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BUREAU OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE EXCHANGE PLATFORM
ON THE IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION ON CULTURE

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Democratic Institutions and Governance Department

Introduction

In the framework of the Estonian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (May-November 2016), the Estonian Government has offered to host the 3rd Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation in Tallinn on 29-30 September 2016. As for the previous exchanges held in Baku (Azerbaidjan) in 2014 and Linz (Austria) in 2015, it will be a multi-stakeholder event, bringing together policy makers, media practitioners, cultural/arts specialists, artists, researchers and civil society bodies. Experience shows that the diversity of participants leads to fruitful exchanges and helps identify the various dimensions of digital challenges and opportunities for culture, which the Council of Europe would subsequently address through its policy-orienting work.

Progress

The Council of Europe Recommendation (CM/Rec (2016)2 on the Internet of Citizens) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 10 February 2016, at the 1247th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies. The Recommendation is the result of the deliberations of the Baku Platform Exchange - aspects of which on creativity and cultural production were examined at the Linz event - and draws policy makers' and practitioners' action to three main areas[1].

A preparatory mission to Tallinn was carried out by the Vice-Chair of the CDCPP and the Secretariat on 10-11 March 2016 to discuss the 3rd Platform organization details. It was agreed that the Platform – to be held in two consecutive sessions stretching over 1 ½ days at the Tallinn University – will explore

a) issues raised by "big data" in the cultural field, such as power/control, diversity and memory, as well as innovative applications of "big data" to democratic ends and through democratic means and

b) ways for overcoming cultural barriers and closing digital gaps within a global society, as well as between different social groups with a view to enhancing cultural access, participation, production, acquisition and intercultural relations.

It is envisaged that the Platform Exchange will provide ample insights on practices, experiences, disruptions, concerns and solutions related to these themes. A working group will prepare another set of Council of Europe policy guidelines in follow-up to the event.

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[1] These are: (1) the modernization of cultural institutions; (2) the empowerment of citizens as consumers, creators and prosumers and (3) fostering multi-literacy skills education for access to, creation and management of digital culture.

Next steps

The conference concept will be further refined in the coming weeks, as will all the practical arrangements, to ensure the successful implementation of the event. The Secretariat will provide orally information on recent developments. Conference background papers will be commissioned to leading experts, in consultation with the Estonian hosts. The CDCPP session will examine a final conference outline including a detailed programme. Bureau members are kindly asked to publicise the event as widely as possible at national level, including in the relevant professional circles. A conference website will be available from June 2016 onwards and regularly updated with the latest information.

Action required

The Bureau of the CDCPP is invited to:

- note the progress on the planning of the 3rd Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation (Tallinn, 29-30 September 2016);
- agree to submit a comprehensive conference outline including a detailed programme to the CDCPP meeting in June 2016 with a view to promoting wide participation by CDCPP delegations.