

## BULGARIA

Compiled from the questionnaire response prepared by *Tsveta Andreeva* (Ministry of Culture, Sofia)

### 1. CULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN FIGURES (2005)

Total employment		Cultural employment		Cultural employment in %
3 008 000		53 400		1,8%
Employed	Self-employed	Employed	Self-employed	
90,2%	9,8%	87,8%	12,2%	

Source: EUROSTAT, EU Labor Force Survey, 2005.

### 2. RECENT DEBATES ON THE MOBILITY OF CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS

- The debates in Bulgaria address the “export” of Bulgarian culture abroad and the overall policy of the institutions (namely the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in supporting and promoting artists and events. The state is often criticised for its lack of systematic and transparent approach in organising the external aspects of the arts’ exports policy (e.g. see the debate “The Export of Bulgarian culture – opportunities and alternatives”). This debate is relevant to the mobility issue, as it shows that the existing measures are insufficient. There is no relevant data provided by the MoC about those artists and professionals who receive support for mobility outside the NC Fund program and other externally raised funds for mobility by NGOs.
- A lot of independent artist and art managers in Bulgaria use predominantly external funding programs for business, artistic and research residencies (e.g. Arts link (USA), Step Beyond (ECF), Courants (FR), Kulturkontakt Austria, Gulliver’s Connect Programme); external and EU funding is used for establishment of art residence spaces and short term support programs in and outside the country.
- A permanent debate concerns the financing of culture and the efficiency of the distribution of the public budget for culture. No particular criticism is directed towards the NC Fund mobility programs as such, but the provided funding is too small and the objectives and the selection criteria need to be more detailed.
- The “Brain-drain” debate in culture is used in relation to attempts to quantify and qualify the cost and eventual losses public authorities with regard to their investments in art schools/ education.

### 3. MAIN TYPES OF MOBILITY SCHEMES

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

## 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

#### Mobility Programme for Cultural Contacts

(<http://ncf.bg/?p=104&lang=en>)

Objective:	National mobility programme. Covering up to 80% of the travel expenses, (short-term trips), in cases of traveling outside of the European Union, it may also cover visa costs.
Administered by:	National Fund Culture, Sofia, Bulgaria
Type of scheme:	EP-N, NW-N, TO-N, GS-N
Main destination:	Travel outside Bulgaria (both European and non European states)
Funding:	Year: 2006 Total applicants: 208, approved applicants: 111 Total amount awarded: 71 853,84 BGN (~ 36 660 EUR) Average amount awarded: 647 BGN (~ 330 EUR) Year: 2007 Total applicants: 177, Approved applicants: 138 Total amount awarded: 92 980 BGN (~ 47 439 EUR) Average amount awarded 674 BGN (~ 344 EUR).
Eligibility:	Nationality: Open to Bulgarian citizens/ Bulgarian legal entities. Profession: For professionals in all areas of arts / non-professional creators. Other: If an applicant was approved and did not utilize the funds efficiently, he/she will not be considered in future application processes. Bulgarian organizations could apply for covering travel expenses of foreign artists as well.

#### \*Strasbourg Club

(<http://www.club-strasbourg.eu/>)

Objective:	To promote an exchange of artists between Strasbourg and selected Bulgarian cities.
Administered by:	Le Club de Strasbourg and member municipalities in Bulgaria – Varna, Sofia, Stara Zagora, Russe
Type of scheme:	AR-N / AR-F
Main destination:	Strasbourg and other cities in Europe which are members of the club (37 cities from 13 European countries)
Funding:	Year: 2006-2007 One artist from Stara Zagora benefited
Eligibility:	Age: over 25 (not students); Nationality: It is for French nationals to go to BG cities and BG artists from member cities to go to Strasbourg; Profession: visual arts Other: Transport (return ticket) provided for up to 6 artists. Accommodation and working environment are provided by the host city. Average of 1 000 EUR per month subsistence and internal transport is provided.

## **\*MEDIA Programme of the European Union**

(<http://www.mediadesk.bg/english/>)

Objective:	Training Programme for Professionals in the European Audiovisual Industry, Training Support Scheme
Administered by:	Mediadesk, European Union
Type of scheme:	FT-N / FT-F
Main destination:	Training outside Bulgaria (within the member states participating in the MEDIA programme); Training in Bulgaria (for representatives of the other member states participating in the MEDIA programme)
Funding:	Year: 2005 Training Support Scheme (training activities abroad) Approved applicants from Bulgaria = 11 with 14 997 EUR (average 1 363 EUR per project); Training Support Scheme (preparation of training programs) in 2005 approved applicants from Bulgaria = 2 with 139 120 EUR (average 69 560 EUR per project). Year: 2006 Training Support Scheme (training activities abroad) Approved applicants from Bulgaria = 17 with 13 974 EUR (average 822 EUR per project)
Eligibility:	Nationality: Open to citizens and legal entities which belong to member states participating in the MEDIA programme; Profession: For the audiovisual industry: these grants are however directed to individuals – mostly young professionals – scriptwriters, film directors, producers; Other: costs eligible for coverage are those directly linked to the execution of the training activity.

