SCH2014 - FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

about CCN

City Creative Network is an international organization of young professionals from various creative disciplines based in Skopje. We propagate critical and innovative approach to urbanity. Our main aim is developing strategic concepts for activating public spaces which offer a frame for free expression, together with the citizens. CCN is also an educational center with public database. Our network is a place where young professionals meet>collaborate>create>act.

aim and inspiration for this event

Establishing a collaboration between local and international professionals and students from various creative disciplines. Addressing contemporary city issues by developing relevant, applicable and strategic research and design proposals. Possibility for direct collaboration with eminent professionals from the region and Europe. Develop new content in public space grounded in the specificities of the city. Raising the awareness of the citizens for their importance and role in the planning and development of the city.

target group, their work and benefits

Students from various creative disciplines that are willing to work ambitiously and act directly on the city. Guided by tutors, the students will conduct research, design and construct physical interventions in the city-space and join a series of discussions. They will be divided in 5 groups some of which will develop and build installations and others will do research, mapping, exhibitions and discussions. The 5 groups are:

1. Constructing a Stage - this group will design and build an open-wooden stage along the river Vardar. Prior to this, they will take a close look at the local ways of constructing with wood and get training from local craftsman.

2. The Bicycle Urbanism Unit in Skopje - test and build public infrastructure for bicycles on one street segment in Debar Maalo.

3. Reactivate Common Space: Interdisciplinary Study: mapping>tools>proposals - The students of this group will map spaces of potential in the city by taking a closer look at the various social groups, ethnicities, age groups etc. and create a web-platform with the results.

4. Public Playgrounds - that activate the free open space around the city center and promote free expression. They will use various materials: paint, wood, metal, plastic, glass etc.

5. For- and From-the City: Instructional Graphic Design - The tutors will instruct the students on how to extract and work with information from the city and create powerful visual material.
In the period of 29 August until 7 September the students of the 5 groups will work on: mapping, research, design, construction and test the urban interventions. Along the invaluable experience and direct acting on the cityspace, the students will have the opportunity to establish direct contact and get feedback from eminent professionals, professors and tutors from high profile universities around Europe.

**what does the participation fee cover?**

1. Materials for work - new and reused: wood, plastic, glass, metal, cardboard, paper etc.
2. Tools for work - anything from pencils to drillers and electric saws.
3. Working space - workshops in the Youth Cultural Center Skopje - MKC
4. Technical support - How to use tools and how to work with various materials - collaboration with craftsmen and support for the use of laser cutters, CNC machines etc.
5. Design critiques with international guests, professors, assistants and activists.
6. T-Shirts, certificates for participation, brochures, post-cards, stickers etc.

**activities (workshops, discussions, parallel program)**

1. 29Aug - gathering and introduction
2. 29Aug - introduction to SCH2014 and CCN
3. 30Aug - Introduction to the methods and techniques with the tutors that will lead the groups
4. 30Aug - Excursion around Skopje and introduction to the specificities of the city
5. 30Aug-7Sep - from 10:00 until 18:00 - Work in groups on the planning and building of the urban interventions.
6. 30Aug-7Sep - from 20:00 until 22:00 - Public debates and discussions with guests.
7. 30Aug-7Sep - Nighttime in the city - DJ’s, concerts, theater plays, exhibitions etc.
8. 30Aug-7Sep - Parallel program of SCH2014 - performances, one-day actions, exhibitions, concerts, theater plays, local NGO presentations etc.
9. 7Sep - Opening of the interventions, the web-platform and presentation of the results from the groups
10. 7Sep - Closing event

**expected outcome**

1. Building objects in public space - urban interventions
2. High-quality printed publication in October 2014 with the results from the group-work.
3. Interactive web-platform, publicly accessible with all results from the workshop.
4. Presentation of SCH2014 at BIO50 - one of the oldest biennials of industrial design - in Ljubljana, October 2014.
5. Continuation of the collaboration with Ensemble and Studio Tom Emmerson on the construction of the stage in October in Skopje.
MAP OF SKOPJE CENTER

1 Youth Cultural Centre - MKC - central hub
2 The Contemporary Art Centre - CAC - extra hub
3 Stone Bridge
4 Old Bazaar
5 Fortress Kale
6 Museum of City of Skopje - old train station
7 City Wall
8 Train Station
9 National Bank
10 Macedonian Opera and Ballet - MOB
11 City Trade Center - GTC
12 Post Office
13 University Complex - UKIM
14 Museum of Modern Art

map: courtesy of Arch. Nikola Nikolovski
LOCATIONS

Central Hub - MKC - Youth Cultural Centre

The Youth Cultural Center (MKC) is our central hub i.e. the main venue where almost all activities will take place. The groups will work here and benefit from the various amenities that the center offers. These include: working spaces, cafe/restaurant, night club, cinema, outside terrace and theatre, exhibition space, workshops for wood/metal etc. MKC is located in the center of Skopje by the river Vardar.

