

## **224 projects, 28 participating countries (plus 3<sup>rd</sup> countries: Yugoslavia and Cyprus) and over 750 organisations involved: outcomes of “Culture 2000” for 2002**

*This year sees the first year of an annual sectoral approach for the « Culture 2000 » programme – with the visual arts sector being the main sector that will be supported in 2002. Overall, the European Commission will fund 224 projects this year (of which 119 are in the field of visual arts) totalling over 33 million Euro and including different activities in different sectors, ranging from visual to performing arts, cultural heritage to literary translation. In 2002 « Culture 2000 » will also support the creation of a European Prize for Cultural Heritage, as well as the European Capitals of Culture selected for 2002 and 2003.*

A record 28 countries are participating in the programme in 2002, a year in which Commissioner Reding underlined the need to build bridges through cultural co-operation. In 2003 this number is expected to increase to 30 with the participation of Cyprus and Malta. As the programme enlarges to reflect an enlarged Europe cultural co-operation becomes a more important means to cross national and linguistic borders, as the European Parliament Resolution on Cultural Co-operation (September 2001) states “one of Europe's distinctive cultural features is its unity in diversity, that is to say the ongoing coexistence and interaction, which has evolved through the centuries, of a rich variety of languages, traditions, lifestyles, trends, movements and artistic and cultural expressions”.

Nine candidate countries from Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and the Slovak Republic) are participating in the programme for the second year running and Slovenia is participating for the first time. More than 115 organisations from these countries will participate as project leaders and/or co-organisers in the selected projects, an increase of nearly 50% on last year's figures.

Over 750 cultural operators from across Europe are involved in selected projects directly either as project leaders and/or co-organisers and many more are associated with the projects.

This year, the Culture 2000 programme launched the first of three annual sectoral approaches. This approach will see one main sector of cultural activity being highlighted each year: in 2002 this is visual arts; in 2003 this will be performing arts and in 2004 it will be cultural heritage. Other sectors will still be supported in all three years, but the main emphasis will be on the highlighted sectors.

Thus, in 2002 the Culture 2000 programme will support projects in the sectors of visual arts, performing arts, cultural heritage, books, reading and translations. Over

430 applications were received for all sectors and actions. Panels of independent experts, drawn from across Europe, assessed the applications and assured the quality of projects approved.

200 annual cultural co-operation projects (in visual arts, performing arts, cultural heritage, literature, books and reading, literary translation, visual arts in third countries and cultural heritage laboratories) amounting to approximately €17.7 million and 24 multiannual co-operation projects (in visual arts, performing arts, cultural heritage, and literature, books and reading) amounting to approximately €15.7 million have been selected. The Culture 2000 programme will also support the organisation and award of a European prize in the field of cultural heritage preservation and enhancement, with approximately €150,000.

**Annual co-operation projects\*:** these involve at least three co-organisers from participating countries. The 200 projects selected under this action are presented as follows:

- Visual Arts: 100 projects
- Visual Arts in third countries: 2 projects
- Performing Arts: 20 projects
- Cultural heritage: 19 projects
- Literature, books and reading: 8 projects
- Translations: 48 projects (over 200 books)
- Cultural Heritage Laboratories: 3 projects

**Multiannual co-operation projects:** these involve at least five co-organisers from participating countries. The 24 selected projects under this action are presented as follows:

- Visual Arts: 17 projects
- Performing Arts: 3 projects
- Cultural heritage: 2 projects
- Literature, books and reading: 2 projects

**European Heritage Prize:** the Commission has assigned the cultural operator “Europa Nostra” the task of organising an annual European prize in the field of cultural heritage and enhancement.

The European Capitals of Culture for 2002, Bruges and Salamanca, have already received approximately €125,000 each for preparatory activities, and a further €375,000 is reserved for each of them for activities taking place this year. In addition, €125,000 has been reserved for next year's Capital of Culture, Graz, to prepare cultural events which will take place in 2003.

*\* Contracts for two projects are still pending due to financial procedures.*