

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## **STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)**

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**23-24 November 2015**

**Council of Europe, Strasbourg**

**Agora building, room G06**

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### **Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy**

### **Progress Report**

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

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## BACKGROUND

The 2013 Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture requested, via its dedicated action plan, the development of an indicator framework on culture's contribution to democracy and the economic efficiency of financing culture.

Work carried out in 2014 on the indicator framework by the Hertie School of Governance in co-operation with a research consortium led to a novel analytical concept with parallel construction of the culture- and democracy dimension and a first draft framework with detailed indicators for a variety of policy fields (e.g. cultural finance, production, consumption, participation, education, heritage) and dimensions (political, legal, economic, civic aspects). A process perspective -distinguishing inputs, throughputs and outputs- was also built into the concept. First tests were run on possible culture-democracy correlations.

## PROGRESS

In 2015, tests were widened and the initial concept refined. Strong relationships were identified between a number of culture and democracy dimensions such as active cultural engagement and democratic openness; political engagement and well-being.

The 2015 work achievements will comprise by the end of the year:

- The complete IFCD including a final list of indicators with full operationalisation and complete data sources and a methodological and statistical background paper
- Results of correlations run and of six specific hypotheses tested regarding culture's contribution towards democracy, i.e. in view of building integrative and inclusive European societies
- The framework populated with data for a minimum of 25 countries resulting in a database of indicators for download (e.g. in CSV, Excel, STATA)
- 25 country summaries providing a brief description of country-specific results
- A detailed proposal for an online tool for users to explore and analyze data within the framework.

## NEXT STEPS

It is suggested to advance towards the practical application phase by running a first in-depth testing round of the IFCD with five member states, selected from the members of the CDCPP Bureau. A one-day work meeting to present the IFCD achievements and prepare for the testing shall be held during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January 2016. The meeting will help to identify specific interests so as to orient further applications -including the online tool- for individual IFCD use.

The testing will be facilitated by an expert from the Hertie School who will visit the five countries. In parallel, work on an IFCD guidebook for policy makers will start and be concluded in summer. A launch conference on the IFCD, the results of tests, the guidebook and prototype online tool will be organized. It would aim at attracting a number of senior policy makers from member states, leading European cultural policy researchers as well as representatives from interested international bodies so as to identify potential future synergies.

The conference is expected to agree a work plan to roll-out the Council of Europe's innovative IFCD works and put them into practice in view of member states interests and in line with the Organisation's priorities on democratic participation and building inclusive societies.

## **ACTION**

The Bureau of the CDCPP is invited to:

- note the progress made on building an Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy (IFCD);
- select five member states to participate in a first testing round of the IFCD in early 2016;
- engage with the Secretariat in the planning of a launch of the IFCD in summer 2016.