

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON CULTURAL COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

We, the Western Balkan participants referred to collectively as “the Contracting Parties” and individually “the Contracting Party”

Expressing the will to strengthen and expand the regional cooperation and mutual understanding, in order to encourage cultural development, investment in the sector of art and culture, and the employment of artists in the Western Balkans,

Considering the importance of the mobility of artists in order to ensure cultural progress and prosperity,

Aiming to expand the existing cooperation between the contracting parties in the field of art and culture

Emphasizing that no provision of this Memorandum may influence on the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties under the existing regional, bilateral and other international agreements in the field of culture,

Desirous of open cooperation with the other Western Balkan participants and their inclusion in this Memorandum with a view to promote productive cooperation in the field of culture within the region,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The purpose of this Memorandum is to create conditions to facilitate, expand and deepen the institutional cooperation in the field of culture among the Contracting Parties.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties shall consider establishing Residence Programs to provide artists and professionals with conditions for extended time of residence, use of space and resources for work, individually or in groups, in their areas of expertise.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties shall promote regional mobility of artists and experts, integrate sub-programs, as well as regional policies for cooperation in the field of art and culture, designed to support, inter alia, the exchange of experiences, networking and promotion of culture and art of the Western Balkan artists in an international context.

The Contracting Parties shall encourage the mobility of artists in order to realize interdisciplinary collaborations in the field of art and culture, in order to generate economic and social innovations.

The Contracting Parties shall endeavor to uniform the criteria and increase the number of application calls for project financing in the field of culture and art for their artists.

Priority shall be given to mobility projects that are innovative, experimental and / or multidisciplinary, and which connect potential operators from several Contracting Parties.

The Contracting Parties shall endeavor to integrate projects, platforms or cooperation networks between them and European countries and to encourage mutual implementation of joint cultural programs.

Article 4

The Contracting Parties shall promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties shall implement methods of mobility for learning and building infrastructure in culture through training programs for artists and experts from other Contracting Parties, in order to acquire and improve skills or competencies in different sectors, share experiences with colleagues and gain capacity and expertise to operate regionally and internationally.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties shall create a Common Cultural Calendar in the shortest time frame possible.

Article 7

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its signing by the Contracting Parties and shall remain in force indefinitely. Any Contracting Party may withdraw from the Memorandum by notifying the other Contracting Parties in writing, at least six months before the date of the intended withdrawal.

This Memorandum may be supplemented or amended by negotiations and mutual agreement of all Contracting Parties.

Done in Ohrid, on June 8, 2022, in three (3) original copies, in English language.

**ON BEHALF OF THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

**ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF
CULTURE AND INFORMATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**ON BEHALF THE MINISTRY OF
CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NORTH MACEDONIA**