



The Alternative Artists Workshop Series

Phase 3 – Cluj-Napoca & Bucharest, Romania

Project Goals & Beneficiaries

The main aims of the project:

- 1) To support the attendance of three facilitators with experience of social exclusion at the Focus Atelier Festival in Cluj-Napoca, for twelve days from 20-31st March 2015, where they will deliver a programme of workshops demonstrating the potential of the creative arts as a tool for social and personal transformation.
- 2) To support the attendance of three facilitators with experience of social exclusion at Podu – an independent theatre in Bucharest – for ten days of workshops from 2-12th April 2015, where they will work with students to produce a showing of work based on the application of theatre as a means for personal and social transformation.
- 3) To support two emerging artists as they showcase their children's show *Remember Doctor Bubble – the Bubble Magician* in Cluj-Napoca as a demonstration of the development of street theatre as a viable artistic career pathway. Potentially this would also be shown to members of the Roma community in the area.
- 4) To support the presentation of one emerging artist's creative non-fiction piece *Total Shambles* and its attendant one-man show of poetry and performance as an example of using the arts as a tool for social commentary and transformation.
- 5) To continue to develop and evolve the relationships and standing begun with the work of Reboot: Brasov (sept 14) and Reboot: Carei (Nov 14) to establish Reboot the Roots as an internationally recognised provider of training and support of creative tools for social and personal transformation.

The main beneficiaries will be:

- 1) George Wielgus
- 2) Kurt Murray
- 3) Iulia Benze

The subsidiary beneficiaries will be:

- 1) Between 10 and 30 attendants of the workshops and performances at the Focus Atelier festival, who would be able to attend for free.
- 2) Between 10 and 30 students of Podu Teater in Bucharest, who would be able to attend for free.

3) Audience members at the festival and at the showing of work in Podu, who would be able to attend for free.

Identifiable Needs:

1) The facilitators require financial support from RtR as Focus Atelier and Podu are both unable to support beyond providing accommodation and some meals per day. The facilitators would require support for return flights from the UK to Romania and a per diem to cover travel and expenses while on project.

2) The practice of using the creative arts for social transformation is still emergent in Romania, and the sponsors (Focus Atelier and Podu) have both expressed a keen interest in exposing their local communities to the potential benefits of this practice.

3) Although inter-related, the other practitioners at Focus Atelier and Podu do not specifically focus on the skills set these facilitators can provide – namely Theatre of the Oppressed and Identity Deconstruction.

External Relevance:

1) Reciproca is a cultural NGO founded in 2014 that aims to develop the cultural climate and to raise social responsibility by stimulating and promoting non-formal education; to create theatre performances and audio-video productions; to support the community involvement in artistic activities. Throughout the month of March 2015 Reciproca will gather workshops, debates and presentations by practitioners in the field of social theater, Theater of the Oppressed, video-journalism and urban interventions. The workshops address students who are preparing to pursue a profession in an artistic field, practicing artists and people interested in the arts-society dynamics. Reciproca will provide free access to all "Focus Atelier" activities. Please see attached letter and documents from Claud Lorand Maxim for more information, and view their crowdfunding campaign at <http://crestemidei.ro/FocusAtelier?locale=en>, and <https://focusatelier.wordpress.com/>.

2) Podul Teatru, Bucharest - Association "Bridge Theatre" is a non-governmental organization founded by legendary Coordinator of Student Theatre "Bridge", Professor Ph.D., theater director **Catalin Naum**.

Founded in 2006, the Association "Bridge Theatre" aims to promote the work of the Student Theatre "Bridge", located in the attic [Students' Culture House in Bucharest](#), known meeting place of artists and students concerned with cultural activities, whose history is already above 75 years old.

The aims of the Association are to promote young artists who are part of the Student Theatre troupe "The Bridge", their performances and the work of its members, all former member of the Student Theatre "Bridge" over the more than 45 who have attained the its opening, many of them today renowned professional actors. Please view their website at <http://www.tspodul.ro/> for more information.

3) Cluj-Napoca is a famous centre for theatre arts education with internationally reknowned

universities. It also hosts a number of alternative arts spaces that are partnered with the Forum Atelier project.

4) Romania in general is in a state of transformation as the younger generation grow up as members of the European Community rather than under the dictatorship of Ceaucescu. Creative arts for social transformation is an emerging medium across the country that could be a powerful tool for conscious development.

