



Full legal name in national language	Action Art/ Εικαστική Δράση
Full legal name in latin characters	Action Art/ Eikastiki Drasi
Full legal name (English)	Action Art
Address	Filikis Eterias 33
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Website	www.action-art.gr
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/Storytellingschoolandresearchassociation/
PIC	941551453
Organization ID	E10206411

Type of Organization	Non – Governmental Organization
Is the partner org. a public body?	No
Is the partner org. a non-profit?	Yes
Activity level	Local, European and International
Has the organization received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?	No

A) Description of the organisation

Action Art is a non-profit civil organization, founded in 2009 in Thessaloniki by people with experience and knowledge in the field of the art of narration, of education, and in the development of voluntary work in social and cultural issues.

Social and economic changes and populations movements, the need for peaceful coexistence in a multicultural society of different cultural communities, groups, individuals have contributed to the creation of the vision of Action Art: The dissemination and promotion of intangible world cultural heritage and of cultural and artistic creation. Two determining factors for the maintenance of personal cultural identity, the acceptance of cultural diversity, integration and social cohesion, participation in public life and the creation of democratic intercultural societies.

Action Art is member of different networks like the Anna Lindh Foundation (Intergovernmental Institution for Building Trust and Mutual Understanding of Mediterranean Residents and Citizens), and member of Thess Δίκτυο (Network of Voluntary Organizations of Thessaloniki).

Mission and objectives:

- Dissemination of the Intangible World Heritage.
- Contribution to the promotion and restoration of the social, pedagogical and educational function of art, storytelling, myths, legends, tales.
- The democratization of art. Encouraging young people to participate in cultural creation.
- Awareness of cultural diversity, volunteering, solidarity, active citizenship, the principles and values of the European Union.
- Promotion of non-formal and informal learning, environmental and intercultural education through different art forms
- The development of actions for vulnerable groups (minorities, refugees, etc.) and social inclusion programs.
- The development of cooperation and synergies between associations, organizations, bodies and NGOs in Greece, Europe, the Mediterranean, the Balkans.

Main projects / activities:

Greece: - Planning and implementation of storytelling festivals which include, round tables, performances, multilingual storytelling, shows, seminars, workshops, on the art of storytelling and e. - Intercultural social awareness programs through fairy tales and the arts for children, youth, adults, vulnerable groups, in schools, museums, other organizations and NGOs - Training on the art of storytelling - Participation in festivals and actions of other organisations.

International: - Participation in festivals, symposia on multilingualism and fairy tales organized by other organizations and networks from other countries. - Cooperation with foreign narrators in order to organize seminars, workshops trainings on the training of storytellers, within the framework of programs and actions aiming to propagate the world oral heritage, art and non-formal and informal learning - Cooperation with the "Ateliers de la rue Raisin" French NGO, the Company "De Capes et De Mots" Belgium NGO - Host organization for volunteers of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

B) What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?

Action Art organises cultural events, festivals and its educational awareness programs. It collaborates with city schools, libraries, cultural centers, museums, organizations dealing with socially vulnerable groups, and the local community including volunteers through the ESC program. Some of the programs target education for refugee and immigrant groups. The programs are aimed at young people, children and adults, with a particular focus on young people and vulnerable groups.

The programs are implemented by collaborators of artists, pedagogues, experienced and specialised narrators, some of them participate voluntarily, others with a working relationship with the organization. The organisation provides special training programs for skills development and specialized knowledge for its volunteers.

More details about our actions :

- In response to Covid-19, we have created: - multilingual online storytelling - interactive seminars and online training workshops with trainers and participants from Greece and abroad - interactive online workshops for children and adults, vulnerable groups, in collaboration with schools, municipalities, cultural centers.

- Intercultural multilingual storytelling groups (for 9 years): This program is intended for anyone who is temporarily or permanently in the country (immigrants, students, refugees, etc.). They are trained



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in the art of storytelling, narrate in their mother tongue and participate in multilingual storytelling performances (festivals, schools, international days).

- Organization of the Intercultural and multilingual festival "May of Fairy Tales" (for 9 years), lasting 15 days with performances in different places of the city, in urban or rural natural spaces, as well as in places of culture and education (schools, museums, etc.). Organization of storytelling workshops, round tables, storytelling training seminars and use of the fairy tale as a tool for learning a foreign language. Collaboration with the Municipality of Thessaloniki, the European Elephantastico Children's Festival. The festival is under the auspices and support of the Thessaloniki Tourism Organization, the CCI Hellenic and French Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the support of the French Institute of Thessaloniki, the Ateliers de la rue Raisin (Loire / France), museums, bookstores, and local media (radio, tv).

- Organization of the tribute "Days of tales and myths" in Samothrace (Greek island) in collaboration with the municipality of Samothrace, associations, artists from abroad, Greece and Samothrace: environmental programs, narratives and artistic.

