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DUNAV - ROUTE OF CULTURE - KULTURSTRASSE

Ex libris for an intercultural dialogue

Tribel III - Ex libris competition

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

Project organizer: Balkankult Foundation

Project Leader: Dimitrije Vujadinović

President of the jury and supervisor: academic Časlav Očić

Official support: Secretariat for Culture of the Vojvodina Province (Serbia)

Financial support: Donauschwäbisches Zentralmuseum, Ulm (Germany)

Supporters: Association of Danube River

Municipalities "Danube" (Bulgaria); Donau Buro, Ulm (Germany), Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart (Germany) The Graphic Cabinet of Ruse Regional Library (Bulgaria); Dunaújváros Online (Hungary); Institute of Contemporary Art Dunaújváros (Hungary); The European Network of Literary Centres e.V. Berlin (Germany); NGO World and Danube, Novi Sad (Serbia), NGO "European Cultural Center" (Bulgaria), City Hall of Tulcea (Romania).

Coordinator: Tamara Čikeš

Deadline date: 30/ 03 /2011



Introduction

The Danube is the foremost European river!

The Danube region has always been special since it is a birth place and cradle of European spirit. The Danube has become a metaphor of development and influential paths of Europe which have built and enriched this continent, even if sometimes they reduced it to rubble and caused it to regress.

Each region, each city and village along the Danube is unique in its own right, but all together they form a mosaic of the general image of the passing of life on the Danube banks.

This powerful river offers the possibility for all European people to recognize their unique future connected to this river.

Projects goals

The Balkankult Foundation is launching the Third international Ex-libris competition on the topic of ***The Danube - Route of Culture***, in order to promote the development of cultural, artistic, communicational, professional, as well as technical and economical ties within the Danube region.



Taking into account this aspect, the project goals include:

- supporting inter-regional art connections, i.e. bringing together artists and promoting cooperation among them around common inspiration
- initiating an intercultural dialogue for a broader audience
- spreading the idea of the Danube region as a unique European region
- affirming art in the context of a process advancing better understanding among different cultures within the Danube region
- connecting artists, the exchange of views and visions surrounding one idea and establishing a large synergy force, is significant not only as a support for cultural production but also as a driving force for spreading spiritual and civilization values. That is why the project is of utmost importance.

Goals set for 2010

Project realization will last two years (2010/2011.). During the course of 2010 the following concrete goals are to be realized:

- Forming an organizational and professional project team
- Distributing a call for participation for the competition
- Finding partners, donators and sponsors
- Informing Danube cities, city institutions, art academies, galleries and all others who may be interested in supporting the project and participating.
- Widely informing artists from the region
- PR activities through regional printed and electronic media
- Collecting and organizing received works

Achieved results in 2010

- Forming an organizational and professional project team

The managing board of the Balkankult Foundation has decided that the president of the jury be academic Časlav Očić, connoisseur and collector of ex libris works. The other jury members, who will judge the received works in May 2011, will be selected at the beginning of next year.

Tamara Čikeš is selected as project coordinator.

Foundation director Dimitrije Vujadinović has immediately notified the members about the goals, expected results and phases of project realization.

All members of the organization board have been kept regularly notified about all the foundation's activities concerning project realization.

- Distributing a call for participation for the competition

In the middle of September 2010 a call for participation in the Ex Libris competition on the topic of the Danube river was distributed. The competition is open until April 31st 2011. The rules of participation have been translated into all languages of the Danube region.

- Finding partners, donators and sponsors

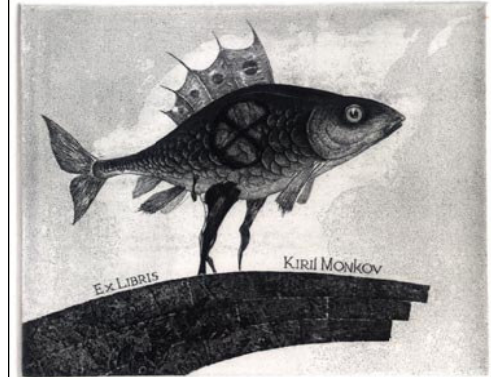
Finding partners, donators and sponsors is primarily shifted towards international cooperation, namely the potential being offered by the Danube region.

The number of institutions which have so far organizationally supported the project's realization indicates the significance of the project: **Donau Buro**, Ulm (Germany); **Akademie Schloss Solitude**, Stuttgart (Germany); **Donauschwaebisches Zentralmuseum**, Ulm (Germany); **Association of Danube River Municipalities "Danube"** (Bulgaria); **Graphic Cabinet of the Liuben Karavelov Library in Ruse** (Bulgaria); **Dunaújváros Online** (Hungary); **Institute of Contemporary Art, Dunaújváros** (Hungary); **European Network of Literary Centers HALMA**, Berlin (Germany); **Association "World and Danube"**, Novi Sad; (Serbia); **European Cultural Center**, Ruse (Bulgaria); Cities **Ulm** (Germany), **Vienna** (Austria); **Vukovar** (Croatia), **Apatin** (Serbia), **Dunaujvaros** (Hungary), **Tulcea** (Romania) and others. The number increases each day.

Dimitrije Vujadinović has travelled to Ulm (Germany) where he met with Mr. Peter Langer from Donau Buro and Mr. Christian Glass from the Donauschwaebisches Zentralmuseum.

On that occasion it has been agreed that the Donau Buro will support the project, Mr. Langer has agreed to personally give effort for a successful project realization and to help with later organization of exhibitions in cities of the Danube region.

