



## AiR VISHNI

Residency Vishni fosters customized residencies for artists and cultural practitioners from Western Balkan region working across disciplines and at various stages in their career, with substantial emphasis placed on developing collaboration with the local community.

## ABOUT

**Residency Vishni (RV)** is a newly established residency established through collaboration between two non-profit art organizations: INCA (Struga, North Macedonia) and minipogon (Belgrade, Serbia), which supports creation, presentation and dissemination of contemporary art through its unique residency program and year-round public programs.

### Main goals of the Residency

- To increase potential for participatory art practices that can contribute to the local community cohesion and so enable possibilities for new artistic creation
- To foster cultural exchange among local artists and artists from Western Balkan region.
- Tailored to the specific context and resources of the community and its members engaged in working with local artists, cultural organisations, building on existing networks and resources or identifying areas where additional resources or capacity-building may be needed.
- Generating solutions that combine aesthetics, sustainability, accessibility, affordability and usability, challenging art, culture and science, to create socially and ecologically responsible production.
- Aspiring positive change for the micro and regional communities of the UNESCO protected natural and cultural heritage in Ohrid region.
- Supporting sustainable development based on togetherness and community involvement, in the village Vishni a meeting point where artists and members of the community are creating new values and possible solutions for the specific local needs.

In 2024 three 2-week residencies hosting three artists are planned - in May, July and September.

Each of the residency slots will conclude with the public presentation and/or exhibition of realized work, that will take place in Vishni community center and in Struga (in different venues based on the context of the presentations). At the end of the residency cycle an overall presentation of all projects will be presented in Skopje/Belgrade providing access to both broader communities and specialized audiences.

## LOCATION

RV is located in the western part of North Macedonia, near the city of Struga and Albanian border. Višni is situated in the historical region of Upper Drimkol, which encompasses the northern shore of Lake Ohrid, around the eastern part of the Black Drim river exiting the lake. The settlement is located on the Jablanica mountain, at a significant altitude of 1,060 meters. To the east, the

mountain slopes down into the Struga Field. The climate in the settlement is mountainous due to the significant altitude. ([google view](#))

Small village Vishni (1km<sup>2</sup>) today is a weekend residency settlement (only 30 permanent residents), abandoned by its permanent residents in the early 50's of the 20th century, with the development of the city and industrialisation in the country. Since then the village has been used seasonally and mostly by elderly people who spend their retirement days in the old habitat. As a result of the pandemic, it is becoming more and more popular for the younger generations that originate from Vishni. Being very close to the city (7km distance from Struga) but with ideal height that is good for health and recreation, the site is interesting for nature recreational activities for the wider public of the nearby region. Being rich with abundance of species, forests, springs, as well as with characteristic architecture and stone built houses, churches dating from the Byzantine era, Vishni represents, on a micro level, what is the characteristic of the whole Ohrid region. In the past the village with its (now ruined) Mountain youth hostel, was a host to many youth groups (sport training, art colonies, school and skiing camps etc.).



Residency is envisioned around the local municipality premises in the center of the village. The space is multifunctional, acting as a hub and meeting place for RV various communal activities, public programs, including talks, screenings, performances, exhibitions as well as a meeting place for the local residents. Here artists and researchers in residence meet with RV staff, conduct research, and at times produce work.

We work together with our residents and partners to develop a tailored residency experience that maximizes the potential of residents' stay in Ohrid region. We provide support and realize short-term projects, as well as advance longer-term goals. Residents benefit from the creative and logistical support of our dedicated staff, customized weekly studio visits with art professionals, and RV monthly community and public programs.

### **SUPPORTERS**

**European Union under the program "Culture and Creativity in the Western Balkan" implemented by UNESCO // Ministry of culture of Republic of North Macedonia // Associates: Scout association "Krstе Jon", Struga // Local community board of village Vishni**



## TEAM

Kristina Todorska Petreska (INCA) - Executive Director // Hristijan Tomanoski (INCA) - Operations Director // Aleksandra Nestoroska (INCA/Intern) - Executive Assistant and Residency Coordinator // Tijana Cvetković (minipogon) - Artistic Director // Goran Ristovski (INCA) - Communications Manager & Arts Administrator // Vahida Ramujkić (minipogon) - Consultant // Valentina Todoroska (INCA/Intern) - Logistic assistant and Ohrid UNESCO region tour guide for the artists in residence

## Apply for an intern/job shadower at AiR Vishni

Residency Vishni (RV) welcomes local internship/job shadower applications on an ongoing basis. **If you are interested in applying please send email to [air.vishni@gmail.com](mailto:air.vishni@gmail.com).**

Our first job shadower was Jordan Lazoroski, architect from Struga who helped us envision the look of the community and development hub, to meet community and artist's needs.



## RV Residency Guidelines:

RV residencies are tailored to support the specific needs of Western Balkans based artists and cultural practitioners working across different disciplines at varying stages of their career.

