

ACTION CENTER FOR THE SURVEY OF CULTURAL DYNAMICS AND CULTURAL INTERACTIONS

Borders and Places, Bounds and People

International Student Convention in Korça (ISCiK)

August 14th-21st 2012

Call for Applications

1. Announcement

Action Center for the Survey of Cultural Dynamics and Cultural Interactions in Tirana, Albania, between the 14th and 21st of August 2012, organizes International Student Convention in Korça (ISCiK). ISCiK is a multidisciplinary festival aiming to develop and strengthen international cooperation by gathering one world in one place. Our goal is to build an intercultural networking environment for students, to encourage exchange of their ideas and good practice, and to promote international understanding amongst students. In this way through its topic “**Borders and Places, Bounds and People**” we wish to build alliances and demolish bounds amongst youth.

Application deadline: **15th July 2012**. Late entries only permitted if spaces available. The Committee will reach its decisions by 30 July 2012.

For further information contact ISCiK e-mail addresses:

iscik2012@gmail.com or inis.shkreli@gmail.com

2. ELIGIBILITY AND FEE

Participants from all countries are eligible to participate. There is not a limited number of participants, about 200 students are planned to be registered in the workshops. Participants should be undergraduate, postgraduate, MA, PhD student, young researchers or activists interested in exploring the issues that will be presented in ISCiK.

Tuition fee: 130 euro.

The fee covers tuition, meals and accommodation, workshop materials, Traditional Dinner, tickets to visit the Museum of Korça, visit to the city of Pogradec along with Ohrid Lake in one day trip.

Note that the Convention Committee planned a Round Table session in which ISCiK Participants and Lecturers will discuss on the topic 'Borders and Places, Bounds and People'. Thus we encourage Applicants to submit proposals in the ISCiK Application Form. Papers will consist no more than 15 minutes each and provide the same information related to ISCiK topic.

3. Certificate of participation

At the end of the successful completion of the workshops, a *Certificate of participation* will be delivered, attesting the active presence of the participant during the days of each workshop. *Roundtable participation will be noted on the Certificate*. Certifications will also be delivered to volunteers for their engagement in the activity.

4. ISCiK

International Student Convention in Korça (shortened also ISCiK) is a new born summer convention open to all youth, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, region background and other forms of social differentiation. There will be no age limits to participate in the convention, so please feel free to apply. Eligible to apply are undergraduate, MA and doctoral students from any Balkan, European or other country.

ISCiK is a new endeavor by the Action Center for the Survey of Cultural Dynamics and Cultural Interaction" (ACSCDCI) that resides in Tirana, Albania. This Summer Convention is unique in Albania with its focus on Methodology, factorial surveys, cross-national surveys and mixed methods. The courses offer engaging instruction in state-of-the-art knowledge and application oriented skills, provided by an international team of young researchers, survey specialists and acting leaders in civil society matters as well as prominent artists. Our instructors come from a diverse set of countries and fields based on intellectual debates, goals to guide young people that are affiliated in institutions of high education and youth activism to concentrate and advocate global problems like: social justice, campaigns supporting or anti-racism, anti-homophobia and Peace Action. The Summer Convention will be located in Kristal Center (Hotel, Bar-Restaurant) a typical communist architecture that is positioned along the Mountain of Morava.

The convention is designed to develop and strengthen international cooperation and contacts by gathering one world in one place. Our goal is to build an intercultural and networking environment for students, to encourage exchange of their ideas and good practice, and to promote international understanding amongst students. By crossing borders and continents we wish to build alliances and demolishing bounds. Our mission is to thrive in building a secure, vibrant, and cohesive global community through cultural integration and different visions as a complex issue fundamental to the global debate.

As ISCiK mission is to involve students in embracing diversity and building solidarity among youth from developed and developing nations the Convention will be combined with solidarity activities and excursions such as International Country Convention, Traditional Dinner, Korça Museum visits, the trip to Pogradec city, Korça Fest Beer, Culinary Festival and other local cultural events.

Through entertainments, connecting knowledge to other knowledge, ideas, and experiences, we will lead young people to work at the regional and international levels to empower youth to

become active citizens who are willing and able to influence public life and promote open society ideals.

5. ISCiK2012 topic

Borders and Places, Bounds and People

International Summer Convention in Korça will take place in the city of Korça, the capital of southeast Albania. The region is located along two border areas, the Greek and the Macedonian (FYROM) ones. Since 1991 after the fall of communist bounds, the iron physical borders between the state of Albania and the neighbour countries have been destroyed and the people who live in this region come and go in these two countries as economic immigrants. Immigration inheritance affected on this community by urging them to go on their grandfathers' immigrant path, so they leaded their immigration process beyond Europe in other continents. In this way since the post-communist period entered Albania, the bounds and the borders in south-eastern region shifted and are became fluid, both geographically and culturally.

International Convention of youth in Korça/Korica was chosen to be established in this region and, in particular, in the city of Korça for its high presence of living minorities in the area. With its multiculturalist landmark, the city is affected by trans-nationalist and transmigration implications. And as the city is vivid with [cross] cultural interactions and because ISCiK is a meeting platform for young people with different cultural backgrounds, the committee set up the summer convention in the city of Korça as it is an optimal place to gather young students who want to establish new friendships and discuss various topics, from various points of view. Both, the city and the activity hold the same vision, that of international borders become porous that no longer fulfil their historical role as the barriers to the movement of goods, ideas and people.

According to Campus Albania that made a research in Albania, Korça is rated as the best city in the country for the quality life. The standards that indicate the classification are infrastructure, environment, verdancy, services, food, economical life level, economical opportunities, and cultural events.

ISCiK was chosen to come off in the month of August as during this period the city of Korça is rich of cultural and touristic events. We would like to provide an opportunity for the participants coming from other countries to learn more about the area and its people, culture, customs and in national and regional standpoint the activity aims to promote the city's cultural assets.

We hope that the close communication and cooperation, discussions, debates and analyzes, through interactive lectures and workshops students will be able to gain new knowledge and exchange ideas in different fields.

The world has always been a diverse place, but because the space has been crossed, never before has this diversity penetrated so deeply into our daily lives and the world is getting smaller. Due to this process various complex border crossing issues, interact or don't with each other. Many studies have noticed that because of this mobility the period spent abroad has enriched the peoples' lives, enhanced creative tendencies, and sharing experience with the local people has given to both cultures a better sense of what it means to be world citizen. But at the same time new bounds have been erected such as xenophobia and when the situation degenerates it leads to racism.

By building this open-source platform the idea of international student weeks which are applied in many countries of the world is an attempt at building a global cultural inter-action in a global mobility.

The topic for this summer session will be “Borders and Places, Bounds and People” accompanied with the slogan ‘Beyond a border crossing there is always a story, a human story related to physical borders or mental bounds’. Stories are different, affected to regional environments, cultures and policy making. What is important to break down the borders is the need of people to contact with others, to reach new destinations, the need to challenge the own fate, to change life style or to meliorate the owns life.

Borders and places, bounds and people open new challenges to community stakeholders, enrich our social, economic, and civic life, integrate, change policies, influence on air pollution, transform urban space, folklore, art and so on.

In this way throughout collaborations with long-experienced professionals, many leading academics and senior consultants, the topic will be discussed in the following workshops;

1. Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS).
2. Human rights controversies: Gender, minorities and religion.
3. Local and central: the Politics of Traditions in the Nation-State before and after communism.
4. Visual and Audio (Photography, Miniature Painting, *Music-Love&Evolution*).
5. Media challenge and citizens.