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Culture is our thought, feeling and knowledge. It possesses wisdom and represents a fundament in building a 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 arisen out of the need for intensified cultural life, including the necessity of artists and cultural operators from the region. Mobility programs are a new trend in Europe's cultural life. Activities of the 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 fund 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.

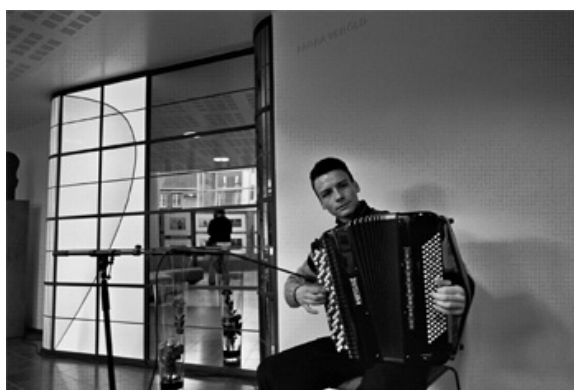
In my opinion, the key words for mobility of artists are tolerance, understanding, freedom of self-expression. Every trip I take is a new inspiration, a chance to travel and write. Because, writing itself is traveling, but in mind... Besides inspiration and encounters on trips, it is getting out of routine,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

Morelle Smith,
Scottish writer and translator

List of supported artists and practitioners

Participants in 2005

- Anja Jerčić (Slovenia), Marija Veteroska (FYR Macedonia), Anka Danailovska (FYR Macedonia), Avdo Žiga (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Spas Halačev (Bulgaria), Slobodan Beljinac (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Zoran Banović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), graphic artists - participating in the Third graphic workshop in Belgrade, organised by ULUS – Serbia
- Mirjana Stanković – participated in the Grožnjan workshop of the project In the sounds of the places – Croatia
- Vera Stanarčević, sculptor (Serbia) – Ice Sculpting Colony in Finland
- Srđan Jokanović, journalist (Serbia) - making news reportages about culture and life Lapland – Finland
- Jesper Andersen, film consultant (Denmark) –cooperation of film archives – Serbia
- Dejan Sandić and Danica Đokic, curators (Serbia) – Lapland - arranging exchange of exhibitions
- Dagur Kari, film director and Orri Jonsson, photographer (Iceland) – attending the opening of the Days of Iceland Culture in Serbia
- Gordana Kaljalović, sculptor and Đorđe Odanović, photographer (Serbia) – Wood Sculpting Colony in Finland
- Nebojsa Popović, film critic and Igor Toholj, film director (Serbia) – participating in the Nordisk Panorama Film Festival in Bergen – Norway
- Tatjana Latinović, translator and Sjon, writer (Iceland) – participating in the Belgrade Book Fair – Serbia
- Svetlana Matuša, sculptor (Iceland) –opening of the Lava People exhibition – Serbia
- Kari Laine, director Arts council of Lapland and Ulla Pirttjarvi Lansman, singer (Finland) - attending the opening of the manifestation Lapland in Serbia – Serbia
- Jaakko Heikkila, photographer (Finland) – exhibition in Belgrade – Serbia



- *Teuvo Tuomivaara, sculptor (Finland) – exhibition in Belgrade – Serbia*

- *Suzana Antić (Serbia) – attending opening of the exhibition Undiscovered Culture – Eastern Serbia – Finland*

- *Arturo Bertoli, cultural manager (Italy) – preparing the festival In the sounds of the places in Serbia*



- *Boško Ninčić, mayor of Zaječar (Serbia)*

- *Bora Dimitrijević, curator (Serbia) – visiting Italian town Aquileia*

- *Representatives of Zaječar (Serbia) – visit to Cormons during the Grapes' festival – Italy*

Participants in 2006

- *Jan Wilker, designer (Germany) – traveled to Belgrade in order to attend the opening of the exhibition Remixed Serbia – Serbia, January 2006*

- *Hjalti Karlsson, designer (Iceland) – traveled to Belgrade in order to attend the opening of the exhibition Remixed Serbia – Serbia, January 2006*



- *Arndis Johansdottir, designer (Iceland) – traveled to Belgrade in order to attend the opening of the exhibition on Icelandic design – Serbia, April 2006*

- *Steindor Andersen, singer (Iceland) – traveled to Belgrade in order to give a Rimur concert – Serbia, May 2006*

- *Hilmar Orn Hilmarson, composer (Iceland) – traveled to Belgrade in order to perform Rimur concert – Serbia, May 2006*



