



FORMAL OPINION
on the draft on "Promoting diversity in culture and art in the European cultural heritage" - call for small projects

By analyzing

The draft on "Promoting diversity in culture and art in the European cultural heritage" - call for small projects

Submitted by the Ministry of Culture through the Project Management Unit, by the address no 1292/20.04.2015, registered at the Competition Council with no. RG 4157/21.04.2015, in order to receive a formal opinion,

And ascertaining that:

1. The Scheme was set up based on the Regulation (EC) no 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid¹;
2. The main objective of the scheme is to enhance cultural dialogue and to protect European identity by understanding cultural diversity achieved through specific objectives of promoting culture, diversity and art within the European cultural heritage;
3. Ministry of Culture through the Project Management Unit is managing the de minimis scheme and simultaneously is the supplier of the de minimis aid;
4. De minimis aid scheme complies with Government Emergency Ordinance no. 77 of 3 December 2014 regarding national procedures in the state aid field and the amendment and completion of the Competition Law no. 21/1996², with the following specifications:
 - this de minimis aid scheme complies with art. 3(4) of the GEO no. 77/2014 – an opportunity analysis was drawn (attached);
 - art. 7 (1) of the GEO no. 77/2014, approved by Law no. 20/2015, does not apply to this scheme, since the entry into force of the article is June 7, 2015; however, it was done and approved a memorandum for framing de minimis aid measure to the economic, budgetary and financial policies of the Romanian state (reply address of the General Secretariat of the Government no. 616 / GLG / 19.02.2015).

¹ Published in the Official Journal of the European Union no L 352/24.12.2013, final paper

² Published in the Official Gazette of Romania, part I, no. 893/9.12.2014.

5. De minimis scheme aims to achieve the following objectives:

- enhancing public access to culture;
- developing a better understanding of cultural diversity and strengthening intercultural dialogue, including the culture of minorities;
- strengthening bilateral relations between the Romanian cultural operators and those from donor countries, in arts and culture field, focusing on cultural diversity.

6. The scheme is valid until 31 May 2016;

7. The scheme is applying throughout Romania, in all 8 development regions;

8. The aid is granted for projects implemented by authorized individuals and / or businesses - financing rate will be up to 95% of total eligible project costs;

9. The estimated number of beneficiaries is 2;

10. The overall budget of the scheme is 115.000 lei, as follows:

- the minimum amount of EUR 5,000 for each project;
- the maximum amount of EUR 15,000 for each project.

COMPETITION COUNCIL

Based on art. 7 para (6) of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 77 of 3 December 2014 regarding national procedures in the state aid field and the amendment and completion of the Competition Law no. 21/1996,

ISSUES FORMAL OPINION

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