

## Partner search

### Creative Europe - Culture Sub-programme:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding_en)

Strand/category of the Culture Sub-programme	<b>Cooperation projects – Category 1: Smaller scale cooperation projects</b>
Deadline of the strand	18 January 2018
Deadline for confirming your interest in this partnership	20 November 2017

### Cultural operator(s)

Name	<b>Fundația Arhitext Design, București, România (Arhitext Design Foundation, Bucharest, Romania)</b>
Short description	<p>Since 1990, the <i>Arhitext</i> magazine and the Arhitext Design Foundation constantly survey the architectural and urban phenomenon in Romania and abroad. Our constant aim was to foster a new cultural climate in post-socialist Romania, opening multiple paths of mutual knowledge between East and West. Our actions were always guided by an interdisciplinary mindset: we are committed to a comprehensive and critical approach towards contemporary society and culture, constantly working to identify valuable architectural creations, to investigate their general context, and to disseminate information and critical thought about local building culture.</p> <p>Besides the <i>Arhitext</i> magazine, founded in 1990, our editorial production includes a vast array of book series, ranging from monographs of important Romanian architects to original theoretical works of local scholars, or valuable translations of books by internationally acclaimed theorists. The array of cultural events organized by the Foundation since 1993 was initially meant to explore local architecture and to investigate its position in a rapidly changing political and cultural context. Every two years, the Arhitext Design Prizes thus set a high standard for the critical appraisal of current architectural production. After a few years, we gradually began to build a comprehensive framework for multidisciplinary events, connecting the architectural field with various artistic and urban networks. Summer schools reuniting artists and architects were followed by the Arhitext Festival, a large, national event held every two years between 2005 and 2011. Its last edition included a notable</p>

international presence, which catalysed its transformation toward a major regional event – the *East-Centric* Bucharest Triennale, held in 2013 and 2016 – thus setting a far-reaching framework for a Central and Eastern European large scale cooperation platform between different building cultures and intellectual traditions. Meanwhile, various exhibitions, roundtables, itinerant training sessions, student competitions and international workshops strengthened our position as a leading actor in the Romanian and regional cultural field.

Contact details

Director: Arpad Zachi  
Address: Str. Academiei, nr. 18-20, sect. 1, 010014 București, România  
Tel.: +40 (0)744 63 42 89  
E-mail: arhitext@gmail.com

## Project

Field(s)

**Architecture and Society; Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Urbanism**

### THE APPROACH

The contemporary cultural condition is defined by major and very dynamic transformations concerning our common way of dwelling the world. Changes in people's modes of existence meet other radical changes in the way our cities are conceived and our houses are built. Far from being a narrowly focused discipline, contemporary architectural culture is permeated by a desire to understand these facts from various interdisciplinary perspectives. In the same time, today's critical endeavours are deeply aware that regional and transnational connections are an integral part of any thorough exploration of these phenomena.

Description

Central and Eastern Europe, as a geographical and cultural reality, is deeply involved in those changing realities. The rapid post-socialist transformations intensified and made visible, often more forcefully than in the West, many characteristic aspects of the (post-)modern social, political, and cultural condition. Competent and dedicated professional groups are working in the last few years, in different Central and Eastern European countries, aiming at a critical exploration of our region's entangled web of cultural influences, social modes of existence and building practices.

The Arhitext Design Foundation's multiple activities contribute to this regional effort: the *Arhitext* magazine and the various exhibitions, conferences, or published books survey the social and architectural fields, identify major topics of interest and open new paths for the future. The *East-Centric Architecture* Bucharest Triennale was born in this spirit four years ago, in 2013. After two editions focused on theoretically-charged topics, we aim to propose for the 2019 edition a more accessible theme – *Home*. Our approach is meant to open up even more the entire event, and to foster new ways of communication between the general public and the architectural milieu. This is to be

done around an eminently relevant topic of interest, especially in the context of the previously mentioned structural transformations of social life and the city.

Moreover, we recognize the importance of deepening the European collaborative approach, which was from the beginning an integral part of the Triennale spirit, having brought together regional practices with acclaimed international speakers, like Juhani Pallasmaa, Alberto Pérez-Gómez, Willem Jan Neutelings, Terunobu Fujimori, or Dietmar Feichtinger.

