

NEST — Spaces of Belonging

Visegrad+ Grant Application – Project Concept

1. BASIC INFORMATION

Field	Details
Project Title	NEST — Spaces of Belonging
Grant Scheme	Visegrad+ Grants
Focus Area	Culture and Common Identity
Project Duration	12 months
Coordinator	Umetnička Organizacija "NEST", Serbia
Partners (to be confirmed)	1. [Partner Organization from V4 Country 1] 2. [Partner Organization from V4 Country 2] 3. [Partner Organization from WB6 Country (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, or Kosovo)]
Total Budget	34,500 EUR

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

The project "**NEST — Spaces of Belonging**" is a collaborative art initiative that brings together four contemporary artists from the Visegrad Group (V4) and the Western Balkans (WB6) to explore the relationship between physical and social spaces and the sense of belonging. Through artistic production, student workshops, exhibitions, and a publication, the project fosters dialogue on identity, memory, and community, aiming to strengthen cultural ties and mutual understanding within the region.

The project is structured around the creation of approximately 20+ new artworks, a multi-day student workshop, two major exhibitions (in Zemun, Serbia, and in the country of the WB6 partner), and a bilingual publication. By engaging both professional artists and young art students, "NEST" seeks to make the theme of belonging accessible and relevant to diverse audiences, while building lasting networks of cultural cooperation between the V4 and WB6 regions.

3. PROJECT GOAL & OBJECTIVES

Main Goal:

To investigate how different spatial and social contexts shape individual and collective feelings of belonging through contemporary art, and to foster cross-cultural dialogue between the Visegrad Group and the Western Balkans.

Specific Objectives:

1. **Artistic Creation:** To enable the creation of new, original artworks by four artists from diverse backgrounds, exploring the theme of belonging through their unique perspectives.
2. **Cultural Exchange:** To facilitate meaningful cultural exchange and cooperation between artists, cultural institutions, art students, and local communities in the V4 and WB6 regions.
3. **Public Engagement:** To present the project's findings and artistic outcomes to a wide audience through exhibitions and a publication, stimulating public reflection on the theme of belonging.

4. **Youth Involvement:** To engage and involve young artists (art students) in the project's activities through a dedicated workshop, making the topic relevant to the next generation and providing mentorship opportunities.
 5. **Regional Impact:** To strengthen the impact of culture in the Western Balkans by implementing key project activities in Serbia and the WB6 partner country, while maintaining strong partnerships with V4 countries.
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4. PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

The project follows the required **2xV4 + 2xWB6** structure, as the coordinator is from Serbia (a WB6 country). This ensures meaningful cooperation between two V4 countries and two WB6 countries, creating a truly regional and impactful initiative.

Partner Type	Country	Role
Coordinator	Serbia	Overall project management, artistic production coordination, exhibition in Zemun, publication lead
Partner 1	V4 Country (e.g., Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, or Slovakia)	Artist selection, local promotion, contribution to publication, student workshop participation
Partner 2	V4 Country (different from Partner 1)	Artist selection, local promotion, contribution to publication, student workshop participation
Partner 3	WB6 Country (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, or Kosovo)	Co-organization of regional exhibition in their country, local artist engagement, student workshop participation, dissemination

Important: Projects must develop meaningful cooperation and ensure the active involvement of all partners. The project should be implemented in the WB6 region and/or have a strong impact on local communities in at least one of those countries.

5. ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Artistic Production

Description: Four selected artists (including the project coordinator as one of the participating artists) will be commissioned to create a series of paintings exploring the project's theme of belonging.

Process:

- An open call will be issued through partner networks to identify two additional artists from V4 countries and one artist from a WB6 country (in addition to the coordinator from Serbia).
- A selection committee (comprising representatives from all partner organizations) will review applications and select the participating artists.
- Artists will conduct research (remote or in-person) on the theme, exploring how physical and social spaces shape identity and belonging in their respective contexts.
- **Production:** Each artist will create a minimum of **5 paintings (size 1x1 m)**, with the flexibility to produce more if the creative process allows. The total number of artworks will be **at least 20**, with a strong possibility of reaching **25-30 paintings**, depending on each artist's inspiration and capacity.
- This flexible approach respects the artistic process and encourages creative freedom, while ensuring a substantial body of work for the exhibitions and publication.

Deliverables: Minimum 20 new paintings (1x1 m each), artist statements, documentation of the creative process.

Activity 2: Online Conversations & Artist Talks

Description: A series of online panel discussions and artist talks will be organized to present the artists' work, share their creative processes, and engage a broader audience in the discourse on identity and belonging, even before the physical exhibitions.

Format:

- 4 online sessions (one per artist), hosted on a platform like Zoom or YouTube Live.
- Each session includes an artist presentation (20-30 min), followed by a moderated Q&A with the audience.
- Sessions will be promoted through partner networks and social media, targeting art professionals, students, and the general public.
- Recordings will be made available on the project's website and social media channels.

