



artists in context

6th 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.

**Truc Spherique,
Zilina, Slovakia**



presentation of the host organisation

- **name of the host organisation** Truc Spherique
- **person in charge of the organisation** Mr. Marek Adamov, Mr. Christian Potiron
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- **person responsible for the follow-up of the artist**
Mr. Christian Potiron

- **the organisation's team**
total number of staff: 9
staff members and volunteers directly involved in the project: 5
volunteers: 10

- **duration and dates of the residency**
7 months, from March 15th to October 15th 2006

- **location of the project**
Stanica Zilina - Zariecie, Zilina, Slovakia

- **fields of expression proposed for the residency**
multidisciplinary (site specific installations or events happening within the local community)

- **number of artists who can be hosted**
1

- **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

Truc spherique is an open platform linking contemporary art with social development.

A strong group of young professionals from the field of contemporary arts and culture, as well as social work and art therapy, has been composing from the beginning (1998) till today Truc spherique. They are realizing various projects with the aim of developing creativity within their local community, with the objective of creating a bridge to contemporary forms of arts. The projects include production, presentation and education in the field of theatre, dance, music and visual arts, as well as the associated social activities. Diversity and multiculturalism are since the beginning the base for the development of the centre and an opposition to the nationalistic elements of the environment. The activities are realized on local, national and international levels. The last projects were influenced by a certain social engagement to impulse changes in their community and by a desire to influence the development of their city.

In 2003, Truc spherique has started to transform the old (but still functioning) railway station Zilina –Zariecie into the cultural centre Stanica, which is actually under reconstruction process. The aim is to build a multi-media platform open as a public space and connecting different kinds of artistic activities as educational workshops, creative courses, artistic youth European exchanges or art creation involving professional artists, amateur artists, young people, children or adults:

- Since 2001, Truc spherique is the main organizer of a non-competition film festival, but also of the Zilina Literary Festival, the Zilina street theatre festival "Svatojanske noc" and the new-medias festival "Multiplace".
- "Creative Centre Atelier", is the place where mainly children (6-14 years old) are participating in regular innovative art education workshops (fine art, ceramic, puppets, animation film, works with photos...)
- Since 2003, they are running a "Art for Social Change" programme, dedicated to offer to the youth community (16-22 years old) the opportunity to participate in art projects (often at European level) in collaboration with professional artists, with social, intercultural and activism issues
- Single workshops on new methods in contemporary theatre, dance, visual arts and design, production of projects in the field of contemporary theatre, dance, literature and music, gallery exhibitions, debates and workshops are organized.

● means provided by the host organization to facilitate interactions with the human, social and economic contexts

Regular efforts will be made to help the artist / volunteer to be integrated into the local community and culture thanks to the help of his local mentor who will make him/her discover the local reality. The supervisor of the project will organize for him/her visits to other local NGOs and meetings with local public responsible. His/her presence during the other activities of the centre (workshops, debates, events) will help to be in contact with the rest of the community.

● 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 volunteer will be somehow involved in the daily life activities of the organisation:

- preparation of artistic events: promotion, preparation of the performances or debates, help with the sound and light installation, taking care of the gallery
- taking part in organization of pedagogical activities with children (art classes) or helping in the "Art for social change" program organizing an art projects/workshops with local young people



His/her intervention will take place in the research phase of a bigger artistic residency project, in collaboration with another NGO "De l'air", based in Crest, France. Some study visits and interventions of experts in this field are planned and the stress will be put on the link city /country side in Slovakia (more exactly in our cases about the city development and the traces of the countryside in the city).

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

The volunteer is expected to propose an artistic project which shows how art and artists can take part in the planning and development efforts of their environment and local community. Thanks to a multidisciplinary approach the artist/volunteer project should actively involve the population in the creation process and in the reflection about their living environment. It is expected that his/her work will produce also a certain quantity of data from (or about) the local population and reflections about this topic of the city development and the traces of the country side in the city (in the mentality of inhabitants for example that moved to those suburbs about 40 years ago).

A several month long workshop with other local young people/artists could help to build the basement of this local involvement in the volunteer project. It could be an opportunity to create a supporting group of young volunteers. The project can be inspired by the still functioning railway station where is located the structure. Stanica is situated on a railway track linking the city to the country side. Anyway a train station is a meeting point, the starting point of a travel and a place for diversity in opposition with our local conservative and nationalistic political environment. There is also the possibility for the project to take place in the suburbs and industrial areas surrounding Stanica.

● target community of the volunteer's project

The inhabitants of Zilina living next to Stanica, passengers of the local train, young people and/or children involved in Stanica projects.

