



Culture Watch Europe



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For more information

Visit the website of the
Directorate of Culture, Cultural

and Natural Heritage

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The Council of Europe's
**information & exchange
platform** for culture, heritage
& media developments

Strengthening democracy through culture

Mission

The Council of Europe's CultureWatchEurope Platform (CWE) promotes **culture as "the soul of democracy"** by offering an innovative and **evidence-based overview of culture, heritage and media developments** in Europe. CultureWatchEurope adds value to the Organisation's existing information tools, programmes and methods by linking them and by inviting civil society to contribute.



CultureWatchEurope is value based, responsive, and aware: devised to **pinpoint developments, difficulties, and good practices** so that **cultural governance and policy making can be enhanced Europe-wide, from a human rights perspective**. Key words in this mission are: transparency, access and participation, respect for identity and diversity, intercultural dialogue and cultural rights.

Enhancing governance in an interactive manner

Action includes:

- **generating and reviewing policy standards** in areas of concern to governments and society by providing data, information, knowledge, comparative and trend analyses, expertise, advice and case studies;
- **providing online information** through joint access to the Council of Europe's electronic information tools:
 - Compendium (<http://www.culturalpolicies.net>)
 - HEREIN (<http://www.european-heritage.coe.int>)
 - European Audiovisual Observatory (www.obs.coe.int)
- enabling **rapid consultation of key cultural data** from European states in order to compare achievements;
- **contributing to prospective analysis and forward thinking** by addressing topical issues and emerging trends, developments and difficulties;
- **offering a platform for creative exchange and synergy** between governments, cultural practitioners and civil society on key issues through major conferences.

Joining forces for shared values

Key Partners



CWE is set up under the umbrella of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Culture, **CDCULT**, in close co-operation with the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape, **CDPATEP** and the **European Audiovisual Observatory**. In addition, **CWE co-operates with:**

- **Council of Europe bodies**, including the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations;
- **external partners** from civil society, international organisations, research and academia, such as the Budapest Observatory, Culture Action Europe, the Culturelink Network, ERICarts, the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and LabforCulture, the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC), the International Cultural Centre of Cracow and Interarts;
- **new associate partners are welcome** to participate in CWE.

Offering a platform for creative exchange

Methods



The **CWE electronic platform** will provide a space for:

- **sharing information and resources** via joint access to three Council of Europe databases and thematic online spaces;
 - **engaging in an interactive policy debate** through a forum linking key partners from the **cultural sector** as well as **civil society actors** and **governments**.
- Annual CWE events**, organised together with civil society representatives, address topical issues of concern to the cultural world, and contribute to trend analysis and forward thinking.

Working methods will be steadily perfected and new technology provided to permit the best service for political stakeholders, partners and the public.

Getting to know more

Achievements & Work Plan 2010/2011

In **2011**, the CultureWatchEurope **electronic platform** and a **joint search engine** for the different online tools will be further developed. A **forward-looking conference** (Bled, November 2011) will discuss concrete measures that public authorities could take to **enhance the governance of the cultural sector and implement change**. Priorities, new legislative requirements, alterations to existing systems of public subsidy, parameters for state intervention and requirements for the protection of citizens' cultural rights need to be examined.



The **2010 Conference on "Culture and the Policies of Change"** (Brussels, September 2010) studied the role of culture in promoting social integration and in managing cultural diversity, also with a view to environmental concerns. Resources for culture and the **impact of the financial crisis on the cultural sector** were analysed in details.

A first CWE **Conference on "Culture and development 20 years after the fall of communism in Europe"** in June 2009 in Cracow, generated insights and recommendations for governments and other cultural stakeholders geared to stronger integration of the central and eastern European countries.

CWE, in association with the European Audiovisual Observatory and Eurimages, has prepared a **recommendation** adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on **European film support policies**. Other standard setting work will follow.



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