

Platform meeting of Asian and European Cultural Mobility Funders
Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 June 2013 – Prague, Czech Republic

Key findings and inputs for follow-ups

Prague, Czech Republic, 5-6 June 2013

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Key findings

These key findings encompass the main common issues that emerged from the two-day meeting of a diverse Asia-European group of more than 40 funders and supporters of cultural mobility gathering in Prague on 5-6 June 2013.

Multiple impacts of cultural mobility – cultural mobility experiences entail a wide range of impacts from the artistic, cultural, social, economic, political and environmental points of view. Such impacts develop in the mid- long-term on a number of stakeholders:

- Artists/cultural professionals
- Local communities
- Societies
- Countries (eg. cultural diplomacy)

Reciprocity – cultural mobility can be hindered by the organisations' missions (e.g. focus on support of national/regional artists only, one-way mobility etc.) and/or by funding limitation (for culture in general). Reciprocity therefore is a challenge, especially when it comes to cultural mobility between countries with very different contexts in terms of available economic resources and support devoted to culture and cultural mobility. However **non-monetary exchange** can be a response: for instance the collaboration with cultural organisations (in the country of destination) can provide a valuable source of information, direct connections with local partners and insights in the cultural scene of a country. This would ultimately help the artists to focus on engaging with the other culture while saving time and money.

Interface organisations – working on the ground and acting between funders and artists/operators – in particular have a key role to play in easing the “reciprocity” of exchanges, in spite of limited financial resources. Their involvement can **benefit funders** (who gain a reliable entry point to access other countries' scenes) as well as **artists/cultural professionals** (who benefit from information, knowledge, training and facilitation of the mobility process, incl. on visa issues). Overall such a process can contribute to the implementation of “**fair exchange**” based on connections between people and organisations with and from the “majority world”.

Cultural mobility versus “tourism” – cultural mobility is not about one-off, superficial experiences: it is about engagement with another culture, and **it requires time, knowledge and depth** to allow the “mobile” artists to develop meaningful connections and real exchanges. The **process** deserves consideration, not just the concrete and tangible outputs, in order to shape valuable and enriching encounters and long term quality exchange. This also contributes to build **quality exchange** between organisations and individuals.

Evaluation is crucial for funders if they want to adapt their cultural mobility funding schemes to the evolving characteristics and needs of mobile artists and cultural professionals. There is room for improvement in the way data, feedback and reports by beneficiaries are used by funders, and an exchange between funders would be an asset.

Advocacy & case-building for cultural mobility are needed to continue and strengthen the support to cultural mobility, at the regional and Asia-European level. There is a crucial need to consolidate and disseminate new narratives about cultural mobility.

Inputs for concrete outcomes

> **Establishment of entry points / connections in more than 25 Asian and European countries** through the personal contacts nurtured throughout the Prague meeting.

> **Calls for partners and expressions of interests for collaborations and/or hosting next meetings** (for instance by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, NCCA-The Philippines etc).

For the organisation of future meetings, national cultural institutes in Europe and Asia can be considered (in Europe, through the EUNIC network).

> **Call for more networks' connections within Asia and within Europe and between the two regions** (direct opportunity with the *Creative networks* call by the Asia-Europe Foundation).

(Introduction of networks like Asia-Pacific Performing Arts Network-APPAN or the East European Performing Arts Platform (EEPAP) - <http://www.eepap.org/web/english/about-us#>)

> **Clearer access to information platforms** (websites, portals, social medias, blogs etc.) on mobility opportunities and funding.

> **Proposals for ideas of next meetings** which shall be focused on a **specific issue** such as

- The multiple impacts of cultural mobility,
- The evaluation of cultural mobility programmes (IFACCA might raise the issue during the next Word Summit on Arts and Culture in Chile, 13-16 January 2014 - <http://www.artsummit.org/en/>),
- The transversal potential of cultural mobility (connections with other sectors),
- Capacity building projects to support artists in their mobility experiences (through workshops, trainings, peer-to-peer projects etc.).

> **Sharing of initiatives and models** in relation to

- The writing of narratives related to cultural mobility;
- Researches on cultural mobility;
- Advocacy models and campaigns to support cultural mobility (which may include a lexicon of mobility-related terms for funders and institutions).

> **Advocacy for the facilitation of visa processes** (in particular for third countries' nationals to the Schengen space). This should include information on the rights of the applicants (including in case of visa refusals).

> **Suggestions to develop specific funds** which take into consideration particular fast evolving socio-political contexts.

Related weblinks for follow-ups

- Platforms of information on cultural mobility (including on funding):

Cultural platform of the Asia-Europe Foundation

<http://culture360.org>

On the Move: regular updates about cultural mobility opportunities internationally

<http://on-the-move.org>

Funding opportunities for international cultural exchange in Asia

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

Guide to Funding Opportunities for the International Mobility of Artists and Culture Professionals in Europe

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

- Up-coming calls for proposals for Asia-European projects

Creative Encounters – third call for proposals

<http://www.asef.org/index.php/projects/themes/arts-culture/2948-creative-encounters-third-edition#2967-call-for-proposals>

ASEF Creative Networks

<http://culture360.org/opportunity/asef-creative-networks-call-for-proposals/>

- Advocacy tools to build the case for cultural mobility (towards policy makers, funders and cultural organisations)

On the Move, Charter for a Responsible and Sustainable Cultural Mobility

<http://on-the-move.org/charter>

The Istikshaf platform (Arab region)

<https://www.facebook.com/IstikshafCampaign>

- Visa issues

<http://on-the-move.org/about/ourownnews/article/15459/artists-mobility-and-schengen-visas/>

- Writing and narratives related to cultural mobility: call for contributions (InterActive magazine)

<http://interactive.org/2013/03/art-mobility-en/>

- Links to articles related to the Prague meeting (as of 3 July 2013)

IFACCA European Coordinator attends OTM meeting

<http://www.ifacca.org/announcements/2013/06/20/ifacca-european-coordinator-attends-otm-meeting/>

Contribution by Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio for culture360.org

<http://culture360.org/magazine/exchanging-visions-and-experiences-on-mobility-exploring-the-asia-europe-connection/>

- Reference texts related to cultural mobility

Resources on cultural mobility > Policy and Advocacy (supporting cultural mobility; mobility researches, visas and administrative issues etc.)

<http://on-the-move.org/librarynew/policyandadvocacy/>

Resources on cultural mobility > Guides and toolkits (including on funding and sustainability)

<http://on-the-move.org/librarynew/guidesandtoolkits/>

Some examples:

International Artistic Mobility and Territorial Diplomacy: report of the Guimarães seminar by the Roberto Cimetta Fund, May 2012:

<http://www.cimettafund.org/content/upload/file/Report.Seminar.24.5.12.en.pdf>

Measuring the impact of a mobility grant: a work in progress by the Roberto Cimetta Fund

<http://www.cimettafund.org/index/index/news/147/lang/en>