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Higher education and basic research reform implemented in 2011 is the reason behind the presentation of new rules for the financing of international research projects that are subsidized by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

In my presentation I would like to describe briefly the work of the research team whose supervisor is professor Leszek Sosnowski. Professor Sosnowski has authored such books as *Art. History. Theory. The Worlds of Arthur C. Danto, Remarks on the „Measure” of Art. Wittgenstein and Values, Art. Rhetoric. Physiognomics. A Study in the Philosophy of Expression or Gardens. A Mirror of Culture*. As far as his didactic work is concerned he has been teaching a postgraduate course which is a part of the project “Crisis or transformation? The forms of <<the end of art>> in contemporary philosophy” as well as graduate courses in history of aesthetics from antiquity till the eighteenth century and the philosophy of contemporary art.

The aim of my presentation is to discuss the possibility of financing international research projects in the field of art, art criticism and philosophy. I would like to ask you to treat what I am about to say as an open invitation for co-operation with my team.

Our team conducts research on art as such and on broadly defined historical changes that are visible in the spheres of philosophy of art and aesthetics in the 19th and 20th c. The issues that we are particularly concerned with are as follows:

- symbolic sense of light in philosophy;
- light in Byzantine, Renaissance and contemporary art;
- neoplatonism in contemporary art;
- “the end of art” from Hegel to Danto;
- “expression” from Eugene Veron to Robin G. Collingwood;

The majority of art research projects carried out by our Institute are subsidized by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, but co-operation with new partners from abroad will allow us to act on a much greater scale and make use of the additional financial resources that are available *via* the existing European Union programs.

I. Small research grants

The projects conducted on the strength of grants from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education are the optimum for a number of reasons. Their completion usually takes 3 years’ time and the funds put at the disposal of the grant beneficiaries are suitable for the implementation of such research tasks as:

- a) Short stay and study grants for Polish academics in research centers abroad
- b) Reception of foreign academic visitors coming to Poland for research purposes
- c) Hiring additional staff members /specialists to upgrade the quality of the project outcome
- d) Organization of an international conference
- e) Organization of various events accompanying conferences (for example: exhibitions, expos, artistic performances)
- f) Publication of academic materials, such as books, documentaries or multimedia teaching aids,
- g) Organization of courses for students of the Jagiellonian University and / or higher education institutions abroad

We consider small Ministry grants to be optimal as they correspond to the research and content-related standards set for Ph.D. and habilitation dissertations.

I want to underline, that a relatively small costs of studies in Poland is a result of the low cost of living in my country, but there is no funding limit in types of grants, which I want to present.

The most expensive small research project carried out in our Institute is the one that my team has been involved into for two years. The project is called "From the philosophy of light to the art of light. Hegelian interpretation of the Concept of Light" and concerns the influence of the metaphysics of light on art from the Renaissance until this day. The project is devoted solely to the production and submission of a Ph.D. dissertation and amounts to 42 000 PLN (c. € 10 500). Its supervisor is professor Leszek Sosnowski.

In addition to its theoretical and philosophical aspects, we examine the problem of light in contemporary art in its practical aspect, in a separate research grant, "Polish contemporary art of light".

This project is predicated on the co-operation between philosophers and artists and its aim is to analyze and discuss the relationship between contemporary art and the centuries-long tradition of the metaphysics of light. It is carried out together with the Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow which will ultimately hold a thematic exhibition consisting of installations and paintings by contemporary Polish artists. The exhibition will be present in Krakow and Vienna (we hope, it will be run with Polish Institute in Vienna).

The scope of the project has not been limited and it is not defined as national or transnational, and therefore it is permanently open to new collaborators.

In the future our research on the art of light is going to be broadened to encompass comparative studies. We would like to venture a comparative analysis of German, Australian or Japanese art.

II. Medium grants

II a) Polish Journal of Aesthetics

What is considered to be the most important and the most appreciated research outcome in Poland is the publication of academic work. Its value is assessed on the basis of the language of the publication (preferably English) and the publishing house (well-known publishing houses abroad are the most desired). We put much effort to that each and every of our projects is brought to a successful conclusion with an interesting and meaningful publication.

So far on the Polish publishing market there has been no English-based academic journal devoted to aesthetics, philosophy of art and art history, and therefore our research team has undertaken to create one.

Polish Journal of Aesthetics will commence its activities in September 2011. It is being established in co-operation with the Polish *Aesthetics and Criticism*, another journal that is highly valued and has been present on the market for 10 years, but our aim is to create a separate editorial team with professor Leszek Sosnowski as the editor-in-chief.

We have applied to the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education for a start-up grant. The cost estimate covers two years and amounts to 192 000 PLN (c. € 48 000), including the publication of four issues of the journal.

Currently we are putting together the editorial team (reviewers, proofreaders, co-editors) who within the two years' time will transform the journal into a title attracting not only Polish but international authors. I would like to encourage all those who are interested in publishing or regular co-operation with the journal to contact the editor-in-chief.

IIb) "Expression" from E. Veron to R. Colingwood is a research program in which we would like to present the series of three books about expression. Actually, we published two volumes of book this series, and we are working on the last one, which will be ready soon. The aims of project were:

- New Handbook for students for a special course about history and theory of expression;
- New translated texts, which were not available in polish until now;
- Seminars in which the aim is translation of the unknown texts of eight modern philosophers': Croce, Ducesse, Bosanquet, Parker, Reid, Colingwood and Santayana

II c) "Arthur C. Danto and the Beginning of Art. From Academism to Popartism"

Those projects that are international in scope are carried out within a separate framework of special research programs which take up to three years' time and may be run in co-operation with any number of foreign partners from all over the world.

The grant that we are applying for at the moment and which will start at the onset of 2012 is concerned with Arthur C. Danto's philosophy of art and will be carried out together with researchers from Columbia University. Estimated costs are supposed to amount to 183 000 PLN (€ 46 000). As a part of the project we are planning two international conferences (June 2012), an academic visit to the USA, a book publication, a detailed interview with Arthur C. Danto, filming of a documentary and a course for American and Polish students. The research program is permanently open to welcome new co-workers, philosophers, artists and critics who are interested in contemporary American analytic philosophy of art and other issues connected with the main subject of our research.

III. Large scale grants

EU programs accept high-budget, long-term and expensive projects with numerous international leaders. The Jagiellonian University has at its disposal an administrative cell which provides assistance in preparing the application forms and in implementing the projects with EU funding. We will be ready to become collaborators within the European Union funding framework after we have finished our work on our research plan, but the ultimate success of the whole enterprise depends on the priorities which are still to be determined by the European Commission.

IV. Conclusion

To conclude, I have described three basic modes of financing research at the Institute of Philosophy, at the Jagiellonian University.

- a) National grants subsidized by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (which do not exclude international co-operation but are low-budget)
- b) International grants subsidized by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (medium-budget grants suitable for conducting 2-3-years-long projects)
- c) European Union grants (high-budget grants which we would like to apply for in the future)

As far as the issues and research goals set by our team are concerned, we have at our disposal a highly efficient and experienced group of co-workers who are a guarantee of success in conducting international projects.

We are willing to extend our academic interests to include artistic and philosophical issues that are researched in other countries. We are cordially inviting all of you who are looking for new academic career opportunities, new academic relationships and new research projects to contact our team.

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