

Fair & Female*

A networking project for raising the visibility
of women in the field of art and culture
in the Alps-Adriatic region

INITIAL POSITION

„Women are well represented in the cultural and creative sectors (CCS) and are proven to participate more in culture than men. However, when it comes to their specific situation and role in the CCS, inequalities become apparent – even more when intersectional factors are taken into consideration“ (Towards gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors, June 2021)

These are the opening words of the report prepared by experts from the EU Member States (Open Method of Coordination) on gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors (CCS). Promoting gender equality is becoming increasingly prominent at all levels of the European Union, but the existing barriers and the specific working conditions in the CCS differ among Member States. These differences drive certain disparities that prevent equal opportunities for women* in the European CCS.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The trans-regional project "Fair & Female*" addresses precisely the (geo-) specific situations and the role of women* in the field of art and culture. Using a comparative approach, we want to emphasize the specific working conditions of woman* working in regional CCS and their strategies for improvement of their position in the Alps-Adriatic region. Despite the geographical proximity of Carinthia, Styria, Slovenia and Istria, the situation of women* in the cultural sector is quite different. This heterogeneity is based on the specific historical developments of the region (socialism/capitalism) as well as on different political priorities for action of current political agents. Consequently, differential strategies for more gender equality in the cultural field among the regions are necessary.

In the period between September 2022 and September 2023, four exchange meetings are planned in the provincial capitals: Rijeka, Ljubljana, Klagenfurt/Celovec and Graz. The respective local organization will host one meeting. These meetings serve as a form of "knowledge sharing" to explore common challenges and counter them with diverse courses of action.

Through the exchange of participating organizations, experiences will be used to analyze differences and develop potential practices and courses of action to improve the situation in the particular local environment. The focus will be on three thematic priorities:

- Strategies (e.g. strengthening women's* networks, making women* visible in (print) media).
- Formats (e.g. representative & participatory formats; festivals, discourses, workshops)
- Financing (funding models, sponsoring, framework conditions for the equality of women* in the cultural sector)

These topics will be explored on an artistic-activist and structural-political level.

OBJECTIVES

- networking and collaboration on a regional and trans-regional level in order to realize future cooperation among organizations
- strengthening the mobility and exchange of female* artists, their art works, and female* cultural professionals
- on the base of this exchange, we aim to develop a discursive EU-project that deals with the consideration of cultural work from a gender-sensitive and intersectional perspective
- expanding the network in the direction of the Western Balkan states.

COOPERATION PARTNERS

The competences of the participating organizations in the project cover very wide range of actions:

- **LEAD: Steirische Gesellschaft für Kulturpolitik (Steiermark)** has provided a diverse socio-politically relevant program for more than 40 years. The organisation confronts audiences with cultural and artistic phenomena and aims at exploring societally relevant questions using diverse formats. www.gkp.steiermark.at
- **VISIBLE. Verein zur Sichtbarmachung von Frauen in Kunst, Kultur und Gesellschaft (Kärnten, Carinthia)** strives to establish a network of women in the fields of art and culture, to advance equality in this field and to initiate and carry out concrete artistic projects by women. <https://visible.or.at/>
- **City of Women – Mesto žensk/International Festival of Contemporary Arts (Slovenija)** is a platform that produces and presents contemporary, innovative, critical, bold and radical art. It draws attention to discrimination in art and culture and aims to improve conditions for women in the arts and culture. <http://www.cityofwomen.org/>
- **Art organization From the Citizens to Their City – Građanke svome Gradu (Istra)** is gathering through its programs the protagonists of art, culture and education. <https://gsg.hr/>
- **IG Kultur Steiermark** represents the interests of autonomous cultural initiatives in Styria and offers services and support for Styrian artists and cultural professionals. As a cultural-political interest group and advisory body, IG Kultur Steiermark pursues its central task on behalf of the cultural initiatives: the improvement of working conditions in the field of cultural work. <https://steiermark.igkultur.at/>

OTHER PARTNERS & INPUT PROVIDERS

- IG Kultur Kärnten/Koroska <https://igkikk.at/>
- Grrrls Kulturverein (Steiermark) <https://grrrls.at/en/>
- Udruga za ljudska prava i građansku participaciju PaRiter (Istra) <https://pariter.hr/>
- Womens* Action Forum (Steiermark) <https://womensactionforum.at/>

- Nadija Mustapic, artist and professor at the Academy of Applied Arts, the University of Rijeka. <https://www.nadijamustapic.com/>
- Selma Banich and Nina Gojić: How do Female Artist Live? [https://marcell.memoryoftheworld.org/Selma%20Banich/How%20Do%20Female%20Artists%20Live_%20\(3913\)/How%20Do%20Female%20Artists%20Live_%20-%20Selma%20Banich.pdf](https://marcell.memoryoftheworld.org/Selma%20Banich/How%20Do%20Female%20Artists%20Live_%20(3913)/How%20Do%20Female%20Artists%20Live_%20-%20Selma%20Banich.pdf)