

Projekt 5.6

Photo Training Courses in Albania



Country / region or city(ies):

Albania / Tirana

Name of the Cooperation Project:

Projekt 5.6

Partner organization:

Lindart Cultural Center

Coaching/monitoring partner:

Eliane Ruthishauser & Gian Vaitl

Duration of the project:

February 2007 – January 2010

Projekt 5.6. offers trainings for aspiring Albanian photographers with the aim to improve the professional standards and to enable contemporary Albanian photography to claim its place in print media, advertising and the arts. Exhibitions, exchange programmes and debates contribute to build up a more vital photo community in Albania.

In the pioneer time of photography, Albania brought out works of high artistic level. The Marubi Phototeka in Shkodra and the Sotiri Collection in Korça are testimonies of this rich tradition. But during the communist isolation, after the Second World War up to 1991, only a few persons were allowed to work as photographers, mainly to serve propagandistic purposes of the regime.

From 1990 until now there were no opportunities for a photographer to get systematic training on a technical and conceptual level. The people who work as photographers are in general self trained. This fact still has as negative impact on the quality of photography in Albania. Commercial uses within the country are often poor and unattractive. At the same time, the economic development of the country creates great needs for quality images. >

www.projekt56.com

Pro Helvetia Tirana
Rruga Brigada VIII / 2
Sh. 2, Ap. 1
AL Tirana
ph.tirana@yahoo.com
www.pro-helvetia.org.al

Pro Helvetia
Swiss Cultural Programme
In the Western Balkans
Hirschengraben 22
CH-8024 Zurich
info@pro-helvetia.ch
www.pro-helvetia.ch

Link:
www.deza.admin.ch
(Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC)

On the basis of the present condition of the Albanian photo scene Projekt 5.6. offers a professional training for self trained photographers and students. The method is inspired by an efficient training method initiated by proactive student photographers in Switzerland (GAF – Group of autodidactic photographers) that exists for more then twenty years with considerable success. The method consists of a training, which is closely focused on practice and early on gives the student confidence to work. During their one-year training the students realize also short internships and practical training days in enterprises and may be able to offer already paid services.

The programme includes four workshops per year given by international photographers as well as regular weekly courses by local trainers. The training of the local trainers is part of the project and their engagement is vital for the cause. Projekt 5.6 aims to build up an Albanian photo school with international orientation.

Projekt 5.6 realizes also different activities in order to revitalize the photographic community in Albania. This includes the organization of debates on artistic and social aspects of photography, regular contributions to national and international publications, collaborating with galleries, schools and museums in Albania and abroad as well as organizing exhibitions and student exchange programmes. Also a sponsors club for the school (Friends of Projekt 5.6) is built up.

The project is implemented by the Albanian NGO Lindart Cultural Center. Two experienced Swiss photographers and teachers of photography are coaching Lindart in the realization of the project.

The schools name Projekt 5.6 was chosen by the future trainers and relates to the f-stop number 5.6 (aperture) of the photo lens frequently used in portrait photography.

The Swiss Cultural Programme in the Western Balkans is a joint initiative of the Arts Council of Switzerland PRO HELVETIA and of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC. The SCP encompasses Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo and the Ukraine.

It supports local partners, which emphasize the variety, independence and performance of cultural life. The SCP cooperation projects focus on the capacity building and institutional development processes of cultural organizations. ■