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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**

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

Cultural Policy Peer Reviews / Technical Assistance

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

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.

At the same time, the concept for the Council of Europe Digital Exhibition “**Free to Create – Create to be Free**” has been further developed and included the preparation of [guidelines](#) for member States to orient their participation in the exhibition. An innovative and sustainable online platform to host the exhibition has been set up (<https://freetocreate.art/>; <https://freetocreate.art/videos/teaser-sound.1080p.h264.mp4>), with the help of an artistically specialised professional design and programming collective as a provider, and following an open call procedure. In the next phase, the interactivity on the platform will be fostered and a digital map will be included, highlighting the member States that have contributed artwork to the exhibition platform. This way the visibility of member States’ engagement is accelerated and their active role as part of an innovative exhibition further enhanced.

The website – in its beta version – was first presented on 6 May 2021 in the framework of a cultural event organised by the Council of Europe and the Cultiva Foundation as part of the 2nd European Conference on Democracy and Human Rights in Kristiansand, Norway ([Supporting events European Conference 6 May on Livestream](#)).

Progress

First artworks have been received from Germany, holding the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in spring 2021. These include an artwork by the German artist with a Turkish background, Nasan Tur, as well as a statement video on artistic freedom in wartimes by the Tripoli-born, Berlin-based artist Tewa Barnosa. Both artists highlight the eminent role of the arts in promoting human rights and democratic values, including in times of war, and also link to the importance of the work of journalists in defending democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Serbia has submitted artworks that tell the story of freedom and the struggle of the transgender community in the Balkans by the artist Aleksandar Crnagorac, raising attention with great sensitivity on the link between personal freedom of different identity constructions and artistic freedom. Leszek Sobocki, the Polish artist with a self-portrait depicting himself as the Polish Pope John Paul the Second, is standing for artistic creativity on how to overcome state-censorship to point at sensitive political contexts.

In addition, the Azerbaijan artworks have been added to the exhibition – artists are Faig Ahmed with his work “The DNA” and Rashad Mehdiyev with his work “Glance – Eternity of the Soul”. Lithuanian and Italian contributions will follow. Hungary and Croatia are also developing concepts on their contribution to the exhibition.

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 the topic of 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.

A communication plan on the exhibition project is currently being developed by the Council of Europe's Directorate of Communication and will include suggestions for stakeholders who multiply and disseminate the Manifesto, the exhibition and the overall topic of artistic freedom in various institutions in member States. The conference of INGOs will be an important multiplier. A social media campaign will further enhance the exhibition's outreach. The campaign will articulate the mission and urgency of the overall topic, showcasing diverse perspectives and elevating the visibility of the artist and artworks as well as the engagement of the member States with the principles behind the Manifesto. Information alerts will highlight when a new member State and artwork(s) join the platform.

In parallel, the CDCPP Secretariat will 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.

Next steps

On 8 December, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe will inform the Committee of Ministers about the Digital #Exhibition “Free to Create – Create to be Free” and invite member States to participate widely.

The Council of Europe will produce a report in 2022, marking the anniversary of the Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era and accompanying the Council of Europe's digital exhibition “Free to Create – Create to be Free”, as well as preparing input for the Secretary General's 2023 report on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law. It will provide an overview of developments in freedom of artistic expression in Europe and, where possible, provide focus on good practices by the member States in their commitment to the principle of artistic freedom. Interviews with artists, cultural workers and organisations engaged in promoting artistic freedom and freedom of expression will be featured, as well as recommendations to states, arts and cultural authorities and organisations, alongside artists and cultural workers on ways forward vis-à-vis the promotion and protection of freedom of artistic expression.

The Compendium will play an important role in gathering up-to-date information on this important issue (see below under section II).

The 3rd European Conference on Democracy and Human Rights in Kristiansand, Norway on 5 May 2022 entitled “Securing democracy and human rights in the digital age” will provide another opportunity to promote the freedom of expression of the arts and culture as a key political concern. The event will look specifically at the role of cultural institutions as democratic spaces and in defending the freedom of artistic expression.

