Transbordering Laboratory

Transbordering Laboratory is a research on and between European cities that are divided by borders. We aim to address the idea of forming new realities in such cities and areas. Hard borders became an issue again with the rise of nationalism and the pandemic, especially for citizens in border territories. Many of the border cities started to forge a common life since the 1990s and reinvented themselves as unified towns.

Our aim is to gradually form a network of these towns in order to share experiences and creativity. We believe that connecting artists and activists in a practical laboratory would help to develop a Europe with common transborder regions.

From the perspective of national capitals, we are seen as peripheries, while from our own perspective we should be developed as the very centers because here – at the meeting point between states, nations and people – the real Europe is taking place and reinventing itself. Every double city, that was divided by border, is a unique laboratory of coexistence.

Our aim is to establish a transnational network of transborder laboratories. As part of the research we were performing study visits to different divided towns to meet activists, scholars, artists and others, had presentations and discussions, made interviews and artistic documentations. The aim is to create a sustainable network of border towns and its engaged people.

The first conference will be held in October 2022 in Frankfurt (Oder)/Słubice, a double town at the German-Polish border, also known as Słubfurt.

Conference 27.-30.10.2022

The conference pursues various goals.

Installation "Future Games"

The artists Miha Kosovel, Michael Kurzwelly and Tanel Rander have developed an installation. The centre is a yurt with two doors, which the artist Szymon Mizera was commissioned to build. The yurt stands for a nomadic concept of life. As a mobile home, it offers protection and a space for communication. In the installation, the three artists have processed their experiences in the various European twin cities.
The installation is to be supplemented by contributions brought along by the conference participants and may later go on tour.

Public part

Nine presentations will give an insight into history, life, border demarcations and their overcoming in various twin cities in Europe:
Cieszyn-Tesin, Frankfurt-Słubice, Haparanda-Tornio, Kerkrade-Herzogenrath, Komarno-Komarom, Nicosia, Nova Gorica-Gorizia, Ruse-Giurgiu, Valga-Valka.

Internal part

Of course, the aim is to establish a network of people who are active in different border regions, or who deal with the issues of border crossing and identity. The network wants to overcome the concept of the nation state and playfully look for and try out other forms that overcome the dialectic of the "WE" and the "OTHERS".
At the conference, we want to develop projects that we will then implement together. For this purpose, we want to collect ideas, check their practicability and gather funding possibilities.

Miha Kosovel, Michael Kurzwelly and Tanel Rander

Transbordering Laboratory – Nowa Amerika Congress, 27.-30. October 2022
the whole conference will be held in english language

27th, Galerie B, Lindenstraße 4, D-15230 Frankfurt (Oder)
19:30 - *opening of the exhibition/installation "Future Game | Zukunftsspiel"*
(authors: Miha Kosovel, Michael Kurzwelly and Tanel Rander)

28th , Conference room Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, PL-69-100 Słubice
14:30 – *welcome speech Dr. Krzsztof Wojciechowski*
    - 3 presentations of double-towns (Valga-Valka, Nova Gorica-Gorizia, Słubfurt)
16:00 break
16:30 - *3 presentations of double-towns* (Haparanda-Tornio, Ruse-Giurgiu, Nicosia)
18:00 - discussion

29th, Conference room Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, PL-69-100 Słubice
10:00 - *3 presentations of double-towns* (Komarno-Komarom, Cieszyn-Tesin, Narva-Ivanogrod)
12:00 – discussion

PARTICIPATION FREE, registration at: arttrans@arttrans.de
Organizer: Slubfurt e.V., www.nowa-amerika.eu

The project is supported by | das Projekt wird gefördert durch:

European
Cultural
Foundation

FRANKFURT ODER
SŁUBICE
Ohne Grenzen. Bez granic.