Considering the fact that the WBF 2nd Call Projects are already in the phase of implementation, aiming also to contribute to the grantees visibility, we chose to dedicate this Newsletter Issue to the projects events held during the month of July.

We would like to emphasize that:

- The WBF Team is following closely every project, fully dedicated to offer our support to grantees;
- This initial stage of projects implementation served to know better the implementing capabilities of our grantees and we are enthusiastic about the professionalism, dedication and their ability to realize the objectives. We are confident that the WBF 2nd Call Projects will reach the expected regional impact, aiming to strengthen regional cooperation and cohesion, enhancing people-to-people links and contacts.

Challenge History – React for the future

Lasting for a week (14-21 July), “Challenge History – React for the future”, a WBF Funded Project, concluded successfully the Summer School, in Ohrid, North Macedonia. WBF was present and greeted the participants at the awarding ceremony.

Documentary Film Camp DocuSprouts 2019

Aiming to educate, promote and subsequently internalize the values of active citizenship, good governance, regional intercultural and good neighborly relations cooperation through visual expression among youth in the WB, Makedox successfully concluded the Documentary Film Camp DocuSprouts 2019.

Data Analysis for Public Policy

School of Economics and Business hosted the Summer School for Young Economists: “Data Analysis for Public Policy”, held in Sarajevo from 9th to 13th July. The main goal of the Project was to bring together young people from the region, to share knowledge and skills in analyzing data used in the analysis of public policies by undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students, as well as young researchers in the economy.
Dođi na Amfi, vol.8 (July 18-21, 2019)” – regional hip hop festival was officially opened by the representatives of KOM018, WBF and French Institute from Nis on July 20th, and lasted by late hours of July 21st. During the festival, over 36 young and talented artists from the WB6 and V4 region, along with over 70 artists from Serbia had the opportunity to perform, exhibit and compete over their talents via four hip hop culture disciplines (hip hop dance, beat making, video and photography, and graffiti making). Over 10000 of visitors from Nis and the region have enjoyed the program which was primarily all about promotion of positive social values via the hip hop culture. Moreover, the visitors, but participants of the festival as well, have enjoyed the performances of the well-known hip hop artists (ie. Demonio, Furio Đunta, Mali Mire, Aristocrat music – Struka, Kendi, Papi Jaaz, Igla, Grzi, Meta, Sick Prine, Bad copy, Fox), but local non-affirmed artists as well.

“Come to Amfi / Dođi na Amfi” hip hop culture festival has been held for the eighth time in a row, and is proving to be an important and effective tool for support and promotion of young talented people from the region (and beyond the region); and is proving to be a sustainable tool for promotion and nurturing of the positive social values via hip hop culture on a regional manner as well. At the end, the good energy, happiness, joy, cooperation and new friendships of involved participants at the festival, but the great satisfaction and ovations gained from the visitors can be seen on few photos, and importantly on the video production which is about to be compiled and prepared by ““Come to Amfi / Dođi na Amfi” hip hop culture festival professionals.

“Come to Amfi, vol.8” is a part of the Street Art Balkans, vol.2 project, funded by the WBF and the IVF, and implemented by “KOM 018” from Nis, in direct partnership with CSO’s from the WB6 and V4 region.
Lasting for a week (14-21 July), “Challenge History – React for the future”, a WBF Funded Project, concluded successfully the Summer School, in Ohrid, North Macedonia. WBF was present and greeted the participants at the awarding ceremony.

Youth peace-building activists and secondary school students from Pristina, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje and Belgrade, with the assistance of dedicated lectures, where provided with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills for supporting peace-building processes and regional dialogue in WB.

"We hope that this school has inspired you and that you will make a change in your society. Don't be passive. To be a relevant actor in your society and to fight against what you think is wrong is very important. I don't want to sound dramatic, but you are the generation upon which the whole region depends. So, be courageous and don't stop fighting for your rights." - Uranija Pirovska, Executive Director of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of North Macedonia, advised the participants.

School of Economics and Business Sarajevo, together with their partners from Skopje, Belgrade and Tirana, powered by a WBF grant, hosted the Summer School for Young Economists: “Data Analysis for Public Policy”, held in Sarajevo from 9th to 13th July.

The main goal of the Project was to bring together young people from the region, to share knowledge and skills in analyzing data used in the analysis of public policies and evaluations by undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students, as well as young researchers in the economy. During the five days the participants had the opportunity to share their experiences in the areas covered by the project and to learn from different lectors in a very friendly atmosphere.
Aiming to educate, promote and subsequently internalize the values of active citizenship, good governance, regional intercultural and good neighborly relations cooperation through visual expression among youth in the WB, Makedox successfully concluded the Documentary Film Camp DocuSprouts 2019.

The documentary film camp was held in the framework of the MakeDox Travelling Cinema 2019, around Ohrid and Prespa Lake. The new generation of DocuSprouts 2019 was supported by the Western Balkans Fund, and implemented by Makedox Skopje in partnership with the Academy of Film and Multimedia Marubi, Tirana, and the Free Zone Film Festival, Belgrade.

“Gastronomic map of Western Balkans”

Aiming to strengthen regional identity and increase awareness on the similarities of traditional cuisine in Western Balkans and to preserve common gastronomic heritage, Generator from Vranje, in collaboration with KCIC from Gjilan, ARNO from Skopje and Bona Fide from Piljevla, concluded the tour of collecting recipes. Soon to come the cookbook with traditional regional recipes!

