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

CULTURE

**Digital #Exhibition “Free to Create – Create to be Free”
and related activities**

**Presentation and launch of the CoE report on the
Freedom of Artistic Expression**

**Progress Report on the Association of the
Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends**

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

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I. Digital #Exhibition “Free to Create – Create to be Free” and related activities



Background

Following the launch of the [Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era](#) by the CDCPP in November 2020, work has concentrated on its promotion, particularly to encourage translations of this significant text into the languages of Council of Europe member States.

Currently, the Manifesto is available on the website <https://freetocreate.art/> in English, French, Croatian, Georgian, Polish and Serbian.

The concept for the Council of Europe Digital Exhibition “Free to Create – Create to be Free” was further developed and [guidelines](#) for member States prepared, to orient their participation in the exhibition. An innovative and sustainable online platform to host the exhibition was further improved in its design concept (<https://freetocreate.art/>; <https://freetocreate.art/videos/teaser-sound.1080p.h264.mp4>) and technically refined for more user-friendly solutions in navigation on the site.

The exhibition and website were presented once more in May 2022 in the framework of 3rd European Conference on Democracy and Human Rights in Kristiansand, Norway, stimulating debates on the Freedom of Expression of the Arts and Culture.

Progress

The digital exhibition is a sustainably growing one, its feeding ground being the artworks submitted by the member States. Planned as a long-term initiative, it will grow and change constantly, offering a wide range of topics and issues centered around artistic freedom as a human right. This process of a sustainably growing online digital platform will be channeled into a living archive, showcasing the status of artistic freedom in Europe in the 21st century.

The Council of Europe aims at making the exhibition available to all, online and through museums, arts, cultural and educational institutions, by providing “kiosk versions” that can also be presented as an installation in any interested institution.

The Secretariat would like to thank Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Serbia for their artistic contributions to the digital exhibition. Luxembourg has already submitted artworks that are being added to the exhibition, and Norway has also signalled interest in submitting artwork.

In July, the Secretariat, together with the art centre Bunker in Ljubljana and 18 artists from 12 countries, organised a workshop entitled “Artistic Freedom in Europe Today – from the Personal to the Political”. The purpose of the meeting was an open exchange of the participants’ personal experiences of, and challenges to, creative freedom, focussing on the ‘under the radar’ means that curtail this right, and thereby contribute further to the CDCPP’s action line on the freedom of expression of the arts and culture. The workshop findings will be included in the forthcoming Council of Europe report (see section II) that will review issues around artistic freedom since the Council’s Manifesto on Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in Digital Era was launched in November 2020.

As a next step, the CDCPP Secretariat will also promote a collection of good practices from member States on arts and culture boosting democracy and human rights, and especially the freedom of expression, highlighting further the Committee's contribution to the core values of the Council of Europe.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- disseminate and promote the Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era and provide translations into national languages;
- strongly encourage States to participate in the digital #exhibition “Free to Create – Create to be Free” by providing in digital format, works of art that promote the freedom of expression, in line with the 5-step approach outlined in the digital exhibition [Information pack](#);
- contribute to the collection of good practices from member States along a methodology to be developed with experts and shared with delegations by the Secretariat;
- mobilise member States and other interested stakeholders to provide support, including voluntary contributions, for the further successful development of the exhibition.

II. Presentation and launch of the Council of Europe report on the Freedom of Artistic Expression

Preparations started earlier in the year by a renowned team of experts to draft a report on the Freedom of Artistic Expression. These same experts were also involved in the drafting of the Manifesto (see section I) as well as a number of European and international initiatives dealing with the Freedom of Artistic Expression. The report (document CDCPP(2022)12) presents an overview of the state of artistic freedom in Europe, themes and trends; good practices by and in member States; interviews with artists, cultural workers and organisations engaged in promoting artistic freedom and freedom of expression and recommendations addressed to states, arts and cultural authorities and organisations, alongside artists and cultural workers on ways forward for the promotion and protection on this important human right, covered by Article 10 of the ECHR..

The report is being presented and launched at the CDCPP autumn plenary session on 23-25 November 2022. Wide dissemination is encouraged through the CDCPP and its observers and dedicated interested organisations. The materials produced will also inform the Secretary General's 2023 report on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the report on the Freedom of Artistic Expression as a contribution to the CDCPP's action line on the freedom of expression of the arts and culture and the Secretary General's Strategic priorities (2022-25);
- consider the desirability of preparing regular reports on the Freedom of Artistic Expression in the future and developing other activities in support of the cause;
- disseminate and promote the report widely with interested stakeholders from governments, academia, civil society and international bodies.