## RV Residency Conditions / what we offer:

### 1. “Pre-residency” Support:

- We reach out to the individuals and organizations in our network whose interests best align with your practice.
- Make arrangements for studio visits and other activities to maximize your experience in the Ohrid region.
- Mobilize research, logistics, and other resources you will need during your residency.

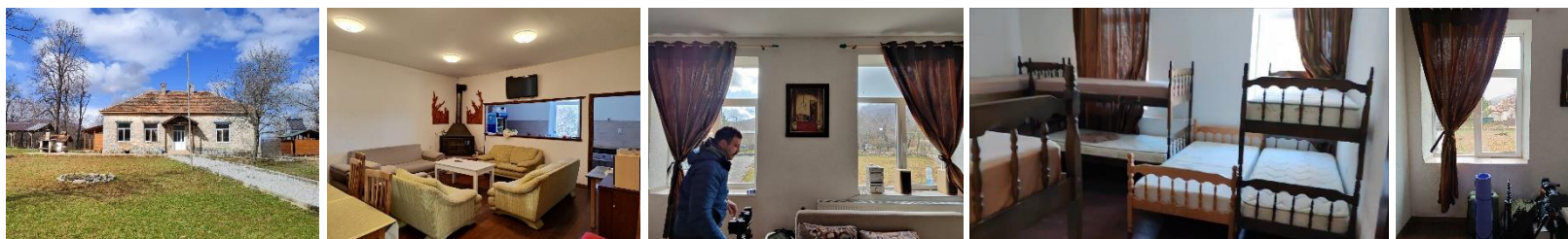
### 2. Travel, Accommodation, Food:

Selected artists will have travel, accommodation and food expenses covered.

All residents will stay in **the Mountain Hut**.

**Mountain Hut** is the sole accommodation capacity in the village. It has hostel-like conditions, spacious living room and fully equipped kitchen, with 3 bedrooms (each artist has a separate room) and common toilets and shower cabinets.

- Residents, according to their activities, can stay 3-4 (out of 14 in total) days in the city of Struga and be more connected with local communities in more inhabited environments in Struga and Ohrid.



### 3. Project support:

- We offer an amount of 200 euros for covering the production costs / development of work or research.

Our team members are dedicated to the successful development of your practice and project, and we are available to provide assistance for production and research.

### 4. A Polyvalent Work, Meeting and Presentation Space:

All residents are encouraged to make use of Vishni Hub space at the center of the village and INKA premises in Struga. The Vishni Hub space operates simultaneously as a work, meeting, and presentation venue.

As a work space it is convenient for:

- Non-studio-based artistic projects;
- Discussions, workshops, studio visits, and informal gatherings;
- Public presentations with screenings, talks, performances, and short-term exhibitions.

Within the residency framework, at least one event dedicated to the local community and another for the Struga audience are compulsory. Residents are free to decide if they will conduct their work on an individual basis or in collaboration with other residents sharing the slot - and we will have 3 artists for each slot staying and living together for the residency period.

### 5. Exposure & Networks:

We help you build connections within Western Balkans based networks of curators, artists, and scholars.



- We provide exposure of your work in our public programs (free and open), exhibitions, discussions and screenings. These activities are held at our Vishni Hub or at partnering venues.

## 6. Selection Process:

The selection process ranges from an open call application or by invitation.

- Applications are reviewed by a board of RV staff and affiliates.
- Artists selected through the open call will be contacted by the organisers after the selection process is finalized, to provide more information about conditions on the local and to prepare in advance all that is necessary for their projects to be realised successfully.

**To apply, provide the following materials to [air.vishni@gmail.com](mailto:air.vishni@gmail.com):**

- Contact information (email, phone)
- Motivation letter (note more than one A4 page, PDF format, in BSHM/English)
- Project proposal which coincides with the goals of the residency / collaboration with the local community (note more than two A4 pages, PDF format, in BSHM/English)
- Current CV (PDF format, in BSHM/English)
- PDF portfolio (including up to 10 images of works and up to 3 links to video/audio recordings, with title, date of realization, technique, dimensions and a short narrative description, maximum 10MB, in BSHM/English)

If you wish to apply and cannot provide the above, please email [air.vishni@gmail.com](mailto:air.vishni@gmail.com) with questions.

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We are grateful to **our supporters** for making the RV residency program possible.

Looking forward to hearing from you!



CULTURE AND  
Creativity FOR THE  
WESTERN BALKANS



ИНИЦИЈАТИВА ЗА  
НЕЗАВИСЕН  
КУЛТУРЕН  
АКТИВИЗАМ

mini  
pogon

*// Artist in the community, residency and development hub Vishni" is project implemented by Initiative for Independent Cultural Activism INCA Struga and Mini Pogon, Belgrade, supported by "Culture and Creativity for the Western Balkans" (CC4WBs), project funded by the European Union that aims to foster dialogue in the Western Balkans by enhancing the cultural and creative sectors for increased socio-economic impact.//*