



## General conditions

### I. The Project

The call is part of the project **"CAN for BALKANS - Comics Alliance Networking for Balkans"**.

The project CAN for BALKANS says "CAN" when it comes to the creation of a cross-border cultural network to facilitate cooperation among history comic strip artists and specialists all over the Western Balkans and the European Union, in the spirit of the European Union values.

In the Balkan area history comic strips have either a past marked by nationalist speeches and communist propaganda or they just simply do not have a past (Albania's case). Unfortunately, in many cases, the errors of the past are still found in the present day Balkan comic strips. At the same time the regional artistic market of the history comic strips is deficient and divided.

The cultural consortium made of partners from Albania, Belgium, the Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Serbia wishes to change this perspective through:

- the organizing of an international call addressed to the artistic environment which creates a working base (digital archive and history studies) for the legacy of the history comic strips. This call encourages a creative exploration of history by way of the comic strip artists, for the purpose to generate new works. These works are original and unconventional contributions to the interpretation of European history in general and Balkan history in particular, with impact in cultural areas with a predominating cultural legacy showcasing accents of incompatible values versus those of the European Union.

- the promotion of the history comic strips by means of cultural activities like: an exhibition, a research project, an online platform and public debates on the clichés as well as on the cultural and social stereotypes from the Balkan area.

Our project targets not only professional groups (artists, specialists, organizations) or comic strips enthusiasts, but also wider audiences and local communities hosting the project. Furthermore, an important objective of the project is the increase of the audience for the comic strip industry by allowing free access for the large public to attractive cultural events (the touring of the project exhibition in the partner countries), as well as to the online environment (digital platform).

The project rolls-out during 01.03.2021 – 31.03.2023 and is financed through "the programme "Creative Europe" by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) - Bruxelles, as part of the call Consolidation of the Cultural Cooperation and Competitiveness of the Cultural and Creative Industries in Western Balkans (EACEA 39/2019).

## II. Partners

### Belgian Comic Strip Center - Bruxelles, Belgium



This is one of the most important museums in the world dedicated to comic strips.

Located at the heart of Bruxelles, it represents a highly recommended sightseeing attraction. This place has been celebrating for over 30 years the authors and characters of the 9th art, which are greeted by over 230,000 visitors each year. Permanent exhibitions, renewed on a regular basis as well as a vast temporary exhibition schedule, allow the visitors to uncover the multiple facets of the comic strips.

### National Historical Museum (NHM) - Tirana, Albania

This is the biggest and the most important museum of Albania. It has on display approximately 5000 historical pieces, from the IVth century B.C. until the second half of the XXth century.

NHM's aim among the local, national and international public is to stimulate in a diachronic manner the understanding and the awareness of Albania's own history and the country's role in the worldwide history. The National Historical Museum is the most important conductor of the official interpretation of Albanian history. It plays an important role in protecting national identity as well as conveying this image to visitors and the outside world. The museum differs from what the written history gives, as for a museum the language of expression is the exposed museum objects, accompanied by information about them.

NHM aims to foster understanding and appreciation of the history of Albania to local, national and international levels and to encourage dialogue between citizens, on the past, the present and the future of the country. For this purpose the museum gathers, conservates and researches intangible and tangible evidence of Albania's historic and cultural patrimony, which are shared and exhibited stimulating education and entertainment. The museum is an active participant in the national and international cultural networks and organizes activities promoting its vision and mission.



## Udruzenje ljubitelja stripa i pisane reci "Nikola Mitrovic Kokan" - Leskovac, Serbia



Known under the name of Leskovac School of Comics, the association was founded in order to put together the comics enthusiasts by means of educational programmes, comics and pop art works publishing, organizing of: exhibitions, public contests, meeting panels and festivals.

The main project of the association is the *Balkan Festival of Young Comics Creator* - the most important yearly event dedicated to young comics authors from Balkan countries, held on a regular basis since 1998.

## Comic Centre of Macedonia - Veles, Macedonia

The comics strip center in Macedonia was founded in order to use and popularize comic strips in different areas of the public life.

Its mission is to raise awareness and spread comic strips culture through comics publishing, library activities, educational activities and exhibitions.

Comic Centre of Macedonia organizes the biggest comics event from the Republic of Macedonia: International Strip Salon Veles.



## Brasov County History Museum, Romania

### MUZEUL JUDEȚEAN DE ISTORIE BRAȘOV



It is one of the most important cultural public institutions of Brasov county. It owns the biggest historical mobile patrimony of Brasov County (159,255 items), covering all the historical eras, from prehistorical times until contemporary period.

The museum organizes several cultural events (exhibitions, seminars, conferences, debates, festivals, etc.) using partnerships with institutions and public or private organizations, achieving national recognition as a cultural operator.

It is the leader among local museums in terms of total yearly visitor numbers, including young people and schoolchildren.

Starting with 2017, the museum develops history promotion projects through comic strips, materialized in the publishing of two history comics albums and the co-hosting of the International History Comics Festival in Brasov, starting with 2018.

### III. Theme

#### The Balkans Throughout History

"CAN for Balkans" means the convergence between HISTORY, ART and PROPAGANDA. However given its call to the worldwide artists "CAN for Balkans" will create a comics legacy of the History and Art without Propaganda.

The resulting works portfolio will stand for an intercultural "dialogue" on Balkan history and will constitute the basis for both the exhibition and the catalogue design.

The new, original and historically themed comic strip concept should be about what brings together the Balkan world and not about what divides it, about positive examples in the shared history, about unity in diversity. The comic strips should be genuine reconciliatory artistical messages meant for peace and trust consolidation, for tolerance and respect.

