



## Atelier

# RENFORCER LA COOPERATION CULTURELLE BALKAN/EU/FRENCH CULTURAL COOPERATION

Avignon – 7-10 Juillet 2009

## // Synthèse

### CONTEXTE

Dans une perspective d'adhésion à l'Union Européenne, à plus ou moins long terme, des pays du Sud-Est Européen (la région des Balkans dans un sens large), il est important de renforcer les liens et de développer les coopérations, aujourd'hui assez faibles, avec ces pays. Dans cette dynamique, la structuration des secteurs culturels dans cette région des Balkans, comme la réactualisation de la place de cette zone dans le paysage d'action des acteurs culturels européens, et notamment français, semblent particulièrement nécessaires. Le Relais Culture Europe (Centre de Ressources sur l'Europe et la Culture et Point de Contact National pour le programme *Culture* de l'Union européenne) a pour mission de promouvoir et d'accompagner le renforcement de la coopération culturelle européenne. Dans ce cadre, il a souhaité rassembler acteurs et partenaires afin d'ouvrir un espace de réflexion sur le développement de la coopération culturelle Balkan / EU, visant au développement d'un programme d'action pour les années à venir.

### OBJECTIF GENERAL DU PROCESSUS

Cette rencontre a constitué le point de départ d'un processus visant à contribuer, d'une part, au renforcement et à la structuration des secteurs culturels dans cette région des Balkans, d'autre part à développer l'implication des acteurs culturels français dans des coopérations multilatérales, et en particulier avec des acteurs de la région des Balkans.

### OBJECTIF SPECIFIQUE DE L'ATELIER

L'objectif de l'atelier était extrêmement concret : d'une part identifier des enjeux communs, fondements de collaborations à construire, et d'autre part explorer les modes et modalités de développement de projets de coopération multilatérales. L'atelier a ainsi donné lieu à une feuille de route pour l'année à venir.

Les participants ont ainsi pu questionner le développement de la coopération Balkans/EU à travers un échange constructif d'informations, d'analyses et de pratiques. Ils ont également pu explorer des modes de développement de synergies entre acteurs, de développement de leurs compétences ainsi que les outils disponibles pour le soutien à la coopération culturelle dans la région.

### PARTICIPANTS

L'atelier a concerné The workshop involved 25 professionals, i.e artists, cultural managers, journalists, diplomats, policy makers, policy advisors and representants of local authorities, from Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey.

### SYNTHÈSE

*L'atelier a reposé sur des principes d'échanges informels et de dynamique participative. Il a été pensé comme une situation d'apprentissage mutuel et comme un processus de réflexion collaborative. Les participants ont partagé informations, expériences et ont débattu de questions aussi bien politiques que pratiques. Des thématiques et enjeux communs ont ainsi émergé au cours de ces trois jours.*

Les participants partageaient, une approche fortement transversale. Leurs projets peuvent être considérés comme des laboratoires d'enjeux plus larges, d'ordre sociaux, économiques ou politiques. La Culture a ainsi été Those could indeed be considered as laboratories of wider social / economical / political issues. Culture has been therefore emphasized not as an extra option, but as an essential component for social cohesion, an improvement to the life quality of citizens, as well as to economic development. The question of the place of the artist within the society was thus raised and defined by I-Wei Li as a 'context creator'.

Sustainability has been addressed as a main thematic and as a major issue through various ways, and notably :

- In the field territorial development: On the one hand in space design and planning, with specific focus on heritage, industrial heritage and reconversion of leftover spaces. On the other hand in the decision making process, connected with the issue of civic participation



This workshop is organised in partnership with the Festival of Avignon and with the support of the School of Avignon. It is organised in coordination with the Rencontres européennes of the Festivals of Avignon and Aix-en-Provence..

in cultural policy making. The notions of access to culture / to one's own culture, of cultural democracy and ownership were also stressed as important;

- Through environmental concerns, with the necessity of developing a balanced relationship with our natural environment, of highlighting interdependence and developing interconnections with it ;
- In the cultural sector : on the one hand, in economical terms specifically, with the necessity to consider the values that are created by artists and to explore alternative approaches to trade labour for non-monetary payback. On the other hand, multilateral regional cooperation projects might also be sustainable models of development as they involve transfers and solidarities of various kinds (economical, know-how, etc.).

The conditions and process of creation and production were also discussed. The concept of cultural ecosystem was mentioned and investigated: what is needed for the development of a cultural sector? The importance of regional integration was especially emphasized as crucial (critical mass and critical size).

The necessity to develop interconnections, networking, mutualisation and peer to peer support between professionals, practices and experiments has been highlighted all along the discussions. Such practices are especially supportive regarding capacity building, education and advocacy. They are linked with issues such as mobility, residencies, co-productions, etc.

The question of advocacy at local, national, regional and European level was a significant dimension in many projects, and a major concern for most participants. These various levels are connected and inter-dependant.

At a local level, one of the challenges is the building of sustainable and fair relationship with the institution.

Cultural actors are also key actors in the territorial development and have a role to play as laboratories, especially for an inclusive and participative decision and policy making process.

At the national level, participants are working to stimulate national authorities to get more involved in ongoing cultural issues at all levels.