Extra Hub - CAC - The Contemporary Art Center

The Contemporary Art Center (CAC) is our extra hub and a place where discussions, side events and exhibitions will take place.
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SKOPJE

City  506,926
Metro  668,518
Density  890/km²

Time zone  CET (UTC+1)

Temperature
The month of September is characterized by falling daily high temperatures, with daily highs decreasing from 23°C to 28°C over the course of the month, exceeding 34°C or dropping below 17°C only one day in ten.

Nationality  Macedonian
Ethnicity  Macedonian Slavs, Albanians, Turks, Romani, Serbian, Vlachs, Other

Languages
official  Macedonian, Albanian
spoken  Turkish, Roma, Serbian, Aromanian...

Currency
The local currency is Macedonian denar (MKD)
1 EUR = 61.3870 MKD

Night panorama of Skopje - view from Vodno mountain
LANDMARKS

Historic Skopje

Stone Bridge

The Stone Bridge marks the center of Skopje and spans over the river Vardar. It connects the modern part of the city with the Ottoman one - Old Bazaar. The bridge has been built between 1451 and 1469 and witnessed earthquakes, destructions and executions that took place in its vicinity. You can see fragments of modern Skopje in the background. After the devastating earthquake of Skopje in 1963, the regulation of the river has been built by a joint mission between the Yugoslav government and the United Nations.

Old Bazaar
The Old Bazaar in Skopje is the largest bazaar in the Balkans outside Istanbul. During Ottoman rule of Skopje, the Old Bazaar developed rapidly to become city’s main centre of commerce. The Ottoman history of the bazaar is evidenced by roughly thirty mosques, numerous caravanserais and Hans, among other buildings and monuments. Today the bazaar is a vibrant and dynamic part of the city both during the day and in the night.

Fortress Kale

The Fortress Kale - is thought to have been built during the rule of emperor Justinian I and constructed further during the 10th and 11th centuries over the remains of emperor Justinian’s Byzantine fortress which may have been destroyed due to a number of wars and battles in the region, such as that of the uprising of the Bulgarian Empire against the Byzantine Empire under the rule of Peter Delyan.

Aqueduct

The Skopje Aqueduct is an archaeological site located in the village of Vizbegovo 2 km (1.2 mi) north-west from central Skopje, Macedonia. The Skopje Aqueduct is the only aqueduct in Macedonia, and one of three largest and well preserved in the former Yugoslavia.
St. Panteleimon in Gorno Nerezi, is a small 12th-century Byzantine church located in a monastery complex. According to Andrew Graham-Dixon, British art historian and writer, these frescoes with their “…physical, electric presence…” are proof that there was more to Byzantine art than the formality and otherworldliness of its mosaic and icon tradition. He states that these frescoes played a great formative role in the renaissance art.

**Earthquake Skopje**

Museum of the City of Skopje - Old Train Station

The old train station is the only remainder of the devastating earthquake of 1963.
After the earthquake in 1963 the city has witnessed one of the largest rebuilding efforts on European ground. The United Nations sent the most comprehensive mission in city planning while more than 60 countries contributed with various help. Skopje was proclaimed the city of solidarity by the international community. Kenzo Tange won an international competition for the master plan of the central area and left his mark on Skopje. Its main elements were The City Wall and The City Gate.

The City Wall Today
The City Wall, a residential wall-like segment around the city center, and the City Gate, a transportation node, were the main elements in this plan. Although unfinished and controversial, it still stands as a landmark of an era imbued with belief in progress and solidarity.
The National Bank building, neat the train station is the only fragment from the City Gate that was realized, besides the massive platform of the train station.

*Modern Skopje*

Macedonian Opera and Ballet - MOB
In the period between 1963 and 1980 Skopje has become the most internationally built city in Yugoslavia. Architects from all over Europe participated in international architecture competitions and built many public buildings. Today Skopje can be seen as an open-air architectural museum. We encourage the participants of SCH2014 together with us to discover the modern urban peculiarities of Skopje.

City Trade Center - GTC

The City Trade Center has been built in the period between 1970 and 1974. It is a peculiar open-type trade center that allows free movement of people, connecting the different city parts. It is a popular meeting and shopping spot in the city and a landmark of Skopje modern.
Post Office

University Complex - UKIM

Student Dormitory - Goce Delcev
Informal Skopje

Wedding in Shutka

With the largest concentrated Roma population in the world, Shutka is the only municipality in Europe with Romani as its official language. This rough mishmash of small homes and dilapidated shanties is home to an estimated 50,000 people.
Skopje in the 1990's and 2000's

Skopje 2014

Skopje in the 1990's and 2000's
Skopje 2014 is a project financed by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, with the purpose of giving the capital Skopje a more classical appeal by the year 2014. The project, officially announced in 2010, consists mainly of the construction of museums and government buildings, as well as the erection of monuments depicting historical figures from the region of Macedonia. Around 20 buildings and over 40 monuments are planned to be constructed as part of the project.
SKOPJE IN THE WORLD MEDIA

Skopje is among Europe’s most entertaining and eclectic small capital cities. While a government construction spree has sparked controversy in recent years, Skopje’s new abundance of statuary, bridges, museums and other structures has visitors’ cameras snapping like never before and has defined the ever-changing city.

