

The Centre of Arts COLISEUM proposes a theatrical project on writing and presenting to the public a text on love in the penitentiary environment from Moldova.

PREAMBLE

Since the establishment of its office in Moldova, the SDC was close to the citizens of this country in dealing with most stringent issues. The brave and innovative spirit provided the SDC with a notorious visibility and reputation. Along with extremely important projects in high priority fields - social, educational and media - the SDC showed a vivid interest for original cultural projects with a strong social, educational and media impact. Therefore, starting with its first years of work in Moldova, the SDC has tackled a taboo and extremely grave topic for Moldova, in 2000 - human trafficking - inspiring and financing one of the most successful projects of this type in Europe - THE 7TH KAFANA play.

Today, inspired and encouraged by the success of the previous Project, in line with the innovative and responsible attitude of the partners, the Centre of Arts COLISEUM puts on the table for the SDC Moldova a pioneering project, with a brand new idea - a theatrical documentary project on Love Relationships in Penitentiary Environment.

A) Project proposal

1. Context and justification of the project

Brief assessment of the situation and of the issues addressed by the project

Currently, the Penitentiary System of the Republic of Moldova is undergoing a process of reformation and upgrading. A number of domestic and international structures are involved in this project.

The official webpage of the Penitentiary Department - <http://www.penitenciar.gov.md/ro/Colaborare.html> states the following:

Currently, developing and promoting cooperation with foreign prison systems and international organisations carrying out the enforcement of criminal penalties has

acquired a particular scale by sharing experiences and best practices, that have essentially contributed to the intensification of reform and adjustment to the international standards of the domestic prison system.

In this context, international collaboration has been advanced with the prison systems of Norway, Germany, Romania, Turkey, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and international organisations from Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Hungary, UK etc.

Subsequently, based on these objectives there has been developed a cooperation programme between the Department of Penitentiary Institutions of the Republic of Moldova and the Directorate General of Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe based on the following priority areas:

- Treatment (normative regulation and the creation of appropriate conditions of detention) of convicts sentenced to life and long-term imprisonment;
- Treatment of juvenile prisoners and their reintegration into society;
- Training of prison staff;
- Construction of new penitentiary institutions (arrest houses), corresponding to international standards requirements;
- Implementation in domestic law and practice of the new European Prison Rules;
- Wide application of alternative sanctions and probation, which are currently under implementation etc.

There shall be mentioned that the Department of Penitentiary Institutions has established a fruitful relationship of cooperation with the Swiss Confederation. In this context, the Department of Penitentiary Institutions with the support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation from the Republic of Moldova succeeded in the fall of 2007 to implement a project a year later, which aimed at providing Euro standard conditions for prison no. 7 - Rusca.

Therefore, the Centre of Arts COLISEUM is well aware of the complexity of the issue and has expressed a vivid interest for the life of the inmates.

Tackling of this issue is coherent with the range of topics explored by the team of the Centre of Arts COLISEUM within the plays developed throughout the years: human trafficking, women as a victim of armed conflicts, domestic violence and

others - topics explored which lead to important outcomes - written texts and plays staged.

Within these projects we had the opportunity to pay a visit to the penitentiary of Rusca. Following the discussions and the interviews with the female inmates on various topics related to prison life, one of the topics we were impressed by was their intimate, emotional and sentimental life. We saw and understood that even in prison, people don't give up love, dreaming for love and intimate life, waiting and hoping to have a fulfilling sentimental life.

These discussions led us to the idea of creating a text and a play that would approach this issue. We found out that this topic has never been dealt with in Moldova (in theatrical plays, scenarios, films, performances). Or in a developed, democratic and European society, there shall be taken a human stand towards all its citizens, including those deprived of the freedom.

This project shall deal with another dimension of human beings from penitentiary environment - individuals who are usually regarded as guilty or criminal and it will bring forward the human who loves and needs love even s/he is outlawed.

