

**LEAD programme (Linked Euroregion Arts Development Network)**  
**Mesure d'accompagnement des projets**  
**de coopération culturelle eurorégionale et internationale**

## **Background**

With the support of the Conseil régional du Nord-pas-de-Calais, the European Union (INTERREG III A) and the euroregional local authorities, the LEAD programme (Linked Euroregion Arts Development Network) was launched.

It federates Région Nord-pas-de-Calais, Western Flanders, Hainaut and Kent County Council with the cooperation of Marcel Hicter Foundation (Belgium). Regional Council of Nord-pas-de-Calais has now additional partnership with French and Flemish Belgium communities, Silesia (Poland), Rogaland (Norway) and agreement projects with Wales (UK) and Castilla la Mancha (Spain). The above mentioned Euroregion consists of : Kent (UK), Nord-pas-de-Calais and Belgium (15 million inhabitants). Furthermore, in the frame of North-South priority, Regional Council of Nord-pas-de-Calais has signed an agreement with Kayes Region in Mali, Saint-Louis and Matam in Senegal, Doukkala Abda in Morocco and one region Hue and Danong in central Vietnam. The scheme «Mesure d'accompagnement des projets de coopération eurorégionale et internationale » has been created by the Conseil régional Nord-pas-de-Calais to strengthen and extend Euroregional international practices. The scheme aims to:

- stimulate cultural joint projects between Nord-pas-de-Calais operators and their homologues issued from regions having signed a cooperation agreement with the Conseil régional, and even others in the EU;
- stimulate and promote any new or emerging artistic expression or proposal, liable to contribute to Euroregion's attractiveness in the international context;
- stimulate and promote any new form of cooperation or partnership, also liable to strengthen the Euroregion's attractiveness in the international context; and
- developing crossborder networks, notably within LEAD programme framework.

«Mesure d'accompagnement des projets de coopération culturelle eurorégionale et international» consists of two axis:

- axis 1 – Mobility support; and
- axis 2 : Logistic and organisational support.

## **How it works**

Each mobility grant's maximum amount is 1 500 EUR. It covers transportation, accommodation, visas, and vaccination expenses, as well as specific insurance costs for the length of the staying. 50% of the grant is given before the mobility takes place, the balance been paid after written proof and a report have been delivered. The mobility grant cannot be obtained twice within a civil year. If beneficiaries have not used the grant ten months after the Commission Culture's acceptance, they may not receive another grant during the concerned year. Any new request will be eligible only after a cultural structure representative of the chosen country will have come to Nord-pas-de-Calais or the Euroregion.

The scheme intends to promote regional (for regions that are LEAD members) cultural actors. The geographical scope of the cultural actor's mobility is open to the whole world, but North-South exchanges are privileged under the «Bourses ciblées» scheme («Targeted grants»), as well as the European regions, which are LEAD members.

Candidates must fulfil the following requirements:

- not to benefit a support from the Conseil régional Nord-pas-de-Calais through a pluriannual contract;
- to have been an active LEAD member for at least two months for «targeted grants» and at least six months, as far as other grants are concerned (to have been an active LEAD member means to regularly send information on the LEAD website and to take part into the scheduled activities of the regional agenda).

The scheme has two main objectives: to prepare the ground for long-term joint projects and to reinforce the Euroregion attractivity. In this perspective, the mobility grants may have an impact on the regional and Euroregional dynamism as well as on the Euroregional cooperation throughout the World. It is also a pertinent and promising way of helping European cultural operators to work together in non European countries.

## **Results**

The mobility scheme was launched in 2003. Since, it has consisted of about 30 grants per year valued at 1 500 EUR.

As a very new scheme, it has not been evaluated so far. According to Chargée de mission, Morgane Vandernotte, Nord-pas-de-Calais actors had benefits inside their own country, at the national scale. Some of the grants beneficiaries had their work bought by the FNAC (Fonds national d'art contemporain).

As a part of a wider programme the above described mobility scheme seems to be coherent, in the sense that it is a first flexible step to a further and long-term cooperation. One of the key ideas of LEAD being to stimulate innovation and long-term development in the concerned European regions, at the European and international scale, it is very important to allow cultural actors to know one another and strengthen the basis of their collaboration. The scheme also has the great advantage of stimulating European neighbours to collaborate with non European partners, in the context of developing countries' priorities. Let's note that since February 7th, 2008, the first Euroregional EGTC (European grouping of territorial cohesion) has been signed by towns of Lille, Tournai and Kortrijk. The new Eurometropolis federates 14 partners on a crossborder territory of 2 million inhabitants. It is binational (France and Belgium) and bilingual (French and Dutch languages). It includes three regions (Nord-pas-de-Calais, Flanders and Walloon). It will concentrate on mobility, employment and specific difficulties of crossborder regions. The cooperation between this new structure and Conseil régional Nord-pas-de-Calais could enhance and strengthen the European and international input of the Euroregion.

## **Sources**

Conseil régional Nord-pas-de-Calais, Direction de la Culture Hôtel de Région – Centre Rihour – 59555 – Lille cedex, Tel. : +33 3 28 82 85 28. Website : <http://www.nordpasdecals.fr>

LEAD website : <http://leadnetwork.nordpasdecals.fr>

Interview with Morgane Vandennotte, « chargée de mission » of the above mentioned scheme.

Public documents on LEAD programme and « Mesure d'accompagnement ».

« Règlement » of LEAD network

## **Author**

Autissier Anne-Marie