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ASEF Mobility First! travel grant – 2nd cycle results announced

Culture is one of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)'s focus areas and *Mobility First!* – a travel grant for artists & cultural professionals, is one of ASEF's flagship projects. Artists & cultural professionals from over 50 Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) partner countries are selected through periodic competitive open calls.

Press Release

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More Information

<http://asef.live/mobilityfirst>

On 31 July 2018, ASEF announces the selected artists and cultural professionals for the 2nd cycle of *Mobility First!* from a total of 253 applications received from individuals and arts organisations.

Now on its 2nd year, *Mobility First!* continues to enable arts practitioners to participate in a wide variety of activity types that foster skills transfer, knowledge exchange, innovation in arts and culture, local development, and the role of art and artists in society.

Through these focus areas, *Mobility First!* contributes to the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly, reducing inequality within and among countries (SDG #10); ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning for all (SDG #4); and achieving gender equality and empowering all women (SDG #5). *Mobility First!* contributes to the pursuit of these SDGs by facilitating the mobility of artists and cultural professionals and contributing to the achievement of a balanced flow of cultural works, by increasing the number of youth who participate in activities that enable acquiring skills for employment in the cultural and creative industries, by increasing the number of women who participate in leadership programmes in the cultural sector.

Although a relatively young project, *Mobility First!* has already received global recognition for its relevance and impact. In UNESCO's 2018 Global Report titled [Reshaping Cultural Policies \(2nd edition\)](#), *Mobility First!* was acknowledged as a "success story" by a multilateral intergovernmental organisation to bridge existing gaps in support of artists' mobility.

Mobility First! is the only project under the Culture Department's Support to Artists pillar (the other 2 pillars are Dialogue Platforms and Information Platforms, with several initiatives under each) and responds to ASEF's mandate of promoting people-to-people connectivity between Asia and Europe by facilitating face-to-face encounters that will immediately benefit a few, but that will ultimately benefit the many.

The selected artists, cultural professionals, and arts organisations can be found here: www.asef.live/mobilityfirst

About the ASEM and ASEF



Asia-Europe Meeting

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises 53 partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

For more information, please visit www.ASEMinfoboard.org



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals.

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org