings together representatives of cultural institutions and media from the region. Representative of Balkankult, Dimitrije Vujadinovic was a participant on the panel discussion – Dying Culture and the Financial Crisis.

PUBLICATIONS

The Arts and Copyright

“Copyright and the Arts” is the second publication in WIPO’s Learn from the past, create the future series aimed at young students. The main part of the publication provides basic information about copyright and related rights.

#2 of Cultural Policy Update

Research *Minorities and popular music in Serbia between authenticity and globalization* by Misa Djurkovic and Dimitrije Vujadinovic has been published in *#2 of Cultural Policy Update – CPU* (Boekman foundation, Amsterdam).

DONATIONS

We are very grateful to the European Investment Bank - Institute from Luxembourg, Phoenixpharma d.o. from Belgrade and NLB Bank from Belgrade for their decision to award us a grant!



Nova Ljubljanska Banka

NLB Srbija

BKF RESIDENCY

The Balkankult Foundation Intereg established the Balkankult Residency open for guests since the end of 2011.

The *Residency* is located in the Northern part of Serbia, in the National Park of Mt. Fruska Gora, 50 km from Belgrade and 20 km from Novi Sad, an important university centre and the second largest city in Serbia. The location is characterised by exceptional natural surroundings (7 km from the Danube) and several late-medieval Orthodox monasteries

What makes this residency special? It seeks to host both creative artists and professionals in the field of liberal science (philosophers, sociologists, ethnologists and others) who are "critical thinkers" – in the sense that they reflect the reality and the way we interpret it in our observations, arguments and other forms of communication.

The center offers the ultimate hospitality: artists and researchers are free to use the residency as they wish, without any obligation towards the host.

Planned activities and Development program of the Residency for 2012

The founders and Board Members of the Balkankult Foundation Intereg at the meeting held on 21 February worked out the plan for the Residency for 2012 year.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

New long- term project starting

That project that could build a new view onto locality in a global relation (under global pressure). *Discussions* between people from various disciplines (technicians, architects, artists, writers, etc.) with different perspectives.

International cooperation

Karoly Mehes, author and coordinator of the Pecs Residence Center (Hungary) has stayed at the Balkankult Foundation Residence center. The possibilities of cooperation between the two centers were discussed. The protocol agreement has put in place. A joint project has been planned for the next year - *Dialogue between two writers*. The main goal is: making it possible for the Serbian and Hungarian writers and artists to get to know

each other better and work together in some way either in Pécs or in Fruška Gora. The two parties agree to look for financial support at the local and even at the European level to enable this cooperation.

The Residency has established cooperation with the Akademie Schloss Solitude from Stuttgart, one of the most important residency centres in Europe.

BKF Residency has become a member of the Microresidence Network group in the beginning of 2012, which consists of 22 residency centres from all over the world and is coordinated by Youkobo Art Space from Japan. This year, the Centre will establish concrete cooperation with all members of the group. / <http://www.dislocate.net/microanalysis.pdf>

Hosting guests

Artists, writers and cultural practitioners from Hungary, Germany, USA stayed at the Centre in 2012: Reinhard Doubrava (Germany); Karoly Mehes, (Hungary); Stefan Barth (Germany); Joerg Tokler (Germany); Denise Georg (USA) Ruth Margraff and Nikos Brisco (USA).

Karoly Mehes, author and coordinator of the Pecs Residence Center (Hungary) has stayed at the Balkankult Foundation Residence center.

A fine art photographer **Denise George** from the USA stayed in the residency from 21 to 23 May. The purpose of these visits was to link some pilot photographs to the cultural cuisine in Vojvodina. On this occasion together with Dimitrije Vujadinovic, the director of Balkankult, she visited a restaurant called the *Old Building* in the city Mol, a fish restaurant *Carda* in the city of Bezdán and Jeremija - Serbian bread museum in Pecinci, where she attended a family celebration – Slava (Family Patron Saint celebration).

Mr. **Stefan Barth** and Mr. **Novak Stefanovic**, who are jointly working on the project *Dialogue on the Danube*, spent ten days on Mt. Fruška Gora. Both authors have been raised on the banks of the Danube. The Danube features as the main theme in their literature and journalist works. After the discussions, the participants would edit the texts and prepare them for publication.

Reinhard Dubrava stayed at the residency from 29 August to 4 September. The general topic of his work was: *Local identities – why do we need culture*, similarities and differences between cultures, especially under the focus on the influence of a global, commercial, value system.

Reinhard Dubrava took a lot of photographs from all the places he visited. He was attracted to different situations and objects.

Ruth Margraff, Associate Professor, Art Institute of Chicago and **Nikos Brisco**, Singer/songwriter /composer, were guests in October.

During their stay, Ruth and Nikos worked on a joint performance that will show at the festival in Istanbul and Thessaloniki. They had an opportunity to meet and talk to many artists, intellectuals from Belgrade and Novi Sad. Part of their performance was presented to audience in the Foxtrot Club in Novi Sad. They praised excellent facilities for art work.

The texts, a few pages of new Ruth's drama and poetry *Help* by Nikos written by during their stay in the Residency will be part of the project *Balkankult talks*.

Development

Residency (Balkankult Foundation Intereg) opened a new office. Thanks to donations Balkankult bought modular facility set and placed close to the BKF Residency on Mt. Fruška Gora.

This will enable a more efficient work of the Balkankult and Residency. The office has fully technical equipment for two persons.

It is planned for the BKF Residency to develop in the direction of a "creative cultural incubator". With that goal in mind, it is necessary to provide a space for round- tables, meetings, conferences, exhibitions and video presentations. It will be necessary to build a small multi-purpose conference hall.

Conclusion

The founders and Board Members of the BKF Residency is pleased with the results achieved in 2012. The Residency will continue its activities in an enhanced cultural mobility and cultural bridging. We believe that international cooperation will be stepped-up in 2013.

CONTRIBUTION

Cultural Cuisine by Denise George

My name is Denise George, I'm a Fine Art, Documentary and Editorial photographer from Los Angeles California.

Last May I had the opportunity to stay at the Balkankult Artist Residency in Frusca Gora, by invitation of Dimitrije Vujadinovic, the director of Balkankult. The purpose of my visit was to do initial location scouting and 'test' photography of the cultural cuisine of Vojvodina and to explore the wine region of Frusca Gora.

The week spent with Dimitrije as my host and guide was extremely valuable, educational and enlightening. He facilitated my artistic vision and goals by introducing me to the restaurant called the 'Old Building' in the city of Mol, the fish restaurant 'Carda' in the city of Bezdán and Jeremija and the bread museum in Pecinci, as well as giving me an insightful introduction to the history and beauty of the region.

As a non Serbian speaking American, I could not have achieved all that I did without the Balkankult Foundation and Dimitrije's expert knowledge of the area, attentiveness and dedication to my personal artistic goals.

The Artist Residence apartment in which I stayed, was idyllic. The lovely natural setting, privacy and modern comfort of the accommodations are highly conducive to creative inspiration, whether an artist, photographer, writer or professional creative. Whoever has the opportunity to visit and stay in the residency - they will be enhanced creatively and their project enriched.

It is rare in this world that an artist/professional can go to a physical place where, whatever their creative needs and desires are, they are met and sponsored. I am grateful to the Balkankult Foundation for affording me the experience and to Dimitrije for his generosity of time, knowledge, hospitality and sharing of cultural contacts.

My visit exceeded my expectations and I hope to return in the spring to pursue a possible collaboration with Dimitrije in the field of travel and cultural cuisine which could be marketed in America to help introduce a greater awareness of this beautiful and historic region.

Denise George

www.denisegeorge.com