

Activities of The Other Space Foundation (Fundacja Inna Przestrzeń) in 2013

Brief report

It was busy year for us. We want to thank you for being with us during this time. In the 2014 new challenges are about to come and we count on your further participation in activities of the Other Space Foundation.

- See also: 2013 on photos (gallery on FB) - <http://on.fb.me/1ujQwuW>

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIC COOPERATION

In 2013 in partnership with Polish-Burma Solidarity we developed new activities in Burma. In May we organized workshop for the educators in Rakhaine state and training of trainers combined with electoral education workshop for the representatives of 7 minorities in the Shan state. Our partners in Rakhaine organized local educational initiatives and in Shan we published multilingual voter's handbook, which is being used by the local social activists. In October with the participation of Polish mediation and facilitation trainers Elżbieta and Zbigniew Czwartosz we organized interregional Forum for Civic Education "Voice of Social Change" and the first negotiations skills workshop for the leaders of Rohingya community in Rangun. All this activities wouldn't be possible without the involvement of our partners in the Shan and Arakan states and the steadfast coordinators: Ola Kłosińska and Martyna Gacek.

- www.facebook.com/projekt.birma

As the part of *Asia Program* of the Other Space Foundation the representative of Foundation, Maria Strzemieczna, organized the working forum respecting analysis of the local problems and the anatomy of the conflict for the representatives of the tribe Chakma in the region Arunachal Pradesh in eastern-north India.

As one of the activities of Tibetan Program we create the biggest in Poland network of activists interested in supporting Tibet - the Facebook profile of the program has more than 10 000 fans. In 2013 the actions of the program were focused on support of creation and development of Polish Students for a Free Tibet Association (SFT). We were strongly involved in the campaign of collecting the signatures under the appeal for the empathic voice considering the issue of free Tibet during the meeting of Human Right Council in Geneva. In this global campaign more than million people from all over the world took part. We also participated in European Regional Meeting of the Organizations Acting for Tibet in Basel, organized by the Tibet Network (as a member of this network). We continued actions for release of the Tibetan Heroes - the political prisoners - including Dhondup Wangchen (the author of the movie "Leaving Fear Behind", polish version distributed by the Foundation on DVD "Tibet" in 2009).

In cooperation with the Klamra Foundation we were present at the Roundabout of (Free) Tibet in Warsaw, organizing the working forums and events in the space of the Tibetan Gallery. The Other Space Foundation together with SFT was also present at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates (working forums and the information point).

Under the program *Springtime of Peoples* (the informal network created to support the networking process between activists from Northern Africa and Poland) together with Tunisians, architect Maroua Chaouechi and the social activist Aicha Ben Cheikh, we took part in Forum "Together for a Just Future"

in March in Gdansk and the Mediterranean Forum of Anna Lindh in Marseille. We inspired our friends from the organization Elite plus from Sousse (Tunisia) to organize an action of solidarity with the Tibetans - it was one of the first actions of support for Tibet in arabic countries. Our long term cooperator - Lude Reno (Martinique) became a coordinator of *the Springtime of Peoples* Program.

INTERNATIONAL ART PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

In 2013 Program Transkaukazja extended to new countries. As for now 8 countries of European Union and 4 of Eastern Partnership take part in Transkaukazja. Taking place every two years Festival Transkaukazja began in June with the concert of 33A (Georgia) and Wołosi (Poland) in London, than every 10-14 days the finals of the festival took place in different parts of Europe. One of the biggest events was Transkaukazja in Kyiv, Ukraine (altogether more than 2000 people on the concert in open, central space of the city, interdisciplinary events in various public spaces took place, etc.). As the part of Transkaukazja in Warsaw were presented 4 new projects of cooperating musicians from Caucasus, Poland and Great Britain (with Caribbean origin) - Ifi Ude (Poland/Nigeria), Zumbaland (Georgia), Mamadou Diouf (Poland/Senegal), Chveneburebi (Georgia), Wołosi (Polska), Warsaw Horns (Polska), 33A (Georgia), Clive Brown & The Shekinah Singers (Great Britain). Project Transkaukazja included also the event in Prague (concert realised in cooperation with the Festival United Islands), Vienna (with the participation of polish artist - Krzysztof Żwirblis), southern Saxony, Stockholm (curator: Kaja Pawełek) and Nancy in France. One additional (after-festival event) of Transkaukazja took place in December in Kyiv with joint participation of Pako Sarr (Senegal/Poland) and Zumbaland (Georgia).

- www.transkaukazja.pl

In 2013 we began the preparations to the One Caucasus 2014 Festival. Together with the crew of culture and social animators from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan we found the right place to implement the initiative: the village Tserakvi on the Georgian-Armenian-Azerbaijani borderland. As the part of actions which we ventured to realize the project One Caucasus we took part in the partner festival Art Gene in July in Tbilisi: Warsaw artists Pako Sarr and Ifi Ude conquered the hearts of Georgian audience during joint concerts with the Georgian groups: Zumbaland and Chveneburebi.

