

# Mobility Funding Guides

Funding Opportunities  
for International Cultural Exchange in Europe

2014 edition

GUIDE to  
**Bulgaria**

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## Guide to funding opportunities for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals

### BULGARIA

This guide is a partially updated document from the **Guide to funding opportunities for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals in Europe**<sup>1</sup> produced by the Foundation Interarts, *On the Move* and PRACTICS and published online in September 2011.

This present **guide** specifically focused on **Bulgaria** includes:

- **Mobility funding opportunities open to Bulgarian nationals and residents in most artistic and cultural disciplines > Outgoing mobility (OM);**
- **Mobility funding opportunities open to nationals from other countries than Bulgaria in most artistic and cultural disciplines > Incoming mobility (IM)**

The guide lists national, regional and local resources, be they public or private. Only regular opportunities accessible online are listed; funds for which information is only available offline, not based on open calls, and ad hoc or short-term funding are usually not included. For a full overview of the methodology and scope of the research, please refer to the introduction of the **Guide to funding opportunities for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals in Europe**<sup>2</sup>.

Overall, the main objectives of such mobility funding guides are to make available online, in a transparent way, the existing information on funding for the international mobility of artists and cultural operators and to give input to funders on how to fill in the existing gaps in funding for international cultural exchange in order to ensure a sustainable support to cultural mobility in Europe and in the world.

**This guide, updated by On the Move thanks to the support of the Asia-Europe Foundation, is an attempt to gather all the resources in one document, and is by no means complete. You can send your comments, suggestions and corrections to: [mobility@on-the-move.org](mailto:mobility@on-the-move.org)**

For regular and one-off calls for projects, collaborations and other opportunities to fund international cultural exchange, we invite you to subscribe **for free** to the monthly newsletter of On the Move at <http://on-the-move.org>.

For regional or other international sources of funding, we may suggest you to consult:

- The **Guide to funding opportunities for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals in Europe** and the sections related to European Union, Council of Europe, Regional funds, Relations with third countries (pages 384-399).
- The guide “**Open to any nationality**” under the Mobility Funding Guides - Funding opportunities for international cultural exchange in Asia, commissioned by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) through its portal [culture360.asef.org](http://culture360.asef.org)<sup>3</sup>.

*Up-dated guide with the Culture Desk Foundation<sup>4</sup> on 20 September 2013 and online on 9 November 2013 (as part of ACT Festival for Independent Theatre: <http://actfest.org/en/aboutus/>) - web links last checked on 12 August 2014.*  
*The mentions of Public (Pub.), Private (Pri.) and Public/Private (PP.) have been added to highlight the sources of funding.*

<sup>1</sup> <http://on-the-move.org/funding/europe>

<sup>2</sup> See above web-link.

<sup>3</sup> <http://culture360.asef.org/asef-news/mobility/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://culturedesk.com> (Person in charge of the research: Biliiana Necheva)

**Additional tips and comments:**

We are aware that the listing of national/local sources of funding to support the mobility of Bulgarian artists and cultural professionals is limited.

Considering this situation, you may find below additional ideas and references to fund your mobility.

**Funds and organisations that specifically focus on Europe and the Eastern/central and/or the Balkan region**

- Consider the Roberto Cimetta Fund, or the Allianz Cultural Foundation, to name a few<sup>5</sup>.
- There are also specific programmes which support mobility for a specific group of countries, including Bulgaria, for instance:
  - >> Art up! Media art in Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey:  
<http://www.goethe.de/ins/tr/lp/prj/art/enindex.htm>
  - >> CECartslink (USA and 37 eligible countries including Bulgaria):  
<http://www.cecartslink.org>
- On the Move (<http://on-the-move.org>) regularly highlights on its website and facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/onthemove.OTM>) the calls of these organisations and others’.

