

# Confluent Margins



Country / region or city:

**Macedonia / Skopje and other cities: Debar, Gevgelija, Gostivar, Kicevo, Kumanovo, Struga, Strumica, Tetovo**

Name of the Cooperation Project:

**Confluent Margins**

Partner organization:

**NGO Kontrapunkt (Skopje)**

Coaching-/Monitoring Partner:

**Ivan Dodovski,  
Foundation Open Society  
Institute Macedonia**

Duration of project:

**July 2003 – June 2006**

**Confluent Margins aims at intensifying cultural production and exchange between towns in Macedonia and their creative groups and individuals. The project is especially focused on young and innovative artists and intellectuals of different social and ethnic background. Closed cultural identities shall be de-constructed; de-centralization and de-monopolisation are being fostered.**

In the so-called phase of transition of the past 10 years, the Macedonian cultural scene has narrowed down to limited number of cultural actors and players, with scarce and mostly mainstream cultural output. Public resources are directed mainly to the same group of artists in the capital Skopje. The need to connect the cultural periphery of Macedonia, especially its neglected urban centres, to the cultural production and information-flow of the capital is urgent. Also exchange of experience and networking in between the marginalized towns outside of Skopje is a must.

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[www.deza.admin.ch](http://www.deza.admin.ch)  
(Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC)

Tetovo is the most important city in western Macedonia, a densely populated, multicultural region, lacking not only cultural infrastructures, but also offers for cultural activities and public discussions on social issues.

The project **small door / Community Culture Initiatives** aims at reinforcing social and cultural life as well as multi-ethnic relations by:

- Development of a cultural infrastructure in Tetovo and the region
- Improving cultural production and cultural animation of the public
- Involving the different ethnic communities into a discourse on joint social issues, triggered by cultural events
- Creating a best practice model for community-based cooperation in Macedonia

The project encompasses a wide range of activities and targets both urban and rural areas:

The **Multimedia Arts Centre (MAC)** in the heart of Tetovo is open to everybody who is eager to participate in cultural events and offers various possibilities for cultural production – documentary films, video, theatre, dance –, for public debates and workshops. The pocket-cinema situated in MAC has weekly movie screenings.

A **mobile cinema** shows films and video works in the rural areas of Tetovo, Rostushe and Debar Zupa. Old halls of the Houses of Culture with no activities or local elementary schools are used as cinema halls, and in summer, open-air screenings are arranged. The screenings are often accompanied by discussions or exhibitions.

An important element of the project is **professional training** of artists (i.e. video-editing and production) as well as of the project partners and volunteers (especially organizational development and cultural animation).

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**The Swiss Cultural Programme in the Western Balkans is a joint initiative of the Arts Council of Switzerland PRO HELVETIA and of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC. The SCP encompasses Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo and the Ukraine.**

**It supports local partners, which emphasize the variety, independence and performance of cultural life. The SCP cooperation projects focus on the capacity building and institutional development processes of cultural organizations. ■**