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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NEW SPARK JAZZ ORCHESTRA BALKAN WOMEN IN JAZZ

New Spark Jazz Orchestra- Balkan Women in Jazz is an innovative artistic program with the aim to facilitate access to gender equal professional opportunities, strengthen and increase the number of women musicians and composers on the Balkan Jazz Music Scene, what streams the cultural development in Region, and promote the visibility of women music professionals.

United partners in the project from Serbia, Italy, Macedonia, Slovenia and Montenegro, are forming a strong platform for cross-sectorial international networking, in area of music production, education, and promotion, opening new opportunities for sustainable collaboration, and new career and job potentiality. Through open call, Balkan emerging women musicians and composers will be invited to participate in two year program, forming the New Spark Jazz Orchestra, self-sustainable innovative music business model, stimulating popularization of Jazz music as the Universal European Idiom, where they get the opportunity to study, cooperate internationally and to internationalize their careers in Europe. Program contains a week-long 2 music residencies, big band workshops, on-line educational web portal ,educational tour, promoting new jazz learning methods, inclusive system applicable in educational training, bringing contribution to improvement of jazz educational curriculum, led by Educational team, formed of highly recognized music experts. With obtained professional skills, and rehearsed their new original music material, Orchestra tour on festivals through 4 countries, publish CD/DVD of their music, participate in promotional side events, integrating new audience development strategies such as open rehearsals and lectures, jam sessions with locals, and interactive discussions, in order to promote and support development of European cultural heritage. Vibrant and creative project activities increase and encourage interest in Jazz contemporary art form and gender equality on European cultural scene. Original approach to creativity, promotion of artists, and new forms of improvised music, through promotion, performances and modern models of education, will enable cooperation of cultural actors, artists, organizations and institutions that advocate the advancement of European cultural heritage.



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The close cooperation in this project will enable networking, but also expend the competency of active organizational participation on national, regional and international levels.

The project includes a diverse range of activities, which will support the development of European women musicians, composers, and contemporary music. The objective will be achieved through programs such as international music residencies, web training, and concert touring of original music, promotion through the new models of audience development, publishing and distribution of new products.

International Music Residency

Music Residency program is well established model of creative education and mutual collaboration for artists. Although, present in Europe and US, in Southeastern and Central Europe there are just colonies for painters, writers and sculptors. The region has the potential and the need for such programs, and although there were several attempts, this time we offer an innovative model of residency program for European professional women musicians, in order to promote artistic diversity and music idea exchange. This will be one of its kind program, because it includes cross-sectorial cooperation between recognized cultural and educational institutions and organization, whose aim is to be an active supplier in innovative non formal education, as well as new art form development and production.

Open call for the program will be available on-line, through wide European networking such as Women in Music, regional and national art portals, schools, venues and medias.

According to set call criteria, 15 young participants will be selected, and invited to take part in two years program. We are looking for emerging Balkan women musicians, wanting to experiment in jazz and improvised music.

Educational team of 5 selected, recognized jazz artists and educators, will be devoted to the development of educational and artistic models applicable for participantss, that have no previous experience with the style of jazz music. Prepared program consists lectures on the basic elements of jazz theory, harmony, improvisation and schemes that are easy to implement, and are complement with previous general music knowledge and experience. When that part is mastered, musicians will have an opportunity to take part in practical part of education, on ensemble classes, rehearsals and playing together. Beside playing together, participants will enjoy classes of jazz styles through music history, as well as classes about freelance music business opportunities, self-development, art management, and music leadership. The goal is to provide all the necessary tools to artists, so with this experience and new skills, they themselves could pursue a professional career, and engage into global music



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business trends. Composer participants will create new music which will be rehearsed with musicians, in order to prepare new repertoire for upcoming show tour.

During Residency programs, we will provide open lectures every day, for scholars and educators of host institution, but also for all people interested in our activities. In the evenings, there will be jam sessions organized, in local music clubs and venues, where educational team, participants of the program, and local musicians will interact, play together and exchange music ideas. Vibrant interactive activities such as open lectures, and music jam sessions with locals, provide audience development as a crucial part of a project, which can be used as a new management model in art music industry.

New Spark Jazz Orchestra will be established during residency programs, as a product of the project. It is unique orchestra made of professional female musicians, experimenting in jazz, spreading a message of Regional cultural collaboration, promoting contemporary jazz art form, enriching new music creation, emphasizing presence of female population on European music scene. The whole duration of the project will be an excellent opportunity to establish and improve NSJO as an independent self-sustainable cultural actor, which will continue to exist on music scene, beyond the project duration. Active presence of New Spark Jazz Orchestra on international scene, will ensure and promote equal professional opportunities for female musicians in Union.

Music Residency Show Tour

NSJO will tour in Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia, after residency programs. They will perform original repertoire on national and regional music festivals. Beside concerts, there will be Festivals' **side events** organized, in order to promote the project, and will be used as an innovative audience development strategy, which can widen diversify audience. Presenters and participants of the project will offer interactive discussion with audience, and promote EU program through distribution of promotional materials, and free CD\DVD of NSJO.

