

SLOVAKIA

Compiled from the questionnaire response prepared by *Zora Jaurova* (Theatre Institute, Bratislava)

1. CULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN FIGURES (2005)

| Total employment | | Cultural employment | | Cultural employment in % |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 2 196 000 | | 40 300 | | 1,8% |
| Employed | Self-employed | Employed | Self-employed | |
| 87,1% | 12,9% | 75,8% | 24,2% | |

Source: EUROSTAT, EU Labor Force Survey, 2005.

2. RECENT DEBATES ON THE MOBILITY OF CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS

- Mainly lack of any debate regarding the mobility of cultural professionals.
- Main policy debate concerns the cultural exports, or “presentation of Slovak culture abroad” – competence clash between the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in charge of a few “Slovak Cultural Institutes” abroad) causes non-existence of any strategy in this area, touring and export has no strategy, policies or measures, usually is based on individual decisions of ambassadors or ad hoc projects of cultural institutions.
- Insufficient measures of the Ministry of Culture – very little budget for international activities, most of the budget goes to ad hoc presentations abroad, mobility of cultural professionals and co-financing of international projects. These were implemented into the grant scheme on the intervention of the CCP (which is also the main national consultancy on international cultural cooperation). However, resources are quite limited and selection criteria dubious or non-existing.
- Lack of concepts regarding intellectual exchange, multilateral cultural cooperation, importance of networking etc.
- Non-existing policies on intercultural dialogue.
- Mobility in the cultural field is therefore supported either as a part of the operation of state-funded cultural institutions, who work internationally, or by independent institutions and groups with very little state support (they use either international resources, or non-cultural mobility funds – like Youth programme etc.).
- Almost total lack of specific incentives for foreign artists, no artistic residences.
- Problematic existence of so called Art Funds (Literary Fund, Music Fund, Visual Art Fund) – they collect obligatory contributions from royalties of authors and performance artists (2% of their fees) and then redistribute it in certain way – their operation and existence is inherited from the era before 1989 and due to lack of significant reform of cultural sector in Slovakia their performance is very debatable and controversial. There is a huge opposition in the cultural sector to the whole practice, when artists are obliged to pay the contribution to the funds, but have almost no benefits from their existence. Funds, award grants and scholarships operate in a very old-fashioned way, with non-transparent criteria and selection procedures and at the end they give away many small insignificant grants to a narrow group of artists. The results and impact have never been evaluated and most likely the whole system will be reconsidered soon.

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) | X | X |
| Event participation grants (EP) | X | X |
| Scholarships for further / postgraduate training courses (FT) | X | -- |
| "Go and see" or short-term exploration grants (GS) | -- | -- |
| Market development grants (MD) | -- | -- |
| Support for the participation of professionals in trans-national networking (NW) | -- | -- |
| Project or production grants (PR) | X | X |
| "Research" grants or scholarships (RS) | -- | -- |
| Touring incentives for groups (TO) | X | -- |

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

Grant schema of the Slovak Ministry of Culture - Programme Pro Slovakia

(<http://www.culture.gov.sk/ministerstvo/grantovy-system/grantov-systm-2008/program-5>)

Objective: Support of presentation of Slovak culture and arts abroad, support of mobility of cultural workers and international cultural cooperation, co-financing of projects, supported by international resources.

Administered by: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

Type of scheme: EP-N

Main destination: Not specified.

Funding: Year: 2007
Total budget 800 000 EUR (most of it goes to presentation events, only around 7% to mobility which covers travel costs connected with short-term event participation)
Mainly support of one-shot presentation of Slovak cultural subjects abroad - miscellaneous quality and broad range of presented cultural products; very little budget for support of mobility and co-financing of international project with quite limited impact.

Eligibility: Age: No age restriction;
Nationality: Only for Slovak citizens;
Profession: Cultural and artistic subjects, artists, cultural operators and all individuals working in the field of culture;
Other: Does not cover remunerations, insurance, operating costs, scholarships.

***Support Schemes of the Art Funds (Literary Fund, Music Fund, Visual Arts Fund)**

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Objective: | Very small travel grants, creative scholarship grants, sometimes contributions for production of catalogue or music recording etc. |
| Administered by: | Self-administered (status of public, non-profit institution collecting obligatory contributions from royalties for authors and performance artists and distributing it through grant schemas). |
| Type of scheme: | EP-N, FT-N, GS-N / AR-F, EP-F |
| Main destination: | Not specified. |
| Funding: | Year: 2006 Estimated amount of travel grants around 90 000 EUR (short-term travel). |
| Eligibility: | Nationality: Mainly for Slovak citizens, very few grants awarded to foreign individuals, who came to promote Slovak culture (translators, visual artists) Profession: artists, journalists, translators, researchers; Other: Lack of transparent way of awarding grants, little data available. |

***Visegrad Artist Residency Programme (VARP)**

<http://www.visegradfund.org>

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Objective: | To promote development of closer cooperation among the V4 countries through supporting common cultural, scientific and educational projects, exchanges between young people, cross-border cooperation and tourism promotion. |
| Administered by: | Visegrad Fund (Intergovernmental fund established by Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia) governed by Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Council of Ambassadors. |
| Type of scheme: | AR-N / AR-F |
| Main destination: | The residency projects must be implemented in a V4 country other than that of the artist's residence. |
| Funding: | Year: 2007 108 000 EUR a year awarded to 6 artists from each of V4 country a year. The supported period of residency is 3 months. Selected artists will receive a residency fee of EUR 750 per month and the host organization will receive EUR 750 per month to cover expenses related to the residency. |
| Eligibility: | Nationality: V4 Countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia; Profession: artists. |

***International Visegrad Fund - Grants for international cooperation**

<http://www.visegradfund.org>

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Objective: | To support projects in the fields of cultural cooperation, scientific exchange and research, education, exchanges between young people, cross-border cooperation and promotion of tourism. |
| Administered by: | International Visegrad Fund (Intergovernmental fund established by Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia) governed by Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Council of Ambassadors. |
| Type of scheme: | PR-N / PR-F |
| Main destination: | V4 countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. |
| Funding: | Annual grants budget is between 512 000 EUR and 2 200 000 EUR. The maximum contribution of the IVF allocated to each Small Grant project is up to EUR 4 000. The financial contribution of the IVF cannot exceed 50% of the total project costs including the in-kind contribution of the applicant, or in-kind contributions of other co-financing subjects. The maximum time frame of the proposed budget is 6 months, even if the project is envisaged to last longer. |
| Eligibility: | Nationality: V4 countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia; Profession: cultural institutions, cultural operators and artists. |