## **Ministry of Culture – Grant programme**

(<http://www.mc.government.bg>)

Objective:	Mobility is rarely funded as a separate priority; namely within some grants for international events or for national touring.
Administered by:	Ministry of Culture
Type of scheme:	EP-N, TO-N
Main destination:	Travel outside Bulgaria (both European and non European states)
Funding:	No specific budget for international activities or travel Grants are usually given for international festivals and events in Bulgaria which can be used to support mobility.
Eligibility:	Nationality: Open to Bulgarian citizens/Bulgarian legal entities; Profession: For organisations in the areas of theatre, dance, variety show, book fairs, music etc.

## **European Media Artists in Residence Exchange 2008-2009**

(<http://www.i-space.org>)

Objective:	Residence exchange programme.
Administered by:	Interspace Media Arts Center (NGO) and financed under the EU Culture 2007-2013 programme
Type of scheme:	AR-N
Main destination:	Artists' residencies in NL, Germany, Bulgaria, UK.
Funding:	16 artists will be selected Funding data is not available.
Eligibility:	Nationality: Open to all Europeans Profession: Media artists

## **\*Cultural Cooperation - Ministry of Culture**

<http://www.mc.government.bg>

Objective:	International cultural cooperation.
Administered by:	Ministry of Culture
Type of scheme:	AR-N, EP-N, NW-N, TO-N, RS-N, FT-N / EP-F
Main destination:	Travel outside Bulgaria (both European and non European states); Travel of foreign groups and individuals to Bulgaria; 4 scholarships for young opera singers in Academia St. Cecilia – Rome; “Boris Christoff” Foundation (A charitable foundation for the advancement of studies in cardiology and cardiac surgery and music ); co-funding by Ministry of Culture through the Bulgarian cultural institute in Rome (Boris Christoff Academy).
Funding:	Year: 2007 Overall budget for international activities and international travel (around 100 000 EUR, including mobility of experts for bilateral, multilateral and EU related activities); Costs pre-paid or reimbursed for short-term travel. Special or significant bilateral and multilateral cultural events will benefit from separate government funding depending on each particular case. No calls for participation and grants, rather allocated on a project-by-project basis according to the programmed activities of BG/foreign countries and 9 Bulgarian cultural institutes abroad.
Eligibility:	<i>Ministry of Culture Scholarships</i> Profession: Preference for young artists, but also experienced and famous ones. Nationality: For Bulgarian artists; hosting foreign artists (in some cases travel expenses can also be covered); Profession: artists; cultural operators; Other: cover project costs (in particular cases), visits to events or trips linked to showcasing, touring, visa, accommodation, international travel etc. Since it is not a specific grant program, the types of costs to be supported are preliminarily determined while programming. The Ministry is permanently in search of co-financing, sponsorship etc. for such activities. <i>Boris Christoff Foundation Scholarships</i> Age: young musicians (not students), 4 per year; Nationality: Bulgarians from other countries; Profession: musicians, opera singers and piano players; Other: covers tuition fees, accommodation; 3 months duration.

## **Courants du monde (External programme based in France)**

<http://www.mcm.asso.fr/site02/courants/programme/courantsdumonde.htm>

Objective:	Study visits and workshops in France.
Administered by:	Maison des cultures du monde – Paris. Information about the programme is distributed worldwide by French Cultural Institutes and governmental bodies such as the Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria.
Type of scheme:	GS-N
Main destination:	France (sometimes in other French-speaking countries)
Funding:	The programme is made available through the Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria (Bilateral relations Department); between 1995 and 2007 over 125 professionals from Bulgaria took part in capacity building activities. Funding data is not available.
Eligibility:	Nationality: Open to nationals from all over the world; Profession: Professionals in the fields of cultural administration, policy, management; libraries, cultural industries, conservation etc.; Other: French language is compulsory; second language is used in particular programs for visiting a third country; Bursary covers accommodation, daily allocations, internal transport etc...

### **\*Nomad Dance Academy**

(<http://www.nomaddanceacademy.org/>)

Objective: Training and capacity building platform for young performing artists from SEE.  
Administered by: Nomad Dance Academy (funded by Swiss Cultural Program for Western Balkans, European Cultural Foundation and Kulturkontakt)  
Type of scheme: FT-N, AR-N / FT-F, AR-F  
Main destination: Workshops and co-productions/ residencies in different countries of South-East Europe (Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria, B&H, FYROM, Slovenia).  
Funding: Dance and dance theatre co-productions and shows; workshops.  
Funding data is not available.  
Eligibility: Nationality: For South-East Europeans;  
Profession: Visual, media, dance, dance theatre.