- *Vladislav Bajac, writer and publisher (Serbia)- traveled to Reykjavik in order to participate in the writers exchange programme - Iceland, May 2006*

- *Branislava Džunov, journalist (Serbia)- traveled to Zurich in order to attend the Television festival – Switzerland, May 2006*

- *Marianne Moller, representative of the Nordic Council of Ministers (Finland) – Serbia, June 2006*

- *Riitta Heinämaa, representative of the Nordic Council of Ministers (Finland)- Serbia, June 2006*

- Jelena Erdeljan, art historian (Serbia)- traveled to London in order to participate at the conference Being Byzantine – United Kingdom, June 2006

- Snežana Đekić, musician (Serbia) – traveled to San Giovanni al Natisone to give a concert as part of the project In the sounds of the places – Italy, July 2006

- Petar Ugriljuk, musician (Serbia) – traveled to San Giovanni al Natisone to give a concert within project In the sounds of the places – Italy, July 2006

- Mirjana Stanković, coordinator (Serbia) – traveled to San Giovanni al Natisone as coordinator in the project In the sounds of the places – Italy, July 2006

- Violeta Srečković, opera singer (Serbia) – traveled to Medeia where she performed within project In the sounds of the places – Italy, July 2006

- Asmundur Asmundson, artist (Iceland) – traveled to Čačak in order to participate in the Artist Residency – Serbia, July 2006

- Nebojsa Popovic, film critic (Serbia) – visited Copenhagen and Aarhus - Denmark, September 2006

- Smiljka Isaković, musician (Serbia) – traveled to Reykjavik in order to give a concert at Sallurin – Iceland, September 2006

- Sasa Pancic, artist (Serbia) - traveled to Inari, Lapland in order participate in the Arctic Arts Week- Finland, September 2006

- Hrafnkel Sigurdsson, artist (Iceland)- traveled to Zaječar in order to participate in the Artistic Colony – Serbia, September 2006

- Raket Gunnarsdottir, artist (Iceland) - traveled to Majdanpek in order to participate in the Artistic Residency – Serbia, September 2006

- Delegation of the town of Zaječar (Serbia) – traveled to Cormons to participate in the manifestation “Grapes festival” – Italy, September 2006

- Delegation of the town of Zaječar (Serbia) – traveled to Gorizia to present the town within I gusti di frontiera – Italy, September 2006



- *Jaakko Heikkilä, photographer (Finland) - visited Serbia to research for the photo monograph on East Serbia planned for 2007- Serbia, September 2006*
- *Teuvo Tuomivaara, sculptor (Finland)- took part in the artists' residency Gamzigrad in Gamzigradska Banja in East Serbia as a follow up of the Lapland Serbia Cultural Bridging Programme. – Serbia, September and October 2006*
- *Pirjo Nykanen, artist (Finland) - took part in the artists' residency Gamzigrad in Gamzigradska Banja in East Serbia as a follow up of the Lapland Serbia Cultural Bridging Programme. – Serbia, September and October 2006*
- *Dragan Vojvodić, artist (Serbia) – traveled to Reykjavik in order to participate in the Artist Residency SIM – Iceland, December 2006*



Participants in 2007

- *Mr. Jakko Heikila, eminent photographer from Finland;*
- *Mr. Otto Wiezorek , artist from Germany;*
- *Mr. Ventzislav Dikov from Bulgaria.*
- *Ms. Nina Karin Monsen, philosopher from Norway*

Foundation continues cooperation with Nordic countries in the field of International Graphic Workshops in Belgrade where will participate artists from

- *Denmark (Klavs Weiss, Kristian Egholm Bust), Finland (Taina Kokkonen, Annu Vertanen), Norway (Hermann Isaksen), Sweden (Lars Wikstrom), Greenland (Anne Birthe Hove) Iceland (Valgredur Hauksdottir).*



Participants in 2008

- *Mr Csaba Bene Perlenberg (with courtesy of HEPP film, Malmo, Sweden) - Serbia, February 2008*
- *Simposiym of the European network of literary centres - Halma, 32 participants, Serbia, Mart 2008*
- *Jaakko Heikkilä, photographer (Finland) - Serbia, September 2008*
- *Reinhard Doubrawa, German artist who has visited Arts colony at Gamzigrad banja during august*
- *Natasia Kotic to stay in the SIM's Guest Apartment and Studio for Visual Artists in Reykjavík, in September 2008.*