**European and EU sources of funding**

- The European Cultural Foundation may be another way to fund your mobility with its *Step beyond travel grant*<sup>6</sup>.
- European national cultural institutes can sometimes support the mobility of Bulgarian artists and cultural professionals<sup>7</sup>.
- You can also check the list of EU funded projects and eventually see which ones include Bulgarian partner-organisations<sup>8</sup>.
- Consider joining a network in relation to your field of work. This can help you to better connect to some opportunities at a regional, European and international level<sup>9</sup>.
- For specific projects (also with a broader socio-economic dimension), other sources of funding can be secured through the European Social Fund, Cohesion fund, or the structural funds<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cimettafund.org/>; <https://kulturstiftung.allianz.de>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/grants>

<sup>7</sup> <http://bulgaria.eunic-online.eu/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/selection-results\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/selection-results_en)

<sup>9</sup> To delve into the European world of networks, check the Polish CCP’s publication, *Closer Look: European Cultural Networks in Practice*: <http://on-the-move.org/librarynew/guidesandtoolkits/article/15630/closer-look-european-cultural-networks-in-practice/?category=84>

<sup>10</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm) General gateway to Regional Policy  
<http://www.eenc.info/category/eencdocs/papers-2/> Scroll down for the document Bulgaria and the structural funds.

**International sources of funding**

- The abovementioned guide (page 1) “**Open to any nationality**”<sup>11</sup> under the Mobility Funding Guides - Funding opportunities for international cultural exchange in Asia, commissioned by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) through its portal [culture360.asef.org](http://culture360.asef.org)
- <http://on-the-move.org> regularly lists calls and opportunities open to artists worldwide. You can check the calls and opportunities with travels funded listed per category (News by topic): raise funding, react to a call, discover a residency, meet others etc.

And don't forget to regularly check the website of the Culture Desk Foundation, On the Move's member since 6 November 2013 (<http://culturedesk.com>).

**Additional resources****Opportunities (travel cost not necessarily covered):**

- Art office (touring opportunities within Bulgaria): <http://artoffice.bg/en/>
- Derida Dance Center – Дерида Денс Център: *Residency programme* (incoming mobility in Sofia): <http://www.derida-dance.com/gs/>
- International Elias Canetti Society - *Международно дружество “Елиас Канети”* > Art and Culture (funding for travels and residency programmes in the city of Ruse on a project basis): <http://www.eliascanetti.org/83.0.html?&L=3>

Introduction to opportunities linked to Bulgaria and listing of organisations (on the right side of the screen). This information page is more relevant for foreign artists and cultural professionals interested in Bulgaria:

- <http://culture360.asef.org/country/bulgaria/>

Note: as weblinks quickly become outdated, please email us at [mobility@on-the-move.org](mailto:mobility@on-the-move.org) to inform us about any broken web-link. Thank you!

<sup>11</sup> <http://culture360.asef.org/asef-news/mobility/>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. Public organisations</b>	<b>p. 5</b>
<b>1.1. National Culture Fund - Национален фонд "Култура"</b>	
1.1.1. Cultural Contacts Programme «Mobility» – (IM / OM)	
<b>1.2. State Institute for Culture - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Държавния културен институт - МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ВЪНШНИТЕ РАБОТИ</b>	
1.2.1. Travel grants and other supports – (IM / OM)	
<b>2. Local authorities</b>	<b>p. 7</b>
<b>2.1. Sofia Municipality – Столична община</b>	
2.1.1. "Programme Culture": Intercultural dialog and Mobility – (IM / OM)	
<b>2.2. Varna Municipality – Община Варна</b>	
2.2.1. Programme "Varna – a place for creativity", Priority 2: Promoting the dialog between the European cultures – (IM / OM)	
<b>2.3. Municipal Foundation "Plovdiv 2019"</b>	
2.3.1. Plovdiv – city candidate for European Capital of Culture 2019 – (IM / OM)	
<b>3. Independent organisation</b>	<b>p. 9</b>
<b>3.1. Art Affairs &amp; Documents Foundation (AAD) - Фондация Изкуство - Дела и Документи</b>	
3.1.1. Residency – (IM / OM)	
<b>4. European inter-governemental support</b>	<b>p. 9</b>
<b>4.1. EEA Grants (supported by Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway)</b>	
4.1.1. NGO programme: Capacity Building for NGOs – (IM / OM)	

Note: for incoming mobility, when the information is not available in English, we suggest you to get in touch with your Bulgarian contacts for advice.

