

Swiss Cultural Programme

The FabriC



Country / region or city(ies):

Bulgaria / North Central

Region: Gabrovo, Veliko Tarnovo, Sevlievo, Lovech, Pleven

Name of the Cooperation Project:

The FabriC

Partner organization:

The FabriC Association (Gabrovo)

Coaching/monitoring partner:

The Red House (Sofia)

Duration of the project:

March 2006 – February 2009

The Regional Cultural Resource Center was founded by a number of experienced artists and cultural actors in the city of Gabrovo, in North Central of Bulgaria. It offers a wide range of services to cultural organizations and professional artists in order to dynamize and diversify the cultural life in the region with a long term perspective.

The long transition process in Bulgaria had significant impact on the cultural life of the country. New forms of art have burst into the scene, actors have opened for cooperation, new legal bodies have emerged (cultural NGOs), strong professionalization of the cultural life has become a fact and new management approaches have been put on discussion. Nevertheless all these positive changes could be observed only in the capital and sporadically in some of the biggest cities. >

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Other regions face problems of limited access to contemporary art products, lack of mobility possibilities and low level of cooperation between interested parties (municipalities, independent artists and NGOs, etc), decrease of audience, low level of engagement of young people in the creation process, weakness of artistic milieu to play an active role in the social processes, conservativeness of the cultural organizations established in the past, etc.

The newly established Regional Cultural Resource Centre should become an important instrument for strengthening independent cultural organizations and artists in the North Central Region of Bulgaria and for encouraging cooperation and partnerships between different stakeholders. The goal is to diversify and develop the regional cultural scene, thus boosting social and cultural development.

The Centre provides financial support to cultural projects in the region through a competitive and transparent small grants scheme. Technical support is at disposal on request for the granted projects as well as for others. Consultations on cultural and managerial issues, information and education are other services offered by the Centre.

The cooperation project of the Swiss Cultural Programme south-East Europe and Ukraine supports the institutional building of the Centre and provides the funds for the small grants scheme. The renowned Red House in Sofia acts as a coaching partner, sharing with the Center its own experience in becoming a sustainable organization in the field of the culture.

The Swiss Cultural Programme 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. ■