

Da: Monica Thurner | Viafarini <m.thurner@viafarini.org>

Oggetto: **A proposal from Viafarini**

Data: 29 maggio 2008 5:48:33 GMT-07:00

A: vasif.kortun@gmail.com

Dear Vasif,

It is a while since we have last been in touch. Unfortunately the project by the Provincia di Milano to finance Italian artists going to foreign residency programs never came true. Thank you anyway for your information and your willingness.

On the other hand, as you probably know, we finally launched our own residency program in Milan, called [VIR Viafarini-in-residence](#).

We are considering to develop an artist/curator residency exchange program, that we would submit to the ECF grant scheme for cultural organisations. We would probably submit it to the scheme 1. Artistic project grants for cultural organisations and individual artists.

Our proposal is to establish an exchange program that would possibly involve four countries, including Italy: each of the partner residencies would host an artist or curator from the three partner countries. The aim is to set up a "quadrilateral" within Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean area. We are therefore planning to propose and involve the following countries/partner institutions:

- Italy, VIR Viafarini-in-residence
- Turkey, Platform Garanti
- Germany, Akademie Schloss Solitude
- Eastern Europe

Would you be interested to schedule an exchange program for 2009? If this sounds too much for you, Viafarini also would be interested in single bilateral exchanges with three partner institutions, i.e. three Italian artists/curators would be hosted by the three partner institutions, and one German, one Turkish and one Eastern European artist/curator would be hosted by VIR in Milan.

As the application deadline for the ECF grant schemes is 1st September, it would be good to know as soon as possible if you could be interested in participating.

Also, have you any suggestions about whom we could involve from Eastern Europe?

As far as you know, is ECF also interested in projects involving also non European countries, and stretching also to the Far East?

Looking forward to your feedback.

All the best,

Monica Thurner

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Da: "Oyku Ozsoy" <oykuozsoy@gmail.com>
Oggetto: **Regarding residency exchange proposal**
Data: 04 giugno 2008 4:43:27 GMT-07:00
A: m.thurner@viafarini.org
Cc: "Vasif Kortun" <vasif.kortun@gmail.com>

Dear Monica Thurner,

First of all thank you for sending us the residency exchange proposal. As Platform we would be interested to participate the program and schedule an exchange for 2009. However we would like to draw your attention to some points which is important for us:

Istanbul Residency Program would like to extend its focus in our region. We have already been supported by some institutions to host artists / writers / curators from the region. With the support of a special three-year grant donated by the American Center Foundation, we were able to invite three artists from South East Europe, the South East Mediterranean and West Asia between 2004-2006. A grant from the Open Society Institute now offers artists from the Caucasus region the opportunity to spend two months in Istanbul. Also, through the Backyard Residency programme, a project under the SEE Mobility Project (Artists' Residences in South East Europe), supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers we invited four artists from the countries of South East Europe between September 2006 and June 2007.

The residency exchange proposal could help encourage international and regional collaborations between the South East Europe and the South East Mediterranean.

Within this frame we would like to propose Delfina Foundation instead of Akademie Schloss Solitude as a partner institution of this project. Delfina Foundation is a London based foundation (www.delfinafoundation.com) and they have opened a new branch within the organization supporting artists from South East Europe and Middle East. They have opened a residency at Bethlehem and they would like to have some others in Palestine, Syria and other countries. I have met the Executive Director and we have been negotiating to create a residency exchange program. We believe that instead of stretching the residency to Far East, to initiate a collaboration in South East Europe and Middle East will be more meaningful and will take the attention of ECF to support the program. Additionally, as you have already known there is lack of financial support for the artists in our region to travel other countries for research and create new works.

As you have asked on your mail regarding the partner institution in Eastern Europe country, we would like to suggest Vector Association in Iasi, Romania (www.periferic.org) as a partner. We had very productive residency exchange program (for details: <http://platformgarantiilinks.blogspot.com/2000/01/istanbul-residency-programme.html>) and they have organized Periferic Biennial since 1993. I will also write to Edi Muka to ask if he has any suggestion for a partner institution from Albania.

Looking forward to hear from you

All the best,

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