



## PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

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# ***THE LOVECH BRIDGE SPEAKS***

***Second sub-regional “Balkan Bridges Speak” event***

Lovech, Bulgaria. 10-11 May 2013

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**A meeting organized within the initiative**





## Background

Within the framework of its global initiative “Culture: A Bridge to Development”, which aims at building on the power of culture as a dynamic force of co-operation and innovation for inclusive economic development, social cohesion, and peace, UNESCO is organizing, in co-operation with the Balkanika Foundation, the Municipality of Lovech and other partners from the region, a new regional encounter on 10-11 May 2013 in Lovech, Bulgaria.

This regional encounter on the iconic bridge of Lovech, which follows on the one organized in Edirne, Turkey, on 24 and 25 November 2012, is the second of several events within the “Balkan Bridges Speak” project, to be hosted in 2013 across South East Europe to highlight bridges as powerful symbols of unity and mutual understanding.

The “Balkan Bridges Speak” project features round tables on the Organization’s priority areas of work, artistic and cultural performances, public readings, and provides an opportunity for literary personalities, national and local authorities, experts, private partners and universities of the sub-region to exchange experiences. It aims to enhance creativity, dialogue and cultural exchanges, to inspire innovative and creative approaches to the safeguarding of heritage and culture sensitive development policies. The initiative is conceived to provide spaces for sub-regional and regional cultural cooperation, and seeks to promote exchanges amongst culture professionals, city planners, municipalities, artists, civil society on cultural policies, strategies and practices that foster intercultural dialogue and stimulate the cultural sector as a viable economic and social sector.

## Panel Discussions

### Round Table 1: “The new arts scene in South-East Europe: trends and challenges”

This panel discussion will seek to sketch a portrait of the new South-East European artistic scene (with a focus on literature, cinema, and theater), and engage in a dialogue to learn about new developments and challenges they foresee for the future. Discussants will reflect on the new contents, cultural practices and discourses that are reshaping the cultural and artistic contemporary landscape in South-East Europe, and can help the rapid changing of the image and perception of the region, in terms of creativity, innovation and modernity. This round table will be accompanied during the day by various “Monospectacles”, staged monologues of short duration, bringing together various performing genres and arts (music, poetry, theatre, drama).

Speakers from the panel from the region will share views on issues such as:

- What is the new social, political and economic environment for artistic activities in the region?
- How to develop responsive frameworks and tools which encourage artistic creativity, innovation and cultural entrepreneurship?
- How to encourage transnational mobility of artists?

## Round Table 2: “Municipalities: shaping the agenda for creativity and cultural innovation”

Cities play a vital role in harnessing creativity for economic and social development. Policy makers and government agencies are increasingly taking account of cultural creativity when planning economic policy and of the role culture can play in urban renewal (ex: European Capital for Culture, Universal Expo, cultural industry clusters, etc.). On the one hand, creativity contributes to a city’s social fabric, cultural diversity and sense of community, helping defining shared identities based on values of inclusion. On the other, creativity is a vital element in fostering development, job creation and income generation, having an overall impact on enhancing the quality of life. Cities with thriving cultural and creative arts sectors are therefore considered as key to achieving the "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" called for by the 'Europe 2020' strategy. In this context, this session will discuss the role of urban policies and planning in enhancing culture and creativity, and the promotion of “creative cities” in South-Eastern Europe.

Mayors from the region will share views on issues such as:

- How to make culture and cultural industries a key factor for quality urban development?
- Are creative cities gateways to international markets?
- How to build local capacities in business skills and sustain cultural dynamics?
- Can cities think of themselves in terms of “creative evolution”?

## Logistical information

**Accommodation** is provided in Lovech at :

### Presidivm Palace

51 Targovska Str., Lovech

Tel: +359 68 687 501

E-mail:

website: [www.presidivm.com](http://www.presidivm.com)

### Hotel Varosha

36 Todor Kirkov Square, Lovech,

website: <http://www.hotelvarosha.com/>

### Hotel Lovech

12 Targovska Str., Lovech

tel. +359 68 604 716/7

E-mail: [info@hotellovech.com](mailto:info@hotellovech.com)

website: [www.hotellovech.com](http://www.hotellovech.com)



## Transportation

Travel by cars and by plane. Transfer from the Sofia airport to Lovech and back (by cars/bus) will be arranged for participants. Duration of transfer: approx. 1h30 hours.

**Lunch and dinners** will be offered to all participants.

## Contact for organizational matters:

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## Contact for programme matters:

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## PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE MEETING

### Thursday 9 May 2013

Arrivals in Sofia. Welcome of guests at the airport by Balkanika Foundation.