This aspect of the issue is important both for all the society members and for those from penitentiaries. For on the one hand, each person has the right to love, and on the other hand, love has to be accessible to anyone. Furthermore, love being an universal affection it is able to form up the linkage and the common language to erase the borders and make human the perspective on the people from the penitentiary universe.

We consider it extremely important to tackle this phenomenon which the society is less aware about and which is not necessarily included in the legal package of acts and regulations. Moldova has a number of drawbacks to be covered and taboos on certain phenomena of contemporary society and this topic of the Project Proposal falls into this category.

Around 8.000 inmates are detained in the Penitentiary System of the country. What is behind this figure? How does the life of these people look like? How are they going to come back to active life after serving sentence? In which manner

are they affected by the lack of normal life conditions? What is the way they live their feelings? How do they bear being without love and loved ones in their lives?

The quest for an answer to the above questions is the matter of study of our Project Proposal.

Changes targeted by the Project:

1. Society's change of attitude towards these people;
2. System employees' change of attitude towards the detainees;
3. Detainees' personal change of attitude towards themselves and their rights;
4. Theatrical movement's change of mentality, by forging a close connection between the artists and civil society and by guiding the artists towards social topics.

These changes are imperative for Moldovan society, which aspires to European and general human values related to such principles as tolerance, compassion, fairness and equality of rights and opportunities.

Target groups and beneficiaries:

1. Prison staff;
2. Detainees from the system;
3. Relatives and acquaintances of the detainees;
4. Governmental institutions;
5. Non-profit organisations - both domestic and international working in this field;
6. Media;
7. Cultural community;
8. Public authorities.

2. Goal and objectives of the Project

Main goal:

To stage and perform a theatrical documentary play about the feeling and universe of love of the inmates from Moldovan prisons. The performance will be based on the original text inspired and developed from the interviews and testimonies of the inmates, their relatives and staff of the penitentiary system.

Main objectives:

1. Raising public awareness on the topic;
2. Achieving the openness of the society for important topics for the society in order to bring them up for public debate;
3. Developing independent platforms of artistic creation;
4. Propelling and innovating contemporary drama.

Achieving these objectives will lead to a general downgrade of violence in society, to the refinement of society's attitude towards the inmates and to a growing interest of the civil society in Moldova on advancing and improving justice and penitentiary systems.

3. Strategy of implementation/measures undertaken within the Project

Staging a performance on a new topic previously unexplored (taboo category) needs substantial preparations and a sufficient period of time in order to reach the goal and objectives. The Project envisages a timeline of 8 months, comprising a number of activities. Each of the proposed activities has a well determined function and timing needed for it to be undertaken.

Planned activities

1. Contacting institutions in charge - 2 weeks

- 1.1. Contacting the penitentiary system institutions - Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova and the Department of Penitentiary Institutions;
- 1.2. Setting a joint working plan and obtaining access in penitentiary institution;
- 1.3. Selecting the prisons for documentation activity: 2-3 prisons are going to be selected. This shall be carried into effect by the Project Manager, following the approval of the Project Director.

2. Building a Working Team - 2 weeks: Bringing up to the full number the Working Team and building the Creative Team

- 2.1. The Working Team is made up of managerial team consisting of Project Director, Manager and Accountant;
- 2.3. The Creative Team in charge of preparing the reading - director, playwright and actors. The actors will join the Project in its final stages - preparation of the

public reading, performing the reading, rehearsals of the play and the premiere + two representations;

2.4. The Creative Team in charge of staging the performance - director, playwright, scenographer, operator, sound designer, lighting designer, actors and machinists.

3. Documentation on the field - 1 month

3.1 The director along with the playwright will visit the prisons which were selected for the Project. Within the meetings with leadership of the prisons, staff and inmates, they will undertake interviews, collect testimonies and other documentary items (letters, photos, questionnaires, video footages). They will also meet up the psychologists of the prisons, aiming at creating a positive and cooperative framework. Within the Project, there will participate only people who are opened for cooperation, ready to talk about their own feelings, stories, cases and deeds.

