

Ministry of Culture

Maistrova 10
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Dear Madam/Sir,

at our organization Multimedijalni institut we are worried to learn of the situation that the contemporary art scene in Slovenia finds itself in after the Ministry of Culture has rolled back the structural and financial support for the independent, non-governmental and non-profit cultural actors. As colleagues and long-term partners of the cultural and artistic organizations in the independent sector from Slovenia, we are alarmed by the lack of transparent procedures of funding, lack of expertise at the Ministry's commissions and other working bodies, and the Ministry's lack of capacities to defend the position of culture and arts in its own society.

We are ourselves a Croatian non-profit cultural organization working in digital cultures, film and publishing. We are running a cultural center in Zagreb. At MAMA, our venue, we have collaborated and hosted a large number of Slovenian organizations and artists. We have also done international projects – exchanges, festivals, co-productions with many of them. We have worked together with Ljudmila, Aksioma, Atol, Kapelica, Maska, to name just a few who are now facing the prospect of shutdown.

Slovenian contemporary art is one of the most vital segments of the contemporary art regionally and internationally. A thriving independent, non-governmental and non-profit cultural sector is a hallmark of a democratic culture and society. Drastic reductions in funding, the refusal of dialogue with the actors and their exclusion from the policy-making process risk the stability and continuity of these actors.

We express our solidarity with these organizations and urge you to heed their demands for:

- the inclusion of the competent professionals into the vital decision-making processes at the Ministry of Culture
- enlargement of the budgets for culture, particularly for the non-profit organizations
- re-structuring of the Ministry of Culture to achieve more coherent cultural politics in Slovenia
- the beginning of a dialogue with the independent art scene in Slovenia
- an inclusive vision for the development of cultural politics, in particular as they relate to the independent art production.

Tomislav Medak
President of Association
Multimedijalni institut