This is why we invite you, dear artists, to contradict the negative clichés as well as the cultural and social stereotypes on and from the Balkan world.

The exhibition opens in Brasov, on the 14th of October 2022, during the International History Comics Festival 2022 and will be toured to Serbia, the Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Belgium.

### IV. Participation terms

#### WHAT?

Your project must absolutely be a comic strip and should embrace the above-mentioned theme. It may approach **any historical period**, from prehistorical times and antiquity until contemporary period. It may choose as subject a famous historic character or anonymous persons. It may focus on heroic acts, as well as on traditions cultural, economic, sporting or social events. It may be anything as long as it is a history comic strip and centers on the **Balkan history** and "contradicts" boldly the negative clichés as well as the cultural and social stereotypes of the Balkan area.

We encourage you to approach the Balkan area history issues trying to focus on **what brings together** the Balkan world and not about what divides it.

#### WHO?

The project "CAN for BALKANS - Comics Alliance Networking for Balkans" addresses artists **anywhere in the world**.

The applicants have to be at least 18 years of age.

The project is open to the creators regardless if they have been published or not.

Each applicant may submit **maximum two** comic strips.

#### HOW?

**The work with the subject based on the theme "The Balkans throughout history"** will be A3 format - (copy) board, minimum resolution: 300 dpi to allow printing on A2 format.

The chosen topic may be approached in a work containing two up to nine boards.

The requestor **must submit the application in the dedicated section on our website:** <https://www.canforbalkans.eu/>

**The application will contain the work** (scanned copy with min 300 dpi resolution) **and the form filled** with the following information:

**- details on the work;**

- the reason for choosing the subject;
- New historical information; (Optional)
- documentary sources used;
- whether the work has/has not been published already or if it is part of a previously published/about to be published paper, because only **unpublished works are selected for participation in the contest;**
- **short personal biography** (studies, exhibitions, links to/images for own works, etc).

The works will be in English or one of the languages of the project partners (Albanian, French, Macedonian, Romanian, Serbian) and will follow the theme of the call.

The catalogue will be published in English language.

The selected artists who made the works in the languages of the partners, agree, by sending the work, also to carry out the comic strips in English, within 10 working days after receiving the translated text from the organizer.

## **WHEN?**

**The application has to be sent exclusively in electronic format until 17 July 2022 (inclusive).**

## **V. Benefits for the artists**

If selected, the **artist benefits** of:

- the publishing of the work in the online platform of the project;
- the publishing of the work in the project catalogue;
- the display of the work in the international touring exhibition, during at least October 2022
- March 2023: Romania (Brasov International History Comics Festival), Albania (Albania national Museum - Tirana), Belgium (Comics Art Museum - Brussels), Serbia (School of Comics - Leskovac), the Republic of Macedonia (Comic Centre of Macedonia – Veles).

### **Awarded prizes:**

2022 edition awarded prizes:

The Big prize: 1000 eur - gross amount

The First prize: 800 eur - gross amount

The Second prize: 500 eur - gross amount

The Third prize: 300 eur - gross amount

Five winners will be handed mention awards in value of 200 eur - gross amount per each prize: each partner country gives a mention award to one of their participant artists who did not receive any prize but won the highest score among the artists from that respective country.

The selected comic strips will be presented during the project, in the online platform, in the catalogue and will be displayed in the traveling exhibition in Romania, Serbia, Albania, the Republic of Macedonia, Belgium during October 2022 - March 2023.

A prize supplier agreement will be closed among the project leader and the prize winners and the mention awarded participants respectively.

The winners will send the original works for display purpose in the main section of the project exhibition, which **must include original boards**.

#### IV. Selection process

The works participating in the exhibition, published in the catalogue and in the online platform are selected only if they are compliant with the project theme, according with the validation of the international jury.

The selection decision of the jury is final.

The selection criteria for the designation of the main prize and mention awards:

- the graphic quality (chosen style, execution, originality):
  - pencil drawing (classical or digital);
  - contour / ink (classical or digital);
  - colour (classical or digital);
- the quality of the script (the best adaptation of the historic subject);
- the quality of the comic strip - final work (graphics, composition, script).

#### VII. Calendar

Application deadline: 17th of July 2022

Winner announcement: August 2022

Exhibition opening: 14th of October 2022, in Brasov (Romania)

The exhibition will be toured during November 2022 - March 2023 in Tirana (Albania), Bruxelles (Belgia), Leskovac (Serbia), Veles (the Republic of Macedonia).

Online upload of the selected works: October 2022

#### VIII. Grants

All the awarded artists (prizes and mention awards) are invited to participate in the exhibition opening event from Brasov, during 13th to 16th of October 2022.

The prize winners will participate at the events of the project exhibition tours as follows: the winner of the Big and the Third prizes join in Bruxelles and Veles tours; the winners of the First and Second prizes join in Tirana and Leskovac tours.

The project covers the travel costs (flight, train, taxi, as the case may be), accommodation (3 nights) and meals.

## IX. Final provisions

The awarded artists agree to transfer the distribution rights of their art works to the project partners.

By participating to the selection, the authors agree to the use of their electronic format works as images in project communication.

Sending the application file represents each participant's agreement to the visual usage of their works by the project **Can for Balkans – Comics Alliance Networking for Balkans!** provided the author and the title are mentioned.

## X. Contact

For other information, please contact Mrs. Ioana SCHIOPU-Manager Assistant, email [info@canforbalkans.eu](mailto:info@canforbalkans.eu)

[APPLY HERE](#)



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**