At the meeting in the Donauschwaebisches Zentralmuseum, Mr. Dimitrije Vujadinovic has presented the project to Mr. Glass and suggested cooperation. It has been agreed that precise methods of cooperation would be discussed during Mr. Glass's upcoming visit to Novi Sad.



Formal Agreement on Cooperation and Donation from the Donaushwaebisches Zentralmuseum

Mr. Christian Glass, director of the Donaushwaebisches Zentralmuseum, Ulm, during his stay in Serbia has met with Dimitrije Vujadinovic, director of the Balkankult Foundation on Friday, November 12th. It has been agreed that the Donaushwaebisches Zentralmuseum financially support the Ex Libris project on the topic of the Danube - Kulturstrasse. A formal agreement has been signed two weeks later.

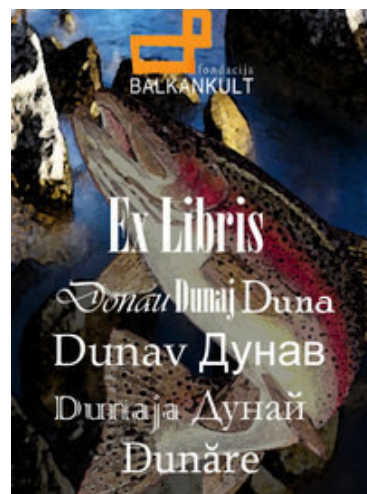
Cooperation agreement with Academy Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart

Danica Radović, one of the foundation founders, has travelled to Stuttgart to meet with the direktor of Akademie Schloss Solitude, Mr. Jean-Baptiste Joly. The result of the meeting was an agreement for the Academy to support the project, notify artists about the competition and to give out one of the awards to motivate participation.

Memorandum on cooperation for project realization has been signed with :

A memorandum on cooperation has been signed with the following institutions:

- NGO "World and Danube" from Novi Sad,
- Institute of Contemporary Art, Dunaújváros (Hungary).
- graphic Cabinet of the Liuben Karavelov Library in Ruse (Bugarska)
- Dunaújváros Online (Hungary)
- City Hall of Tulcea (Romania)



Danube Region Cities

Through e-mail, fax and telephone, the information regarding the project has been spread to all larger cities in the Danube region. Most of the cities which were contacted have promised to notify artists within their region about the competition. **77** local communities and cities in the Danube region have been contacted.

Immediate support and involvement in the project's second phase (exhibitions) has been accepted by nine cities. The number is constantly increasing!

Companies

Through e-mail, fax and telephone, information about the competition has been spread to a large number of companies within the Danube region (over **50**). This activity will continue next year as well.

The project's secretariat has begun negotiations with several large companies concerning donations in 2011, such as NLB Bank.

Associations

A large number of associations which were contacted have expressed a will to cooperate. Among others, they are:

- Danube Lifeline
- Wienerhafen - Danube river port in Vienna
- Interkulturelles Zentrum (Intercultural Center)
- ADO Dunav (association of Danube River Municipalities)
- Arge Donaulaender
- Donau Buero (Ulm)
- ICPDR - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
- Danube Tourist Commission
- Institut für den Donauroaum und Mitteleuropa (IDRM) (Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe)
- International Scientific Forum
- "Danube - River of Cooperation"

- Informing Danube cities, city institutions, art academies, galleries and all others who may be interested in supporting the project and participating.

Setting up a multi-lingual web presentation of the project (<http://www.donau-kulturstrasse.net/>) with the purpose of informing people about the project's significance and goals, and addressing potential partners, donors, sponsors and the media, as well as artists. All available texts have been translated into all languages spoken within the Danube region, including English, so it could be widely accessible. So far over **30** internet sites have linked to this site.

The site is regularly updated with new information. The monthly hit count for the website has reached **500** visitors.

- Widely informing artists from the region

On Facebook

Facebook is the most attractive global communication tool today. In that context, Balkankult has set up its own presentation in order to directly engage more artists to actively participate in the competition. By the end of 2010, **450** artists have become Facebook friends and have expressed their will to send in their works for the competition.



A large number of internet websites have also posted the information and a call for participation for artists. It should especially be noted that the project has been posted on one of the most significant international websites Lab for Culture - <http://www.labforculture.org/en/groups/public/labforculture/events-and-news/76742>

- PR activities through regional printed and electronic media

Danube Kulturstrasse has been presented at the founding conference of the Danube Media Network.

The third Ex Libris competition for an intercultural dialogue "Danube - Route of Culture - Kulturstrasse" has been presented on October 29th in the "Master Center" in Novi Sad, to the participants of the founding conference of the Danube Media Network, among whom were leaders and notable journalists from the most important agencies, electronic media outlets, newspapers and weekly papers from all Danube region countries and countries from the surrounding region.

Representative of the Balkankult Foundation, Danica Radović, spoke about the intercultural significance of this international Ex libris competition for a cultural and communicational cooperation within the region. Through immediate contacts and discussions with Pavel Urban (Slovakia), Ognjan Prvulov, Margarita Trifonova, Alben Milanov (Bulgaria), Sabina Geller (Germany), Senad Hergić (Austria), Senka Nedeljković (Croatia), Ljiljana Zurovac (Bosnia and Herzegovina), C. Dunutiu (Romania), Dubravka Blagojević and Dragana Banjac (Republic of Srpska) it has been agreed that with the help of the media the widest circles of the artistic and cultural communities from these countries would be notified about the competition.

Conclusion

Based on the achieved results we can conclude that the set goals for 2010 have been reached according to plan.



Donauschwäbisches Zentralmuseum Ulm



donau.büro.ulm

Akademie Schloss Solitude 

LabforCulture.org

