

small door / Community Culture Initiatives



small door
Community Culture Initiatives

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Iniciativat kulturore brenda komunitetit

Ma Bpata

Country / region or city:

Macedonia / Tetovo and rural
areas in western Macedonia

Name of the Project:

small door / Community
Culture Initiatives

Partner organizations:

LOJA, Center for Balkan
Cooperation (Tetovo)
and

CAC, Contemporary Arts
Center (Skopje)

Duration of project:

December 2004 – November
2007

small door / Community Culture Initiatives is a joint project by the two cultural organizations LOJA from Tetovo and CAC from Skopje with the aim to revitalize cultural life and inter-ethnic relations in the city of Tetovo and in the region of western Macedonia. The Multimedia Arts Center in Tetovo and film screenings in the villages offer artists, people interested in culture and groups from different communities a place to meet.

Culture in Macedonia is facing numerous problems, typical for a country in transition. Today's system for cultural support is inefficient, doesn't correspond to the needs of the people and is topped with administrative and financial shortcomings of the state culture institutions. The lack of an integrating cultural policy addressing the social challenges of a multi-ethnic state reinforces cultural segmentation along ethnic lines – instead of supporting mutual understanding and cooperation with multi-cultural approaches.

www.cbcloja.org.mk
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(Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC)

Tetovo is the most important city in western Macedonia, a densely populated, multicultural region, lacking not only cultural infrastructures, but also offers for cultural activities and public discussions on social issues.

The project **small door / Community Culture Initiatives** aims at reinforcing social and cultural life as well as multi-ethnic relations by:

- Development of a cultural infrastructure in Tetovo and the region
- Improving cultural production and cultural animation of the public
- Involving the different ethnic communities into a discourse on joint social issues, triggered by cultural events
- Creating a best practice model for community-based cooperation in Macedonia

The project encompasses a wide range of activities and targets both urban and rural areas:

The **Multimedia Arts Centre (MAC)** in the heart of Tetovo is open to everybody who is eager to participate in cultural events and offers various possibilities for cultural production – documentary films, video, theatre, dance –, for public debates and workshops. The pocket-cinema situated in MAC has weekly movie screenings.

A **mobile cinema** shows films and video works in the rural areas of Tetovo, Rostushe and Debar Zupa. Old halls of the Houses of Culture with no activities or local elementary schools are used as cinema halls, and in summer, open-air screenings are arranged. The screenings are often accompanied by discussions or exhibitions.

An important element of the project is **professional training** of artists (i.e. video-editing and production) as well as of the project partners and volunteers (especially organizational development and cultural animation).

The Swiss Cultural Programme South-East Europe and Ukraine is a joint initiative of the Arts Council of Switzerland PRO HELVETIA and of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC. The SCP encompasses Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Kosovo and the Ukraine.

It supports local partners, which emphasize the variety, independence and performance of cultural life. The SCP cooperation projects focus on the capacity building and institutional development processes of cultural organizations. ■