



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

**CDCPP-Bu(2013)8**

Strasbourg, 4 October 2013

**4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau  
Strasbourg, 16-17 October 2013**

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**Compendium of cultural policies & trends in Europe:  
15 years of information and analysis for the democratic governance  
of culture in Europe**

**Anniversary event, Vienna, 12-13 December 2013**

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DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION

Item 3.7 of the draft Agenda

The Bureau is invited to:

- Welcome the development of the Compendium cultural policy information and monitoring system<sup>1</sup> over the past 15 years as well as its extension into a world-wide data pool allowing for concrete international comparisons;
- underline the pertinence of the Compendium's works on access, participation and related indicators on culture and democracy contributing, among others, to the implementation of the follow-up to the 2013 Moscow Ministerial conference;
- recall the importance of mobilising voluntary contributions by member States and/or by other national or international donors.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.culturalpolicies.net>

## Short Overview

The Council of Europe/ ERICarts project *Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends in Europe* is a flagship of European cultural co-operation and a showcase for sustainable multi-stakeholder work. It pools knowledge, analytical and some financial resources of 45 governments and over 100 cultural policy experts from all over Europe. It is co-ordinated by an editorial team from the Council of Europe and the ERICarts Institute. The data-base has been continuously expanding since 1998, reflecting changing policy concerns of governments and European institutions. It now comprises 45 comprehensive cultural policy country profiles and offers cutting-edge database features such as cross-country navigation in all sub-chapters, systematic user feedback function on every page, compose-report options, accessibility for people with disabilities, intelligent search functions, etc. In addition, the system features over 40 comparative and statistical tables; "Research & Development" articles on culture and democracy with user polls, including on issues of cultural diversity, governance and socio-economic development; thematic web spaces dealing with: cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue (with a related good practice collection and an "Intercultural Cities Index"), status of artists, international cultural co-operation and mobility, cultural rights and ethics as well as cultural access and participation.

In line with its content and technical developments, the use of the Compendium has expanded with approximately 160 000 to 200 000 visitors per year (not including Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube users) and some 500 000 information requests. The project also raised interest in other international bodies. In 2011, this led to the creation of "World CP", the global cultural policy information system which was devised on the same model as the European Compendium and includes country profiles from regions such as Asia, Africa and Oceania. Overseen by IFACCA<sup>2</sup>, "World-CP" provides additional visibility for the European Compendium and enables actual international comparisons which qualify it as a tool for monitoring the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

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## The 2013 Compendium Experts' Meeting and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary event

Linked to the 2013 Compendium Experts' Meeting that is dealing with internal project and specific methodology issues - such as building better synergy with the HEREIN cultural heritage information system also in view of meeting the challenges of the "Moscow Agenda"<sup>3</sup> - the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary event will be held on 12-13 December in Vienna within the framework of the Austrian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The event includes a seminar and public forum on the *Democratic Governance of Culture in the Digital Era* as a specific contribution to the follow-up of the Ministerial Conference on Culture (Moscow, 15-16 April 2013).

Work envisaged at the Vienna event goes from identifying indicators on culture's contribution to democracy to debating among cultural policy makers, experts and cultural practitioners - and based on empirical evidence or case-studies - controversial issues such as the conditions for cultural creation, innovation, and dissemination in the digital era while considering data protection issues, suitable forms of rights protection (including copyright) as well as the policy objective of largest possible cultural access and participation. The results of the seminar and public forum, which envisages bringing together a hundred specialists, will be fed back into the work process on the implementation of the Moscow Action Plan (cf. CDCPP-Bu(2013)10).

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<sup>2</sup> International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (<http://www.ifacca.org/>)

<sup>3</sup> Full use of the contributions of all relevant Council of Europe information systems in the implementation of the Moscow Agenda is envisaged

CDCPP members are welcome to attend this event and are encouraged to contribute and orient the deliberations in their capacity as cultural policy makers. As has been the rule over the past 15 years, national authorities are expected to cover the travel expenses of their Compendium authors to Vienna to ensure their participation.

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## **Outlook**

While the Compendium is an incomparable data-mine and a vehicle of cultural co-operation in the area of comparative policy information and trend analysis, it has been less successful in securing adequate resources for its increased scope and services.<sup>4</sup> During one of its meetings, the CDCULT members unanimously opted against requesting fees from users since this would challenge the projects' character as a public information service. However, new ways of attracting finance are to be found. Council of Europe member States are requested to direct the editors towards national/private foundations, funds, sponsors or international support opportunities they might be aware of.

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<sup>4</sup> However, the Compendium was supported by a number of member states, i.e. Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium (Flanders), Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, the Slovak Republic, Spain and Switzerland as well as from the Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Goldsmiths College (University of London) and the European Cultural Foundation.