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 < Centre for Contemporary Art

ERSTE
 Stiftung

tranzit.at
 ERSTE Foundation is the
 main partner of tranzit

Networks of Cooperation: Sustainable Structures for Ukrainian Cultural Actors in Europe & Beyond

Kunsthhaus Graz

as well as other venues

The conference is a joint initiative of Office Ukraine (Vienna/tranzit.at and Graz/rotor), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (BMWKMS), Creative Europe Desk Austria, in cooperation with Kunsthhaus Graz, Creative Europe Desk Ukraine, and the Institute for Human Sciences.

Federal Ministry
 Housing, Arts, Culture,
 Media and Sport
 Republic of Austria

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Office Ukraine
 Support for Ukrainian Artists

Austria

Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen
 Institute for Human Sciences

kunsthhaus
 graz



Design: Andreas Westle, Photo: A. Ivanenko

Networks of Cooperation: Sustainable Structures for Ukrainian Cultural Actors in Europe and Beyond

15–16 October 2026

Kunsthhaus Graz and various cultural venues in Graz

Office Ukraine – Support for Ukrainian Artists, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport and the Creative Europe Desk Austria are pleased to invite you to the international conference *Networks of Cooperation: Sustainable Structures for Ukrainian Cultural Actors in Europe and Beyond*, taking place from 15–16 October 2026 at Kunsthhaus Graz (Austria), in cooperation with Kunsthhaus Graz, Creative Desk Ukraine, and the Institute for Human Sciences.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the cultural sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience, adaptability, and solidarity. Across Europe and beyond, institutions, initiatives, and individuals have mobilised rapidly to provide support, develop new collaborative formats, and sustain cultural production under conditions of crisis.

As this initial phase of emergency response evolves, a shared challenge emerges: How can we transform short-term support into durable, structural cooperation?

This conference seeks to address precisely this question by bringing together key actors from across Europe and Ukraine to:

- Consolidate transnational networks and partnerships
- Strengthen access to European funding frameworks and cooperation programmes
- Foster capacity building across institutional and independent cultural sectors
- Develop sustainable models for long-term collaboration within a European context

We particularly aim to connect:

- Ukrainian cultural institutions and independent initiatives
- European cultural organisations and networks
- Funding bodies and policymakers
- Researchers and experts working at the intersection of culture, society, and policy

A central focus of the conference will be the role of European cooperation frameworks—especially the Creative Europe programme—as well as existing collaborative projects which will serve as reference points for discussion and future development.

»FACING THE CHALLENGES«

10:00	<u>Registration of participants</u> —	20
11:00	<u>Opening remarks</u> ANDREJA HRIBERNIK, Director of Kunsthau Graz Message from OLEKSANDRA MATVIICHUK, Head of the Center for Civil Liberties / Nobel Peace Prize 2022, Kyiv ANDREAS BABLER, Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport of Austria TETYANA BEREZHNA, Deputy Prime Minister for Humanitarian Policy of Ukraine – Minister of Culture of Ukraine MARGARETHE MAKOVEC, Co-founder and artistic director of < rotor > Centre for Contemporary Art Graz, co-initiator Office Ukraine, Graz GEORG SCHÖLLHAMMER, Director of tranzit.at and co-initiator Office Ukraine, Vienna <i>Mokosh</i> (2023), animation film by ANNA DUDKO —	26
11:30	<u>Keynote address</u> <i>Sending greetings from the fire. Notes on artistic production under bombardment and representation in a land of fragile tranquility</i> NIKITA KADAN, Artist, Kyiv —	
12:10	<u>Artistic programme / Performative lecture</u> OKSANA KAZMINA, Artist, Kyiv/Syracuse, NY —	
12:30	<u>Lunch</u> For registered conference participants Grand Hôtel Wiesler —	
14:00–17:30	<u>Parallel working groups</u> Working group 1 SUPPORT STRUCTURES AND COOPERATION MODELS Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten — Working group 2 CREATIVE EUROPE AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE EUROPEAN FUNDING ECOSYSTEM Kunsthau Graz — Working group 3 ARTISTIC PRODUCTION, VISIBILITY, AND PUBLIC SPACE Camera Austria — Working group 4 COOPERATION WITH DIASPORA Theater im Bahnhof —	
18:00	<u>Plenary session</u> Presentation of the working groups' findings by the hosts ALONA KARAVAI, ELISABETH PACHER, MYKOLA ULIANOV, TATIANA KOCHUBINSKA, and ILONA DEMCHENKO Moderated by THOMAS WOLKINGER —	
19:00	<u>Reception and artistic programme in cooperation with Kunsthau Graz</u> NICK ACORNE & ANTUUM <i>Peripherie of language</i> Sound performance Kunsthau Graz, Needle —	

16 October
Kunsthhaus Graz, Space04
»F U T U R E P E R S P E C T I V E S«

16
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08:30–09:00 Registration of participants