Deliverables: 4 recorded online talks, increased audience engagement, project visibility.

Activity 3: Student Art Workshop

Description: A multi-day intensive workshop will be organized for art students from the partner countries (V4 and WB6). The workshop will be led by the four participating artists, who will serve as mentors.

Format:

- Duration: 5 days.
- Location: Either Zemun (Serbia) or the WB6 partner country, to be decided in consultation with partners.
- Participants: 12-16 art students (3-4 from each partner country).
- Activities: Practical artistic exercises, group discussions, critiques, and collaborative創作 sessions, all centered around the theme "Spaces of Belonging."
- Students will create individual or group artworks that respond to the theme.

Objectives:

- Provide young artists with hands-on experience and mentorship from established professionals.

- Foster direct intercultural exchange and peer-to-peer learning among students from different regional backgrounds.
- Create new, student-generated artworks that can be presented alongside the main exhibition or as a separate student showcase.
- Strengthen the project's connection to local communities, with active involvement from local art academies and student organizations.

Deliverables: Student artworks, workshop documentation (photos, videos), student testimonials, strengthened youth engagement.

Activity 4: Exhibition in Zemun (Serbia)

Description: A major exhibition of the completed artworks will be held in Zemun, engaging the local community and presenting the project's results in the coordinator's country.

Format:

- Venue: A suitable gallery or cultural space in Zemun (to be confirmed).
- Duration: 2-3 weeks.
- Content: All completed paintings (minimum 20), displayed alongside artist statements and contextual information.
- Opening event: Public vernissage with artist talks, attended by local media, cultural professionals, and the general public.
- Educational component: Guided tours for school groups and student visitors.

Deliverables: Successful exhibition, audience engagement, media coverage, exhibition documentation.

Activity 5: Regional Exhibition in the WB6 Partner Country

Description: A second, curated exhibition will be organized in the country of the WB6 project partner (e.g., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, or Kosovo). This event will feature a selection of the artworks and will be co-organized

with the partner institution from that country. It fulfills the requirement for a strong impact in the WB6 region by directly engaging a local community there.

Format:

- Venue: A partner institution's gallery or a prominent cultural space in the partner's city (to be confirmed).
- Duration: 2-3 weeks.
- Content: A curated selection of paintings (approximately 12-16 works), potentially accompanied by student artworks from the workshop.
- Opening event: Public vernissage, with participation from local and regional cultural stakeholders.
- Networking event: A gathering for artists, curators, and cultural professionals from the V4 and WB6 regions.

Deliverables: Regional exhibition, strengthened partnerships, expanded audience reach, exhibition documentation.

Activity 6: Publication (Catalog)

Description: A bilingual (English and local languages) publication/catalog will be produced. It will feature high-quality reproductions of all artworks (minimum 20), artist statements, and critical essays by curators or academics, reflecting on the project's central theme.

Format:

- Language: English + one local language (e.g., Serbian, Bosnian, or Hungarian).
- Content: Reproductions of all paintings (minimum 20), artist biographies and statements, curatorial texts, essays on the theme of belonging, documentation of the workshop, and project overview.
- Design: Professional graphic design, high-quality printing (softcover, 100-120 pages).
- Circulation: 300-500 copies distributed to partners, participating institutions, libraries, and key cultural actors in the region.

Deliverables: Printed catalog, digital version (PDF), increased project visibility and legacy.

Activity 7: Documentation and Dissemination

Description: The entire project process will be documented and disseminated through partners' websites, social media, and local media outlets to maximize outreach and long-term impact.

Deliverables:

- Photo documentation of all activities (artistic production, workshop, exhibitions).
 - Video documentation (short promotional video, artist interviews, exhibition walkthroughs).
 - Regular social media updates (Instagram, Facebook, YouTube).
 - Press releases and media coverage in partner countries.
 - Project website (simple landing page with project information, artist profiles, and documentation).
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6. PROJECT IMPACT AND RELEVANCE

The project is grounded in the Visegrad+ focus area "**Culture and Common Identity.**" By creating new, shared artistic products and fostering dialogue between different cultural contexts, "NEST" directly contributes to:

Visegrad+ Priority

Creating/presenting common contemporary art products to new audiences

Reflecting on common historical and cultural heritage as well as cultural diversity

How "NEST" Addresses It

The minimum 20 newly commissioned paintings, exhibitions in two countries, and the catalog represent a significant artistic output with a strong, coherent theme.

Through joint artistic research, creation, and the critical essays in the publication, the project encourages reflection on the region's shared history and contemporary diversity.

