

In Turin in march 2007 a group of well established cultural organizations involved in producing and programming contemporary art and cultural initiatives came together with the artist Matteo Fraterno, the Artegirovane association and Fitzcarraldo Foundation with the aim of transforming individual projects into a unified transnational multidisciplinary project.

The organizations involved are:

Xenia Ensemble a contemporary music ensemble,

Artegirovane an association of art collectors that promote young visual artists,

Interplay - Mosaico Danza a contemporary dance organization ,

CESAC a centre for a contemporary art

the artist Matteo Fraterno,

a.titolo, an association of curators that develops and organizes "public art"

The National Museum of Cinema

Fondazione Fitzcarraldo, a planning, research and training centre for cultural management and policies

Città dell'Arte – Fondazione Pistoletto a new model of arts & culture institution where art is put in direct connection with different sectors of society.

The promoting organizations intend to develop a medium-long term project among artists of **Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey and Romania** in the near future countries such as **Lebanon, Egypt, Israel and Palestine**, sharing know how, skills, relationships and merging them into a series of joint activities and projects towards a common goal.

The aim of the initiative is a multidisciplinary exchange of artistic and cultural experiences, well beyond the mere hosting of productions, to be conceived and realised through a strong partnership with foundations and other actors of the civil society interested in the EuroMediterranean cooperation.

In order to develop a well grounded project based on mutual knowledge and trust, the promoting organizations agreed to organize an exploratory meeting with the potential project partners (arts organizations as well as foundations and civil society organization) from the various countries involved. This first stage has therefore a twofold purpose: firstly for all partners to meet each other, to examine and verify the feasibility of the project and secondly to raise public awareness by providing visibility to this ambitious undertaking.

It will take place in Turin from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October and comprise:

- 1) **international events** (concerts, art exhibitions, films, workshops) organized by the promoting arts organizations that have been already scheduled in their annual season;
- 2) **a series of meetings** of potential partners from the different countries involved in the project:
  - a) *between artists and organizers / cultural centres* with the aim of, first and foremost, presenting their artistic vision, programmes and productions and secondly, exploring ways and opportunities of interaction;
  - b) *between foundations and civil society organizations* interested in Euromediterranean cooperation to learn about their programmes and work practices and to examine ways of being actively involved in the project;
  - c) *between all the abovementioned* to discuss and outline the aims of the project, the strategies for a sustainable development and the forms of cooperation.
- 3) **a public meeting** to present already existing trans-national arts and cultural projects that have been developed through partnerships with foundations and civil society organizations and that are playing an important role in the intercultural dialogue between the shores of the Mediterranean.

The first approach to arts organisations and foundations of the interested countries has met a very positive feedback. Fondazione Rico Semeraro (based in Lecce), Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli, Fondation René Seydoux, Costopolous Foundation, Interarts Foundation, Borusan foundation has already joined the October meeting.

The project is realized under the patronage of Regione Piemonte and of the City of Torino.