

AUSTRIA

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1. CULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN FIGURES (2005)

Total employment		Cultural employment		Cultural employment in %
3 754 000		88 600		2,4%
Employed	Self-employed	Employed	Self-employed	
90,8%	9,2%	70,2%	29,8%	

Source: EUROSTAT, EU Labor Force Survey, 2005.

2. RECENT DEBATES ON THE MOBILITY OF CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS

- 1) Cross-border intercultural dialogue and co-operation:

In recent years, the relevance of cross-border cooperation has increased. In addition to already existing networks and partnerships (e.g. Arge Alpen Adria, 10 Euregios etc) new networks and projects have been initiated: Austrian Czech Cultural Cooperation since 2002 and Stratcult (strategy for culture) aiming to develop a long-term plan for co-operation in the field of culture and structural funds, with partners from Central Europe and Finland under the leadership of government of Upper Austria. The Central European Region (Centrope encompasses: in Austria- Vienna, Lower Austria, Burgenland, in the Czech Republic- Southern Moravia and Southern Bohemia, in Slovakia Bratislava and Trnava as well as Győr-Moson-Sopron and Vas in Hungary) was founded in 2003 to foster cooperation within the border quadrangle of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria. Since 2001, awards for cross-border activities have been granted by the federal and regional governments. Cross-border projects are largely financed within the framework of the EU structural funds. These cross-border initiatives involve a high demand in the mobility of cultural professionals. Artists are being invited to festivals, exhibitions etc. in exchange and take part in the cultural life of these various countries.

- 2) Austria as intercultural stage for Central and Eastern Europe:

This subject refers mainly to point 1, but tries to point out the role of Austria as a cross-point in the intercultural European network. Many exchange programmes, funds, cultural agreements and co-operations have improved Austria's position as an impulse giving and receiving cross point in Europe. Since 2004 with the entry of the new member states to the European Union, Austria was able to note many new interesting artistic trans-national productions, projects and programmes and started to set up cultural networks with the new member states. A leading and important role as a cultural mediator for artists from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe plays the institution KulturKontakt Austria. This institution has a wide reputation for its Artist-in-Residence programme, which in general is getting more and more popular and renowned in Austria. Another decisive factor for increasing cultural mobility programmes in Austria is the flourishing cultural tourism, which requires a greater input not only from Austrian, but also from international artists. These developments and mobility programmes / projects seem to add to the image and prestige of Austria as a cross-point in the intercultural European network, which is timely in 2008 due to the "European Year of Intercultural Dialogue".

- 3) The Artists' Social Insurance Fund Act as a Cost Trap for Artists in Residence:

Since January 2001, artists as "new self-employed" have come under the obligatory insurance according to the Social insurance Act for Businesses. At the same time, the Artists' Social Insurance Act came into force. Artists can receive a supplement to their pension insurance contribution if they fulfil certain criteria. One condition is that they must earn a minimum income from their artistic activity. Anyone who earns too little receives no supplement (there is also an upper income limit). The Artists' Social insurance Fund (KSVF) uses the tax return or the taxable income as the basis of its assessment.

As scholarships and prizes are occasionally tax free, the KSVF does not recognise income from these sources. All scholarships and prizes awarded by the Federal Chancellery are also tax free, which, for example, also includes scholarships for overseas residences. This tax exemption is certainly an

important cultural policy achievement, but as a result of the KSVF Act it becomes a cost trap for artists in the payment of their pension contributions.

In summer 2005, the KSVF started checking the incomes of all recipients of supplements from the year 2001. Hundreds of artists have since received repayment demands. Approximately 600 artists are now to pay back the supplement they received in 2001, because their income for that year was below the envisaged minimum-income threshold. Among others affected are artists who did not earn the minimum income because an essential part of their income consisted of tax-exempt scholarships abroad of prizes. Whereas on the one hand artists receive supports and awards for their artistic creativity, another authority may then refuse to pay the subsidy for their social security. Artists' working residences abroad often involve (temporary) loss of income. The existing KSVF Act adds to these difficulties if artists are in danger of losing the support for the pension insurance contribution, because they do not meet the required minimum income in a particular calendar year.

3. MAIN TYPES OF MOBILITY SCHEMES

Type of mobility schemes	Outgoing Schemes available in the country for nationals/residents (-N)	Incoming Schemes to bring foreign cultural professionals (FCPs) into the country (-F)
Artists / writers residencies (AR)	XX	XX
Event participation grants (EP)	XX	XX
Scholarships for further / postgraduate training courses (FT)	X	XX
"Go and see" or short-term exploration grants (GS)	X	X
Market development grants (MD)	XX	XX
Support for the participation of professio- nals in trans-national networking (NW)	XX	X
Project or production grants (PR)	X	X
"Research" grants or scholarships (RS)	X	X
Touring incentives for groups (TO)	X	XX

4. MOBILITY SCHEMES: IMPORTANT EXAMPLES

NB:

- The schemes below are classified according to whether they target nationals/residents or foreign cultural professionals
- Those marked with an * are open to both nationals/residents and foreign cultural professionals

4.1 Outgoing schemes available for nationals/residents

Foreign exchange scholarship for dancers and choreographers

(<http://www.bmukk.gv.at/kunst/foerderungen/index.xml#toc3-id5>)

Objective: Promotion of further training for dancers and choreographers abroad

Administered by: The Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture. Department 2 Music and Performing Arts

Type of scheme: FT-N

Main destination: Worldwide

Funding: 10 scholarships each year (receive 1 100 EUR per month for up to 10 months).

