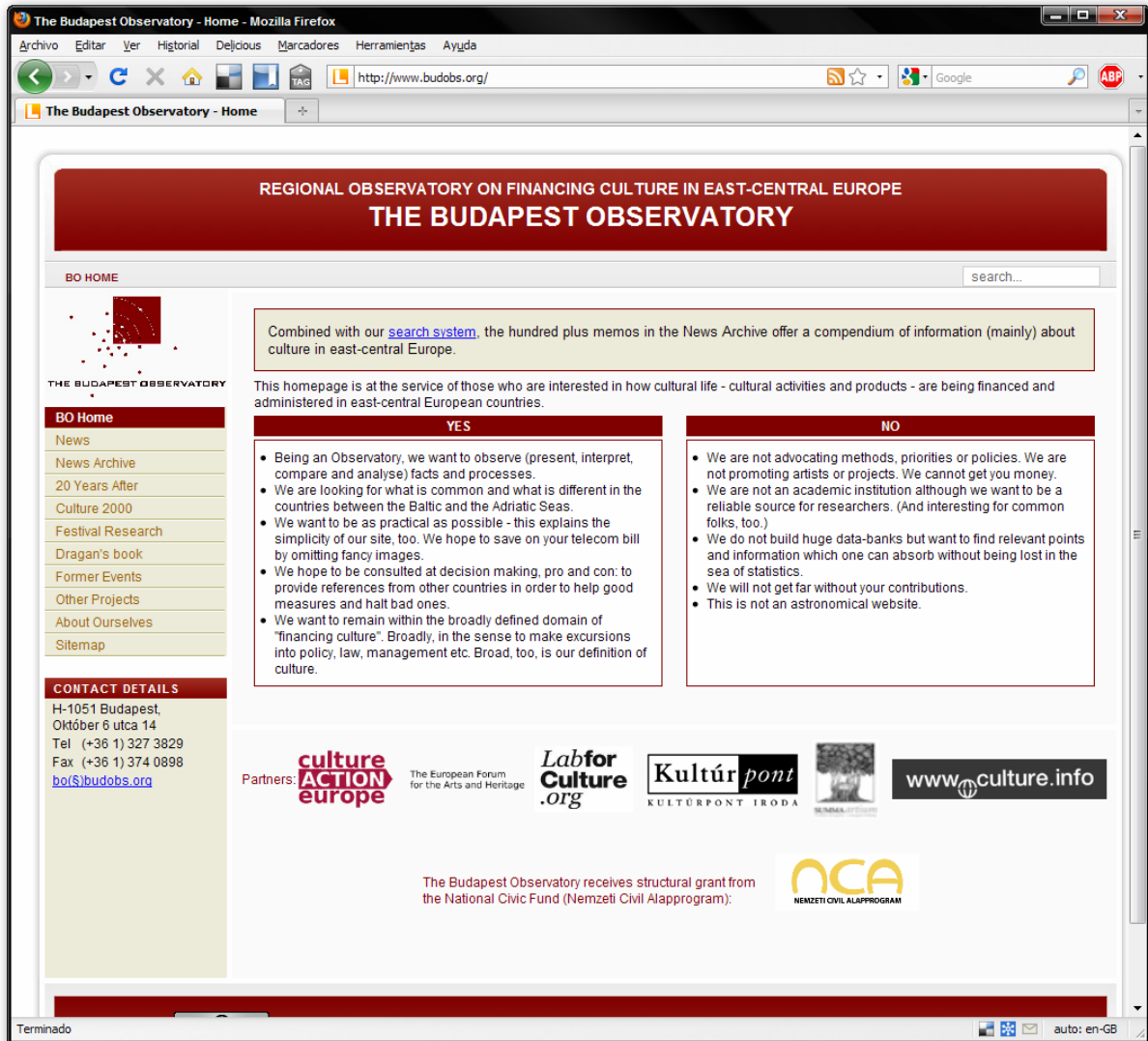


Case Study

THE BUDAPEST OBSERVATORY – Regional Observatory on financing culture in East-Central Europe



Profile

Website's name / Domain	THE BUDAPEST OBSERVATORY http://www.budobs.org
Country of origin	Hungary
Geographical scope	National EU
Language/s / tackling of language issues	English / Only English

Website owner

Contact	Péter Inkei - director
Type of organisation	Non-profit organisation

Description of the owner organisation	The mission of The Budapest Observatory is to be of help for those who want to know more about the conditions (finances, legislation, governance, policies) of cultural life (cultural activities, products and organisations) in Eastern-central European countries.
Importance of the website within the organisation structure	The website is the main dissemination instrument of the observatory's activity portfolio.

Description of the website's mission and objectives including the main activities of the website and which domains and disciplines are addressed, as well as how the accomplishment of the mission is facilitated

Mission	Budapest observatory positions itself as an expert on the conditions (finances, legislation, governance, policies) of cultural life (cultural activities, products and organisations) in east-central European countries.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate research, collect and provide information and establish contacts in the areas of the financing of culture, cultural policy, legislation and statistics.

Website facilities

Kind of facilities	-Information repositories (news, events, documents, downloads) -Contact us	
Member / non-member facilities	No member facilities	
Importance within the website content	-	
Frequency of usage	Number of visitors (monthly):	2,500
	Frequency of website updating by the website owner:	Weekly/monthly
Does the website show any results for working communication and debate on a European / cross-border level?	The Budapest Observatory is a member of CIRCLE, Cultural Information and Research Centres Liaison in Europe, Culture Action Europe (formerly EFAH, the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage), and Encatc, the European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres.	

Evaluation of the website

Mission and objectives, accomplishment of mission	Attitude towards the European idea, incorporation of the European idea	The organisation promotes collaboration and cross-border exchange between European countries by promoting the necessary knowledge to operate at a cultural level within east central Europe.
	Cultural values	Dialogue—exchange—debate Innovation and creativity

Presentation, navigation, structure	The website is easy to navigate and clearly structured. No graphic elements or pictures are being used in the whole website as the organisation intends to be as practical as possible and according to its homepage, avoid any unnecessary bloat.
Trustfulness	The observatory receives its backing through grants and backing from the UNESCO, and the Hungarian government amongst others.
Main strength	Huge network with other cultural organisations from Eastern Central Europe.
Main drawback	No user contribution possible. The website philosophy and functionalities are developed around a Web 1.0 paradigm and could greatly benefit from a shift towards newer, Web 2.0 functionalities. At least RSS syndication of its document repositories should be considered, as it would be very beneficial for researchers interested in the organisations' outcomes.
Usage of communication facilities	Communication through the website is restricted to traditional offline and online methods (email, phone)