On-line web educational portal

On-line web educational portal available to all, is an innovative jazz educational method, providing professional skills, applicable, inclusive system usable for educational training of individuals and institutions. It will bring contribution to improvement of jazz educational curriculum in Europe, and become a self-sustainable method after the duration of the project, on international level. Educational and executive team for web portal will prepare a heterogeneous system which will satisfy musicians' needs in obtaining new skills for artistic development in jazz music and business.



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Audio video lectures from residency programs, interactive one-on-one online tutorials, master classes and music examples, theory, tests and step by step programs in jazz studies will be offered to all interested musicians. Beside professional skills, there will be texts and tips on self-development, art management and music business, what will facilitate dissemination of knowledge and strategies internationally, and straighten capacity of independent cultural actors

Publishing NSJO CD\DVD material

After residencies, and tour, which will be audio video recorded, will be published on cd\dvd material, which will be distributed as a free artistic product on festivals, side events, public appearances and conferences. Material will contain the best and most interesting educational, performing, interactive moments of the program, but also the best music performances during the tours. It is a compilation of participants`, educator team`s, and audiences` interactive music production, promoting the project as an international platform for mutual cultural collaboration values in Europe.

Public presentations of educational model

In the end of the project, led by program activities and experience, educational team will prepare a presentation of innovative models of jazz music education, as well as on-line web educational portal for all interested musicians, scholars, and educators. They will promote new model of education, as well as project supported by EU. Educators in institutions will have chance to interactively participate in the discussions and copy the successful model, applicable in their own tutorial work with the students. Educational team will

Partnership

NSJO- European Women in Music is an innovative approach of cooperation and cultural actors` involvement. Unique cross-sectorial partnership between public institutions, organizations, art association and Foundation, is a great platform for collaboration and idea exchange, related to cultural management, music production, education, promotion of music and new approach to audience development. Diversify business models applied in different countries and working environments of partners, will be useful for implementation and mapping to others. All participant organizations have long international working experience, connections, networks and expert associates in EU.



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Citizen Association Artrust is working in the field of contemporary arts, ecologically engaged music, creative children and youth education. They work on development of contemporary artistic expression through collaboration between the artists, scholars and professionals, from different fields of arts, and integration of art in various social groups on national and international level. They encourage the new wave in improvised music, multidisciplinary approach, cross over collaborative projects, cross-sectorial cooperation, and innovative models of education for young people. Through activities such as workshops, Music in Residency program, production of new original music, establishing and publishing new methods of music education, audio video production, organization of cultural and music events, and advocacy in cultural policy, they are integrating creativity into everyday life. Most successful project are Improve Collective International Music Residency, Musicycling, The Sound of Birds, 12 Tonnes of Music ect.

Foundation Adkins Chiti: Women in Music, based in Italy, heading a worldwide network, is partner within cultural agreements undersigned by the Italian Foreign Ministry, member of UNESCO's International Music Council and the European Music Council and recognised by both ECOSOC (UN) and the European Commission as an International Network Organisation for its ongoing activities to obtain recognition and visibility for women in the cultural sector. The Foundation collaborates with the EUC and the EUP and has the patronage of UNESCO and the Arab Academy. Since 1994 the Foundation has opened its doors, archives and activities to women working in the field of Jazz. This has included the writing and publication of the volume "*Donne in Jazz/Women in Jazz*" in 2006 with the history of women as creative components in Jazz since the birth of the genre.

Jazz Studies Program of Music Academy at the **State University Goce Delcev** covers wider musical material from performance studies, core music subjects as well as composition and arranging. Programs are constantly evaluated and upgraded often with inclusion of new disciplines and modern technologies. In 2014 the Department collaborated with their counter-part at University of California in Los Angeles and hosted eight advanced students led by Professor James Newton for a week and organized a series of lectures, concerts and musical collaborations. It also organized lectures by distinguished artists from France, Brazil and Serbia. The Jazz Department activities add cultural richness primarily to the city of Stip, but also to the whole eastern region of Macedonia most notably as a co-organizer of Astibo International Jazz Festival.

Big Band Krško was founded in 1978. The orchestra performs all genres of big band music. BBK put a greater emphasis is on rock and pop adaptations of world famous groups, such as Depeche Mode in the last few years. They wrote over 15 classic big band arrangements of their songs and so they became the first of its



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kind to perform the Depeche Mode music, recorded on their latest album entitled DEPECHED. Big Band Krško has successfully presented this project at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2013, which is considered one of the oldest and most prestigious festivals of this kind in the world.

Tivat Music School is the first music school in the country with brass department, and has already shown significant results on competitions. Former students became students of prestigious music academies in the region. The school organized a series of concerts in collaboration with the Music Academy in Cetinje and Bar Chronicle. Their emphasis are on development of Tivat, as a unique Music center for wind instruments in this part of Europe. The International Workshop for wind instruments, is an example of excellent cooperation with NGOs and artists, for the last twelve years in a row. They have guest lecturers and students from Montenegro, but also from: Italy, Germany, Japan, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Slovenia, Macedonia, etc. Collaboration with the Royal Academy in Stockholm, contributed to the development of brass instruments department, and school's recognition beyond the borders of Montenegro.