

Movin'Up – Supporting the Mobility of Young Artists in Italy

Background

The Associazione per il Circuito dei Giovani Artisti Italiani (GAI) is a network of more than 40 local authorities working on culture and youth policies in Italy. Since 1999, GAI has been providing support for the international mobility of young Italian artists through its programme *Movin'Up*, by providing funds to cover travel or production expenses for artists invited abroad.

From 1999 to 2004, *Movin'Up* grants were supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs – Directorate General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation. Since 2005, the Ministry of Heritage and Cultural Activities provides support to GAI.

In 2007, the Directorate General for Contemporary Arts (PARC) of the Ministry of Heritage and Cultural Activities, decided to increase and broaden its support to young artists through *Movin'Up grants* by including them within a wider programme, called the DE.MO Project. DE.MO is funded by PARC, POGAS (Department of Youth Policies) and GAI, and managed by GAI. The agreement for the DE.MO Project was signed in December 2007.

The decision for PARC to participate in the DE.MO Project emerged from an evaluation of the needs of the sector (e.g. the need for financial support for young artists invited abroad in order to cover their travel or residency expenses) and the proven track record of the *Movin'Up* grants programme.

The DE.MO Project, with its *Movin'Up* grants, is the most structured programme through which the central government can provide support to the mobility of young Italian artists.

How it works

Via the DE.MO Project (2008-2009), funds available through *Movin'Up* grants have increased and two new schemes were introduced: *Movin'Up Residencies* and *ArtContact*.

Applicants must be between 18-35 years old and have Italian nationality. Foreigners living and working in Italy (minimum 1 year) may also apply.

Movin'Up Grants: Italian artists who are invited abroad by e.g. festivals, cultural institutions etc. can apply and receive a reimbursement for their travel or production expenses; two deadlines are scheduled each year. Artists receiving funding are asked to provide some information about their CV and experience, to be published on the GAI website (now constituting an interesting database). Artists who have received a grant cannot apply a second time.

Movin'Up Residencies: two young Italian visual artists are selected for international residency programmes in partnership with important foreign institutions. In 2008, a 3-month residency was granted in Istanbul and a 6-month residency was granted in Berlin. Funding covers travel, residency fees and daily expenses. Artists who have already received a *Movin'Up* grant can also apply. The grant is considered a good form of support providing young artists with international (residency) experience.

Art-Contact aims to promote emerging Italian artists abroad and to introduce them into the international art market/circuit. 3 national curators select 30 young visual artists and present their works to 5 foreign curators. This programme responds to the need of visibility for young Italian artists.

Results

A database of artists having received a *Movin'Up* grant is available on the GAI Website; searchable by name or by field. Data about the institutions inviting artists are available on the site, showing, for example, that the 20 artists selected for a *Movin'Up* grant in 2008 chose to travel to: other EU countries (10); Macedonia (1); South America (4); Australia (1); Nepal (1); China (1); Japan (1); Cameroon (1).

From 1999 to 2008, 661 artists received support from the *Movin'Up* programme (out of 959 project applications) from different artistic fields: visual arts (ca. 33%), theatre (ca. 13%), music (ca. 10%), dance (ca. 9%), design and fashion (ca. 35%).

From 1999 to 2007, the *Movin'Up* annual budget was approximately 50 000 EUR. As of 2008, the programme received an additional 40 000 EUR when it became part of the large DE.MO Project (total budget of 90 000 EUR). The annual budgets for the new programmes are: 25 000 EUR for *Movin'Up* Residencies to Istanbul and Berlin and 30 000 EUR for ArtContact.

The DE.MO project started as an initiative of the previous Prodi government. If the current Berlusconi government decides not to renew the DE.MO Project at the end of 2009, there is a strong possibility that the *Movin'Up Residencies* and *ArtContact* programmes will be discontinued and the budget for *Movin'Up Grants* will decrease to previous funding levels. The DE.MO Project has not yet been evaluated.

Sources

Interviews with Luigi Ratclif, Secretary of GAI, and Erminia Sciacchitano, PARC.

Budget data provided by Paola Picca, GAI.

Information is also available directly from the GAI website: <http://www.giovaniartisti.it>

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