

MIGRATION IS A STATE OF MIND

Cultural project Risk Change
(2016–2020)

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Risk Change is a cultural project dealing with migrations. It includes ten European partner institutions. The public kick-off took place during October and November 2016 in Maribor with MIG 21, a large-scale art exhibition accompanied by numerous events, **focused on different artistic and expert approaches** related to migrations and the continuous social and cultural changes of 20th and 21st century Europe. Risk Change aims at addressing contemporary social phenomena through active connectivity of contemporary art, culture, science and technology.

The meaning of Risk Change starts with "Risk", a child's game. It is about conquering as many countries and continents as you can. By attacking the co-players' territory a player causes an effect. Hostile and defending pushes will result in forced movement, causing forced migrations. Risk Change is thus alluding to people who must take a risk of change for the best. "Risk" is a word for **migrants**, and "Change" is a word for settled inhabitants, the so-called **non-migrants; two extremes used as an illustration of two opposites, the protagonists and antagonists of a contemporary human drama**. Two conflicting sides are just a black-and-white interpretation of the problem. And there are many different greynesses to be revealed.

Europe is confused and divided. By building internal walls, countries are demonstrating an obviously present fear, and mistrust. Europe does not have a common strategy on migrations, human rights, or potential threats. Mass media stage problems. Asylum seekers are alternately presented as victims, and as potential terrorists; some media advocate racist non-migrant policies, others, more left-oriented, are defending rather naive ideas, which are rooted in the previous century. A broader view is very rare. Art, science and culture, however, are able to rise above such simplistic humanitarian or extreme right-wing approaches, and point out the complex relationship between local spaces and global forces. Contemporary migrations are a test for European identity, its diversity, its common culture and philosophy.

The Risk Change project highlights the importance of understanding otherness, of connectivity of interests, of exchange of ideas and knowledge, and of multicultural integration in Europe. We are breathing a new reality: migration is a state of mind.