

Information about the project

Basic information

Project "Culture without barriers" is implemented within the framework of Priority Axis IV Social Innovations and transnational cooperation, under Measure 4.3 Transnational Cooperation of the Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development for the years 2014-2020.

Project objective

The aim of the project is to develop and implement a new model for ensuring the accessibility of cultural institutions' offer and resources for persons with disabilities.

The project will result in the preparation of a structured set of practical solutions for making cultural institutions' activities accessible for persons with disabilities. About 100 cultural institutions - beneficiaries of grants – will be selected in an open competition to test the model by preparing a cultural event according to it.

In addition, the grant beneficiaries will build a network of contacts with each other and with organizations working for the benefit of people with disabilities, as well as increase their own competences in the area of accessibility and cooperation with persons with disabilities. The model will be disseminated to various cultural institutions with descriptions of good practices, practical guidance for its implementation and recommendations concerning conditions necessary for its long-term use.

Period of implementation of the project

The project will be implemented from May 1, 2021 to October 31, 2023.

Project value

The total value of eligible expenses in the project is 25 119 600,00 PLN, including the amount of 23 685 270,84 PLN from the European Social Fund.

Project tasks

1. Developing a model for ensuring the accessibility of cultural institutions' offer and resources for persons with disabilities and rules for the recruitment of grant beneficiaries.
2. Recruitment of grant beneficiaries.
3. Implementation of grant projects - testing of the model.
4. Verification of the model and identification of good practices.

Planned results

The project foresees achievement of the following key indicators:

1. 3 institutions will establish cooperation with the transnational partner;
2. 100 grants will be provided to cultural institutions;

3. 95 cultural institutions will implement new solutions through cooperation with the transnational partner;
4. 200 employees of cultural institutions will increase their level of competence in the area of accessibility of their offer for persons with disabilities;
5. a model for ensuring the accessibility of cultural institutions' offer and resources for persons with disabilities and a set of instructions and recommendations for institutions implementing these solutions will be developed (final publication).

Project partners

The project leader is the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled People (Poland, Warsaw), and the partners are:

1. Strategic national partner - the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport (Poland, Warsaw).
2. Transnational partner - Institut für Bildung und Kultur e.V. and working with him Kompetenzzentrum für Kulturelle Bildung im Alter und Inklusion (Germany, Köln).
3. Non-governmental national partner - Culture Without Barriers Foundation (Poland, Warsaw).

The State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled People is a fund financed by both the employers and the state budget, an instrument of modern social policy, aimed at solving the most important problems related to the rehabilitation of disabled people, ensuring equal opportunities and respecting rights of persons with disabilities.

For over 30 years, the Fund has made a significant contribution to changing the approach in the area of disability, including among employers and representatives of local public authorities, and has also significantly contributed to the removal of material and non-material barriers in public space. It supports people with disabilities in maintaining their jobs: it co-finances employees' salaries, and reimburses social security contributions for entrepreneurs and farmers.

The Fund also supports the operation of occupational therapy workshops and occupational activity establishments, as well as finances social and professional activation of disabled people carried out by non-governmental organizations and local government units. It also implements a number of projects financed by EU funds. One of the Fund's key areas of activity is to promote the accessibility of public space and services for people with different types of disabilities.

Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport is a governmental administration institution with responsibility for various aspects of Polish culture and sport. In the sector of culture it coordinates policymaking and state policy enactment. It is also responsible for the organization, management and co-management of national cultural institutions and artistic education entities. It exercises state patronage in the field of culture.

The Ministry has many years of experience in organizing and managing grant programmes aimed at culture development and dissemination – in 2020 32 calls for applications in the Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport Grant Programmes have been announced. It has also created a scholarship program for individuals in the culture, art and cultural education sectors.

The Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport is also responsible for EU funds programme enactment (for example Priority Axis VIII Cultural Heritage Protection and Cultural Resources Development of the Culture and Environment Operational Programme 2014-2020 or the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021).

Culture Without Barriers Foundation is a non-governmental organization focused on creating accessible solutions for people with disabilities in culture.

Our mission is to create an environment, where people with sensory, physical, intellectual disabilities, and people on the autism spectrum are invited to a regular, independent and competent participation in culture.

Our platforms:

- Organization of accessible cultural events, such as theatre performances and movies with audio description, closed captions, induction loop, and sign language translation;
- Trainings for educators and employees of cultural institutions, aimed at developing competences of their workers in the field of serving visitors with disabilities;
- Popularizing good practices in cultural field through organizing Forums of Accessible Culture and Cultural Rallies, co-creating laws and standards that ensure fair treatment for people with disabilities, publishing materials that help creators, educators, and curators make their offer accessible;
- Raising awareness in the society about people with disabilities, their needs, and existing amenities, through partnerships and organization of accessible events.

kubia – Centre of Competence for Creative Ageing and Inclusive Arts is a professional forum and service platform for artists, arts facilitators, care professionals and staff in cultural institutions and local authorities. The centre provides information, training, networking opportunities and advice on all issues relating to cultural and arts-based activities and lifelong learning. kubia aims to raise awareness of the important role of cultural participation at all ages by developing trend-setting concepts and innovative models.

kubia focuses on professionalising arts-related educational practices for older adults and persons with disabilities, promoting intergenerational dialogue through the arts, developing arts-based programmes for the frail and people with dementia, promoting participation and volunteer work in arts and culture in later life as well as developing intercultural and inclusive schemes. kubia also runs a forum for theatre of older adults in North Rhine-Westphalia (Theatergold). Furthermore, kubia engages in a variety of international projects and networks.

Website: www.ibk-kubia.de