### **Programme for Artists Residence Support**

(<http://artoffice.bg/event/18>)

Objective: Scholarship for international travel  
Administered by: Art Foundation, Sofia, Bulgaria (NGO). Follow up of the Swiss Cultural Programme in Bulgaria, which ceased in 2007.  
Type of scheme: AR-N  
Main destination: Travel to and residence in Switzerland  
Funding: 3 professionals selected for the session May 2008  
Funding data is not available.  
Eligibility: Nationality: Open to Bulgarian citizens;  
Profession: visual arts;  
Other: up to 2 months residency period. The scholarship covers international travel (return ticket), residence permit, insurance, accommodation, per diem, working materials up to CHF 1 000.

### **\*Visiting Arts Programme**

([http://www.visitingarts.org.uk/info\\_resources/index.html](http://www.visitingarts.org.uk/info_resources/index.html))

Objective: Artistic exchange between UK and other countries in the world.  
Administered by: British Council  
Type of scheme: GS-N, EP-N, PR-N, TO-N / GS-F, EP-F, PR-F, TO-F  
Main destination: UK  
Funding: The programme contains: Workshops, artistic collaborations in Bulgaria and UK, exhibitions, music events, etc...  
Funding data is not available.  
Eligibility: Nationality: Open for all British Council bilateral partners in the world;  
Profession: Visual, media, dance, dance theatre, music.

### **\*Artslink programme**

(<http://www.cecartslink.org>)

Objective: External programme based in the U.S.A.; placements and art residencies.  
Administered by: CEC Artslink – U.S.A., NY  
Type of scheme: AR-N, MD-N / MD-F  
Main destination: Artistic residencies in U.S.A.  
Funding: Since 2001, 10 Bulgarians received scholarships  
Eligibility: Nationality: Open to Central and Eastern Europeans, Russians and Caucasus;  
Profession: Visual, media, dance, theatre & art management.

### **\*Gulliver's Connect Programme**

(<http://www.gulliverconnect.org/en/>)

- Objective: Mobility and work placement programme which promotes international co-operation among arts and cultural professionals from Europe.
- Administered by: Felix Meritis Foundation – Amsterdam, NL
- Type of scheme: AR-N, FT-N, MD-N / AR-F, FT-F, MD-F
- Main destination: Work placement from and to EU countries, Russia and countries from the former Soviet Union
- Funding: 26 placements for artists and cultural managers/operators over the last 10 years; includes both placements in Bulgaria for foreign participants, and placements of Bulgarians overseas.  
Funding data is not available.
- Eligibility: Nationality: EU countries, Russia and countries from the former Soviet Union;  
Profession: artists and cultural managers from visual, media, music, dance, theatre & art management etc.;  
Other: host organisations are also listed for eligibility.

### **\*UNESCO Aschberg bursaries for artist**

(<http://www.unesco.org/culture/aschberg>)

- Objective: To promote the mobility of young artists in order to enrich their personal perspectives, to enable them to engage in an intercultural dialogue and expose them to cultural diversity.
- Administered by: UNESCO-Aschberg, International Fund for the Promotion of Culture; Paris
- Type of scheme: AR-N, FT-N, PR-N / AR-F, FT-F, PR-F
- Main destination: Work placements, master classes, training to destinations all over the world, particularly Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia – depending on the host organisation and its target regions.
- Funding: Year: 2006/2007  
67 fellowships offered by 47 partner institutions in 26 countries; Bulgarian artists are also eligible for some of the bursaries.  
Funding data is not available.
- Eligibility: Age: specified for each type of bursaries – on the choice of the host organization;  
Nationality: For artists from all over the world, particularly Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia – depending on the host organisation and its target regions;  
Profession: Visual arts, music, dance, creative writing, performing arts, media arts;  
Other: each of the host decides.

### **\*Kulturkontakt Austria**

([http://www.kulturkontakt.or.at/page.aspx\\_param\\_target\\_is\\_104784\\_and\\_1\\_is\\_2.v.aspx](http://www.kulturkontakt.or.at/page.aspx_param_target_is_104784_and_1_is_2.v.aspx))

- Objective: Activities range from support for individuals, start-up help for innovative initiatives and cooperative projects with promoters.
- Administered by: Kulturkontakt, Vienna, Austria
- Type of scheme: AR-N / AR-F
- Main destination: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine
- Funding: Since 1990, cooperation has been established with over 60 Bulgarian organisations; most of the projects include short-term or long-term mobility.  
Funding data is not available.
- Eligibility: Nationality: Open to 22 countries in Central, South-East and East Europe;  
Profession: Visual, media, music, dance, theatre & art management.

## 4.2 Incoming schemes available for foreign cultural professionals

### Art Hostel and Tchamla Kingdom

(<http://www.art-hostel.com/cgi-bin/artchamla.pl?page=Efra>)

Objective:	Art residencies which create conditions for artists to come out of the frame of their everyday activities and to experience a new environment.
Administered by:	Destination Bulgaria Foundation
Type of scheme:	AR-F
Main destination:	Not specified.
Funding:	Funding data is not available.
Eligibility:	Nationality: Open to all Profession: artists working in the field of contemporary dance, theatre, visual arts, photography, land-art, architecture and stage design based on an interdisciplinary approach.