- Tribute to fairy tales for the European Youth Capital 2014. Tribute to fairy tales at the European Elephantastico Children's Festival (for 5 years). Multilingual narrative performances and multilingual interactive workshops at the the Multilingual Festival (for 8 years).

- Implementation of a program for refugees within the framework of the program "Bridging ideas - exchanging ideas - strengthening communities" funded by the UNCR for Refugees (Y.A) and collaboration with associations supporting asylum seekers and refugees (Arsis, Praxis, A Ikyone).

- Realization of the program "Tales in therapy", in collaboration with the association "Initiative for the child" for the protection of neglected and abused children (for 3 years)

- Educational programs: organization and implementation throughout the year of educational programs on storytelling, speech, art, intercultural education, environmental education, diversity awareness, human rights man, etc., in collaboration with schools, museums and cultural and educational institutions in Thessaloniki and other cities. Participation in conferences, workshops, festivals in Greece and abroad with presentations and performances, sessions and shows about fairy tales, storytelling and visual art.

- Editing and publishing two collections of fairy tales. One consists of fairy tales from different countries in Greek and the other consists of fairy tales Syrian, Kurdish in Greek and Arabic.

- Seminars, Workshops, Training

Specialized seminars on storytelling, visual and performing arts, environmental issues and interculturalism for professionals in culture, health, education, parents, etc.



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Some links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z6OzJ4oQtQ> (Action Art, Storytelling Festival, storytelling seminars, intercultural programs, artistic actions)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=By_Z2FyWveU (European Elephantastico Children's Festival)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1384527954981571> (Festival "Mai des Contes" 2018)

C) What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

The programs are implemented by professionals, renowned artists, educators, narrators, with experience in providing seminars of specialized knowledge through experiential and thematic educational programs. They are youth workers, educators, project managers and mentors with experience in the preparation and implementation of non-formal, artistic and educational activities as well as in the support of young people that are involved in the various projects of Action Art.

Action Art staff has acquired experience throughout the years on non-formal and informal learning programs, intercultural programs, specialized training for associates who implement programs, to support and activate young people with fewer opportunities by developing skills and promoting social inclusion.

Action Art has experience in project management and implementation (schedule, progress reports, frequent communication with the lead organization and other partners) as well as in the organization and hosting of events. The staff has knowledge of English, Greek, and French. For the dissemination of projects and activities, the staff actively uses its social media pages through: website, Facebook (2700 followers), YouTube, Collaborations with mass media, publications.

Participating as a hosting organisation for international volunteers in ESC programs, Action Art also gained significant experience in organizing educational events and activities to develop skills and knowledge of volunteers.

Rodanthi Dimitresi is a storyteller, artist, and educator. In 1995, she was trained in storytelling in France alongside Jean Porcherot, the inspiring narrator and founder of two storytelling festivals. She is a founding member of Action Art, of the Storytelling Training Laboratory, and president of Action Art. She trains storytellers and provides specialized training in the art of storytelling and the artistic creation process. Rodanthi runs multilingual storytelling and intercultural education programs in schools, museums and institutions, works with socially vulnerable groups. She participates as a lecturer and interpreter at conferences in Greece and abroad. She organizes the "May of Fairy Tales" festival, tributes to storytelling at the Elephantastico Festival, at the "Kaviria" of the municipality of Samothrace, and participates in the Multilinguist Festivities. She has edited two editions of folk tales, one from various countries and the other from Syrian, Kurdish in Greek and Arabic. She collaborates with organizations in Greece, abroad and with renowned narrators, artists, broadcasters for the implementation of the programs.



Maëlle Julou is a European Project Manager. She has experience of working as a project manager, volunteer coordinator or EU funding proposal writer and manager in different NGOs (ArtBOX Creative Arts Management, United Societies of Balkans, Rencart), and has been involved in a variety of European programs, whether as a participant or as organiser in France, Poland, Sweden, Norway, Lithuania, and Greece. She has been a volunteer for the European Capital of Culture Kaunas 2022 (Lithuania), for the Ecovillage of Baskemolla (Sweden), and for the organization of the Thessaloniki Queer Arts Festival 2019 (Greece). She holds a Master in Development of International Cultural and Artistic Projects (Lyon II, France) and a Bachelor degree in Literature, Civilization, and Languages specializing in sociolinguistics and intercultural communication.

Please describe the background and needs of the participants involved and how these participants have been or will be selected.

The target group of the organization is the residents of Thessaloniki, neighboring prefectures of Greece and other nationalities. We will give priority to young people with fewer opportunities, such as young immigrants, refugees or people facing discrimination, financial and geographical barriers (coming from rural areas). We aim to promote EU programs and encourage the active participation of young people. For this reason, our intention is to continue to develop actions in collaboration with local agencies, associations, NGOs, schools, universities, communities of different nationalities. We also aim to develop mobility programs for young people with fewer opportunities with organizations in the Balkans, the Mediterranean and Europe.

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