Departure by bus from Sofia Airport to Lovech, according to time arrivals (duration travel: 1h30)

Accommodation of the guests in Lovech (*Hotel Presidium Palace/Varoscha Hotel/Hotel Lovech*). Confirmation of hotel will be given by Balkanika Foundation.

20:00

*Dinner (Venue: tbc)*

### Friday 10 May 2013

9:30 - 9:45

**Official opening** (Venue: *Conference Hall, Hotel Presidium Palace, Lovech*)

- Welcoming address by Mincho Kazandjiev, Mayor of Lovech
- Welcoming address by Jacques Rao, Director of Division of Relations with Member States and International Organizations, UNESCO

9:45 - 10:00

*Coffee break (Venue: Lobby, Conference Hall)*

10:00 - 12:15

**Round Table 1: "The new arts scene in South-East Europe: trends and challenges"**, introduced and moderated by Kalina Wagenstein (Director Art Office, Bulgaria). Venue: Conference Hall, Hotel Presidium Palace, Lovech

With the participation of:

Bilge Kiliç (Head of Collective Societies and Research and Development/Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Turkey), Branislav Mićunović (Minister of Culture, Montenegro), Dragan Milinković (Film Festival Director, Serbia), Besnik Mustafaj (writer and President of the Albanian Forum for the Alliance of Civilization (Albania), Jordan Plevnes (writer and Rector of the University of Audiovisual Arts, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), İrem Savaş (Expert, International Relations Group/ Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Turkey), Serkan Ustuner (Director Bahçeşehir University Theatre, Turkey)

- 12:30 **Opening of the photo exhibition “What Does the Water Whisper”**, presentation by Nikolay Stoyanov (Balkanika Foundation)  
(Venue: Lobby of the Theater, Lovech)
- 12:45 - 14:00 *Lunch (Venue: tbc)*
- 15:30 - 17:00 **Round Table 1 continued: “The new arts scene in South-East Europe: trends and challenges”**, introduced and moderated by Jordan Plevnes (writer and Rector of the University of Audiovisual Arts, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)  
Venue: Conference Hall, Hotel Presidivm Palace, Lovech
- 10:30 - 19:30 **Parallel Artistic program** (Venue: Lovech Theatre)
- 10:35 - 11:35 Monospectacle from Serbia
- 12:00 - 13:00 Monospectacle from Bulgaria
- 14:00 - 15:00 Monospectacle from Bulgaria
- 16:00 - 17:00 Monospectacle from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- 18:30 - 19:30 Monospectacle from Turkey
- 20:00 **Opening of the Concert *The Lovech Bridge Speaks*** (Venue: Bridge Plaza. Participants and guests will be accompanied by organizers)
- Message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO
  - Concert by Diana Express
  - Light Spectacle *Sound and Light*
  - Mapping Show of the covered Lovech Bridge - 3D animation
- 21:30 *Official Dinner (Venue: tbc)*

## **Saturday 11 May 2013**

- 10.00 - 11:00 **Round Table 2: “Municipalities: shaping the agenda for creativity and cultural innovation”**, introduced and moderated by Todor Chobanov (Deputy Mayor of Sofia, in charge of cultural affairs, Bulgaria)  
Venue: Conference Hall, Hotel Presidivm Palace, Lovech



With the participation of:

Selim Bilginkaya (Officer, Directorate of Culture and Social Affairs, Turkey), Alexander Bogdanovich (Mayor of Cetinje, Montenegro), Diana Culi (writer and President of The Independent Forum for the Albanian Women, Albania), Etleva Dhima (Advisor, Municipality of Berat, Albania), Ziadin Sela (Mayor of Struga, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Ertuğrul Tanrıku (Deputy Mayor of Edirne, Turkey)

- 11:00 - 11:15 *Coffee Break*
- 11:15 - 12:30 continuation of discussions **Round Table 2**
- 12:45 - 14:00 *Lunch (Venue: tbc)*
- 15:30 - 18:00 Tour of the historical and cultural monuments in Lovech
- 20:00 **Closing Concert** (Venue: Lovech bridge square)
- Address by Mr. Mincho Kazandjiev, Mayor of Lovech
  - Address by Jacques Rao, Director of Division of Relations with Member States and International Organizations
  - UNESCO Performance by the Children's
  - Dance group *CHUDESJA* (Bulgaria)
  - Performance by Dance group, University Bahçeşehir (Turkey)
  - Performance by Dance group, Municipality of Lovech
- 21:00 Reception (Venue: Restaurant "Drakata")

## Sunday 12 May 2013

Departures from Lovech to Sofia, by bus and cars in accordance with international flight departures.