



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

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**Council of Europe Offices  
55 Avenue Kléber, 75016 Paris**

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## **CultureWatchEurope – Progress Report 2012**

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DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

### **Draft decision**

*The Bureau:*

- **took note** of the *CWE 2012 progress report*;
- **welcomed** developments, *i.e. the thematic contribution via the 2012 CWE conference results as input to the preparation of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture, Moscow spring 2013 and the new HOTopics website offering a cultural policy exchange platform for governments, practitioners, civil society and academia*;
- **considered** the *CWE approach as a promising model for innovative Council of Europe action*;
- **invited** member States to *actively engage with CWE and provide support by means of voluntary contributions, or by hosting an annual conference or working meeting*.

## BACKGROUND

Launched in 2009, under the supervision of the CDCULT, CultureWatchEurope is devised to pinpoint developments, difficulties, and good practices so that cultural governance and policy making can be enhanced Europe-wide. CultureWatchEurope:

- generates and reviews policy standards in areas of concern to governments and society by providing information, trend-analysis, knowledge, expertise, advice, and case studies;
- provides joint access to the Council of Europe's electronic information tools Compendium, HEREIN and European Audiovisual Observatory to allow rapid consultation of European key-data;
- contributes to prospective analysis and forward thinking by addressing topical issues and emerging trends, developments and difficulties and
- offers a platform for creative exchange and policy debate between governments, cultural practitioners and civil society on key issues through major conferences and the [HOTopics](#) site.

## PROGRESS

### CWE 2012 Conference

The 2012 CWE conference on "Cultural Access and Participation – From Indicators to Policies for Democracy" was held in Helsinki on 30 June, and generously hosted by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland. As part of a trilogy of cultural policy events, the meeting built strong cultural policy synergies with IFACCA Europe (Helsinki, 27-28 June) and the Compendium Authors (29 June). It enhanced co-operation with the EU, Eurostat and UNESCO. The event reinforced internal synergies through active involvement of the Council of Europe's PACE and Media Sector. All partners shared interest in studying and enhancing cultural access and participation as cornerstones of vibrant democracies in Europe.

The conference generated a state-of-the-art overview of research and policy perspectives to be fed into the preparation of the 2013 Ministerial Conference.<sup>1</sup> It also revealed that existing links between culture and democracy still need to be framed in an evidence-based mission statement. There was agreement that cultural policies should be demand-driven and many new phenomena taken into account in today's policy making. Ambitious new work on a European cultural participation / non participation index system shall be followed-up and regular studies enabled on cultural behaviors and consumption patterns, including of different population groups.

The CWE event launched a 10-step follow-up process leading to the development of a European cultural participation / non-participation index, working through an informal coalition of interested parties –researchers and their institutions– and in close co-operation with the Compendium specialised Task Force on participation statistics ("Helsinki Process").

### HOTopics – cultural democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

The new <http://www.hotopics.net/HOTopics> website has been fine-tuned and is now available at [www.hotopics.net](http://www.hotopics.net). It explores developments such as the democratic potential of the 'digital age' and other current cultural policy concerns related to the Organisation's cultural democracy agenda. The site provides a space for interactive policy debate between governments, cultural practitioners/civil society and cultural policy researchers and depends on their interest and involvement. This is a good opportunity for members of the CDCPP to make their positions and concerns known and take part in an all-European debate forum. HOTopics is developed in co-

<sup>1</sup> E.g. limits of evidence-based policy making and need for systematic impact analysis, importance of studying non-participation as well as participation trends and of analyzing the effects of participation rather than the participation act as such, requirement of further work on participation of cultural minorities / migrants, key role of digitization in re-interpreting cultural realities and access and participation as well as the roles of content producers and users and new phenomenon of "prosumers", were cited.

operation with the European Association of Cultural Researchers (ECURES). It will be continuously perfected as a tool for watching and debating cultural democracy in the 21st century and complementary Hot Topic papers produced.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **2012 Conference Follow-up**

The 2012 CWE conference report will be produced as an online reader and become available in September 2012. The newly formed work coalition will steadily gather insights from existing survey data and other resources and collect further information on cultural access and participation through the Compendium authors' network that spans 45 European countries.

### **Ministerial Conference**

Work results on access to and participation in culture will be fed into the conference preparations by a dedicated Ministerial Conference Task Force. Background papers for the event may draw from and extend current CWE / Compendium work. The project of a European Cultural Participation / Non-participation Index could possibly be launched at the Conference of Ministers of Culture. The Ministerial event may also recommend the running of regular surveys on participation, completing ongoing data collection exercises by different bodies using different methodologies, to upgrade existing evidence and provide the "big picture". Another recommendation may be dedicated to monitoring of participation in cultural life by minorities/migrants and to running anticipatory studies on future consumption patterns and participation behaviors - as shaped by digital chances and challenges.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

Voluntary contributions and support in kind by governmental and non-governmental partners enabled CWE to progress. To keep up the high standard and distinguish CWE as a vibrant and innovatory CDCPP initiative, continued support will be key. In this regard, a host for the 2013 conference is still being sought.

### **CWE 2013 conference**

The event could naturally be used as a work platform for follow-up on the insights and recommendations generated by the Ministerial Conference in Moscow and produce proposals for concrete future action by the Council of Europe and its partners. As for possible dates, the months of May or June are suggested.