

»Actors of Urban Change aims to achieve sustainable and participatory urban development through cultural activities and cross-sector collaboration in Europe.«



- Participating teams 2015-17
- Participating teams 2013-15



#### The Robert Bosch Stiftung

Established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. It represents the philanthropic and social endeavors of Robert Bosch (1861–1942) and fulfills his legacy in a contemporary manner. The Robert Bosch Stiftung works predominantly in the fields of international relations, health and education.

#### MitOst e.V.

MitOst is an international non-profit NGO based in Berlin that promotes cultural exchange and active citizenship in Europe and its neighboring regions, with a focus on Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe. MitOst organizes international programs and projects and serves as a platform for new forms of social engagement to support an active civil society, regardless of cultural, linguistic, and political limitations. With 1,400 members in 40 countries and various partners, MitOst is part of a dynamic European network.

Actors of Urban Change is a program by the Robert Bosch Stiftung in cooperation with MitOst e.V.

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Actors of Urban Change  
Sustainable Urban Development  
through Cultural Activities  
and Cross-Sector Collaboration  
in Europe



Photos: Felipe Morozini

The program Actors of Urban Change aims to achieve sustainable and participatory urban development through cultural activities implemented by teams of partners coming from the cultural sphere/civil society, public administration and the private sector. The program participants put their skills into practice through local projects. They strengthen their competencies in cross-sector collaboration and profit from peer-to-peer exchange, professional trainings with international experts and Europe-wide exchange. The current program round runs from 2015 until 2017. Another call for applications is planned for summer 2017.

#### Program Offers and Activities

In the program, an actor from the cultural sphere or civil society, public administration, and the private sector form a cross-sectoral team to implement an innovative local project. Over the course of 18 months, ten teams from various European cities receive support for the implementation of their joint local projects, obtain professional qualification, and engage in networking opportunities.

#### Support for Local Laboratories

- :: Project Grants of up to 5,000 EUR
- :: Tailored support from experts through Process-Related Consulting Grants of up to 5,000 EUR

#### Qualification

- :: Five international Academy Meetings in different European cities, based on a peer learning approach and featuring lectures, facilitated workshops and field trips
- :: Mobility grants for Shadowing Internships in other participants' cities (up to ten days per person)

#### European Network

- :: Exchange among participants through in-person meetings during the international Academy sessions and Shadowing Internships
- :: Virtual exchange through an online platform and community

#### Potential Topics and Scope of Projects

The program does not focus on urban change through formal processes of urban planning or development, but rather on community-driven engagement for local urban development. In this context, potential topics to be addressed include affordable housing/gentrification, inclusion/integration, cultural diversity, accessibility of (formerly) public urban resources and spaces, sustainable mobility, health and physical activity, green city/climate change, etc., with citizen participation as core element of all the projects.

#### Culture and Urban Change

Social change is intensified in the urban context, since opportunities and risks present themselves in different, and more pronounced ways in cities. From a citizen's perspective, the boundaries between sectors become more permeable and allow for cross-sector collaboration in urban development. We consider culture to be a fundamental dimension within the realm of sustainable development. Culture has the potential to create meaning and identity, promote participation and social inclusion, and play an important role in the positive development of cities for the common good.