



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

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1st Plenary Session

Strasbourg, 14 – 16 May 2012

Medium-term orientations and perspectives for cultural activities of the Council of Europe

DOCUMENT FOR DECISION

Item 5.2.6 of the draft agenda

Draft decision

The Committee:

- **adopted** the document setting out current orientations and perspectives of the cultural sector;
- **supported** the Secretariat in the implementation of these orientations and perspectives and the development of future cultural activities, also following integrated approaches;
- **instructed** its Bureau to follow-up on medium-term requirements for the implementation of individual activities;
- **decided** to hold an in-depth debate on the programme of activities for 2014/15 overseen by the CDCPP at its Plenary session in spring 2013 and related to the inputs and expected outcomes of the Conference of Ministers of Culture.

BACKGROUND

The Work of the Cultural Policy, Diversity and Dialogue Sector

The Culture sector of the Council of Europe operates under the aegis of the European Cultural Convention of 1954. During the first decades of the Convention's existence, it operated through broad cultural exchange among the states parties in order to promote an understanding of Europe as a land of many cultures united by common values.

While international cultural co-operation is still important today, its purpose has shifted from "cultural diplomacy" to "common standards and policies". States parties to the European Cultural Convention now seek to debate and agree on common approaches to issues such as the management of nation-states' internal diversity, safeguarding the cultural rights of minorities, ensuring cultural participation for all, enabling culture to be a space for democratic expression and pluralism of ideas and developing effective cultural policies.

The Council of Europe's reform highlights the Organisation's role as a think-tank and light-house, anticipating societal developments and challenging issues and addressing them via its unique instruments reaching from comparative analysis, standard-setting, capacity building including through innovatory practices, assistance to monitoring and awareness raising – all against the principles set out in the Council's Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law acquis.

The cultural sector's work comes under the Council of Europe's Democracy pillar and links up to the strategic axes of the programme priorities for 2012-2013 on (1) "Democratic Governance" and (2) "Culture and Democracy".

Ongoing work under (1) aims at enhancing the democratic governance of the cultural sector and guiding policy development through assistance to member States in developing democratic cultural policies and the exchange of information between governments and civil society.

Work under (2) aims at developing effective policies and initiatives for diversity management through intercultural dialogue, including support to building, implementing and evaluating integration strategies a local level, and through specific media and sports actions.

Practically speaking, this translates into actions along two main agendas: a cultural policy agenda and a Diversity management agenda.

Cultural policy agenda

Objectives:

- *Set up and update standards in the cultural policy field*: Monitoring and exchange of good practice on the Audiovisual Heritage Convention, revision of the Convention on cinematographic co-production, follow up to the CM Recommendation on national film policies and the diversity of cultural expressions;
- *Generate knowledge, monitor cultural policies and trends*: the Compendium, a permanently updated web-based information system on cultural policies including 45 country profiles as well as thematically organised information; Cultural policy reviews – 28 national reviews concluded, ongoing reviews of Turkey and the Russian Federation, transversal or sectoral reviews – forthcoming thematic review on "public private partnerships in culture" in ENPI

countries; Key issues for cultural policy reviews are the protection and promotion of cultural diversity and identity, access and participation, cultural democracy, cultural rights;

- *Develop ideas, foster debate on cultural policy*: Culture Watch Europe – thematic papers on “hot topics” and annual events co-organised with key European cultural organisations and civil society bodies; interactive web platform for information and debate also offering access to three existing Council of Europe information tools (Compendium, HEREIN, Audiovisual Observatory) .

Diversity management agenda

Objectives:

- *Foster a culture of diversity and effective diversity policies* - Intercultural Cities, a joint action with the EU, involves over 60 cities which are developing comprehensive intercultural strategies based on the concept of diversity advantage, using a set of tools for policy analysis, development and evaluation;
- *Develop balanced communication and debate about diversity* - Shaping perceptions and attitudes to realise the diversity advantage (SPARDA) and Media against racism in sport (MARS), joint actions with the EU. The former involves local authorities and grassroots partners in designing diversity communication strategies and measuring their impact; the latter aims at including diversity and non discrimination as standard angles of media coverage through media exchange, producing training tools, case studies and media reports.