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;
- encourage member States and signatories to the European Cultural Convention 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](#) (see Appendix I);
- mobilise member States and other interested stakeholders to provide support, including voluntary contributions, for the further successful development of the exhibition.

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



Annual Compendium Assembly 2021

The 4th General Assembly of the Compendium Association, as well as the Assembly of Compendium Experts took place on 15 September 2021, with 70 participants from over 30 countries. The event took place as a digital event due to the on-going pandemic.

On this occasion, the Board of the Compendium Association and the Compendium Coordinator presented the [Annual Report 2020/2021 of the Compendium Association](#) (see Appendix II) that highlighted the various activities and current developments of the Compendium in this period and described the next steps and plans for the upcoming months. The fruitful exchange between the different actors paves the way to the further development of the Compendium – both continuing to provide qualified information and data on cultural policies and trends, as well as establishing new features. During the event, the Romanian Institute for Cultural Research and Training announced their intention to host the 5th General Assembly of the Compendium Association in Bucharest in 2022.

Quick overview of 2021 Compendium activities

- **New members:** In 2021, the Compendium Association welcomed [three new stakeholder members](#) with the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg, the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan and the Swedish Agency for Cultural Policy Analysis.
- **Visibility Paper:** Development of a ["List of Benefits" for members of the Compendium Association](#) emphasizing the mission, experience, offers and benefits of the Compendium for an even more extensive acquisition of new members.
- **Updates Long Cultural Policy Profiles:** Editing and publishing of [8 long cultural policy profiles \(around 75 pages\)](#) from Croatia, Czech Republic, Switzerland, North Macedonia, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Monaco and Albania. Additionally, 7 updated long profiles are expected in 2021 for Bulgaria, Sweden, Malta, Finland, Georgia, Germany and Luxembourg.
- **Strengthen Short Country Profiles:** Development of a new short country profile structure in May 2021 and **updates of Short Country Profiles:** Editing and publishing of [4 short profiles \(10-12 pages\)](#) from Armenia, Belgium (Flanders), Scotland and Romania. Additionally, 8 short country profiles are expected in 2021 for Croatia, France, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Estonia, Latvia, Czech Republic and the Netherlands.
- **Covid 19-Reports:** Continuously monitoring the impacts of COVID-19 for the cultural sector (<https://www.culturalpolicies.net/covid-19/>). Eight COVID-19 country reports were updated in the first half of 2021 (Albania, Austria, Czech Republic, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands and Spain) and additional updated COVID-19 country reports will be published in 2021. The COVID-19 country reports and comparative tables have proven their quality and importance as their information and data were often used in different publications, research articles and comparative research studies on a European level.
- **New format: Compendium WebTalk:** Development of the new format on selected themes or issues, the first online panel discussion started on [4 November with the special topic "The Brexit and its impacts on the cultural sector"](#).
- **Fair + transparent payment:** Development of an Experts Remuneration System in May 2021 with the objective of fairness, transparency and adequate compensation of experts' work (see Annual Report).

Artistic Freedom as the Annual Topic of the Compendium in 2022

The Compendium Association has decided that **Artistic Freedom** will be the annual topic of the Compendium in 2022, which implies that this area of cultural policy will receive a special focus through different Compendium activities:

- **Compendium WebTalks and special interviews** with different experts in this field will be devoted to this topic.
- **Present recent studies**, research results and resources regarding artistic freedom and **develop co-operations with actors in this field**.
- Carry out a **Special Survey on the Status of Artistic Freedom** in most of the 40 participating countries of the Compendium in order to better identify the different governmental approaches regarding the status of artistic freedom in the European countries and to identify good practices.
- Carry out a **Comparative Analysis of the temporal development of Artistic Freedom** with the goal to identify certain trends regarding this important aspect of cultural policy.
- **Highlight the Compendium activities on Artistic Freedom at different international cultural policy conferences** with Compendium contributions (ie through panel contribution at the German Federal Congress on Cultural Policy in June 2022, or possibly at the 9th World Summit on Arts and Culture, Stockholm, in May 2022).

