



### **For the Nordic Council of Minister's Structure Group**

After getting the information of the plans of the Nordic Council of Minister's Structure Group we'd like to express on behalf of FRAME – Finnish fund for Art Exchange the following:

The proposal threatens to close down the activities of Nifca in Helsinki. This would be a great loss locally. Nifca is a very important collaborator not only to Frame but to all the professional art actors in the Helsinki art-field. Nifca's position has changed after the changes in Europe and the globalizing process. However, the redefinitions of Nifca's role has provided with new views on the role of a cultural institutions in the globalizing world. Nifca has been able to offer both the discursive and the practical artistic aspect for the art institutions, artists and art-professionals. As a supranational cultural institution Nifca is able to go beyond the local viewpoints. This is an advantage in the general cultural discourse which tends to present solely either "global" or "local" views.

Nifca's role in Helsinki has been first of all practical: it offers help, contacts and resources for international art-professionals to come to know the Helsinki art-field. And beside Finland the visitors also come to know the Baltic region, geographically so closed to Helsinki. Without Nifca's residence programme Nordic artists' wouldn't be present in Helsinki. Nifca in Suomenlinna as a place has been an important platform where Nordic artists and professionals meet each other.

We have also read through carefully the comments by the Nifca director, Cecilia Gelin and the board, on the plan. We'd like to express our agreement on their concerns of the centralization developments which don't take into account the developments and practices of the professional art-actors in the international art field.

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FRAME – Finnish Fund for Art Exchange