

The INOVART Mobility Scheme

A new scheme with the potential to enhance the mobility of young Portuguese cultural professionals

Background

For some years, the Portuguese government has been running a programme designed to increase the international mobility of young professionals in the corporate sector. Known as the Contacto Programme – International Internships, the initiative has been promoted under the so called INOV Programme by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of Portugal, supported by the European Union and QREN/POPH and managed by Aicep Global Portugal.

Building on the success of Contacto, the goals of the INOV Programme have now been broadened with two new initiatives: InovArt providing international internships for the cultural sector; and Inov Vasco da Gama for young business entrepreneurs. These initiatives replace the Contacto Programme.

How it works

In March 2008, the Portuguese Government launched InovArt as part of the revamped Programme INOV-Jovens Quadros para a Inovação, a Internacionalização e para as Artes (INOV Programme – Young Professionals for Innovation, Internationalisation and the Arts).

InovArt is a programme of 200 international professional internships per year, specifically created for the arts and culture sector. Its goal is to give young cultural workers an opportunity to integrate professionally. In common with the aims of the INOV Programme, the intention of InovArt is to provide quality training and experience to young professionals in an international context and to serve as a link that will allow current and future participants to keep in touch and share information between one another through the use of an informal knowledge network and a network of international contacts..

Internships are intended to last for 9 months. The internships take place in public or private organisations chosen by the candidates, e.g. architecture studios, design studios, producing companies, theatres or any artform or creative industry activity. There is no geographical limitation. The internships can take place in Europe, or elsewhere in the world. The ceiling for grants is 25 000 EUR.

InovArt is open to young artists up to 35 years of age through application. Applicants need not have an academic background as long as they have experience in the cultural sector.

Young people participating in this programme are awarded a computer and travel expenses are paid by the Portuguese Government. The receiving international institution may offer the vacancy for the internship or it may be the candidate, through his/her own initiative, who approaches the institution in order to request an internship.

Regulation of this programme is to be determined by joint action from the Portuguese Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Employment and Social Solidarity, of Economy and Innovation and of Culture.

Results

This is a new scheme and so it is too soon to assess the impact on mobility of artists. However, if the scheme proves as successful as the Contacto Programme has been for young professionals in the corporate sector, InovArt could provide a considerable boost to the mobility of young artists and enterprising practitioners in Portugal and stimulate their global connections.

Sources:

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