Visegrad+ Priority

How "NEST" Addresses It

Fostering cooperation among municipalities, regions, and local groups

The partnership between V4 and WB6 organizations creates lasting networks and demonstrates tangible regional cooperation.

Engaging young audiences

The student workshop and educational components make the complex theme of belonging accessible and relevant to new generations.

Strengthening the impact of culture in the Western Balkans

By implementing key activities in Serbia and the WB6 partner country, the project directly benefits the WB6 region and fosters cultural development there.

6. TIMELINE (12 months)

Activity

Months

Preparation Phase: Finalize partners, open call for artists, selection process

Months 1-2

Artistic Production: Artists create minimum 20 paintings

Months 3-6

Online Conversations: Artist talks and panel discussions

Months 3-7

Student Art Workshop: 5-day intensive workshop

Month 7

Exhibition in Zemun: Exhibition opening, public events, guided tours

Month 8

Exhibition in WB6 Country: Regional exhibition, networking event	Month 10
Publication: Design, printing, and distribution of the catalog	Months 9-11
Documentation & Dissemination: Final video, social media, website updates	Months 11-12
Final Reporting: Submission of final report to the Visegrad Fund	Month 12

8. DETAILED BUDGET

The budget is prepared in accordance with Visegrad Fund's eligible cost categories and the "value-for-money" principle.

Important Budget Notes:

- The grant covers **up to 100% of eligible costs**.
- All payments must be made within the project's implementation period.
- Per diems or allowances are **not eligible** and should be included in Overheads if needed.
- Each cost item in the application must be described in detail (not vague terms like "expert fee").
- The Fund only reimburses bank transfers or card payments initiated by the grantee.

Cost Category	Amount (EUR)	Notes
Expert Fees (Artists)	10,000	4 artists × 2,500 EUR each (for minimum 5 paintings).Expert fees are eligible when based on service contracts, not labor code contracts.
Expert Fee (Project Manager)	3,000	Project coordinator's fee for 12 months of project management (250 EUR/month). Reasonable honorarium for part-time coordination.
Production Materials	2,500	Canvas, paints, brushes, frames, varnish. All costs must be documented with receipts.
Transportation	3,500	Travel for artists, partners, and students. Grantee must purchase tickets directly or reimburse based on original documents.
Accommodation and Board	2,000	For students during the 5-day workshop (12-16 students). Based on actual expenses.
Workshop Costs	2,000	Materials, venue rental, meals for participants.
Rent (Exhibitions)	3,000	Gallery rental for 2 exhibitions (Zemun and WB6 country), setup costs, promotion, opening events.
Printing/Publishing	3,000	Design, printing (300-500 copies), distribution of the catalog.
Documentation	1,000	Photography, video production, website.
Office Supplies	500	Administrative materials and minor office equipment.

Overheads (14.3%)	4,000	Administrative costs, project management. Maximum 15% of the requested grant.
TOTAL	34,500	Within the typical Visegrad+ grant range (25,000 - 35,000 EUR).

9. CONSULTATION AND APPLICATION

Consultation:

The Visegrad Fund offers project consultations via email, phone, or online/in-person meetings by appointment. A maximum of two consultations can be provided per project idea. Consultations can take place no later than **14 days before the application deadline**.

Submission:

Applications are submitted online via the **My Visegrad** system during the submission period.

10. NEXT STEPS

1. **Find Partners:** Identify and confirm partner organizations from two V4 countries and one WB6 country. Use the SALTO Otlas platform and direct networking.
2. **Finalize Budget:** Prepare a detailed budget breakdown based on actual costs in your location, ensuring all cost descriptions are specific and justified.
3. **Book a Consultation:** Contact the Visegrad Fund for a project consultation (no later than 14 days before the deadline).
4. **Refine Application:** Once partners and artists are confirmed, update the project description with specific names, organizations, and roles.
5. **Submit Application:** Complete the online application via the My Visegrad system by the deadline: **1 October 2026, 12:00 PM (noon)** .

11. SUMMARY OF KEY PROJECT FEATURES

Element	Details
Focus Area	Culture and Common Identity
Partnership	2xV4 + 2xWB6 (coordinator from Serbia)
Duration	12 months (max 18 months)
Budget	34,500 EUR (within 25,000 - 35,000 EUR range)
Overheads	4,000 EUR (14.3% of grant, max 15%)
Funding	Up to 100% of eligible costs
Artworks	Minimum 20 paintings (1x1 m)
Activities	Artistic production, online talks, student workshop, 2 exhibitions (Serbia + WB6 country), publication, documentation
Impact	Strong focus on WB6 region, youth engagement, and regional cooperation

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

Field	Details
Project Coordinator	Miroslav Stevanović
Organization	Društvo likovnih i primenjenih umetnika Zemuna
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Submission Deadline: October 1, 2026, 12:00 PM (noon)