Strasbourg, 5 May 2017

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)

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

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Governance
Culture, Nature and Heritage Department

Introduction

In the framework of the Council of Europe's work on the development of policies that aim to assess the impact of digitisation on Culture, the 4th Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation will be hosted by the ZKM | Center for Art and Media (Zentrum für Kunst und Medien) in Karlsruhe, Germany, on 19–20 October 2017. As for the previous exchanges held in Baku (Azerbaidjan) in 2014, Linz (Austria) in 2015 and Tallinn (Estonia) in 2016, it will be a multi-stakeholder event, bringing together policy makers, media practitioners, cultural specialists, artists, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, 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.[1]

Progress

A preparatory mission to Karlsruhe was carried out by the Director of Democratic Governance and Secretariat members on 13 February 2017 to visit the conference site at the Center for Art and Media and discuss the 4th Platform organisation details. It was agreed that the Platform – held in two consecutive sessions stretching over 1 day – will explore:

a) Digital cultural tools for addressing/counteracting populism, fake news, xenophobia and undemocratic ideological political movements in Europe with a view to empowering democracy through culturally competent citizens;

b) The power of European cultural, arts, technological and scientific connections that have grown over the past centuries and are a deep resource, outliving undemocratic political or ideological movements. This would also be the subject of an exhibition that will highlight the history of such networks.

It is expected that the Platform Exchange will provide ample insights on the issues at stake and which an expert work group – including CDCPP members – would subsequently take up to prepare another set of Council of Europe policy guidelines.

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[1] A working group has prepared a draft Recommendation (CDCPP (2017)7) on the Challenges of Big Data for Culture, Literacy and Democracy resulting from the deliberations of the Tallinn Platform Exchange. Also, Recommendation CM/Rec(2016) 2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Internet of citizens, based on the insights of the Baku Platform Exchange in 2014, was issued in February 2016.

Next steps

The conference concept and agenda will be further refined in the coming weeks, as will the practical arrangements, to ensure the successful implementation of the event. Conference background papers will be commissioned to leading experts, in consultation with the Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe. The CDCPP will receive regular programme updates and Committee members are kindly asked to publicise the event as widely as possible at national level, including in the relevant professional circles. A regularly updated conference website will be available from August 2017 onwards.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- note the progress on the planning of the 4th Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation (Karlsruhe, 19–20 October 2017);
- help with ensuring publicity for the event at national level, participation by Committee members and other interested stakeholders, as well as participation in the follow-up work by an expert group.

"Empowering democracy through culture – digital tools for culturally competent citizens"

4th Council of Europe Platform Exchange on Culture and Digitisation Karlsruhe, 19–20 October 2017

Draft Programme

Thursday, October 19th

19:00   Exhibition opening / Vernissage "Open Codes. Living in Digital Worlds" at the ZKM

Friday, October 20th

9:30   Registration of participants and welcome coffee

10:00   Opening address by:
- Chairman and CEO, ZKM, Prof. Dr. h. c. mult Peter Weibel
- Director of Democratic Governance, Claudia Luciani

10:30   Session 1
Keynote speaker: Manuel Castells (tbc)

or Armand Mattelart (tbc) or Peter Sloterdijk

11:00   Panel 1 on different cultural digital tools used to fight populism, fake news, xenophobia and undemocratic ideological, political movements

12:30   Buffet-Lunch at conference site

14:00   Session 2
Keynote speaker: Hito Steyerl (tbc)

14:30   Panel 2 on the power of European cultural, arts and scientific networks vis-à-vis undemocratic political or ideological movements

15:30   Coffee break

16:00   Concluding discussion: Empowering democracy through culture – digital tools for culturally competent citizens
Outlook on next steps and closing words

17:00   Art Performance

18:00   End of conference