● artistic and social effects of the project which are expected

- create a debate within the local population about the development of their city, raise their involvement in the life of the local community and open a reflection about these traces of the country side in the city linked with the own personal stories of the inhabitants.
- create some data about these topics that could be used in further art projects.
- bring local people living in the surrounding of Stanica to have a more contemporary view of art, to train some young local people and to open some spaces for public expression and for sharing of personal histories.

● required language(s)

Good English language skills are needed and any Slavic language skills (or French) would be a plus.

● experience / special skills needed to realise the project

The volunteer/artist need to have some good communication skills and a strong social interest. He/she will have to work with the community and maybe to coordinate a small group of young people. He/she need also to have a contemporary artistic approach not limited to the usual artistic disciplinary definitions. A strong motivation, autonomy, organizational and adaptability skills will be required.



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

Stanica has a big local, national and European network that can be used, but the artist/volunteer will get a particular support from :

- Christian Potiron, French, 28 years old, EVS ex-volunteer. He graduated in social work and local development. He is responsible for the "Art for social change" program in Truc sphérique and for the youth activities. He will actually be the supervisor of the artist/volunteers project.
- Marek Adamov, Slovak, 27 years old, director of the organization, will support the artist/volunteer during the realisation of the project by helping him to find the right resource persons and to give artistic advises.
- Robo Blasko, Slovak, 28 years old, will support the volunteer with many questions about fundraising, PR and promotion of the event.

For the artistic project the volunteer will receive the support of the local tutor (that we will choose also according of the artist /volunteer profile) and of Lia Perjovski a Rumanian curator with whom we are regularly collaborating.

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

Stanica has got 3 Pc computers and 2 Mac available, with ADSL internet connection. A copy machine and a printer, 2 video projectors, a digital photo camera and a mini-DV video camera as well as the needed computer programs to use them are also available.

Stanica has got also all the sound system and basic light system for different performing activities. Other technical equipments can be easily rented.

pc computer

mac computer

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

A small space in one of the workshop rooms in Stanica will be available to the volunteer/artist, excepted for the 5 hours a week of workshop. He / she will be also using the common working space, office, café and will have a facilitate access to work in the gallery or in the performing room when nothing is running there.

As well, when he/she might need a room for one of the workshop with the young people they will have the opportunity to reserve one of the workshop rooms.

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

Communication and PR needs will be easily covered. All the basic material needed will be bought by Stanica from the EVS budget, but we will always try to find the less costing solution. We will try to find financial support for the project as part of the wider project and so to include it in our 2006 project for Slovak ministry of culture without being certain of the result of our fundraising efforts.



description of the residency

● description of the premises of the host organisation

Truc spherique has its own building within Zilina-Zaricie Railway Station in Zilina. The result of the initiative and reconstruction works is Open Cultural Space Stanica (Station) that is connecting spatially elements of a public space, the operating railway station, to elements of a multimedia cultural centre (gallery, performance room, workshops and studios, artist-in-residence programme, art education for schools, café). The project changes the railway station into a space for art and culture, for social and community activities.

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

The city of Zilina has about 100 000 inhabitants and is one of the biggest towns in Slovakia at 200 km from the capital city Bratislava. Surrounded by the mountains and natural reserves, the district has also many cultural relics. The nice renovated historical city centre is surrounded by huge suburbs made of block of flats where is living the main part of the population.

The District economy has a balanced structure with the even representation of all the branches. One of the biggest factories of the region will soon be opened near Zilina by the car maker Kia / Hyundai and facilitate the entire regional development by improving the infrastructure. The townscape of Zilina is changing quickly.

The cultural events available in Zilina are quite limited and very traditional. There is not much space for world culture, but the traditional local and national folklore is well represented. This situation is linked to the political situation of Zilina, where the city major is the leader of the Slovak extreme right wing party.

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

The volunteer will share a flat with the other 2 volunteers from the organization (three bedrooms, common kitchen, bathroom & toilet). The flat is situated 5 minutes from the centre of the town and 10 minutes from Stanica.

There is also an alternative possibility to live in a host family of one of Truc sphérique's members or to combine these two propositions.

● food

Breakfast, lunch and dinner can be prepared by the volunteer himself, and all the basic kitchen equipments are in the flat. The volunteer will receive 3900 SKK/month (extra pocket money) to buy food.



training

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

Documented welcoming package for the volunteer at the arrival (about the city, Slovakia, the organisation and all information the volunteer might need for her/his work and for his/her personal life here). During the first month the volunteer will have the opportunity to spend some time with each member of the organisation to understand well how Truc sphérique is managed in order to be able to work autonomously.

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

- all the members of Truc sphérique speak English and have some basics in French
- Slovak language classes with a specialised private teacher from a language school in Zilina, together with other volunteers until the summer vacations (one week of intensive course at the beginning)