

Centrala Foundation for Future Cities
Maashaven z.z. 3-5 / 3081 AE Rotterdam / The Netherlands

Rotterdam, 29 June 2007

ATTESTATION

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir/Madam,

With this letter we would like to confirm that Vahida Ramujkic is an active participant of experimental and socially engaged project Lost Highway Expedition (LHE), within which she received from Centrala Foundation 1150 euro (travel costs, dailies) for her initial research work on the topic of comparative histories on the territory of the Western Balkans.

Lost Highway Expedition is supported by the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ljubljana, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, New York and European Cultural Foundation, Amsterdam. Additional in-kind support comes from LHE partner organizations in the cities of the Lost Highway Expedition.

LHE was conceptualized and developed through personal investments of its initiators and its founding members. Since LHE network is constantly expanding, participating individuals and organizations additionally support LHE by in-kind services and infrastructure.

Best regards,



Ana Dzokic

Centrala Foundation, chairman

ABOUT

Lost Highway Expedition (LHE) is the first event of a the project called *Europe Lost and Found (ELF)*, an interdisciplinary and multi-nationally based research on the future of new and transforming borders and territories of Europe. *ELF* (2006-2008) evolves around following thematic issues 'Balkanization', 'Europeanization' and 'Mapping the Future', and places emphasis on movements against definitive social, institutional or urban structures.

The subject is Europe, the continent of immigration, and its depopulation and aging, and the necessity for redefinition of states, sovereignties and citizenships. Challenged is the established belief and practice of nation-state, and in search of alternative definitions for the populous and cultures in movements, all within the contradiction between homogeneous and multiple identities of individuals and communities, the fluidity of capital and containment of labor, and the liberation and restrictions of citizens under sovereignty. Clearly, Europe cannot subsist by itself, and is already being redefined by "the others" in its quest for a self-identity. In such contexts, *ELF* suggests the future of Europe is best seen in the contemporary Western Balkan.

Expedition - as both a tool and experience - is the key element of *ELF*. It started with *Lost Highway Expedition* (August 2006), by plotting a route along a European road nowadays called Corridor X, formerly known as the Highway of Brotherhood and Unity, involving about 70 travelers and 200 local participants for a period of 26 days. *LHE* is not about reconstructing the Highway built to unite Yugoslavia, nor to critique the economic ambitions and political dimensions of today's highways there. Rather, *Lost Highway Expedition* is about making a third and non-physical infrastructure to link different thoughts and cultures, to generate the importance of shared meanings rather than hierarchically constructed exclusionary values that incites conflicts between places or within societies. *LHE* is a society itself, not merely a project.

During 2007, the next phase in the project takes place, called *Building Lost Highway*, a collective work process towards a 'sourcebook' that organises material and produces knowledge from *Lost Highway Expedition (LHE)*. Through three working sessions in the Western Balkans region, the 'sourcebook' is collaboratively created and will be printed in a format of a manuscript. The main part of it is the *Lexicon* of terms and (re)definitions imagining the Western Balkans as a vital and important source for the possible futures of Europe.

Through collaboration of many participants from the Western Balkans region and elsewhere, *ELF* wants to know about our *future* between the uniformity of incorporated Europeanisation and the Balkanising capacity of self-organizations, and how the urban landscapes would evolve as the chosen spaces for cultural, ethnic and religious conflicts and resolutions. *ELF* thinks that this grim perspective of unstable and unpredictable future of Europe can also bring the change necessary for building the next free and civil society, a compelling quest that *Europe Lost and Found* would like to imagine.

Europe Lost and Found and *Lost Highway Expedition* have been initiated by Centrala Foundation for Future Cities and School of Missing Studies (SMS). It is supported by Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ljubljana, Trust for Mutual Understanding, New York and European Cultural Foundation, Amsterdam. It is made in collaboration with partner organizations from Ljubljana, Zagreb, Novi Sad, Belgrade, Skopje, Pristina, Tirana, Podgorica, Sarajevo.

<http://europelostandfound.net/>