



CubicMetre – Resources for Culture Association

Activity Report 2012 | 2013

CubicMetre – Resources for Culture is a Bucharest-based NGO set up in 2012 with the aim of providing a platform for meetings, debates and expertise for the professionals in the field of arts and culture. Our organisation aims to explore, support and help develop the cultural sector through specialised studies and interdisciplinary projects and by creating concrete favourable contexts where artists, cultural operators, researchers and authorities can meet and communicate. We believe in the important role of arts and culture in the development of each individual and of society as a whole and we advocate for professional cultural management and a democratic process of substantiating cultural policies and good governance at national level.

CubicMetre is a member of Culture Action Europe, the Europe-wide political platform for arts and culture, and of the Coalition of the Independent Cultural Sector in Romania.

2012

Debate - WHY SUPPORT CULTURE IN EUROPE? (BUCHAREST, 24 APRIL 2012)

In April 2012 CubicMetre organised a debate on the reasons to offer public support for culture in Europe, thus joining the *We are more!* campaign as partners of Culture Action Europe - one of the most important European advocacy networks. Invited speakers were Mr. Vintilă Mihăilescu, reputed cultural anthropologist and professor, Mr. Tudor Bratu, visual artist, and Ms. Raluca Munteanu, architect and built heritage activist. At the event we also presented an analysis of the absorption status of structural funds in cultural projects in Romania, we raised awareness on the budget for culture at European level for 2014-2020, as well as on the deeper philosophy to have culture as public service.





Project - VOTE CULTURE 2012

Between September and November 2012, we developed this project with the financial support of the National Cultural Fund. The project's aim was to use the momentum of the parliamentary elections in Romania to launch a genuine debate on essential issues for the private non-profit cultural sector: the impact of the new fiscal regulations on non-profit creative activities; legislative priorities impacting on non-profit NGOs; the role of culture in sustainable local development and the need to introduce artistic and cultural activities as important elements of local and central authorities' strategies and programmes.

We organised 4 public meetings in Bucharest, Timișoara and Cluj to inform people on our initiative and collect their proposals on what politicians should include in their public agenda in terms of cultural priorities. The most important result of the project is the Charter for Living Culture (Carta pentru Cultura Vie). The project was developed within the Coalition of the Independent Cultural Sector and our partners were Gabriela Tudor Foundation, AltArt Foundation (Cluj) and Intercultural Institute Timișoara.

2013

Cultural governance services - CULTEMA PROJECT

In 2013 we were involved in the implementation of the project CULTEMA – Cultural Value for Sustainable Territorial Governance and Marketing (coordinated in Romania by the Ministry of Culture), supported by South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme. The project aimed to increase the attractiveness of the selected regions by advocating for investments in cultural heritage, as factor of economic growth for local communities. Our tasks in this project were to formulate a clear methodology and instruments to develop models of cultural governance, as well as to test and evaluate their applicability in the Rupea-Cohalm region in Romania.



Event – PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' SUMMIT (BRUSSELS, 24-25 JUNE 2013)

We participated in the first European Citizens' Summit, organised by the EU Civil Society Contact Group, a cross-sector coalition of NGO actors, between 24-25 June in Brussels. The aim of this event was to foster an open dialogue amongst a diverse group from across Europe (from culture, to development, education, environment, health,

human rights and social affairs) in order to start a genuine participatory process on the future of the European Union, and what this means for people living within its borders. Our association's participation resulted in new contacts and partnerships for future interdisciplinary collaboration in European projects and represented a step towards achieving the organization's involvement in culture advocacy initiatives in Europe.

Mobility project and Series of meetings - SUPPORT CULTURE IN EDUCATION

In June 2013, we were selected for an EEA funded mobility grant from the NGO Fund administered by the Civil Society Development Foundation, to discuss the opportunity of a project partnership with Oppland County Council in Norway. Between 24-28 July, as part of our project SUPPORT CULTURE IN EDUCATION - positive examples of integrating cultural initiatives in the educational offer in Romania with the involvement of the NGO sector, we discussed with our potential partners ways to develop a cultural programme in schools in Romania, starting from the Norwegian experience (e.g. Cultural Rucksack). Following the meeting, we organised an information event in Bucharest to share our discussions and findings and invite professionals in education and culture at national level to join our initiative for a future project at the intersection of these two fields. Later in August we applied for a larger project to the NGO Fund, for which the results of the evaluation process are due to arrive in January.



We continued our involvement in CULTURE IN EDUCATION with a series of 3 meetings in Bucharest (October – November 2013), with the aim to bring cultural resources in the lives of children and young people. The meetings intend to inform about the opportunities for the development of such activities and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences between cultural organizations, artists, practitioners and researchers in the field of education. We collaborate with Sintagma Centre for Education and Training in the conception and organisation of these events. The first two meetings (10 October and 7 November) were around the subject of institutional resources and public policies supporting the collaboration of schools and cultural organisations/artists, while the third (5 December) focused on financial resources available for projects bringing culture and education together.