Yet plenty survives from earlier times – Skopje’s Ottoman- and Byzantine-era wonders include the 15th-century Kameni Most (Stone Bridge), Caršija (old Turkish bazaar), Sveti Spas Church, with its ornate, hand-carved iconostasis, and Tvrdina Kale Fortress, Skopje’s guardian since the 5th century. And, with its bars, clubs and galleries, the city has modern culture too.

-Lonely Planet - Things to do in Skopje

After belonging to many empires over time (including Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and most recently Yugoslavian), Macedonia gained its independence in 1991, and Skopje, with about half a million people, is its largest city and capital. Despite its age, the city looks quite modern, owing to a massive 1963 earthquake that destroyed 75% of its buildings. Skopje has long been shared by Christians and Muslims, who still come together at the fascinating Old Bazaar, one of the Balkans’ largest markets.

-Trip Advisor-

Skopje’s skyline tells the story of this Balkan city more vividly than any history book: socialist-era apartment blocks, the minarets of Ottoman mosques, Byzantine domes, Turkish bathhouses and, most controversially, neoclassical edifices, bridges and grandiose monuments – the result of a recent construction spree aimed at bolstering national pride. Now the building dust has settled, visitors will find much to delight and intrigue them.

-The Guardian-

All those grandiose buildings, monuments, fountains and bridges — some completed, others under construction — are dotting the city center as part of a government project called Skopje 2014, officially intended to rebuild a city that lost many of its landmarks in a 1963 earthquake.

-Fox news-

http://travel2macedonia.com.mk/destinations/skopje
GETTING THERE

By plane
International Airport Skopje (http://skp.airports.com.mk/)

Cheap Flights
WIZZ AIR https://wizzair.com/en-GB/Flights/Skopje
AIR BERLIN http://www.airberlin.com/
PEGASUS AIRLINES http://www.flypgs.com/


By train
International Train Station Skopje http://mztransportad.com.mk/

By bus

ACCOMMODATION

The following list offers an overview of various hostels and hotels in Skopje. All are centrally located with prices starting from 8EUR per night.

http://hiskopjehostel.com/
http://shantihostel.com/
http://rekordhostel.mk/
http://iguanahostel.com.mk/
http://www.urbanhostel.com.mk/
https://www.facebook.com/LoungeHostelSkopje
https://www.facebook.com/arthostel.skopjemacedonia?fref=ts
http://unityhostel.mk/
FOOD

Green Markets

Every municipality in Skopje has its own green market. They offer daily fresh fruits and vegetables from the local farmers. Skopje and Macedonia are known for the high quality and exceptional taste of the fruits and vegetables. Skopje is considerably cheaper than other European capitals, including the food.

Where to eat:
http://www.pelisterhotel.com.mk/uk_restoran.htm
http://restorankajgino.mk/default.aspx
http://www.irishpub.com.mk/
http://www.restorani.com.mk

MUSEUMS

http://nationalgallery.mk/
http://www.mgs.org.mk/
http://www.musmk.org.mk/
http://www.msuskopje.org.mk/
http://www.oldskopje.net/
http://www.kic.mk/
http://www.zooskopje.com.mk/

The Old Bazaar is host to many museums and galleries. Hammams and Hans from the 15th century are housing impressive spaces for art exhibits and various events.
NIGHT LIFE

Skopje has a rich night life that is in pair with many other European capitals. The bars are full almost every day of the week and they are fairly affordable. Try the local rakia, exquisite wine and beer in a good and relaxed company. The local people are friendly and welcoming. The Old Bazaar is becoming one of the most popular areas for the night hours. After a great night out we recommend to visit the nearby kafana for a late night meal.

Bars / Clubs / Various
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Menada/110099305718016?fref=ts
https://www.facebook.com/kapanan?fref=ts
https://www.facebook.com/sekter909
https://www.facebook.com/damarbar
https://www.facebook.com/izlet?fref=ts
https://www.facebook.com/lakana.bar?fref=ts
https://www.facebook.com/kino.karplos
https://www.facebook.com/OldSchoolCaffe
https://www.facebook.com/LolaBar
https://www.facebook.com/Cresha.bar
https://www.facebook.com/havana.clubskopje?fref=ts
https://www.facebook.com/kafe.osum?ref=br_rs

NATURE

Skopje’s surroundings offer great escape from the daily crowds. Enjoy hiking, climbing or just a stroll in the park.

City Park
Vodno Mountain

Vodno is located to the southwest of the capital city Skopje. The highest point of the mountain is at Krstovar peak, on 1066 meters. In 2002, on Krstovar peak the Millennium Cross was built, the biggest Christian cross in the world. The recently built cable car is a new tourist attraction as well.

Canyon Matka

Covering roughly 5,000 hectares, Matka is one of the most popular outdoor destinations in Macedonia and is home to several medieval monasteries. Located on the right bank of the Treska River, Vrelo Cave was listed as one of the top 77 natural sites in the world in the New7Wonders of Nature project. Though the exact depth of the cave is unknown, some speculate that it could be the deepest underwater cave in the world.