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

**COMPENDIUM OF CULTURAL POLICIES  
NEW PERSPECTIVES OF FUNDING**

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

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## Introduction

Owing to ongoing budget constraints and the Organisation's strategic priorities, there is a need to rethink the Council of Europe's long-term financial involvement in the Compendium project. This would be effective from 2018 onwards and would not affect the working arrangements for 2016 and 2017. It is envisaged that the project will continue to have the Council of Europe hallmark and involvement, to assure users, and in particular member States, of its quality and validity. It is hoped that in this way member States would continue to make the voluntary contributions which are so indispensable to the Compendium's daily running. These could be channeled through to the Council of Europe's operational project partner - ERICarts or a successor to ERICarts - using the existing voluntary contributions account of the Council of Europe.

## Progress

A meeting was held on 9 February 2016 between ERICarts and the Council of Europe Secretariat to discuss possible funding and management options from 2018 onwards for the Compendium.

It was agreed that the most viable business model would be mixed and that the current CoE-ERICarts project aims and quality parameters should by all means be retained.

Among the models discussed, a part-contribution / part-user-funded model seemed the most realistic: under this model, the profile of member States who paid an annual contribution in the region of 1000-7000 euros would be freely available online<sup>1</sup>. The remaining member States' profiles could be accessed for a user fee, priced at 1 euro per download. The profile would become freely available once the number of downloads reached a member State contribution threshold. In view of the number of visitors to the Compendium it was felt that this was economically viable.

Other models debated during the meeting included those set out below, and these could be incorporated into the part-contribution/part-paying model described above:

- universities could play an interesting role in the business model, since doctoral students may want to or be able to do work on the country profiles for free – in close co-operation with the national Compendium author. There are currently 20-25 universities who heavily use the Compendium in their teaching of cultural policy courses, which could possibly pay a voluntary contribution if a member State had not done so. Moreover, there are currently 2 or 3 universities in Europe which would have the capacity - including financial one - to run the Compendium on their own, if ERICarts were no longer able to do so;

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<sup>1</sup> In the past five years, the following countries have supported the Compendium through voluntary contributions: Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Hungary, Monaco and Switzerland. In the same period, Compendium Authors' Meetings were hosted by: Poland, Belgium (twice), Austria and Finland.

- publishing houses could also be a component of the business model: they might want to run the Compendium as an e-journal. Examples of possible publishing houses are *De Gruyter* and *Springer*. Contacts should also be pursued with *Elsevier*, which had already suggested to take on the project some years back;
- [ECURES](#)<sup>2</sup>, the sister association of ERICarts, could oversee the Compendium. Since the staff who manage ECURES also manage ERICarts, this would ensure a continuity in project management if ever ERICarts had to step down from its commitments.<sup>3</sup>

### Next steps

The Compendium editors – Council of Europe and ERICarts – agreed on the follow-up action below:

- i) to compile a country-by-country list of the most promising partners for a strategic overview of opportunities (including Ministries, Universities, think-tanks, others);
- ii) to prepare for the introduction of a user-funded business model as described above;
- iii) to contact *De Gruyter*, *Springer* and *Elsevier* publishing houses and other possible candidates taken from the list in action i) above for consultations on their potential interest in the Compendium project.

The Secretariat suggests that a member of the Bureau (or two) be appointed as rapporteur on the Compendium to assist and advise the Secretariat in the implementation of the steps envisaged above.

### Action required

The Bureau is invited to:

- take note of the proposed Compendium business models and comment as appropriate;
- agree that the Secretariat would ask CDCPP members and national Compendium authors to identify suitable Compendium partners at national level – by end of April;
- appoint a rapporteur to assist the Secretariat in preparing a final proposal on Compendium funding and management as from 2018, for examination at the CDCPP meeting in June 2016.

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<sup>2</sup> Ecures is an association dedicated to advancing cultural research through conferences, publications and other means. It has 101 members in 32 countries in Europe and other parts of the world. Thirty-two of these members are Compendium Authors.

<sup>3</sup> This would be due to its legal status as a non-profit gGmbH - which rules out running projects if ever they become loss-making.