

# Arts and Culture Network Program



The Stefan Batory Foundation manages the execution of the Arts and Culture Network Program, an international program for cultural exchange established six years ago by the Open Society Institute. The program operates in 26 countries across Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, promoting cultural cooperation and exchange throughout the region.

During 2001, the following sub-programs were pursued within the Arts and Culture Network Program:

- **Cultural Link** – a program that enables artists in the region to cooperate, exchange ideas, and to pursue joint cultural projects;
- **Cultural Policy** – an initiative encouraging and supporting system reforms pertaining to culture, increasing the importance of creative associations and information centers, implementation of new models for cultural institution management, and training of culture managers;
- **Bridges of Understanding** – a new sub-program fostering cooperation and exchange of information with the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus and with Mongolia.

In the year 2001, a total of 376 applications – received from all countries in the region - were considered under the *Cultural Link* component, leading to the extension of grants for 188 projects; every project was assessed at the national level and then forwarded to an international commission of experts. In what was the second year of the *Cultural Policy* sub-program, 374 applications were received; following the same two-stage selection process, 90 projects were chosen. The pilot edition of *Bridges of Understanding* involved the assessment of 183 project proposals from 21 countries; 20 grants were awarded.

The Program's budget for the year 2001 amounted to 3 000 000 USD. Information about all projects benefiting from its support is available at [www.batory.org.pl/art/](http://www.batory.org.pl/art/)

Operational costs:

327 160,76 PLN