
BLACK SEA ACADEMY 2010

28 June – 3 July 2010
Istanbul, Istanbul Bilgi University

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The European Cultural Foundation, the Open Society Institute and the Istanbul Bilgi University, in the framework of the *STEP Beyond* mobility program, are looking for talented cultural entrepreneurs and managers from **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey** to participate in a 6 days platform for capacity building, networking, knowledge exchange and experience sharing.

CONTEXT AND AIMS

The countries of South of Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) are continually facing instability, political turmoil and socio-economic downturn. The cultural sector and the local NGOs are challenged by unsustainable funding and insufficient access to international networks, thus lacking possibilities to strengthen their role both at the national/local and international level.

The three countries are among the target areas of the European Union Neighbourhood Policy, where new instruments for strengthening the cultural sector are being set up.¹ The Black Sea Academy aims at empowering independent cultural operators, managers, new entrepreneurs in arts and culture so that they could tackle the challenges in their socio-economic environments, and acquire skills for a more efficient use of the existing opportunities for cooperation and networking in Europe. The ECF and OSI share a strong commitment to supporting cultural operators from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, going beyond the borders and engaging in active cooperation (by extending the STEP Beyond Fund).

As an EU candidate country, Turkey participates actively in the international cultural scene. Istanbul hosts the European Cultural Capital 2010 and its vibrant cultural scene has the potential to transmit good practices and knowledge throughout the rest of the country and can also reach out in the Black Sea region more widely.

The participants will be exposed to an interactive and collaborative environment which shall enable them to work on their projects and/or ideas, while creating opportunities for their implementation in the future.

THE COURSE

The **Black Sea Academy 2010** will deliver knowledge and practical skills in:

- analysing cultural policymaking processes in challenging environments;
- strategic, organisational and project management for viable and sustainable cultural organisations;
- advocacy and participation in decision making processes;
- cooperation and networking capacities of selected participants in order to increase their participation in collaborations among themselves in the region and at wider Europe scale.

¹ E.g. the Indicative Programme for the Eastern Partnership 2011-2013 which will offer opportunities for inter-regional cooperation in mobility, education, culture, strengthening the civil society. Culture Program offers call for Third countries; other measures are under discussion.

The course will provide information about funding and networking opportunities in Europe and will contribute to the feasibility of the participants' projects and ideas.

The Methods

The participants will be accepted on the basis of their application forms and concrete project ideas/proposals which they plan to develop or implement in the coming years. The submissions will include a summary of the project or project idea as well as a short outline of the related strategic development plans. The proposals will be part of the training for individual work in order to provide examples for improvements and case study. All participants will be requested to briefly present their organisations and activities at the beginning of the course.

The academy involves theoretical and practical exercises, individual and group assignments, study visits and participation in debates. Time will be dedicated to individual preparation of tasks and individual/group consultation with the workshop facilitators.

The course will be lead by established International lecturers and trainers from the field of cultural management, advocacy, and will be accompanied by handbooks and specifically developed support material.

The working language is **ENGLISH**.

WHO CAN APPLY?

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- Young/emerging cultural operators with some experience in local cultural project management/activism (25 – 40 years old), predominantly from the independent/NGO sector from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey;
 - Involvement in a cultural cooperation project or a concrete developed project idea is required;
 - A sufficiently good level of spoken and written English language is required;
 - Participants should be highly motivated to get involved in international networking and collaboration projects, and to invest in their skills for taking important roles in their sectors;
 - International experience and practice of collaborative projects are assets.

HOW TO APPLY?

The selection of the candidates will be carried out on the basis of:

- 1) a complete application form (annexed)
 - 2) a recent Curriculum vitae in English
 - 3) a letter of recommendation
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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 31 May 2010

Please, submit your application documents by e-mail: facikbas@bilgi.edu.tr

Or by fax: +90 212 3117803 or mail to the attention of Funda Açıkbaş:

Address: Istanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi, Santral Kampüsü

Eski Silahtarağa Elektrik Santrali

Emniyetstepe Mah. Kazım Karabekir Cad.

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