3.2. All of these testimonies will be recorded on the dictaphone, transcribed and photocopied.

The director and playwright will grant anonymity and will keep all the materials in the secret file of Project.

4. Text writing – 2,5 months

4.1. The collected documentary data will be ongoingly filtered and selected.

4.2. Followingly, the playwright and director will build the drama of the text.

4.3. There is to follow the next phase of the writing: writing of the play itself, which is the basic phase of the Project.

5. Preparation and presentation of the public reading - 2 weeks

5.1. The play will be distributed by the director to the actors selected for the reading;

5.2. The analysis will follow and the process of rehearsals with the actors and actresses selected;

5.3. Presentation consists of role-reading of the text and its debate. The public presentation of the play is an important phase of internal monitoring of the Project and of selecting the actors for the next stage.

The reading will be carried out by two actors with the involvement of the director and playwright, in the presence of a public consisting of the partners of the Project, media, artistic community and sponsors.

5.4. A debate will follow the reading, preceded by a coffee break. Everyone present there will be invited for the debate.

6. Forming up the team for the stage of the performance - 10 days

6.1. Staging the performance is a new phase, there being needed new specialists. Along with the director, playwright and actors, at this stage are going to be involved the scenography expert, sound designer of the performance, light designer, video operator and machinists of the stage;

6.2. The stage and place will be selected for the final rehearsal and premiere;

6.3. An ad agency will be hired in order to ensure media coverage.

7. Staging the performance – 1,5 months

7.1. Staging the performance is a complex process where the director will coordinate the following:

- a. Scenographer's work of creating and building up the scenography and costumes in line with the idea and message of the performance;
- b. Actors' work on the idea, message, characters and *mise-en-scène* of the performance;
- c. Sound designer's work within the performance;
- d. Video operator's work in order to establish the images to be projected during the performance;
- e. Light designer's work in the final phase for the final arrangements on the ambience and visual dimension. Within the first phase of work on the performance, the director will rehearse the play with the actors in a room with minimum of technical means.

7.2. While the Creative Team led by the director will deal with the process of rehearsals and the preparation of the performance, the Technical Team coordinated by the project director and manager will ensure all the technical elements of the projects: p

- a. Adequate room for rehearsal;
- b. Workshop for the scenographer in order to make the decorations, costumes, accessories and the purchase of the needed materials;

- c. Technical equipment for the operator, light and sound designers to be purchased or rent;
- d. Room rent for final rehearsals and for the premiere;
- e. Cooperation with sponsors, partners and professional community aiming at inviting spectators and the premiere.

8. Premiere + 2 performances – 3 days

The premiere of the performance is the main goal of this project. There are going to be invited all the categories of the target public:

- a. Staff of the penitentiary system;
- b. Detainees from the system;
- c. Relatives and acquaintances of the detainees;
- d. Governmental institutions;
- e. Non-profit organisations - domestic and international - working in the field;
- f. Media;
- g. Cultural community;
- h. Public authorities.

Aiming at ensuring the visibility of the Project's partners, at the end of the performance there are going to be invited on the stage the developers and sponsors of the performance. They will have the possibility to express their ideas and thoughts on the issue and on the importance of the Project for Moldovan society, the complex impact of the Project and the necessity to get involved the artistic community in the issues the contemporary society is facing with.

Explain how these activities will contribute to achieving the main goal and objectives

1. Contacting institutions in charge from the penitentiary system.

Establishing cooperation relationships with these institutions and people in charge is the guarantee for the efficiency of Project's development. This will ensure the team of the Centre of Arts COLISEUM will be granted access to the needed information.

2. Forming the Working Team.

The team of the Centre of Arts COLISEUM will be selected based on the criteria of professionalism and experience. The people who will be included in the team

have worked in similar projects before, throughout more years. Creative teams will get involved depending on the needs of the Project, in line with the working timetable.