## BULGARIA

### 1. Public national organisations

#### 1.1. Funding organisation

#### National Culture Fund - *Национален фонд "Култура"*

##### 1.1.1. Cultural Contacts Programme "Mobility"

<b>Type of mobility</b>	Event participation grants Touring incentives for groups Travel grants (valid for different purposes) (Pub.)
<b>Sector</b>	All
<b>Eligibility of beneficiaries</b>	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union, worldwide
Nationality	Bulgarian/EU citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria/EU (guests upon invitation)
Profession	Individuals
Other	Bulgarian artists and cultural workers; Foreign producers, cultural managers and programmers of festivals
<b>Destination</b>	Incoming: Bulgaria Outgoing: European Union; Worldwide
<b>Other priorities</b>	Supports individual or groups' travels to attend forums (including seminars, debates, meetings, workshops, project meetings and festivals) and visits of foreigners in Bulgaria. Supports: the professional development of Bulgarian artists and professionals in the field of culture; the inclusion of Bulgarian artists in international cultural exchange. Encourages the participation of Bulgarian artists in international cultural networks and initiatives. Does not cover the fees, lectures and other additional costs neither long-term training and related scholarships. Priority to events that are crucial to increasing contacts of Bulgarian culture with European cultural events and processes and to projects for individual trips.
<b>Size of grants</b>	Funds only 80% of the costs of travel of max. amount BG Leva 1,200 for individuals and BG Leva 3,500 for groups. There are two or three open calls every year. The deadlines for applications are announced at the beginning of every calendar year.
<b>Last viewed</b>	12/08/2014
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://ncf.bg/?page_id=69">http://ncf.bg/?page_id=69</a>

**1.2.Funding  
organisation**

**State Institute for Culture - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - *Държавния  
културен институт - МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ВЪНШНИТЕ РАБОТИ***

**1.2.1. Travel grants and other supports**

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<b>Type of mobility</b>	Artists/ writers in residence Travel grants (Pub.)
<b>Sector</b>	All Visual Arts Literature
<b>Eligibility of beneficiaries</b>	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria, EU
Profession	Individuals
<b>Destination</b>	Outgoing: European Union Incoming: Bulgaria
<b>Other priorities</b>	The institute supports exhibitions of Bulgarian artists abroad and visiting exhibitions in Bulgaria. It also supports residencies home and abroad.
<b>Size of grants</b>	Not specified
<b>Last viewed</b>	12/08/2014
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://sic.mfa.bg">http://sic.mfa.bg</a>

## 2. Local authorities

### 2.1.Funding organisation

Sofia Municipality – *Столична община*

#### 2.1.1. “Programme Culture”: Intercultural dialog and Mobility

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<b>Type of mobility</b>	Travel grants (Pub.)
<b>Sector</b>	All
<b>Eligibility of beneficiaries</b>	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria, EU citizens
Profession	Individuals, Groups
Other	The programme supports the participation of Bulgarian artists and cultural workers (based in Sofia) in European cultural and art forums. The programme supports visits of European cultural managers and artists for participation in cultural forums in Sofia.
<b>Destination</b>	Incoming: Sofia (Bulgaria) Outgoing: European Union
<b>Size of grants</b>	Max. amount of BG Leva 5,000. The grants are given upon an open call in the beginning of every calendar year.
<b>Last viewed</b>	12/08/2014
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://sofiaculture.bg/index.php?show=mpk">http://sofiaculture.bg/index.php?show=mpk</a>

