

Reconciliation
through Art:
Perceptions of
Hijab



# What is ReconcArt?

encourages women of different religious and Europe and attracted much debate and media towards a reconciliation point based on mutua cultural backgrounds to think, feel and act through the performing arts, the project and a methodology based on self-expression Muslim women. Using a grassroots approach garment as perceived by Muslim and nonissues underlying the use of this symbolic attention, ReconcArt attempts to explore the has caused significant controversy around (the headscarf worn by Muslim women) companies and other cultural organisations in implemented by research institutes, theatre Programme 2007-2013 "Crossing Borders Commission in the context of the Culture through Art: Perceptions of Hijab" a trans-ReconcArt is the acronym of "Reconciliation At a time when the Muslim custom of Hijab three European countries, Greece, Bulgaria and national project co-funded by the European taly, from November 2007 to October 2009 Connecting Cultures". The project is



## Aim and objectives

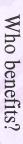
ReconcArt aims to promote a deeper understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim women living in Europe, using the arts as a medium to achieve this understanding and share it with the wider public.

ReconcArt has also the following objectives:

therefore reaching the desired result of

true understanding.

- To promote networking between European cultural organisations which share an interest in the debate surrounding the practice of Hijab
- To provide an "arena" for intercultural dialogue and innovative artistic creation
- To improve the competencies of artists and the general public in understanding the culture of minorities; and consolidate the role of the performing arts in promoting such understanding
- To attract as many citizens as possible from majority and minority social groups and especially women of the younger generations to become involved.become involved.



- Performing artists, including writers, directors, actors, musicians dancers; creative expression teachers; and related visual artists.
- Cultural organisations promoting the performing arts.
- Researchers and academics interested in studying the cultural meaning of Hijab in contemporary European society.
- Organisations supporting ethnic minorities and promoting social inclusion
- The general public and in particular women of Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds.

Methodology

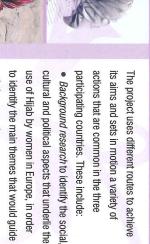
ReconcArt employs creative expression techniques such as acting, dancing, painting, writing, music and other forms of art, to help express and analyse the deep-routed feelings and thoughts held by women on this subject, irrespective of origin or religion. It is proven that when done in a secure and nonjudgemental environment, creative expression practices are very powerful in releasing people's emotions and

Moreover, ReconcArt draws on the collective effort of theatre writers, directors, actors, creative expression instructors, and other performing and visual artists interested in working with non-professionals, developing creative expression approaches and reaching a valid artistic result through this route.





### Activities



of a facilitator. using different art forms, under the guidance country, including Muslim and non-Muslim bringing together a group of women in each and thoughts towards the practice of Hijab don't, to express and debate their feelings ones, those that wear the Hijab and those that A series of creative expression workshops,

artistic expression.

communities with an interest in the subject as members of the academic and artistic those that participated in the project, as well teams; a conference bringing together all productions of the Greek, Italian and Bulgarian performances of the three different creative workshops in this country. in each country, based on the outcome of the different version of this play will be presented performed by the workshop participants. A and themes identified during the workshops, theatre play, based on the material collected An international cultural event, including Production and public performance of a

### Project partners

Co-ordinator

m.adamantiadi@prismanet.gr and Myrto Adamantiadi toulipapageorgiou@prismanet.gr Contact: Fouli Papageorgiou www.prismanet.gr PRISMA Centre for Development Studies (GR)

Contact: Kiril Topalov, ktopalov@abv.bg Co-organisers Academy of Balkan Civilisations (BG)

Fondazione AIDA (IT)

www.fondazioneaida.it Contact: Kostas Kartelias, Sofia Krokida Alekton Theatre (GR) fondazione@f-aida.it, estero@f-aida.it Contact: Meri Malaguti and Elena Spola

alekton@otenet.gr

itigr@otenet.gr Theodor Abazis Contact: Neophytos Panagiotou, Eugenia Somara, www.hellastheatre.gr Hellenic Centre of the International Theatre Institute (GR) Associate Partner

For more information visit our website www.reconcart.eu

and all other interested individuals; and an



and disseminate the results of the project production of the plays, aiming to promote the creative expression workshops and the research, material produced during A publication featuring key findings of exhibition of artworks inspired by the Hijab







