

# New Politics of Solidarity through Cultural and Knowledge Production



Country / region or city:

**Serbia, Bosnia and  
Herzegovina, Kosovo**

Name of Cooperation Project:

**New Politics of Solidarity  
through Cultural and  
Knowledge Production**

Partner organizations:

**Centre for Cultural De-  
contamination – CzKD**  
(Belgrade),

**Centre for Research, Art and  
Civic Engagement “The City”**  
/ **Tuzla Centar Grad** (Tuzla),

**Centre of Visual Arts  
MULTIMEDIA** (Prishtina)

Duration of project:

**January 2011 –  
December 2012**

The project *New Politics of Solidarity through Cultural and Knowledge Production* fosters new forms of solidarity by the flow of knowledge, cultural exchange and artistic production between people of Tuzla, Prishtina and Belgrade. It recognizes and stimulates spontaneous, anarchic, fluid zones of experimentation and joy, innovations where a lot of new things will be created within the project thematic framework.

Twenty years after the collapse of Yugoslavia, the political class of the new-born states has continued to promote social values inherent to the violent nationalistic ideology. This code of oppression has marginalized the influence of individuals and groups who believe in culture of otherness and are committed to values of equality and solidarity. One of many ways in counteracting this ideology of isolation and hostilities would be to reaffirm the above values that could be tracked back to the libertarian tradition of the shared past.

The intention of the project is to strengthen new agents of social change to activate public space for knowledge and art production which fosters solidarity and communality.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- to **strengthen capacities of partner institutions** for cross-border communication, cooperation and co-production by new agents of social change;
- to facilitate **cross-border knowledge production** through research, archiving and communicating outcomes of new solidarity to the public;
- to foster **joint ventures in cultural and artistic production** that will critically assess and draw on the shared legacy of solidarity and demands for equality;
- to disseminate **new forms of participative cross border knowledge and artistic production** through media, educational and cultural institutions.

[www.czkd.org](http://www.czkd.org)  
[www.centargrad.com](http://www.centargrad.com)  
[www.guendra.org](http://www.guendra.org)

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Link:  
[www.deza.admin.ch](http://www.deza.admin.ch)  
(Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC)

The project is framed by three topics:

- Affirming the anti-fascist struggle and modernism from WWII to date: towards new spaces of equality and solidarity;
- The memory of unity and brotherhood through oral history: towards artistic imaginaries of new solidarity;
- Continuities and discontinuities of solidarity reflected by artists: forms of solidarity embedded in social ownership, annihilated by violent transition and re-examined under corporate rules.

Long term results will be the increased participation and improved communication, working practice and partnerships amongst grassroots cultural agents of social change in the region.

The expected tangible outcomes of the project are the following:

- Cross-border network is set up. Prishtina, Belgrade and Tuzla teams and their co-operatives of new agents have capacity and know-how to deliver new products. This structure of the cooperative network will secure continuity of knowledge and art production, and will match with other similar initiatives, sharing its experience and results with growing regional network.
- Rich, diverse, elaborated knowledge is produced and documented in interconnected archives. This treasure of knowledge based on new partnership will be presented to the beneficiaries and wider public thorough different public events and performances aiming at strengthening interest for new forms of solidarity, for the culture of others, also raising awareness and knowledge about the shared past and its relevance for the new European future.
- In the field of joint art production the expected results will be achieved through three-day cultural events in each city and will arise from the creative research, interaction, communication and intellectual production. At the end of the process all deeds and achievements will be presented in the joint monograph.
- In its communication and PR component the project team will get an access to print and electronic media in the region and internationally, and establish links to schools, public libraries, universities, cultural institutions, NGOs in the region and internationally through the archive.

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**The Swiss Cultural Programme in the Western Balkans (SCP) is run by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council, upon mandate of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The SCP encompasses Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo. It supports local partners, which emphasize the variety, independence and performance of cultural life. The SCP regional cooperation projects focus on the capacity building and institutional development processes of cultural organizations with a regional orientation. ■**