Eligibility: Age: No restrictions;
Nationality: For Austrians or dancers living in Austria since 3 years;
Profession: Dancers and choreographers;
Other: Dancers and choreographers need to be graduates, the quality of the dance performance counts.

***Gulliver Connect**

(<http://www.kulturkontakt.or.at> ; <http://www.gulliverconnect.org/en>)

Objective:	Provides a flexible work placement and training framework in order to promote international co-operation among professional arts and culture practitioners from the European Union, Russia and countries from the Former Soviet Union.
Administered by:	Felix Meritis Foundation (Amsterdam), KulturKontakt Austria (Vienna) and Central European Foundation (Bratislava)
Type of scheme:	RS-N / RS-F
Main destination:	The Netherlands, Austria , Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe,
Funding:	Bursaries of approximately 1 500 EUR each will be available to cover the costs for the work placement, travel, accommodation and daily allowance for the period between 3 - 6 weeks.
Eligibility:	Age: For young and upcoming artists; Nationality: Open to all Europeans; Profession: Young and upcoming artists, art managers and cultural operators; Other: Young professionals need to have 2-3 years working experience.

***Platform "Culture - Central Europe" of the Austrian Foreign Ministry**

(<http://www.bmeia.gv.at>)

Objective:	The platform act as a forum for cultural dialogue with the purpose of providing support for bilateral and multilateral cultural projects focusing on common Central European cultural interests. Its goals are: to distribute information and raise awareness of the cultural life in the participating Central European countries, the European Union and beyond; to exemplify the creative power and strength of expression of our artists; and to highlight the common cultural identity of Central Europe within the context of European integration
Administered by:	The Austrian Foreign Ministry
Type of scheme:	EP-N, NW-N, PR-N / EP-F, NW-F, PR-F
Main destination:	Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic Hungary and Austria
Funding:	Since its foundation in 2001, the platform has supported about 50 projects worldwide. The funding is depending on the project.
Eligibility:	Age: No restriction; Nationality: Open to participating countries; Profession: Artists, writers, translators, journalists, architects, photographers.

Artists in Residence Programme - Domus Artium

(<http://www.auslandskultur.eu>)

Objective:	The residences abroad serve as action platforms for artists and as possibility of communication to artist colleagues in the host country.
Administered by:	Austrian Federal provinces (e.g. Upper Austria) and Grenzgänger (Office for cultural foreign relations of the Federal province Upper Austria)
Type of scheme:	AR-N
Main destination:	Paliano (near Rome) and Malo (near Vicenza) in Italy and Krummau in the Czech Republic
Funding:	Every month 6 artists are delegated to the different residences (3 artists for Paliano, 2 for Malo and 1 for Krummau); The artists receive a free residence and a monthly grant of 400 EUR (Krummau), 600 EUR (Malo) or 800 EUR (Paliano).
Eligibility:	Nationality: Austrian artists or artists residing and working in Austria since 5 years; Profession: Professional artists who are still open in their artistic development and who work in the fields of visual arts, architecture, literature, composition

Travel, residence and touring grants of the BMUKK

<http://www.bmukk.gv.at/kunst/foerderungen/index.xml#toc3-id5>

Objective: Exchange of experts, artists, ensembles or cultural activities in the context of existing work programmes.

Administered by: The Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture

Type of scheme: EP-N, PR-N, RS-N, TO-N

Main destination: Worldwide

Funding: Benefits arranged by advisory board, for the duration of participation

Eligibility: Age: Open to all;
Nationality: For Austrians or living in Austria since 3 years;
Profession: Artists and institutions of all art fields.

***Auslandsaktivitäten - exchange programme Bregenz-Bilbao**

<http://www.vorarlberg.at/kulturbericht2007/NewFiles/blibao.htm>

Objective: Exchange programme which should give artists the possibility to enhance their contacts to foreign artists and allow that way a network building.

Administered by: Federal province of Vorarlberg, Arthouse Bregenz, Foundation Bilbao Arte

Type of scheme: NW-N / NW-F

Main destination: Vorarlberg in Austria and Bilbao in Spain

Funding: Exchange of 2 artists from Austria and 2 artists from Spain for 2 months where all costs for travel and accommodation are paid.
Funding data is not available.