Join the Compendium

[Membership to the Compendium Association](#) opens up the door to an international network of renowned cultural policy actors – cultural policy administrators as well as cultural researchers – and implies a multitude of benefits:

- showcasing the cultural policy of the member country;
- invitations to attend networking activities and events, e.g. access to cultural policy trainings or briefings;
- possibility of collaborating on shared publications or research projects, both in and outside of Europe, e.g. Horizon and Creative Europe programme;
- access to the expertise of the network, e.g. ask for preparation of short information papers and/or data sets on specific issues of relevance;
- access to the Compendium's annual General Assembly, during which innovative topics in the cultural policy field are addressed and main decisions on the further development of the association will be taken;
- visibility and promotion, e.g. on our webpage, in our newsletters (Member in Focus), at our events (co-organising partnership), in our publications;
- be one of the creators of the further development of the Compendium and the cultural policy research.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the developments regarding the Association of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends and the cultural policy information system;
- encourage member States and interested cultural policy research institutions to become Stakeholder members of the Compendium Association.

III. Cultural Policy Peer Reviews/ Technical Assistance

Targeted Peer Policy Review - Ukraine

Given the working parameters much defined by the pandemic, the targeted Peer Review to assist Ukraine with new legislation on the safeguarding of the traditional built environment and prevention of chaotic urban development, recommenced in the summer 2021. The review team included leading cultural heritage experts from Austria, France, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom and the exercise was concluded in October with a review report and detailed recommendations on the new law under the leadership of expert Rob Pickard (UK).

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the co-operation with Ukraine in the framework of the Council of Europe's programme of policy peer reviews and legal assistance to member States in the fields of culture and cultural heritage;
- thank the authorities and dedicated experts from Austria, France, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom for their valuable input to the exercise;
- notify the Committee and Secretariat of any interest in benefitting from a targeted cultural/heritage policy peer review in individual countries.

Technical Assistance – Republic of Moldova

Following a request from the authorities of the Republic of Moldova in summer 2021 for assistance in the revision of their national film law and the enhancement of the local AV/film sector, including the functioning of the Cinematographic National Centre, expert work started without delay.

The agreed objective is to propose concrete amendments to the National Film Law and specific rules concerning a film fund, archives, cash rebate etc. in accordance with EU acquis and best practices in European countries. The technical assistance also targets helping to integrate the Moldovan AV community in existing European/international networks and treaties (co-productions, Eurimages, EFAD) addressing related practical steps and requirements.

Action required

The CDCPP is invited to:

- welcome the co-operation with the Republic of Moldova in the framework of the Council of Europe's programme of technical assistance to member States in the fields of culture and cultural heritage;
- notify the Committee and Secretariat of any interest in benefitting from targeted technical assistance activities.

APPENDIX I

Digital exhibition information pack ([Follow the link for the full pack](#))

Free to ~~create~~
Create ~~to be free~~

INFO PACK
FREE TO CREATE –
CREATE TO BE FREE

BACKGROUND

"Free to Create - Create to be Free" is a digital #exhibition conceived by the **Council of Europe** and set up jointly with the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP). To mark the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the CDCPP launched in November 2020 a **Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era**. The exhibition flanks this important text and builds on the Council of Europe's legacy of art exhibitions.

Member States of the Council of Europe are invited to provide up to two artworks referring to the Manifesto and the overall topic of artistic freedom. The contributions from countries holding the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe are specifically featured on the platform.

freetocreate.art
createtobefree.art

Title
A Pole (Polak)
Artist
Leszek Sobocki
Date
1979
Country
Poland



APPENDIX II

Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends
Annual Report 2020/2021
([Follow the link for the full report](#))