Overall Aims:

1) As an organisation, Reboot the Roots seeks to promote multicultural harmony and socially integrated communities through the provision of socially conscious arts programmes.

2) As an organisation, RtR seeks to support the social inclusion of artists and practitioners with experience of alienation and support their career development as a means of cohesion.

Key Activities:

1) The provision of twelve days of workshops (4 hours per day, totalling 48 hours of contact time) at the Forum Atelier festival, training people in the practices of Theatre of the Oppressed and Identity Deconstruction with an aim of developing involved, engaged and evolved participants for their own benefit and the benefit of others.

2) The provision of ten days of workshops (8 hours a day, totalling 80 hours contact time) at Podu, training students in the above practices and applying them to produce a socially relevant and transformative performance for the communities in Bucharest.

3) Attendance at a debate on the relevance and impact of creative arts for social transformation in Cluj-Napoca

4) Approximately 2 x Performances of *Remember Dr Bubble – the Bubble Magician*.

5) A minimum of 1 performance connected with the launch of creative non-fiction narrative *Total Shambles* highlighting the issues of housing, homelessness and social exclusion in the UK.

Budget:

NAME	FLIGHT COSTS (approx)	PER DIEM/DAYS	TOTAL REQUESTED	Approved By:
Kurt Murray	£100	£25 x 13	£425	
Iulia Benze	£100	£25 x 13	£425	
George Wielgus	£100	£25 x 20	£600	
TOTALS:	£300	£ £1150	<u>£1450</u>	

Commented [L1]: Kurt and Iulia are joining us from march 27th.

Options To Recoup Expense To Reboot The Roots:

- 1) George Wielgus is willing to donate the profit from any sales of copies of *Total Shambles* made in Romania back to Reboot the Roots.
- 2) Beneficiaries could ask for voluntary donations from any participants at workshops and performances that could be collected and donated back to RtR.
- 3) As part of the trainings in Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca, an element of street performance/busking could be included with the attendants, and the collections from this donated back to RtR.
- 4) RtR trustees could approach the organisers of Forum Atelier and request additional financial support for the attendees beyond accommodation and meals, considering that they have surpassed their crowdfunding target.
- 5) RtR could refund flight costs up to £100 upon receipt of proof of purchase.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

The inclusion of three facilitators will allow for a more thorough process of documentation and assessment of the successes and difficulties of the training project, with one facilitator able to observe and evaluate the operation of the other, as well as allowing the team to critically assess the development and progress of members of the group. In addition, the spaces in between the workshops allow time to assess and report on what is being done and how successfully. This information can be passed back to our partner organisations for discussion of future workshops.

Assessments will examine:

- the skills of facilitators in delivering high quality workshops to the clients.
- the success of participants in recreating the skills and techniques they are taught.
- the content and objectives of the created performances
- the response and dialogue around issues raised by the workshops and subsequent plays
- self-assessment of the successes and difficulties of the programme (verbal interviews)
- feedback forms assessing the process

The assessment and documentation will take atleast three forms:

- 1) Creative Director George Wielgus will make a written assessment on the development of the co-facilitators and the participants in the sessions. Please see previous reports for examples. He will analyse the progress made by those in the session, and present a written report on individuals, individual sessions, and the programme as a whole.

2) Technology allowing (ie access to a camera or recording device), the facilitators will document individual responses to the process through interviews.

3) Self-assessment sheets will be designed and handed out to all participants to rate the experience and hopefully provide some written feedback themselves. This will be done anonymously.

Continuation Plans:

There are tentative plans for future engagements in Romania and a continued working relationship with the beneficiaries listed.

George Wielgus has been approached by one organisation in Romania who are interested in developing a two week therapeutic theatre project for recovering drug users. This would be funded by that organisation, and the proceeds returned to Reboot the Roots.

It is hoped that in continuing to support the development of the beneficiaries and their practice in Romania will lead to more projects funded by partner organisations and at least to the development of a solid body of work that will allow the beneficiaries to approach potential funders and grant opportunities with sufficient evidence to allow success.

There are tentatively scheduled projects for a return to Brasov (May and June), Bucharest (August) and other locations across Romania up until November 2015. By funding this project, beneficiaries and RtR will be in a stronger position to obtain more financial support from partner organisations in the future.

George Wielgus is scheduled to run 5-days of workshops in October at the EcoDharma Centre in Catalunya. If fully attended, part of the proceeds of this workshop will be able to be donated back to RtR.