Eligibility: Age: No restriction;
Nationality: Austrian and Spanish artists;
Profession: Professional artists in the field of fine arts.

TISCHE-Scholarship for Young Architects

<http://www.bmukk.gv.at/kunst/foerderungen/index.xml#toc3-id5>

Objective: Promotion of architects by giving them the opportunity to acquire working experience in smaller internationally already well-known architect's offices.

Administered by: The Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture

Type of scheme: RS-N

Main destination: Worldwide

Funding: 10 grants per year with 1 500 EUR per month for up to 6 months.

Eligibility: Age: For young and upcoming architects;
Nationality: For Austrians or architects living in Austria since 3 years;
Profession: Architects;
Other: Quality of projects count.

***Trans-National Dance Production of the CCL**

<http://www.cclinz.org>

Objective: Dedicates itself to dance in public spaces, connected with the integration of the public.

Administered by: BMUKK, CCL (Choreographic Centre Linz), LINZ_Kultur

Type of scheme: AR-N / NW-F, AR-F

Main destination: Linz (Austria)

Funding: Depending on the residency the CCL cover parts of the costs for travel and residence.

Eligibility: Age: No restrictions;
Nationality: Worldwide;
Profession: Dancers and choreographers as well as dance companies.

***Kontakt. The Programme for Arts and Civil Society in Central Europe**

(<http://www.erstestitung.org> ; <http://www.kontakt.erstebankgroup.net>)

Objective:	Support art projects which deal with developments in art and society and create new perspectives and strategies. The goal of Kontakt is to bring people and ideas into contact with each other, to actively shape the process of social and cultural transformation in Central Europe and to open up possibilities for visionary perspectives.
Administered by:	The Erste Bank Group
Type of scheme:	NW-N / MD-F
Main destination:	Central and Eastern European Region
Funding:	Depending on project. Funding data is not available.
Eligibility:	Age: Depending on project; Nationality: Central and Eastern European artists; Profession: Institutions, initiatives and artists that are involved in cultural activities as well as in educational and social projects.

***Event participation grants and artists in residence programme of the Cultural Department of Viennas City Municipality**

(<http://www.wien.gv.at/amtshelfer/kultur/kulturabteilung/foerderungen/interkulturell.html>;

<http://www.wien.gv.at/amtshelfer/kultur/kulturabteilung/studienaufenthalt.html>)

Objective:	Event Participation grants: to enable international artists to participate at Austrian events in cooperation with intercultural organizations; AIR-programme: to broaden and further the artists education abroad.
Administered by:	The cultural Department of Viennas City Municipality (MA 7)
Type of scheme:	EP-F / AR-N
Main destination:	Austria (for the participation grants), Hungary, Germany, Poland (Artists-in-Residence)
Funding:	Depending on the project fund.
Eligibility:	Age: No restriction; Nationality: Worldwide, focusing on migrants; Austrian Profession: Artists, musicians, writers, translators etc.

4.2 Incoming schemes available for foreign cultural professionals

Artists-in-residence Programme of Kulturkontakt Austria

(<http://www.kulturkontakt.or.at>)

Objective:	Artists residence programme
Administered by:	Kulturkontakt Austria, Vienna
Type of scheme:	AR-F
Main destination:	Vienna (Austria)
Funding:	Year: 2007 Total budget 150 000 EUR (covering travel costs, accommodation and grants) Duration of stay is around 2-3 months
Eligibility:	Nationality: Only for artists from the partner states (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kosovo, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldavia, Montenegro, Rumania, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine); Profession: For writers, translators, photographers, musicians, designers, architects, film-directors; Other: Supports only projects that relate to Austria or one of the partner states.

Büchsenhausenair – International Fellowship Programme For Visual And Media Arts

[\(http://www.buchsenhausen.at/\)](http://www.buchsenhausen.at/)

- Objective:** International centre for production, research and discussion which provides a platform that facilitates the development and production of artistic and theoretical projects in a critical environment. It builds also a forum for direct exchange between artists, theorists, art critics and curators from the region and abroad.
- Administered by:** Federal Province of Tyrol, Department of Culture of the Tyrolean Government and the Art Center Büchsenhausen
- Type of scheme:** PR-F, AR-F, RS-F
- Main destination:** Innsbruck (Austria)
- Funding:** Every year 4 visual / media artists and 2 theorists / art critics receive a fellowship and reside in Innsbruck for a period of 5 months. Additionally they receive a scholarship of 650 EUR per months and a production budget for the realisation of the proposed project
- Eligibility:** Age: No restrictions;
Nationality: Only for artists residing outside of Tyrol;
Profession: Artists, critics and curators in the fields of visual and media arts;
Other: Public presentation of the project developed and produced in the framework of the fellowship, fellows have to commit themselves to give lectures and organize further events related to their topics, working knowledge of German is required.