III. Progress Report on the Association of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends



International Cultural Policy Conference 2022, Bucharest (Romania), 30 June 2022

Invited by The Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends and the National Institute for Cultural Research and Training, more than 120 participants from over 30 countries discussed and debated on the topic of "[Culture & Cultural Policies in Times of Crises - Effects, Roles & Transition](#)".

The conference started by culturally framing and conceptualizing three of the main crises affecting us now;

- the Ukraine war – representing a humanitarian and democratic crisis in Europe,
- the COVID-19 pandemic – disrupting and transforming social and economic systems around the world,
- the climate crisis – threatening everyone’s social and environmental future and well-being.

It also discussed the roles and means the cultural sector and its policies offer to the mediation of those crises: what role do democracy, cultural education and freedom of artistic expression play in crises management? Finally, Compendium community members and guests shared methods and strategies to enhance change and modification (for more information, consult www.culturalpolicies.net).

Next year’s conference will take place in autumn 2023 and discussions on holding it in Malta are ongoing.

5th General Assembly of the Compendium Association, Bucharest (Romania), 1 July 2022

Including Working Group activities and Research project presentations, it gathered 60 participants from over 30 countries and the [Annual Report 2021/2022 of the Compendium Association](#) was presented, highlighting the activities and current developments of the Compendium and describing the next steps and plans. A fruitful exchange paves the way to further developments of the Compendium – both continuing to provide qualified information and data on cultural policies and trends, as well as establishing new features.

Quick overview of Compendium activities since November 2021

- New members: the University “Mediterranean” Podgorica, Montenegro, is [a new standing member](#).
- New experts: 5 open calls (Russia, Türkiye, San Marino, Montenegro and Belgium (Wallonia)) brought 6 qualified new cultural policy experts to the [Compendium experts’ community](#).
- Updated [Long Cultural Policy Profiles](#): 9 profiles (Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Monaco and Sweden) updated and 9 more (Armenia, Belgium (Flanders), Bulgaria, Croatia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Scotland, Serbia and Spain) expected in 2022.
- Strengthened [Short Country Profiles](#): 11 profiles (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium (Flanders), Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, North Macedonia, Romania, San Marino and Scotland) published and 15 more (among them Austria, Estonia, France, Finland, Norway, Portugal and Türkiye) expected in 2022.
- [Reports on COVID-19 impact on cultural sector](#): 10 already published (Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland and Slovakia) and more updated reports will be published in 2022.
- New information feature: the Compendium website now presents information on current relevant [“Cultural Policy News”](#) from its member countries to raise their visibility and offer up-to-date national cultural policy related information.
- New format: Compendium WebTalks on selected themes or issues:(the first was on [4 November 2021 on “The Brexit and its impacts on the cultural sector”](#)).
- New Social media concept that has increased the audience figures of the Compendium website and raised awareness of Compendium activities.

- First Exchange Meeting for Compendium Members (24 March 2022) to improve communication with the members, acquire their feedback and ideas for the Compendium.
- “Jour Fixe” for Compendium Experts (17 March 2022) to enhance the communication and role of experts and acquire new ideas and concepts for the Compendium.
- Enhanced cooperation with other European actors in the cultural policy field, such as: Freemuse, EGMUS, ACEI, IfA, etc.
- Fair + transparent payment: Further development of an Experts’ Remuneration System with the objective of fairness, transparency and adequate compensation of experts’ work.

Artistic Freedom as the Annual Topic for 2022 / 2023

Artistic Freedom will receive special focus through various Compendium activities:

- Compendium WebTalks and special interviews with different experts in this field;
- Recent studies, research results and resources regarding artistic freedom and development of co-operations with actors in this field;
- Special Survey on the Status of Artistic Freedom in the Compendium participating countries to identify different governmental approaches to artistic freedom status and also good practices – complementing the first Council of Europe report on the Freedom of Artistic Expression;
- Comparative Analysis of the temporal development of Artistic Freedom to identify trends and inform, *inter alia*, Council of Europe bodies, reports and governmental stakeholders;
- Highlight these activities at different international cultural policy conferences (i.e. at the German Federal Congress on Cultural Policy in June 2022 “The Art of Democracy”).

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the developments regarding the Association of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends and its cultural policy information system;
- encourage member States and interested cultural policy research institutions to become Stakeholder members of the Compendium Association in view of the benefits a [Membership to the Compendium Association](#) can bring.