



KHERSON CITY CENTER OF YOUTH INITIATIVES "TOTEM"

REPORT ON ACTIVITY



2014



«INTERNAL UKRAINE» PROJECT:
«TERRA FUTURA» FESTIVAL OF
MODERN ARTS AS PLATFORM
FOR THE SEARCHING OF SELF-
IDENTIFICATION AND ARTISTIC
COLLABORATION BETWEEN
REGIONS OF UKRAINE.

Forming and acceptance of the European values (in particular cultural values) began in Ukraine finally. However awareness of itself in a context «I am Ukrainian, I am European» is not only matter of political agreements. It is personal feeling and understanding of features of the people of the country and its regions in wider context also. We are not deprived with «national pride» but we need certain capacity of critical, analytical thought (including artistic thinking).

«Totem» Center organizes «Terra Futura» festival of modern art since 2002. Annually we chose special theme to work and discuss. The festival attracts young artists of different genres (visual arts, theater/performances, music, and cinema). The festival tries to work with actual themes, to create not only possibility for demonstration of ar-

tistic works but also public discussion that allows authors to enter into a dialog with an audience on different levels. This conception was realized in 2014 within the framework of theme the «Internal Ukraine».

The purpose of the project was actualization of problem of new self-identification of Ukrainians in a context «I am Ukrainian, I am European», and also assistance to the artistic collaboration and strengthening of cultural connections between the different regions of Ukraine.

During the festival artists from different regions of Ukraine created art-projects which studied in different ways the cultural, sociological and historical codes of everyday life of Ukrainian people. The festival consisted of four blocks:

- **Photography;**
- **Objects (installations);**
- **Documentary theater;**
- **Video (short films and videoart)**

Each part of the festival was accompanied by public presentations and opened discussions.

CYI “Totem” got over 80 applications from young authors. 48 participants were selected (27 from city of Kherson, 12 from other regions of Ukraine, 9 authors from other cities of Ukraine, Poland and Israel sent their art-works).

For local creative young people two workshops were organized in order to present conception of the festival and to form awareness about their active role in Ukrainian culture. As the result, the group of volunteers and local participants was formed. They helped to collect old furniture for making art-projects (installations) that became one of the most attractive for audience elements of festival. Also during the festival photographers from other regions of Ukraine conducted master-class for local youth.

Press-conference of the project took place in Kherson on November, 18, 2014. As the result over 60 announcements and articles were published in mass-media. Due to the project authors from different regions of Ukraine played a large role in forming of public idea of unity of the country. Participants showed not only creative collaboration but common work as «cultural diplomats» that was perceived by local society extraordinarily positively.

Presentation of photos, installations, art-projects took place on 4 locations of Kherson – 2 small galleries, large show-room of «Factory» Mall (which was given to “Totem” free of charge) and private apartment in which artists from Odessa center of modern art «Tea factory» created special art-project and performance.

Theatrical block consisted of presentation of documentary theater, geared-up in collaboration with Sociological Association of Ukraine and Eastern-Europe Platform of Performing Arts (EEPAP).



Every presentation was ended with opened discussion and questionnaire of visitors.

In 2014 the festival collected over 5000 visitors.

Partners of the project: NGO «Art-optimists» (Mykolaiv), Kharkiv municipal gallery, «Ukrainian photographic alternative», Kherson regional branch of Sociological Association of Ukraine, Eastern-Europe Platform of Performing Arts (EEPAP).

The project was realized under support of the program «i3» (Impulse – Idea – Innovation) of the Fund of Rinat Akhmetov «Development of Ukraine».



«DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE AS THE SOURCE OF PROSPERITY OF LOCAL SOCIETY» PROJECT

Project lasted in 2012-2013 in the Donetsk and Kherson regions of Ukraine and in Western Georgia. Through a difficult situation in Donetsk it was continued in 2014.

Within the framework of the project «Totem» Center was a partner and realized a number of activities:

- **analysis** of cultural necessities of inhabitants of 18 towns and villages of the Kherson area;
- **collecting** information for creation of cultural map of Kherson area and two small towns;
- **creating** database of culture organization of the Kherson region;
- **forming** the group of participants from the Kherson region for participating in trainings «Development of potential of cultural players» and educational visits to Sweden and Bulgaria;
- **involving** public organizations of Kherson region to participate the program of mini-grants, providing organizational, methodical, consultative support.

Leading partner: Donetsk youth center of «Eco-Art».

The project was realized with financially support of European Union.



SAUCE (SOUC) PROJECT – SOUTH UKRAINIAN CULTURE.

In 2014 «Totem» Center started the new initiative – web-site about arts and culture of the South of Ukraine. Art-works of authors from Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odessa regions and Crimea are collected on one internet-resource, and also there are discussions and art critics on this web-site. Thus, SAUCE is the virtual platform for exchange of information about events in the different spheres of culture, presentations of authors and projects, generation of new ideas, discussions. This web-site is free of charge and opened for participation of any creative individuals and groups (both formal and informal) and for all, who work in any genre of arts or just interested in cultural events. It is possible to add images, video, audio, texts to the proper sections with description of idea/conception, and also to take part in discussions. Authors can appeal for a comment or review to the Ukrainian and foreign experts.

<http://coyc.com.ua>





DOCUMENTARY THEATER

Activity in this direction realized in close partnership with the Kherson regional branch of Sociological Association of Ukraine because modern documentary theater is connected to sociological science. In a few last decades the method of «verbatim» is used in an actual theater widely. Verbatim is the theatrical technology of creating plays on the basis of real interview, biographic and ethnographic researches, case study, verbal history, sociological methods of collection of primary information (such as focal groups, etc.). Scriptwriter has to keep features of original speaking as much as possible, and artists have to reproduced these features on the stage.

“Totem” creates a number of documentary plays with assistance and direct participations of the partners in Kherson and other cities of Ukraine. Each of these performances has not only artistic value but sociological, anthropological, historical and linguistic interest also.

In 2014 documentary plays «Trifle» and “Slavutich” were created. “Trifle” raised the theme of internal conflicts and intolerance of small groups to those, who differs from other. “Slavutich” is the documentary play about the town near Chernobyl atomic station, were it workers live. Each presentation was completed with opened discussion about the themes and problems which the play shows and future themes for documentary theater also.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2014

Donations: 353413,64 UAH that includes:

1. Center of arts "Eco-Art" - 68299,00 UAH
2. "Development of Ukraine" Charitable Fund - 87000,00 UAH
3. European Commission - 108800,55 UAH (6845,65 Euro)
4. EUROPESE CULTURELE SHICHTING - 89314,09 UAH (6900 Euro)

Charges: 208183 UAH that includes:

Program activities - 146047 UAH

Administrative costs - 62136 UAH

*The rest of financial means is kept on the bank accounts
of the "Totem" Center for using in next periods.*

