

FESTIVALS IN BULGARIA

Context, problems, perspectives

SUMMARY



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SUMMARY

The report reviews the research work dedicated to different aspects of the Bulgarian festival practice: history, processes, terminology, typology. Special attention is given to the mapping of festivals in Bulgaria – an initiative where the NGO sector has the leading role.

Some of the results from the research of Bulgarian festival during the last two years are also presented. In relation to Human Resources and institutional capacity, a conclusion is drawn that the wider autonomy of the festival sector in Sofia has created better structured responsibilities of the participants in the teams. On the contrary, the relatively lesser degree of autonomy of the cultural operators in the rest of the country often blurs the boundaries of responsibilities and creates the impression that there is not sufficient amount of orderliness in the organization of activities. There has not been created a legal basis in order to guarantee transparency in the spending of public means by the festivals.

The other basic conclusion which originates from the research is that it is the municipalities that have the basic role in organizing and financing Bulgarian festivals. This has not generated sufficient solidarity effects in the local community; it has not situated adequately festivals as a source of prestige in the respective place; there are no conceptions or realizations of festivals' opportunities into concrete policies in order to support the economic and social growth of the regions.

The analysis of festivals' programs shows that despite the multiplying of events, festivals do not contribute to a sufficient degree to the inclusion of the Bulgarian artistic community and audiences to the new aesthetic tendencies in the world. Organizers comparatively rarely commission the creation of new aesthetic works to authors from the country or abroad. The conclusion that festival programs are dominated by inertia and cliché artistic patterns and ideas is supported by the low interest to the presentation of unknown aesthetic works in the near and distant past declared in the questionnaires.

The last part summarizes the results from the analyses and observations and presents a resume of the conclusions of Working group "Festivals" in the process of creating a National strategy for the Development of arts, cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries and cultural tourism in Bulgaria.