

Mobility Funding Guides

Funding Opportunities
for International Cultural Exchange in Europe

2018 Edition

GUIDE to
Bulgaria

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BULGARIA

GUIDE TO FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF ARTISTS AND CULTURE PROFESSIONALS

This guide is an updated version of the **Guide to funding opportunities for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals in Europe**¹ produced by the Foundation Interarts, On the Move and PRACTICS and first published online in September 2011².

Updated in January 2018, the present Guide 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)**

This 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**³.

Overall, the main objective of these guides is 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** with the research support of [Dr. Lidia Varbanova](#)⁴ and thanks to the coordination of the **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)**, 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-themove.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 European and international sources of funding, you can also see:

– The Fund-Finder, Guide for funding opportunities for arts and culture in Europe, beyond Creative Europe. A guide by IETM, updated in cooperation with On the Move – edition 2017

<https://www.ietm.org/en/publications/fund-finder>

– The Guide to funding opportunities for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals “Focus on Asia” and Open to any Nationality”, commissioned by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) through its portal <https://culture360.asef.org>.⁵

Note: For incoming mobility when the information is not available in English, we have listed some information in the local language. We suggest you get in touch with your Bulgarian contacts for advice.

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

² The first update was done in 2014 with the support of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

³ See above web-link.

⁴ [Dr. Lidia Varbanova](#) has professional experience as a consultant, educator, researcher and manager in over 60 countries. Her portfolio focuses on strategy, policy development, entrepreneurship and innovations, organisational development and online technologies, with a special emphasis on arts, culture and creative industries. Her latest books are: [Strategic Management in the Arts](#), (2012) and [International Entrepreneurship in the Arts](#) (released October 2016), published by Routledge.

⁵ Focus on Asia Guide: http://culture360.asef.org/wpcontent/download/mobility/Asia_MobilityFundingGuide.pdf
Guide “Open to any nationality”: http://culture360.asef.org/wp-content/download/mobility/International_MobilityFundingGuide.pdf

NATIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

1. Public organisations

1.1 Funding organisation National Fund “Culture” organisation – Национален фонд “Култура”

Cultural Contacts Programme ‘Mobility’

Type of mobility	Event participation grants Touring incentives for groups Travel grants (valid for different purposes) (Public)
Sector	All
Eligibility of beneficiaries	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union, worldwide
Nationality	Bulgarian/EU citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria/EU (guests upon invitation)
Profession	Artists, cultural professionals
Other	Bulgarian artists and cultural workers Foreign producers, cultural managers and programmers of festivals
Destination	Incoming: Bulgaria Outgoing: European Union; Worldwide
Other priorities	Programme “Mobility III”: financing participation of representatives of Bulgarian arts and culture in international, national and local cultural forums, as well as visits of international cultural managers and producers in the field of arts and culture. Cultural Programme for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of European Union 2018. The programme aims to represent the Bulgarian national specificity and identity, and to emphasize the place of Bulgaria in Europe
Size of grants	The National Fund “Culture” will update their priorities and programmes by the end of February 2018. Updated information will be provided by then.
Last viewed	10/1/2018
URL	http://ncf.bg/?page_id=69 http://programs.ncf.bg/bg/programi/2017/MOB-110

1.2 Funding State Institute for Culture - Ministry of Foreign Affairs organisation– Държавен културен институт - МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ВЪНШНИТЕ РАБОТИ

Travel grants and other supports

Type of mobility	Artists/ writers in residence Travel grants (Public)
Sector	Visual Arts Literature Cultural Diplomacy Culture and International Relations
Eligibility of beneficiaries	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria
Profession	Artists / Writers (Individuals, groups)
Destination	Outgoing: European Union Incoming: Bulgaria
Other priorities	The Institute is an integral part of the international cultural relations and works in the field of cultural diplomacy. The institute supports exhibitions of Bulgarian artists abroad and visiting exhibitions in Bulgaria.
Size of grants	Not specified
Last viewed	12/1/2018
URL	http://www.culture-mfa.bg/

2. Local authorities

2.1 Funding Sofia Municipality organisation – Столична община⁶

Programme “Culture”: Key priority: Equal Access to Global Cultural Processes Programme “Culture”: Cultural Dialogues

Type of mobility	Travel grants, Residencies
Sector	All
Eligibility of beneficiaries	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria
Profession	Individuals, Groups

⁶ Note: The new priorities for 2019 will be announced in the fall of 2018

Other	<p>The key priority “Equal Access to Global Cultural Processes” supports projects that stimulate mobility, exchange of cultural models and practices and diverse forms of partnership between cultural operators from Sofia, the Balkans and European Union. The events have to represent Sofia, its culture and tradition at local, regional, national and international audiences.</p> <p>The Programme Cultural Dialogues supports the realisation of regional and international residency programmes; projects that lead to expansion of international contacts and co-productions with partners from other countries; co-financing of projects that have already received financing from European or other international programmes.</p>
Destination	<p>Outgoing: European Union / International Incoming: Sofia</p>
Size of grants	Max. amount of BG Leva 5,000. The grants are given upon an open call in the beginning of every calendar year.
Last viewed	20/01/2018
URL	<p>https://kultura.sofia.bg/ https://kultura.sofia.bg/section-23-sydyrzhatelen_obhvat_z.html</p>