3. Documentation on the field.

This phase contributes to collecting the needed data which is indispensable for the carrying out of the Project and it also contributes to the authenticity of the collected documents, enhancing their value.

4. Text writing.

This is the essential phase of the Project: the collected data will be transformed, following a meticulous, well-thought work, into a literary text for the stage of the performance. Thus, the message will gain its artistic and civic dimension and richness that we intend to reach within the Project.

5. Preparation and presentation of public reading.

Public reading's purpose is to monitor and evaluate of this phase. Playwright and director's work on writing the text will be assessed. Within the preparation process of the public reading, the playwright and the director will perform with the actors a research on making the message deeper and conferring it more awareness for the public. The reading will afterwards serve as a topic for the debate.

The coffee break will make people collect themselves and prepare for a sincere and serious discussion. It is important that the debate undergoes within a sincere and cooperative ambiance.

During the debate there will be discussed the essential topics of the Project, such as the main goal and the importance, quality and utility of the created text and requirements of staging the play.

There will also be discussed and analyzed all aspects of prison life.

6. Forming up the team for staging the performance is essential for ensuring the quality of the final product - the performance itself. Every member of the creative team will be hired based on professionalism criteria.

7. Staging the performance is the most complex part of the working process. The performance is the final product, which worked the whole team for during this whole period.

8. The Premiere puts together the performance, target public and media. The final remarks to be addressed by developers and sponsors will explain the essence of the Project, will evaluate the impact and analyze the possibility of ensuring the continuity and sustainability of the project.

4. Work Timetable

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Period</u>
1. Contacting the institutions in charge from the penitentiary system.	1 st of December – 15 th of December 2014
2. Forming up the work team.	16 th of December – 31 st of December 2014
3. Documentation on the field.	1 st of January – 31 st of January 2015
4. Writing the text.	1 st of February 2014 – 15 th of April 2015
5. Preparation and presentation of the public reading.	16 th of April – 1 st of May 2015
6. Forming up the team for the stage of the performance.	1 st of May – 14 th of May 2015
7. Staging of the performance.	15 th of May – 27 th of June 2015
8. The Premiere + 2 performances	28 th , 29 th , and 30 th of June 2015
<i><u>Total amount of time – 7 months</u></i>	1 st of December 2014 – 30 th of June 2015

5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Sustainability.

Monitoring of the Project is the guarantee of its implementation and carrying out. Monitoring will be ensured by the director of the project and the management team, which will coordinate and supervise the performance of the Project, and make sure the process undergoes according to the working timetable.

Evaluation of the Project will be carried out in two parts. First evaluation will take place during the public reading, in front of specialists, partners, sponsors and artistic community, which will assess the text written at the Premiere. The second part of evaluation will take place with the premiere of the show. Therefore, at the premiere will participate all the actors involved directly or indirectly in carrying out the Project and representatives of all target groups, which will ensure the objective evaluation of the Project. There will be appreciated the importance, utility and quality of the developed performance, from artistic and civic point of view.

Sustainability is an objective of **perspective** of the Project. We consider it important and useful that the performance to be staged would have clear perspectives:

- a) Undertaking a tour in Moldova; We have contacted Mrs Jacqueline Carpenter, the OSCE Mission's Senior Human Rights Adviser and she had shown interest in the eventual organisation of such a tour. OSCE is a sustainable partner of COLISEUM Centre of Arts in organising such tours through Moldova.
- b) Debates at the end of each performance with the public and specialists from the field;
- c) Editing (printing) the text at one of the publishing agencies from Moldova;
- d) Filming the performance; It is important for the performance to be filmed and to be stored in the archives of SDC, of The Centre of Arts COLISEUM and of the penitentiary institution as material for future work.
- e) Translating the text into English and Russian languages.

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