- www.facebook.com/OneCaucasus

In 2013 for the first time we introduced to the bookshops our two publications:

- *Ministry of Highways. A Guide to Performative Architecture of Tbilisi* (in English) - book edited by Joanna Warsza, which is the result of realization of our other project *Frozen Moments. Architecture Speaks Back*. Project took place in 2010 in the building of the Ministry of Highways of Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic. The book was shown in the Georgian pavilion during the Biennale of Modern Art in Venice. It was distinguished by the New York portal Designers and Books as one of 10 the most important books about design published in the world in 2013.
- *Shadow Architecture* (in English and Polish) - book edited by Aleksandra Wasilkowska - multifaceted compendium of street commerce, markets, its architecture and habitat. The book was distinguished as one of 15 projects, which you have to know, according to the Print Control and portal Culture.pl, as well as rewarded in the competition for the Project of Year 2013 organized by the Association of the Creators of the Graphic Design.

IMMIGRANTS AND MULTICULTURALITY

The Chechen refugees center Sintar, which we lead in cooperation with the Institute of Culture of Caucasian Nations in Warsaw continued its cultural and educational activities. In April, after the bomb attacks in Boston - children from Sintar decided to realize the action of solidarity with the victims of the attack. The action was very popular in the Internet. In the middle of the year Sintar has moved from Kruczkowskiego street to the new headquarters in Marszałkowska street. In the end of 2013 among many educational activities the new project started: film workshops for youth led by Lude Reno.

Through the whole year the actions connected to our first multicultural program, Continent Warsaw, were taking place. It was possible due to the work of whole group of volunteers, writers and editors, among whom it is impossible not to mention tireless Ania Tomaszewska and Zuzia Dłużniewska. In December portal celebrated its 7th birthday, during which not only the performance of friends of portal took place as well as many other attractions, but also the celebration enabled the prolongation of Amnesty International Letter Writing Marathon (the action initiated by the founders of The Other Space Foundation in 2001 - former activists of Amnesty International Warsaw Group).

In spite of lack of financial support the crew of the Continent Warsaw organized for the seventh time Warsaw Multicultural Street Party, which took place, as usually, on the last Sunday of August in Krakowskie Przedmieście Street (one of the main, central streets of Warsaw). Thanks to the engagement of many different social circles - among which the foreigner merchants, music bands, multicultural dance schools, non-governmental organizations and the organizers of other festivals with multicultural character - Street Party has been for years the biggest immigrant's celebration not only for Warsaw, but whole Poland.

For the second year we have also continued the Catalyst of Multicultural Initiatives (*Katalizator Inicjatyw Wielokulturowych - KIWi*). The project, which aim is multifaceted (working forums, tutorial, financial support of initiatives) support for the active immigrants and people with multicultural background. The project for the second time turn out to be a huge success - supporting few times more initiatives than was originally planned - among which the continuation of Polish KWN, Mexican All Saints Day or - inspired by the phenomenon of the newest history of Belarus independent culture - Festival of Narrative Cinema.

Answering to the lack of modern immigration policy in Poland, especially on the local level - in cooperation with partners from Kraków (Association Interculturals PL) and Lublin (Association Homo Feber) - we began one-and-half year program dedicated to the Local Migration Policies. As a part of the program we, in mixed, intercity and transversal team, in Wien, learnt about the Austrian experience of local integration of immigrants. On 25-27th of October took place the first Transversal Forum of Local Migration Policies, in which more than 70 experts from whole country took part.

2013 was also successful year for the idea of the Multicultural Center in Warsaw. Together with the Center of Social Communication and the Praga Północ district we found potential venue for the first space of the center. Future headquarters of the Center (ground- and first floor, in the Haller Square, altogether almost 600m²) gives the amazing opportunities not only to fulfill the multiply functions of the Center, but also cooperation for the cultural and social animation of this part of Praga.

Opening of the center, according to the plans, should take place in 2014 - which is the reason why in September we organized the working forum for 19 non-governmental organizations and 5 structures of the City Halls of Warsaw office, during which we created the plans for the possible ways of using the space of local (before the renovation). Just before the end of the year the competition for the

architectonic project of renovation of space for the Center has begun. In the competition the results of the debates, which took place during the working forum in September, were considered to be the vital element of process of choosing the proper project. On 20th of December together with the Foundation Africa Another Way and Foundation for the Social Diversity and the Foundation of Development "Beyond Borders", Foundation "Our Choice" and Foundation for the Approximation of Cultures "Open Art" we registered the Foundation for the Multicultural Center in Warsaw. In the Council of Foundation are representatives of ten non-governmental organizations - and this is just the beginning....

YEAR 2014

..is the year of huge challenges for us:

- We want to change with you the migration policy of Poland - so that the immigrants could more effectively take part in social and political life of our country. In 2014 we plan to organize another two working Forums of the Local Migration Policies. First one is taking place on 20-22nd of March in Lublin.
- We want to open with you the Multicultural Center in Warsaw and take part in the projects and events realized in the first space of the Center.
- We want to be with in August in the heart of Caucasus - next to the village Sadakhlo lived by the Azerbaijani minority on the Georgian-Armenian-Azerbaijani borderland during the first edition of the One Caucasus Festival.

...and this is just the part of all the activities and actions we hope to realize with you in this year :)

Fundacja Inna Przestrzeń/ The Other Space Foundation

- www.przestrzen.art.pl
- www.facebook.com/InnaPrzestrzen

P.S. Thank to all our co-workers, volunteers, sponsors and partners of our actions - without you we would have never done all this!