2.2 Funding Varna Municipality organisation – Община Варна

Priority area: Support of cultural exchange at local, regional, national and international level

Programme: Priority 3: National and International Cooperation (3.1. Mobility)

Type of mobility	Event participation grants (cultural events, programmes, projects, festivals, debates, conferences, seminars, workshops, round tables) (Public)
Sector	All arts and culture sectors
Eligibility of beneficiaries	
Geographical criteria	Bulgaria; European Union; International
Nationality	Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria; International artists/cultural professionals
Profession	Individuals, Groups
Destination	Outgoing: European Union and Worldwide Incoming: Varna (Bulgaria)
Other priorities	The programme supports the cultural exchange of art works and cooperation projects between artists and organisations from the City of Varna and other countries in Europe and internationally.
Size of grants	Max. amount of BG Leva 2,000 for individual and 5,000 for collective trips. The grants are provided for projects based on an open call twice a year (usually in December and then in the Spring of the following year). Self-financing at 30% of the travel costs is required. Financial aid is partial.
Last viewed	07/02/2018
URL	http://varnaculture.bg

2.3 Funding Plovdiv-European Capital of Culture 2019 organisation

Residency programme

Type of mobility Event participation grants
Residency programme "Adata Air"
Project or Production grants (Public)

Sector All

Eligibility of beneficiaries

Geographical criteria Bulgaria; European Union

Nationality Bulgarian citizenship or permanent residence in Bulgaria, EU citizens

Profession Artists, Groups, Collectives

Destination Incoming: Plovdiv (Bulgaria)

Other priorities 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.
The Artist-in-residence programme ADATA AiR. aims to provide a space for a creative exchange that fosters intercultural dialogue and interaction. The platform is open for artists, architects, designers, etc. from Europe to join the special pre-capital-of-culture stage for the development of the Bulgarian city Plovdiv, the European Capital of Culture 2019.

Size of grants Among other cost covered (such as accommodation and studio spaces), travel grants are available for the selected artists.

Last viewed 12/01/2018

URL <http://plovdiv2019.eu/en>
<https://plovdiv2019.eu/bg/opencall/213-adata-air>

Check regularly the calls' section of the website of the European Capital of Culture of Plovdiv as other calls may occur in 2018-2019.

3. Independent organisations

3.1 Funding organisation - Elizabeth Kostova Foundation

Residency for Literary Translators

Type of mobility Residency (writers)

Sector Literary translation

Eligibility of beneficiaries

Geographical criteria (USA)

Nationality Bulgarian

Professional literacy Translators

Destination Outgoing Bulgaria to USA

Size of grants US\$3,500

Last viewed 12/1/2018

URL <http://ekf.bg/pages/page/68/> (latest information dates from 2015)

4. 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.

Below are some additional resources to fund your mobility.

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

- Consider the European Cultural Foundation (programme STEP), the Roberto Cimetta Fund or the Allianz Cultural Foundation:

> <http://ecflabs.org/step-travel-grants> (EU and neighbouring countries)

> <http://www.cimettafund.org/> (Euro-mediterranean / Arab region)

> <https://kulturstiftung.allianz.de> (Euro-mediterranean region)

- There are also specific international programmes which support mobility for a specific group of countries, including Bulgaria, for instance:

> The Asia-Europe Foundation (its mobility programme – Mobility first!) Connects countries from Europe and Asia):

<http://www.asef.org/projects/themes/culture/4176-mobility-first>

> CECArtslink (USA and 37 eligible countries including Bulgaria): <http://www.cecartslink.org>

European and international sources of funding

- European national cultural institutes (such as the Goethe Institut, Institut Français, British Council etc.) can sometimes support the mobility of Bulgarian artists and cultural professionals⁷.

- You can also check the list of EU funded projects and eventually see which ones include Bulgarian partner-organisations⁸.

- 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 level⁹.

⁷<https://www.eunicglobal.eu>

⁸https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/selection-results_en

⁹For a list of European cultural networks: <http://www.creativeeuropeuk.eu/european-networks>

For instance, IETM-the international network for contemporary performing arts has travel grants for its members with a yearly budget below 50,000 euros

Additional resources

Opportunities (travel cost not necessarily covered):

- Art office (touring opportunities within Bulgaria): <http://artoffice.bg/en/>
- Foundation "America for Bulgaria": <http://www.us4bg.org/areas/arts-and-culture/>

-Kamenov House for Creative Thinking - Creative rural residency:

<http://www.lidiavarbanova.ca/creative-houses/>

Residencies:

- International Elias Canetti Society - Международно дружество "Елиас Канети" - Creative scholarships (under the international project HALMA and with the support of Robert Bosh Foundation): <http://www.eliascanetti.org>
- Old School Art Residency "Gorna Llpnitsa": <http://oldschoolresidence.com>
- Derrida Dance Centre: <http://derida-dance.com>

Introduction to opportunities linked to Bulgaria and listing of organisations. This information page is particularly relevant for foreign artists and cultural professionals interested in Bulgaria:

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

Note: as weblinks quickly become outdated, please email us at mobility@on-themove.org to inform us about any broken web-link. Thank you!



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For more information please contact 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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