



Peace  Art

## **Report of the distribution of Peace for Art's emergency grant for the museums in war zone in Ukraine**

In May 2022, Peace for Art signed a grant agreement with the NGO “Insha Osvita”, in order to provide funds for threatened cultural institutions in Ukraine. This donation took place in the context of the emergency that Eastern Ukraine was, and is still, facing.

The NGO “Insha Osvita” allocated the sum to the Museum Crisis Center initiative, which was responsible for the distribution of funds according to the emergencies identified in the various regional museums of Eastern Ukraine.

The benefitting museums outlined the fact that this agreement reinforced their mobilization because it made them feel supported by the international community. More than material help, this grant was an acknowledgment of their struggle and bear witness of an increasing awareness from the international culture community. « Insha Osvita » is a Non-Governmental organization whose aim is to support the access to education as a human right in Ukraine. They provide help to a wide net of cultural actors such as museums and they are linked to several European administrations, such as the British Council or the Goethe Institute, as one of the main activists in the field.

As reported by the Museum Crisis Center and Insha Osvita, the subsidy has been distributed in the most affected area of Ukraine, in the eastern part of the country. All of the benefitting institutions are located in the Kherson, Donetsk and Sumy regions, currently occupied by the Russian army. Six museum benefited from the grant : the **Okhtyrka city museum for local history** (region of Sumy), the **Donetsk regional museum for local history** in Kramatorsk (region of Donetsk), the **Kozatske village history museum** (region of Kherson), the **Belozersky museum** in Bilozerka (region of Kherson), **Velikolepetyk village folk local history museum** and the **Museum of modern art of Kherson** (region of Kherson).

Before going into the specific details of the actions carried out in these institutions, we want to recall that, due to the emergency situation, most of the funds were used to purchase basic necessities and food products.

To give an insight of the specific case of each institution: first of all the funds helped the evacuation of the exhibits of the Okhtyrka city museum in a safe place, after the airstrike that destroyed the building. In Kramatorsk, after the evacuation of some of the employees, the subsidy helped to maintain the activities of the museum remotely. Regarding the

Kozatske village history museum, which was affected from the beginning of the war by the fierce battles that took place in the area, it has been part of the destroyed buildings in the city. As the region is one of the epicenters of the fighting, humanitarian aid is very difficult to send and the Peace for Art grant provided some basic goods to the museum staff. In the Belozersky museum as well, the grant helped to partially compensate for the lack of salaries for the museum employees after the collections were sheltered. Velikolepetyk village is still under Russian occupation, but the museum remains open even though the most valuable exhibits were hidden at the beginning of the war. The grant helped the two museum workers in their struggle to maintain the museum alive. Last but not least, the Kherson museum for Modern Art is still very active despite the Russian occupation as well, and remains in contact with the other museums in the region.

Notwithstanding the difficulties they face everyday, and in particular the lack of means of communication, we would like to salute the unfailing commitment of the agents of these institutions and of Ukraine as a whole, who stand by the museum heritage to save it from war and destruction.

We know how valuable every assistance is and how great the needs are on the ground. We warmly thank the Museum Crisis Center for the detailed report they sent us, and for the fruitful cooperation. We also thank the donors who have put their trust in us and made this aid possible, and do our best to continue our support.