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20
26

09:00–10:15 Roundtable
FUNDING STRUCTURES

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10:15–10:30 Break

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10:30–11:45 Roundtable
STRENGTHENING COOPERATION

—

11:45–12:00 Break

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12:00–12:15 Conference review
ANDREA GLAUSER, Professor of Cultural Studies at mdw – University of
Music and Performing Arts Vienna
LISA KORNEICHUK, Chief editor of Ukrainska Pravda.Culture, Kyiv

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12:15–13:00 Discussion on the Graz Declaration
The conference will conclude with the Graz Declaration, a text collectively
discussed by the participants, which will serve as a call to action
addressed to European society and policymakers.
Moderated by GEORG SCHÖLLHAMMER

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13:00–13:15 Closing remarks
KATHRIN KNEISSEL, Head of the »Funding and International Affairs«
group within the Arts and Culture Section of the Federal Ministry
of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport of Austria
MARGARETHE MAKOVEC / ANTON LEDERER, Co-founders and artistic
directors of < rotor > Centre for Contemporary Art Graz, co-initiators
Office Ukraine, Graz

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13:15 Lunch
For registered conference participants
Grand Hôtel Wiesler

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Artistic programme
Security Guarantees by ZHANNA KADYROVA
During the days of the conference (15 and 16 October)
ZHANNA KADYROVA's video from the *Security Guarantees* project
will be shown.

Kunsthhaus Graz

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Detailed information on the programme

Parallel working groups

Working group 1

SUPPORT STRUCTURES AND COOPERATION MODELS

Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten

WG1

Building on the experiences of support initiatives and institutions of different sizes and structures, from emergency response to long-term frameworks, to develop good-practice models, operational recommendations, and pathways for improved access to European cooperation programmes.

Host

ALONA KARAVAI, Cultural worker, curator, essayist, co-founder of Insha Osvita and Asortymentna kimnata, Kyiv

Core participants

ALEXANDRA GRAUSAM, Director at PART International Art Residency Austria, Vienna

MARITA MUUKKONEN, Co-founder and co-director of Artists at Risk, Ecologists at Risk and Perpetuum Mobile, Helsinki

IVOR STODOLSKY, Co-founder and co-director of Artists at Risk, Ecologists at Risk and Perpetuum Mobile, Helsinki

ANASTASIIA YAKOVENKO, Theatre maker at Burgtheater and Theater of Contemporary Dialogue, Vienna & Poltava

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Working group 2

CREATIVE EUROPE AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE EUROPEAN FUNDING ECOSYSTEM

Kunsthaus Graz

WG2

Exploring how Creative Europe and other relevant European funding programmes can be made more accessible, connected, and responsive to the needs of Ukrainian cultural and creative actors and their European partners.

Hosts

ELISABETH PACHER, Head of Staff Unit Creative Europe Desk Austria; Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport of Austria

MYKOLA ULIANOV, Head of Creative Europe Desk Ukraine, Kyiv

Core participants

MAŁGORZATA SZLENDAK, Policy officer in the Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) Creative Europe unit, Brussels

PHILIPP DIETACHMAIR, Head of Programmes at the European Cultural Foundation, Amsterdam

MYKHAILO GLUBOKYI, Development director of IZOLYATSIA. Platform for Cultural Initiatives

KATRIN KLINGAN, Director Arts and Culture, ERSTE Foundation, Vienna

KATERYNA SAZONKINA, Head of the international and regional cooperation department, Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, Kyiv

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Parallel working groups

Working group 3

ARTISTIC PRODUCTION, VISIBILITY, AND PUBLIC SPACE

Camera Austria

WG3

Exploring and strengthening sustainable artistic visibility, cultural presence, and participation in public and European spaces under conditions of war and displacement.

Host

TATIANA KOCHUBINSKA, Independent curator; member of the curatorial team of The International Coalition of Cultural Workers Against the War in Ukraine, Kyiv

Core participants

KATERYNA DERDIUK, Cultural project manager, Vitsche Berlin

NIKITA KADAN, Artist, Kyiv

LYUBA KNOROZOK, Producer, Kinotron Group, Kyiv

ANTON OVCHINNIKOV, Independent artist, curator, producer, Head of NGO UA Contemporary dance platform, Vilnius

KATERYNA PIDHAINA, Curator and cultural manager, Head of the Centro Cultural Ucrainiano, Barcelona

IRYNA POLIKARCHUK, Director and public program curator at Artsvit Gallery, Dnipro; co-founder of the Dnipro Center for Contemporary Culture

GERHILD STEINBUCH, Vice Rector for Cooperative Disciplinarity, Engagement and Innovation, University of Applied Arts Vienna

ANASTASIYA VOLKOVA, Head of Arts Programmes, Ukrainian Institute, Kyiv

ANDREAS WENNINGER, Head of the OeAD Cooperation Office in Lviv and the Ukraine Office Austria at the Austrian Foreign Ministry, Vienna

Working group 4

COOPERATION WITH DIASPORA

Theater im Bahnhof

WG4

Exploring sustainable cooperation models between the Ukrainian artistic diaspora in Europe and artists and cultural institutions in Ukraine that foster long-term integration into European cultural frameworks.

