



Action Plan – Mobility and Artistic Development in Europe and in the Arab world

The Arab Spring has brought about a paradigm shift culturally, socially and politically. In this sense, defining a new action plan for actors of cultural cooperation between Europe and the Arab world is timely. While the founding values on which the European Union was built are put into question as borders are reinforced, the cultural component is recognised as a key element of the making of conceptual processes that allowed Arab civil society to liberate itself from dictatorship and open up the path to democracy. If we continue to support artists in the long term then we favour the rebalancing of artistic production flows and we develop innovation in the societies along the Mediterranean coast and beyond.

In this context, the Roberto Cimetta Fund, represented by its Board of Directors, its Committee of Experts, its institutional and civil society partners that met in Paris on 6th May 2011 with the support of the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the French Embassies in Madrid and Rome, recommends the following actions:

1. The cultural sector in Europe and in the Arab world must anticipate and favour the democratic transition process we are witnessing in a proactive manner particularly by defining common positions and creating networks of actors that recognise Euro-Arab interdependence and contribute to global dialogue.
2. European and neighbouring, national, regional and local (public or private) institutions must adapt their action plan particularly over the next budgetary period 2014 – 2020 **to channel support to NGOs** or multicultural partnerships of NGOs that provide micro-credits to individual actors and small-scale operators at grassroots level for their international mobility and professionalization. By supporting existing intermediary organisations of civil society in Europe and in the neighbouring countries, institutions can reach micro-projects that are beneficial at local and regional levels, which have a multiplying effect and which guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity.
3. European and neighbouring, national, regional and local (public or private) institutions should support existing organisations or networks of organisations that improve **the circulation and access to multilingual and accurate information** on rules that apply to the technical and logistical aspects for inside and outside EU transnational artistic or cultural projects and exchanges.
4. European institutions and Members States should facilitate the circulation of artists and cultural actors by improving **working conditions and conditions of mobility** particularly the process of obtaining visas. In this regard, we are attentive to the implementation of cultural visas for third country nationals suggested by MEP Marietje Schaake and adopted by the European Parliament in May 2011.
5. Cultural and institutional actors should contribute to defining, setting up and sustaining tools to **strengthen capacity building** in the phases of research and elaboration of artistic creation as well as in the phases of distribution (access to public) and consolidation (sustainability and economic viability) of projects and partnerships. These tools can be training programmes, peer-to-peer learning, residencies, incubators and so forth.
6. Finally, artistic and institutional actors of cultural cooperation should collaborate with study and research centres to **provide cultural data** on actions, facilities and policies related to culture throughout the region to evaluate qualitatively and quantitatively the long term multilateral projects that are emerging.

6th May 2011 in Paris, France.