Engagement with the broader CoE agenda

- *Culture as a space for democratic expression and the transmission of values*: Art after 1945, the 30th Council of Europe art exhibition, to be launched in October 2012 in Berlin is a unique attempt to offer a contemporary post-Cold War perspective on European art and history since 1945 and the way in which artists depicted freedom and human rights. Council of Europe Cultural events – a label awarded annually to a very limited number of outstanding cultural events who have as a main objective to address issues related to fundamental values and principles upheld by the Council of Europe (democracy, human rights, non-discrimination, gender equality etc.).
- *The cultural dimension of Roma inclusion*: Academic Network on Romani Studies, joint action with the EU. Around 200 academics are involved in the network which offers expert advice for the development of policies on Roma inclusion, encourages young academics to undertake research on Roma issues and increase the visibility and connectivity of such research.
- *Culture and climate change*: an inter-sectoral co-operation/task force aiming at bringing climate change onto the Council of Europe’s agenda and dealing with it as a cultural change. A major conference on “Human Rights and Climate Change” is expected to take place in spring 2013.

PROGRESS and NEXT STEPS

Perspectives 2013

A number of activities emerge from the ongoing bi-annual programme and shall be followed in-depth in 2013:

Cultural policies - development of cultural policy indicators i.e. on participation and access to culture in the context of the Compendium (to be developed with the community of Compendium authors, through the Culture Watch Europe initiative and subsequently tested in the context of Cultural Policy Reviews);

Digitisation and Cultural Democracy - preparations for a possible new project carried out in co-operation with the Council of Europe's Task Force on Internet Governance and studying the potentials and risks of New Information and Communication Technologies for democratic participation/access, creation and dissemination in the cultural field; their impacts upon different population groups; existing and new divides and measures to address these;

Cultural resources for Roma inclusion - a new project¹ under preparation - to explore and encourage the use of artistic activities in Roma settlements to foster positive encounters between Roma and non-Roma and Roma cultural entrepreneurship, based on a successful experience in Kamenci, Slovenia and other good practice examples;

Intercultural indicators for media - a new project² to develop indicators enabling media organisations and professionals to assess their work from the point of view of inclusiveness, non discrimination and the fight against racism;

Other projects dealing with specific aspects of local diversity management are also being developed (see below).

Future horizon 2014 and beyond

It is expected that the Conference of Ministers of Culture, envisaged for spring 2013, will provide guidance on the further development of the Organisation's culture work programme, probably including cultural activities to promote active citizenship, cultural access and participation, with a possible emphasis on the impact of digitalisation and new technologies, as well as cultural activities promoting cohesive societies.

In a longer-term perspective, the culture sector could build on its assets and engage in a larger Council of Europe exercise on the use of cultural and natural heritage, arts and civic organisations and initiatives as drivers of sustainable development. A comprehensive analytical and practical tool-box could be compiled and offered to local authorities for creating their respective development strategies based on the use of unique local resources. Such a project would reply to the increasingly acknowledged need for integrated policy solutions and initiate a multi-disciplinary, modular change process in a strategic perspective, with the citizen at the centre of action and the well-being of society on the radar.

¹ EU funding is being sought

² EU funding is being sought

Lastly, the democratic management of cultural diversity will remain high up on the agenda. In the light of recent political developments and growing mobility at world level, the sectors' programmes in this field are likely to become ever more pertinent beyond the Council of Europe's geographical remit, to the benefit of neighbouring countries. By its very nature, culture is an open communication tool or space. Perspectives for cultural co-operation may change at a fast pace and it will be important for the CDCPP and the Council of Europe's cultural sector to follow developments closely, with a view to sharing assets and engaging in new opportunities as they arise – in line with the Organisation's overall policy orientations.