Analysis - "CONȚEȘTI HOUSE OF CULTURE –A CHANCE FOR A BETTER LIFE THROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE"

Between October-November 2013 we elaborated an analysis of the cultural centre of Conțești, a village in the southern part of Romania. The analysis is primarily a working tool and a way of retrieving the partially lost memory of the local centre's role and activities. By



documenting the State Archives, interviewing local key actors in the community, discussing with children and young people, the analysis becomes a resource for the future cultural activity in Conțești. A set of concrete recommendations complement the documentation and facilitation work in the community and outline a vision about the purpose of art and culture in the village.

The analysis was part of the project "Wedding Dances in Conțești: modern and traditional interpretations" - coordinated by our partner Sintagma Centre for Education and Training - which aimed to stimulate 60 local children to explore the intangible heritage of their wedding-related village dances and customs. The grant for the project came from the Administration of the National Cultural Fund and other project partners were: Conțești Hall, the Secondary School in Conțești and "Gabriela Tudor" Foundation.

Financial support - MICROFINANCE SCHEME FOR LIVING CULTURE



Considering the scarcity of national and European available funding programmes for culture at the end of the current year, especially for smaller-scale projects, our association launched a grants scheme for NGOs and individuals to develop a phase or an activity of their project implementation. As part of the pilot phase of our scheme, we supported various types of activities, 7 projects from fields as diverse as

performing arts, material cultural heritage, visual arts, and publishing. All projects develop between November and December 2013. In 2014, we intend to re-launch a new call of this scheme, which proved to be highly useful and appreciated by cultural operators and professionals in the country.

Event – PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CULTURE ACTION EUROPE AND 'IT'S NOT A CRISIS, IT'S A TRANSITION' CONFERENCE (ROME, 3-5 OCTOBER 2013)

We participated in the 21st General Assembly of Culture Action Europe, network which we joined as full members in mid-2013. The event also included the international conference "It's not a crisis, it's a transition!", focused on the vital role of culture in Europe and its capacities in building a way out of the deadlock that threatens Europe, its people and democracy.



The political platform
for Arts and Culture

CubicMetre Association prepared a short presentation of the most important governmental decisions adopted in the field of culture during the last year in Romania. We used our presence in an international context to build new contacts, to gather up-to-date information about the latest advocacy for culture initiatives, as well as to discuss possible partnerships for the future.



Event – PARTICIPATION IN THE “SOFIA CONVERSATIONS ON EUROPE” CONFERENCE (SOFIA, 11-13 SEPTEMBER 2013)

The conference was organised by the network *A Soul for Europe* and brought together intellectuals, cultural professionals, politicians and public policy specialists, cultural managers and researchers to explore how Bulgarians see development based on the values of freedom, active citizenship, personal responsibility, transparency, openness and accountability of public authorities. The event also examined the role of artists and intellectuals in these processes and connections between art and culture and active citizenship. Finally, the conference included discussions on creating favourable conditions for arts and culture in Europe with the help of the European Commission's financial instruments. Raluca Pop, the president of CubicMetre, was a speaker in the panel on EU structural funds as an instrument for development through culture and transmitted a live-text on our website and social media channels throughout the entire event.

Networks - EUROPEAN CULTURAL PARLIAMENT YOUTH NETWORK IN ROMANIA (ECP YN ROMANIA)

The network developed at the initiative of the European Cultural Parliament, a platform of discussions among European intellectuals interested to promote an active role of arts and culture within society. In Romania, the network is coordinated by Corina Bucea (manager of the Brush Factory) and Raluca Pop (president of CubicMetre) and has at the moment 30 members – artists and cultural managers – from across the country, ages up to 35.



The activity of the network started in July 2013 with a research about art in public space and continued through a series of networking and professional training meeting that took place at ART HUB, a contemporary arts centre, and InfoEuropa Centre. In September our association took part in the meeting of youth networks in Edinburgh, where the research of art in public space was presented and future projects were discussed. In December ECP YN Romania received legal counselling from CMS Cameron McKenna SCA regarding author rights, the activity of NGOs and types of contracts used in the cultural-artistic field. At European level there are similar youth networks in the UK, Sweden, Germany, Cyprus, Kosovo, Greece, Poland and Italy.

Publishing – CULTURAL POLICY SERIES IN DILEMA VECHÉ

“Sint vechi, domnule!” (I.L. Caragiale)

DILEMA VECHÉ

Starting September 2013, CubicMetre has developed a permanent column on topics related to cultural policy in *Dilema Veche* (online version), one of the highest rated cultural magazines at national level. Through our articles readers can stay connected to the latest

changes in Romanian cultural administration, have access to interviews with top level arts managers, get an insight from the latest book publications in the area of arts administration and participate to debates launched by essays of professional present interest. The series will continue in 2014, with a bimonthly frequency. This initiative announces a larger editorial project CubicMetre is planning to develop in the near future.

Other activities

CubicMetre has been involved throughout 2012 and 2013, with concrete input and advocacy efforts, in a series of public consultations on the revision of Romania's Constitution (the article on culture and cultural rights), on open data in the cultural and education fields, on the priorities of the national sector strategy for culture for the period 2014-2020 and on the protection of Nature 2000 areas in Romania. We also supported the *Save Roşia Montana* campaign, an initiative meant to block a large cyanide mining project in Romania, with important environmental and social negative consequences.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact us:

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