Aiming to contribute to regional cooperation by encouraging exchange of actors and identifying common social values, the first theatre play of the project “Culture – a Common Language of Socio - Economical Relations (CCLOSER)”, powered by WBF and implemented by Regional Arts and Cultural Centre of Korca, Naroden Teater Bitola and Zvezdara Teatar Belgarde, took place at Korca Theatre on 3rd of August.
“Come to Amfi, a festival of an outstanding regional importance”– Interview with WBF’s Project Coordinator, Ms. Dijana Spalevic

WBF: Dear Dijana, can you say a few descriptive words about this project?

Dijana: For the second time in a row, the WBF supported the realization of “Come to Amfi”, conducted over the course of July 18-20, 2019 in the City of Nis (Serbia). Such festival has gathered over 36 young and talented artists from the WB6 and the V4 region, and over 70 artists from Serbia, who altogether performed, exhibited and competed over their talents in four disciplines (hip-hop dance, beat making, video and photography and graffiti making). Prior to the festival, the participants had the opportunity to take part in workshops and master classes to build their capacities, skills and knowledge in preferential disciplines. More than 10,000 visitors have enjoyed the participant’s performances, exhibitions and competitions.

WBF: Can you tell us more about your main impressions, what message can you deliver in the quality of a WBF Project Coordinator and how this project interlinks with Fund’s mission?

Dijana: “Come to Amfi”, is of an outstanding regional importance, and this year it was even more successful when numbers (results) considered and compared with the previous year – i.e. over 50% more participants and volunteers engaged, audience attracted, internationally recognized artists engaged, etc. This festival is an effective tool for mobilization of young talented people from the region, to express and promote their talents and perceptions on positive social values (respect of human rights, intercultural dialogue, and tolerance among young people). And this is what the WBF is standing and advocating for: strengthening of intercultural dialogue, regional cooperation and good neighborly relations.

I am still full of positive impressions out of workshops and the festival et al, as I have witnessed good energy-happiness-cooperation-new friendships among all participants from the WB6, but the V4 region as well, including great satisfaction and ovations gained from the visitors (audience). Also, I have witnessed passion, professionalism, accountability, hospitality, and positive vibes throughout not only formal, but informal parts of the festival, all demonstrated by our project partners – “KOM018” and co-partners from the WB6 region. And I congratulate our project partners, for a successful realization of this years’ festival.

“Come to Amfi” needs to be experienced in order to fully understand its purpose and what it is all about, but to experience the overall atmosphere as well. Nevertheless, “KOM018” professionals are already producing post-festival produces – photos and audio videos, which in a way reflects the overall great-atmosphere and my impressions gained. And you are more than welcomed to follow it either via WBF’s and/or “Dođi na Amfi” Facebook pages.

To conclude, this festival has a great potential, and is already proving to be evolving into a well-known regional festival. I am so proud on the fact that such platform for young talented people mobilization and networking exists. I am looking forward to further developments and program of the “Come to Amfi / Dodji na Amfi” festival, and hopefully a continuation of a successful and quality partnership with the “KOM018” and partners from the WB6 region.”
WBF MONITORING GUIDELINES

In order to be professional in following the project implementation phase and to insure reaching their objectives, the Fund’s Secretariat has developed the Monitoring Guidelines. Below you may find a short extract from the document.

This guideline sets out some important steps in conducting monitoring the project impact and its implementation. For WBF it is important for its grantees to deliver the results and reach the desired impact. The monitoring process is implemented through application of appropriate and rigorous methods necessary to keep the credibility of monitoring followed with a transparency throughout the whole process to ensure quality and unbiased results.

MONITORING PROCESS

WBF conducts its monitoring process through objectives:

- To verify purposeful utilization of funds and compliance with the financial and non-financial terms of the Grant Contract, thus ensuring “best value for the money”.
- To implement measures that will ensure that the funds received through the Grant Agreement are utilized efficiently, correctly and in accordance with principles of sound financial management, including the principle of transparency.
- To implement measures that allows and directs the project implementation towards principles of regional cooperation.
- Ensure regular feedback to grantees.
- Establish and apply the necessary measures, when applicable, to prevent fraud or other irregularities to protect the financial interests of the WBF.

WBF monitoring process focuses on two aspects:

**Result oriented monitoring** - the grant beneficiary’s progress in implementing the project in accordance with the grant contract; quality monitoring is done mainly against project timeframe and against indicators provided in the log-frame.

**Financial monitoring** - the grant beneficiary’s financial compliance with objectives and budget established in the Grant Agreement; financial utilization in accordance with agreed utilization dynamics.

MONITORING MEANS

**Monitoring field visits** – through regular monitoring visits WBF is able to measure the progress of the project implementation, verify delivery of outputs, achievement of results, verify received written reports, identify possible bottlenecks and divergences from the main course of action and assist the grantee in correction of errors. Verification of results ensures that the above mentioned project components are done against the indicators set at the beginning of each project. Moreover, **monitoring visits** are required in order to physically observe and record the quality and financial progress in comparison to the content of the grantees reports.

WBF team uses other means of monitoring (telephone calls, email, fax) in order to maintain continuous communication during project implementation, however on-site monitoring visits remain the most important aspect of monitoring.
OUR WEB PAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA VISITORS ALWAYS INCREASING! FIGURES SHOW THAT IN A 3 MONTHS PERIOD (MAY-JULY 2019) WE HAD 2200 ACTIVE USERS IN OUR WEBPAGE AND OVER 12000 POST REACH IN FB IN LESS THAN A MONTH PERIOD.

DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE READERS AND FOLLOWERS. KEEP FOLLOWING US, WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU POSTED WITH OUR LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

WEB

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WBF Newsletter is prepared with the financial support of our partner
International Visegrad Fund

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