For the 2019 edition we are actively searching to open a more consistent dialogue with potential partners, which could play an active role in the definition of the event programme and of its curatorial framework. Consequently, the Triennale will be able to fulfil its mission to actively promote critical dialogue between professionals of the built environment and the general public, and to foster transnational cooperation and dialogue, asserting our common European identity and critically exploring regional affinities.

## **PROJECT STRUCTURE AND CONTENT**

The project will be developed as a process of critical exploration, survey, evaluation and dissemination of contemporary architecture from Central and Eastern European countries. From mid-2018, a dynamic series of preliminary steps, conceived together with our partners, will allow the deployment of two base modules, enhanced by a series of variable events: exhibitions, keynote speakers conferences, open debates, thematic workshops (involving practitioners and students alike). All those events will be coordinated with the future partners, which will be able to propose their own curatorial concept for specific series of activities.

**1. The thematic module** will focus on a main theme, meant to address and build upon some of the most vibrant strata of contemporary architectural culture. The whole process culminating in the 2019 Triennale will explore today's practice and theory through the *Home* lens and will try to build an acute critical awareness of various connections between this thematic cluster and the many stakeholders of contemporary urban culture: architects, urban studies and design professionals, social sciences specialists, philosophers, and the general public. This module could be split into two sub-modules: project- and, respectively, theory-based.

- a) The first, practical sub-module's activities could include:
- Forming an international multi-disciplinary working team (together with our future partners), whose mission will include researching and critically evaluating the region's architecture from the last 3 years.
  - Elaborating a more precise thematic framework, including all related selection criteria.

- Launching a pan-regional open call for projects.
  - Analysing the entire body of work, surveying and selecting the most relevant works (in relation with the conceptual framework of the project).
  - Elaborating a set of conclusions for the process, through a thematic exhibition and an associated catalogue; these should include critical texts commenting upon the main theme and its connections with architectural and urban culture.
  - Itinerating the exhibition to the partners' cities, and integrating it into specific localised cultural strategies.
- b) The second, theoretical sub-module's activities could include:
- Forming an international multi-disciplinary jury (together with our future partners), charged with the critical evaluation of theoretical works, assessment of and commenting upon the process.
  - Establishing a precise thematic framework, including related selection criteria, in order to stimulate critical analysis and reflection upon some of the visions, concepts and philosophical ideas that subtend or explain our contemporary condition.
  - Launching an international open call for texts addressing the proposed topics of interest.
  - Analysing the entire body of work and operating a selective assessment of submitted texts.
  - Public presentations of nominated essays by the authors, followed by focused debates at the 2019 Triennale.
  - Final jury work, nominating winners of the essay competition.
  - Elaborating a set of critical conclusions and general cultural commentary of the process, to be included in an edited book, together with nominated essays.

## **2. The East-Centric Arhitext Awards**

The second module of the project could be the *East-Centric Arhitext Awards*, bringing together the most valuable architectural works of the past three years, from Central and Eastern European countries. Starting in 2018, an international jury, led by a renowned professional, will be charged with a multiple-phase, thorough assessment of contemporary architectural production, culminating in the designation of winners for each section of the competition, at the end of the 2019 Triennale. Every nominated project is to be publicly presented by the authors; subsequent debates will enhance the general cultural relevance of the process. Staying committed to the cooperation with future partners, the exhibition of nominated projects will be itinerated to the partners' cities, following a commonly agreed cultural strategy.

## OUR FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS

Building upon the two previous editions of the Bucharest Triennale (2013 and 2016) and the pilot edition of 2011, we aim to enlarge the creative intellectual resources for thoroughly surveying Central and Eastern European architecture, its pan-European importance and connections, and its relevance for critically understanding common global challenges. We are convinced that this endeavour would be better served by enhancing dialogue and by connecting valuable, already established clusters of professionals, working together for a better critical assessment of our common cultural condition. In this spirit, **we are trying to establish partnerships with organisers of other regional events, or with institutions involved in the architectural field from our region and beyond, inviting them to join the project as partners, and applying together for a financial grant from the European Union, in the *Creative Europe* programme framework. Upon establishing a preliminary agreement, we are ready to present details of our operational approach, to receive suggestions, and to discuss the project's content and schedule, integrating each partner's contribution.**

### Partners searched

Countries

All participating countries

Profile

Governmental and non-governmental organisations, foundations or constituted groups, active in the fields of architecture, the built environment, or other collateral fields