

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 7 April 2016

CDCPP-Bu(2016)3 rev.
Item 4.1 on the agenda

**BUREAU OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)**

**CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY FRAMEWORK INDICATORS
STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION**

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

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Introduction

Back in 2013 the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture requested the development of an indicator framework on culture's contribution to democracy and the economic efficiency of financing culture.

Work carried out in 2014/15 on the indicator framework by the chosen consultant, Hertie School of Governance, in co-operation with a research consortium led to a novel analytical concept with the parallel construction of the culture-and-democracy dimension and a framework with 85 indicators grouping 236 variables 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. 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, trust in society and well-being.

At the end of 2015, the Hertie School of Governance delivered

- 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 eight specific hypotheses tested regarding culture's contribution towards democracy;
- the framework populated with data of 37 countries resulting in a database of indicators for download (e.g. in CSV, Excel, STATA);
- 37 country summaries providing a brief description of country-specific results,
- an initial proposal for an online tool for users to explore and analyze data within the framework.

Progress

Following the decision by the CDCPP's Bureau in November 2015 on running an IFCD testing round, a preparatory meeting was held on 20 January 2016 at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. The meeting allowed participants from five member states, as well as one observer and representatives of the European Union and the European Cultural Foundation, to acquaint themselves with the contents of the IFCD. Participants particularly appreciated the analytical and policy-orienting potential of the project and the plans for a related online tool. The tool will offer country-specific and thematic findings and indicate areas where policy investment may be most beneficial.

The IFCD testing round started in March. Experts from the Hertie School visited the Ministries of Culture in Croatia, Finland, France and Poland, with visits to Belgium and Switzerland forthcoming. Specific suggestions were gathered for both the improvement of the IFCD (with the addition of a number of indicators on access and participation and a focus on these issues) and the future use and update of the framework, in co-operation with relevant statistical initiatives of other international bodies.

A contract has been drawn-up with the Hertie School of Governance to finalise the IFCD, a guidebook on the use of the IFCD for policy makers and the proposal for the online tool, reflecting the insights gained during the testing with member states and fine-tuned to their needs. Also, a first thematic report on culture and democracy will be drawn up with special reference to the findings on participation in culture and trusting society. These show that countries with high cultural participation rates also show high levels of interpersonal trust among their people.

Next steps

Draft IFCD materials are made available to the Bureau for information (in English only) and possible comments. Following the testing round, comprehensive documentation including all IFCD elements will be prepared for the CDCPP Plenary with a view to its endorsement of the achievements.

A work meeting with the European Cultural Foundation was held in March to agree the 2016 support to the IFCD project and its use. A call for tender and contract will be prepared for the final modeling of the online tool (with exemplary data from the testing countries) once funds from the ECF and further voluntary contributions from member States have become available.

A work meeting with the EU is envisaged for spring 2016 to plan the IFCD launch conference in October in Brussels. At this event, the complete IFCD, the results of the tested hypotheses, the guidebook for policy makers and prototype of the online tool will be presented. At the same time, a first thematic report on culture and democracy shall be submitted to highlight the use that can be made of the IFCD beyond national applications.

The launch conference will aim at attracting a high 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 the roll-out of the Council of Europe's innovative IFCD works and put them into practice according to member States' interests and in line with the Organisation's priorities on democratic participation and building inclusive societies. The event will give visibility to the CDCPP work and delegates are most welcome to attend. The precise date in October (during week 41, 10-14 October) will be communicated shortly.

Action required

The Bureau of the CDCPP is invited to:

- note the progress made on building an Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy ;
- endorse the plans for the next steps on the IFCD work and ask the Secretariat to prepare comprehensive documentation for the CDCPP's Plenary session in June 2016;
- engage with the Secretariat in the planning of the launch event on the IFCD in October 2016 in Brussels.