### 2.2.Funding organisation

Varna Municipality – *Община Варна*

#### 2.2.1. Programme “Varna – a place for creativity”, Priority 2: Promoting the dialog between the European cultures

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<b>Type of mobility</b>	Event participation grants Project or Production grants Touring incentives for groups (Pub.)
<b>Sector</b>	All
<b>Eligibility of beneficiaries</b>	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent



Profession	residence in Bulgaria, EU citizens Individuals, Groups
<b>Destination</b>	Incoming: Varna (Bulgaria) Outgoing: European Union
<b>Other priorities</b>	The programme supports the cultural exchange of art works and cooperation projects between artists and organisations from the City of Varna and other European countries.
<b>Size of grants</b>	Max. amount of BG Leva 12,000 per project (including travel costs). The grants are provided for projects on the basis of an open call once in a year (usually in spring).
<b>Last viewed</b>	12/08/2014
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://varnaculture.bg">http://varnaculture.bg</a>

**2.3.Funding organisation**

**Municipal Foundation "Plovdiv 2019"**

**2.3.1. Plovdiv – city candidate for European Capital of Culture 2019**

<b>Type of mobility</b>	Event participation grants Project or Production grants (Pub.)
<b>Sector</b>	All
<b>Eligibility of beneficiaries</b>	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria, EU citizens
Profession	Individuals, Groups
<b>Destination</b>	Incoming: Plovdiv (Bulgaria) Outgoing: European Union
<b>Other priorities</b>	The programme supports the cultural exchange of art works and cooperation projects between artists and organisations from the City of Plovdiv and other European countries.
<b>Size of grants</b>	Not specified
<b>Last viewed</b>	12/08/2014
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.plovdiv2019.eu/en/">http://www.plovdiv2019.eu/en/</a>

### 3. Independent organisation

**3.1.Funding organisation** Art Affairs & Documents Foundation (AAD) - *Фондация Изкуство - Дела и Документи*

#### 3.1.1. Residency

<b>Type of mobility</b>	Artists/ writers in residence Travel grants (Pri.)
<b>Sector</b>	Visual Arts
<b>Eligibility of beneficiaries</b>	
Age	Under 45 years of age
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria
Profession	Individual artists
Other	Fluent in English
<b>Destination</b>	Incoming: Bulgaria Outgoing: Center for Contemporary Art FUTURA (Czech Republic)
<b>Other priorities</b>	Contribution to the expansion and development of the local art scene and the promotion of Bulgarian art abroad
<b>Size of grants</b>	Covers travel costs, studio and accommodation provided for 2 months
<b>Last viewed</b>	12/08/2014
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://aadfoundation.blogspot.com/">http://aadfoundation.blogspot.com/</a> ; <a href="http://aadfoundation.wordpress.com/">http://aadfoundation.wordpress.com/</a>

### 4. European inter-governmental support

**4.1.Funding organisation** EEA Grants (supported by Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway)

#### 4.1.1. NGO programme: Capacity Building for NGOs

<b>Type of mobility</b>	Travel grants Project development (Pub.)
<b>Sector</b>	Cultural management
<b>Eligibility of beneficiaries</b>	
Geographical	Bulgaria; Iceland; Lichtenstein; Norway

**BULGARIA**

criteria	
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria; residents from Iceland; Lichtenstein; Norway
Profession	NGOs
Other	Support for the preparatory stage of partnership projects between NGOs from these countries. To apply, the candidates should have the intention to develop the project idea for the financing from EEA Grants Scheme after the preparatory stage.
<b>Destination</b>	Incoming: Bulgaria Outgoing: Iceland; Lichtenstein; Norway
<b>Other priorities</b>	The programme supports the travel costs, accommodation, and daily allowances.
<b>Size of grants</b>	Max. Euro 1,500
<b>Last viewed</b>	12/08/2014
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://ngogrants.bg/public/portfolios/view.cfm?id=1">http://ngogrants.bg/public/portfolios/view.cfm?id=1</a>



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For more information please contact [mobility@on-the-move.org](mailto:mobility@on-the-move.org). Reference to On the Move should be made if information from this *Guide* is published elsewhere.

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