

Call for transborder art and culture projects 2017

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”*

- Is this true?

Preamble

From the 1960s until the early 1990s the cultural scene in Styria gave rise to an attempt to use contemporary art to address questions of (national) borders and of various historical and socio-political patterns in the then proclaimed joint cultural region of Trigon**. The objective was a sustainable rapprochement through the international language of the arts. The enlargement of the European Union towards south-eastern Europe brought a halt to this successful project and allows regionality to be viewed differently.

Nowadays, 50 years later, Europe and especially the countries in the “Trigon area” are the focus of increased migration, presenting great challenges for our society: challenges that can apparently be read in various forms of expression and yet which are often not understandable. “The limits of my language mean the limits of my world,” Wittgenstein finds in his logico-philosophical treatise. In our society, today these limits also mean different languages and temperaments, sounds, images, symbols and tokens that shape everyday life, different smells and tastes, music and rituals that are clear and unmistakable and exist alongside each other in different worlds.

Looking back at the Trigon project, which first took place in 1967 and would be 50 years old in 2017, the question arises as to the ways artists can find today of overcoming boundaries and borders, what languages they speak in order to visualise and illustrate communication through music, literature, visual art, architecture, film, theatre, dance, etc. and to make these usable for our societies? Languages, contemporary artistic forms of expression that have the potential to push and break down boundaries.

Within the framework of the Province of Styria call for transborder art and culture projects 2017, artists are invited to develop these languages, drawing references, discussing and yet also questioning them. Artistic partners from the Trigon area should be involved in developing a contribution to mutual respect in a society that has come together over the past two years. The focus should lie on breaking down boundaries through shared languages, the languages of contemporary art.

*Ludwig Wittgenstein, Tractatus logico-philosophicus, Proposition 5.6 (1918)

**Trigon includes the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Hungary and Austria.

In an open call for the submission of border crossing art and culture projects in the culture area Trigon (with Hungary and South Eastern Europe) we would like to invite (creative) artists and ask what

languages artists speak, which contemporary artistic forms of expression they choose to push and break down boundaries through shared languages.

The art scene from Styria and the Trigon area, regional cultural initiatives, artists, and academics within the arts are invited to contribute to the call and to build up transnational cooperation that will lead to sustainable networks. We further invite you to put new cultural work models to the test and to implement cultural projects of all branches.

The Department of Culture, Europe and Foreign Relations (A9) will arrange meetings of the project managers to further the exchange of thematic and cultural content during the implementation phase: These network meetings shall contribute to the sustainability of the projects. They should furthermore facilitate direct communication and provide the participants with the opportunity to monitor the developments of the individual projects and to present their projects to the general public.

The region of Styria hereby announces a call on behalf of the Regional Minister for Culture, Dr. Christian Buchmann, via the Department of Culture, Europe and Foreign Relations, under the following conditions: **Each successful project can receive a subsidy amount of max. € 15,000.00. (The total amount of subsidies available is € 150,000.00.).**

1. Procurement Criteria:

- a. The call is targeted at *all* artists, regional cultural initiatives, and art theorists.
- b. Eligibility according to the „Styrian law on the funding of culture and art 2005 (in its current version)“
- c. The project or the applicants shall have a connection to Styria

2. Basic Requirements

- a. Artistic/ cultural quality, professional implementation;
- b. Content and aims of the project shall be clearly defined;
- c. Detailed costs/ financial budget;
- d. Economic and organizational qualifications to implement the project;
- e. Relation to Styria: The submitted project can be implemented in Styria or the common cultural space mentioned. The applicant's residence shall be in Styria; any other suitable relation to Styria has to be demonstrated.
- f. Participation of project partners from South-Eastern-Europe.
- g. Project must take place in Styria and in the country of partner-organisation (artist). All announcements and PR-activities must show the logo attached plus the sentence “supported by Land Steiermark, Department of Culture, Call for transborder art and culture projects 2017”.

3. Deadlines

- o Applications can be submitted from now on to **March 31st, 2017.**
- o The accepted project proposals will be announced by the end of April 2017.

- o The project period for art and cultural projects is the year 2017 until the end of the second quarter 2018.
- o Applications have to be submitted **electronically** via the application form, which has to be annotated with the reference “Call 2017” (Transmission as PDF or Word Document only to a9@stmk.gv.at) possible.
- o DOWNLOAD

Applications that are not submitted in time cannot be considered.

4. Evaluation

The projects will be reviewed by the cultural curatorship on the basis of the submitted applications and the documents elaborated by Department of Culture. The applications presented to the cultural curatorship have to be **complete!**

Every application shall be evaluated not only in terms of its program/ concept, but also in terms of the applicant's competence to implement the project and the amount of its artistic conception within the project at large.

5. Allocation

The Regional Government of Styria will decide on the allocation of the subsidies.

Your contact person for questions concerning planning and implementing projects is Mrs. Christiane Kada (T: +43 (0)316 877 5832, christiane.kada@stmk.gv.at) from the Department of Culture, Europe and Foreign Relations, Landhausgasse 7, 8010 Graz.

Regional Government of Styria
Head of Department

Mag. Patrick Schnabl