Host

ILONA DEMCHENKO, Cultural manager and curator; programme director of the Jam Factory Art Center, Lviv

Core participants

VITALI BODNAR, Research Support Office, mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

ANDREA GLAUSER, Professor of Cultural Studies at mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and co-coordinator of the Space / Culture section of the Society for Cultural Studies, Vienna

MAX GORBATSKYI, Head of exhibitions, Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool

MARIA ISSERLIS, Curator, art historian, and cultural manager; Advisor to the President for International Cultural Relations at the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Berlin

OLEKSANDRA POGREBNIAK, Curator at the PinchukArtCentre, Kyiv

HANNA USTYNOVA, Development Director at PEN Ukraine, Kyiv

Detailed information on the programme

Roundtable

FUNDING STRUCTURES

Exploring the opportunities the Creative Europe programme offers for civil society, NGO and diaspora initiatives in arts and culture; how to sustainably integrate Ukrainian actors into European funding and networks? What challenges does the European commitment pose? Which practical support pathways are in place? How can we exchange knowledge and experience on both sides, in order to create a resilient, creative and connected cultural landscape?

MAŁGORZATA SZLENDAK, Policy officer in the Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) Creative Europe unit, Brussels

MYKOLA ULIANOV, Head of Creative Europe Desk Ukraine, Kyiv

ALONA KARAVAI, Cultural worker, curator, essayist, co-founder of Insha Osvita and Asortymentna kimnata, Kyiv

GEORG SCHÖLLHAMMER, Director of tranzit.at and co-initiator Office Ukraine, Vienna

KATERYNA DERDIUK, Cultural project manager, Vitsche Berlin

CHRISTIAN NUSSMUELLER, Executive Office for Urban Planning, Development and Construction, City of Graz; Coordinator A4U-Funding project *Green4UKR*

Moderated by THOMAS WOLKINGER

Roundtable

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION

Examining how organisations supporting the Ukrainian cultural sector across Europe can strengthen cooperation, improve coordination and visibility, and develop shared, transferable approaches that sustain the long-term cultural, civic, and social infrastructure for Ukrainian artistic communities.

ANASTASIYA VOLKOVA, Head of Arts Programmes, Ukrainian Institute, Kyiv

MAX GORBATSKYI, Head of exhibitions, Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool

ASIA BAZDYRIEVA, Researcher at the Weibel Institute for Digital Cultures at the University of Applied Arts Vienna

OLIVER ZILLE, Consultant for the book industry, International liaison officer at Buch Wien, Vienna

IVOR STODOLSKY, Co-founder and co-director of Artists at Risk, Ecologists at Risk and Perpetuum Mobile, Helsinki

Moderated by MARIYA DONSKA

Conference moderated by

MARIYA DONSKA, Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Graz,
moderating and co-organizing literary evenings, exhibitions, and
festivals featuring leading Ukrainian authors

THOMAS WOLKINGER, Journalist, since 2011 Senior Lecturer for
journalism at FH JOANNEUM, University of Applied Sciences, Graz

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Accompanying artistic programme

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16 October, 2026, 14:30

Remembering Collaboration

Guided tour Kunsthhaus Graz for conference participants

With KATRIN BUCHER TRANTOW, chief curator Kunsthhaus Graz and
NASTIA KHLESTOVA, and artistic interventions by MARIA KARDASH,
ANTON TKACHENKO, KATERYNA LYSOVENKO, MARGO SARKISOVA and
VLADA CHENTSOVA, OLIA FEDOROVA and JURA GOLIK

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16 October, 2026, 19:00

Sense of Safety: Art in a Time of War

Book presentation with TATIANA KOCHUBINSKA and ALONA KARAVAI

With DJ set by ANTON LAPOV

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17 October, 2026, 13:00

Unboxing

Participatory exhibition and conversation format initiated by
ALONA KARAVAI

ZIEGEL – Ateliergemeinschaft ukrainischer Künstler:innen

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Venues

Kunsthhaus Graz, Lendkai 1, 8020 Graz
Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten, Mariahilferplatz 3, 8020 Graz
Camera Austria, Lendkai 1, 8020 Graz
Theater im Bahnhof, Elisabethinergasse 27a, 8020 Graz
< rotor >, Volksgartenstraße 6a, 8020 Graz
ZIEGEL, Strauchergasse 6, 8020 Graz
Grand Hôtel Wiesler, Grieskai 4–8, 8020 Graz