



*artists in context*

**6<sup>th</sup> programme 2005-2006**

The *artists in context* programme is an initiative of the Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes.  
It comes within the framework of the European voluntary service.  
The programme benefits from the partnership of the host organisations and the national co-ordinators.  
It is financed by the European Commission (DG education and culture),  
the French Ministry of Culture, the French Ministry of Youth.

**Art Center,  
Sredisce, Slovenia**

---



## presentation of the host organisation

---

- **name of the host organisation** Art Center - Institute for Culture, Art and Development
- **person in charge of the organisation** Mr. Miran Žilavec
- **address** Sredisce 47
- **post code / city** 9207 PROSENJAKOVCI
- **country** SLOVENIA
- **phone** +386 2 544 9108
- **fax** +386 2 544 9109
- **e-mail** [Info@artcenter-slovenia.org](mailto:Info@artcenter-slovenia.org)
- **web site** [www.artcenter-slovenia.org](http://www.artcenter-slovenia.org)
  
- **person responsible for the follow-up of the artist**  
Mr. Zdravko Pradvic
- **the organisation's team**  
total number of staff: 6  
staff members and volunteers directly involved in the project: 2
- **duration and dates of the residency**  
9 months, from March 1<sup>st</sup> to November 27<sup>th</sup> 2006
- **location of the project**  
Art Center, Goricko (surrounding area)
- **fields of expression proposed for the residency**  
working with local communities- site specific, event production, multimedia, ecology...
- **number of artists who can be hosted**  
2
- **other artists hosted in residency during the *artists in context* programme**  
yes

## artistic project

---

- **general description of the artistic projects developed by the host organisation**

The main activities of Art Center fall within culture, art and environment. It wishes to work on the basis of an intercultural network that brings together organisations, institutions and individuals committed to providing new models. The members of the network include artists, students, intellectuals, researchers, as well as institutions and organisations.

The activities are based on a vision of 'creative involvement', where art interacts directly with different dimensions of the social system in order to achieve a responsible transformation in our society. Art Center does not want to deal with auto-referential art (l'art pour l'art), but with the relationship between artistic creativity and the various aspects of society, and tries to translate that engagement into concrete results (Projects intended to stimulate the wider population of different age groups from the region as well as from the wider area, including the neighbouring countries like Hungary and Austria).

Art Center is a place for rethinking things, for sharing views, for studying and for doing research. It is a support organisation, offering information and helping in the realisation of artistic projects (technical support for artists under the mentorship of experienced colleagues).

Art Center promotes environmental friendly projects and the use of environmental friendly materials for projects (sewage treatment, waste management and energy use and production). The Art Center has a biological garden, used for growing food and supporting the promotion of this sustainable way of agriculture.

- **means provided by the host organisation to facilitate interactions with the human, social and economic contexts**

Regular efforts will be made to help the volunteer to be integrated into the local community and culture. Orientation of Art Center is based on the idea of an intercultural network that brings together artists, cultural workers, students, intellectuals, researchers, as well as institutions and organisations committed to providing new models and ideas. Art Center is in this sense becoming a meeting point not only for artists but also individuals and groups working in different fields - from local, national and also (slowly) international environment. Since recently, Art Center became also a part of a network of youth and multimedia centres in Slovenia, creating and coordinating different joint projects.

- **description and objectives of the project(s) in which the artist will take part**

### 1. project of the host organisation in which the volunteer will be involved

The activities are wide ranging; depending on the needs of Art Center and the skills of the volunteers, the day to day activities will vary. The volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in the development of Art Center by proposing their own ideas for activities.

The main objectives of Art Center are to develop as a residential art centre, youth organisation (working with EVS volunteers, providing youth information), multimedia center (establishing an open source media lab), environmental resource Center (eco-building, eco-farming, alternative energy solutions) and cultural meeting point.

### 2. frame in which the volunteer will realise his personal project (according to the structure's objective)

Within the structure of Art Center, the volunteers will have the opportunity to explore their ideas and develop skills for their personal projects whilst at the same time benefiting Art Center (organising workshops, computer network management, contributing to the development of the open source multimedia centre, contributing to the information resources of Art Center).



- **target community of the volunteer's project**

the local community (children, youth, farmers, women), wider public – enthusiasts and professionals

- **artistic and social effects of the project which are expected**

involvement and appreciation of diversity of different artistic approaches as well as lifestyles.

- **required language(s)**

basic spoken English; German or any Slavic language is a plus

- **experience / special skills needed to realise the project**

Basic working knowledge for the field of interest and experience of guiding creative projects autonomously.

- **human resources which will enable the artist to develop his project**

The people who work in the host organisation will be motivated to give the volunteers all the support, the advices and the help needed in reaching the chosen goals.

- **technical material at the artist's disposal**

Information and video-art equipment are available to artists using new technologies: internet access, video editing station, black and white photography laboratory and multimedia. Art Center's facilities include also technical support for classical artistic techniques as ceramics, painting and sculpting (casting and artistic foundry for metal).

pc computer

mac computer

- **description of the working place set aside for the artist**

The artist will have access to the studios for painting and sculpting, foundry, media room, library and photography lab.

- **means at disposal to present the volunteer's finished work**

Art Center is building connections with other similar and different places in Slovenia. Projects of artists can be presented in Art Center (also web page), local social places, galleries and media in our and other regions – depending on specific projects and artist's wishes and needs. Possibility of presentation is of wide range since Art Center wishes to propose different approaches and solutions.



## description of the residency

---

### ● description of the premises of the host organisation

The Art Center site is located in an abandoned Ex-YU military guardhouse near the Slovenian- Hungarian border. The municipality of Moravske Toplice purchased the abandoned guardhouse from the Ministry of Defence and established the Art Center institute together with the municipality of Salovci, the Onej Society, Association of Slovenian Artists and the Society of Prekmurje and Prlekija Artists.

### ● cultural, artistic and social environment in which the premises are established

The Art Center site is located on a hill between fields and forests, 1 km away from the nearest village of Sredisce/Szerdahely (municipality of Moravske Toplice) on Goricko in South-East of Slovenia near the Hungarian border.

The surrounding area of the Center is one of the least developed regions in Slovenia. It is characterized by unfavourable demographic structure, trends of depopulation, high share of population employed in agriculture and by one of the highest rate of unemployment in Slovenia, all this as a result of its position on the border between Slovenia and Hungary, which was closed for many years. It is also the region where Hungarian minority represents more than 90% of the population and is therefore under strong pressure of negative socio-economic and demographic tendencies. The educational level is very low (50% of inhabitants have only primary school education).

Since all events happen in the city of Murska Sobota (25 km away) Art Center tries to offer educational (formal and informal) and cultural events (exhibitions, concerts, cinema) in our and neighbouring regions.

### ● description of the means of accommodation and the distance from the working place

There are single and double-bedded furnished rooms in the Art Center building.

There is also the possibility of renting a house in the village nearby (for approximately 150 EUR monthly).

### ● food

The volunteers have three meals per day at the Art Center – non vegetarian and vegetarian.

### ● transport

Border railway station at village of Hodos is about 3 km away from the location of Art Center. A bus from village of Sredie/Szerdahely drives one time per day to the nearest city of Murska Sobota and back. There is at least one car available at the Art Center.



## **training**

---

- **foreseen on-arrival training for the volunteer**

Presentation of the Art Center's structure, facilities, activities and works realised.

- **centre of linguistic training close to the place of residency**

Volunteers will receive language training through the period of their stay, with a private teacher with the other EVS volunteers, arranged by the host organisation. Lessons can take place in Art Center, Hodos or Murska Sobota, depending on circumstances.