At the European level, culture is being more and more acknowledged as an important contributors to EU's economic, educational, political and social development. Texts such as the Unesco Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) constitute a legal basis for the place of culture within the European project. However, the place and role of culture is actually still an ongoing work, not to say a fight. The mobilisation of the cultural sector towards this issue is crucial in order to affect EU cultural policies in a bottom up approach.

In this framework, at a regional level, it is important to secure that the voice of independent cultural sector of the Balkan region is heard, on EU and local/national levels, and to promote the region as constituent part of Europe that is able to participate in re-building of European cultural space.

The EU Enlargement / Accession policy has been presented during two info cells. The first one focussed on its historical and political framework, while the second one concentrated on the programmes available for multilateral cooperation projects. Both sessions highlighted that European enlargement in the Balkan region is a political will, although there are difficulties to translate this will on the operational level.

Culture has indeed been an important issue in each European enlargement even though the Iron Curtain's fall enabled eastward enlargement and then changed the perspective of the EU enlargement, which led to the establishment of standards for new member states.

Single financial instrument for pre-accession countries, the Instrument for Pre-accession aims at preparing candidate countries for full implementation of the Community acquis at the time of accession, and leads potentially candidate countries to progressively align themselves on the Community acquis. It is structuring transfers of political, economical and methodological types.

Nevertheless, with new kinds of policies and strategies such as the Neighbourhood policy, programmes are overlapping each-other in the Balkan region, with little visibility and without allowing cooperation involving the all region. Countries have indeed various statuses (EU member states, candidate, potentially candidate countries) and may participate to various types of community programmes: internal programmes, internal territorial programmes, programmes in the framework of the "EU as a global actor" policy, etc.

In this context, multilateral projects, as they are ways of transferring community acquis, but also as laboratories for EU intergration, need to overcome the framework of single programmes in order to be built.

These info cell emphasized the need for further researches, information and technical support.

These three days of discussions and debates revealed how Balkan area constitutes a laboratory and a ressource for the European integration. It also showed that although regional integration is a political will and an ongoing process, it needs to be sustained with the cultural actors involvement and actions, in a bottom up and contributive approach.

At the end of the workshop six main topics and issues have been defined in order to build up a roadmap for forthcoming exchanges and collaboration : Industrial heritage / sustainability / mobility, residence issue, co-producing / training programs, capacity building / interconnecting, peer to peer / advocacy, policy making, activism.

## PROCHAINES ETAPES

The working process for 2009-2010 will aim indeed at pursuing the reflection on the topics and issues that have been identified, but above all at accompanying the emerging of concrete projects bringing solutions to these. Such projects should be built up in the framework of reinforced cooperations, based on european and multilateral foundings.

In this objective, a working plan was set, articulated in two main working meetings (Ljubljana, April 2010 and Istanbul, May 2010), one final meeting (Avignon 2010), and additional events providing opportunities for new gatherings, workshops and study visits.

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| 2009 | 28-30 September, Brussels: EUROPEAN CULTURAL FORUM - <i>public meeting</i>   |
|      | 9-10 October, Sarajevo (Media center): Trans Balkans Europe project - <i>gathering and public discussions</i> (upon invitation)  |
|      | 16-17 October, Skopje (Cultural Centre Tocka): Trans Balkans Europe project - <i>gathering and public discussions</i> (upon invitation)  |
|      | 27-28 October, Cluj: Forum 'CULTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'<br><i>Organised by AltArt and Soul for Europe - public meeting</i><br>(possibility of a workshop on peer to peer / study visits)  |
|      | 12-16 November, Zagreb (Community center Cinema Mosor): Trans Balkans Europe, 'INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE NEW EUROPEAN CULTURAL POLICIES – THE PLACE FOR WESTERN BALKAN' (working title) - <i>public meeting</i>   |
|      | End of November, Skopje : meeting on art factories (?)   |
| 2010 | February 2010, Paris: Forum 'CULTURAL COOPERATION AND NEW MUTUALISATION AND SOLIDARITIES IN EUROPE'<br><i>Organised by Relais Culture Europe in coordination with Turkish cultural season in France - public meeting (two main public debates, roundtables, workshops)</i><br>One of the main public debates will focuss on the European enlargement, and several roundtables will be dedicated to culture and sustainable development, with a specific focus on the South East Europe region.<br>(possibility of workshops and study visits.) |
|      | <u>April 2010, Ljubljana: Sostenuto conference 'Culture and social economy / new economical models'</u><br><i>Organised by Bunker in the framework of the projetc Sostenuto, thinking culture as factors for economic and social innovation - public meeting</i><br>(possibility of a workshop on peer to peer / study visits)   |
|      | <u>May 2010, Istanbul: 'MAKING PLACES FOR THE ARTS' – Art factories and reconversions, new european standarts and needs</u><br><i>Organised by C-U-M-A and Relais Culture Europe, in coordination with iDANS Istanbul festival, in partnership with Depo Istanbul - workshop and study visits</i><br>The workshop and study visits will be involving about 50 cultural actors, architects and city planners from Turkey, the South East Europe region and France.  |
|      | <u>July 2010, Avignon : Aesthetic and intercultural issues in the european enlargement and neighborhood</u><br><i>Organised Relais Culture Europe, in partnership with the Festival d'Avignon – public debate, workshop</i><br>The public debate will notably deal with the thematics that were addressed all along the year, from an aesthetic and intercultural prospective. The workshop will allow to go back on the working process since the first meeting in Avignon, and decide upon further steps.                                    |