

Public Bodies Responsible for National Cultural Policy Development

For more information see individual country profiles:

Chapter 2.2 "Overall Description of the System"

Country	Centralised/ Decentralised System	Central Ministry with Cultural Competence	Arts or Culture Councils	National Cultural Funds or Foundations	Advisory Bodies / Committees Made up of External Experts	Committees with Representatives from Different Levels of Government	Committees Representatives from Different Government Ministries
Albania	Centralised structure moving towards decentralisation	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports	No	No	Board of Advisors to the Minister	No formal mechanisms of inter- governmental cooperation.	Commission of Culture and Media at the Albanian Parliament is responsible for coordinating inter- ministerial co- operation.
Armenia	Centralised system	Ministry of Culture	Culture Council adjunct to the President	No	Board of Advisors to the Minister	Standing Committee on Education, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs of the National Assembly	No special inter- ministerial agreements have been concluded
Austria	Federal system (decentralised structure)	No national level Ministry of Culture State Secretary for Arts and Media	No	Sector specific bodies allocate funds. Social Security Insurance Fund for Artists	Sector specific bodies also perform an advisory function.	<i>Landeskulturreferentenkonferenz:</i> Meeting of representatives of the <i>Bundesländer</i> and the federal government.	Informal, inter- ministerial meetings are organised between the responsible ministries and administrators.

Azerbaijan	Centralised system	Ministry of Culture and Tourism [1]	No	Special funds set up for different culture fields.	No	No formal mechanisms of inter-governmental cooperation.	The President or the Cabinet of Ministers, set up ad hoc state commissions and organizing committees to facilitate inter-ministerial cooperation on long-term programmes or concrete projects.
Belgium	Federal system (subsidiarity principle)	No national level Ministry of Culture	No	Sector specific funds in Flemish and French speaking Community governments	No	No official co-operation agreement between the Flemish and French speaking Communities but individually with the German-speaking Community.	Inter-ministerial cooperation organised on the Community levels.
Bulgaria	Centralised structure moving towards decentralisation	Ministry of Culture	Sector specific councils	National Culture Fund	Public Council of Experts (reports to the Minister) Council on Cultural Affairs (reports to the President of the Republic)	No	<i>Standing and interim</i> interdepartmental commissions which have consultative capacities and the right to initiate legislation.
Canada	Federal system	Federal Department of Canadian	Canada Council for the	Sector-specific Crown	Federal Standing Parliamentary Committee on	Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee of Ministers Responsible for Culture and	Federal government departments and

		Heritage	Arts Provincial Arts Councils	Corporations in Federal Cultural Portfolio e.g. National Film Board, Telefilm Canada	Canadian Heritage	Heritage.	cultural institutions take part in task forces and working groups that address government-wide horizontal issues.
Croatia	Centralised structure	Ministry of Culture	No	No	Sector specific Culture Councils set up as consultative bodies. Ad hoc government committees set up to advise on particular issues such as national minorities or gender issues.	Cooperation is organised on an ad hoc basis.	Cooperation is organised on an ad hoc basis.
Denmark	Centralised structure with strong tendency towards decentralisation	Ministry of Culture	Danish Arts Council	Danish Arts Foundation	Several expert Committees	Cooperation is organised on an ad hoc basis.	Parliamentary Committee of Culture
Estonia	Centralised state structure, independent municipal policies	Ministry of Culture	No	Estonian Cultural Endowment Council for Gambling Taxes	Sector specific working groups set up to advise on specific policy initiatives e.g. stakeholders and experts group on the culture industries.	Cooperation is organised on an ad hoc basis.	Cooperation is organised on an ad hoc basis.

Finland	A bi-polar cultural policy decision-making and implementation system, where the State represents centralisation and autonomous municipalities decentralisation. Both levels are fiscally linked and administratively rather centralised; although both also display features of vertical decentration (boards, councils, quangos, influential professional associations). In recent years such new modes of concentrating power as reducing number of municipalities through merges, growth centre policies, outsourcing and downsizing have started to make themselves felt even in cultural policy decision-making and administration.	Ministry of Education and Culture	Arts Council of Finland; nine Art Form Councils, thirteen Regional Arts Councils	Finnish Cultural Foundation (donations-based, private) Cupore (publicly supported cultural policy research foundation and centre) Finnish Film Foundation (public foundation, authorised by special legislation.	Arts Council of Finland; nine Art Form Councils, thirteen Regional Arts Councils	No major formal mechanisms of inter-governmental cooperation.	The government (Council of State) and its committees are the main and sole general inter-ministerial and intersectoral coordinator; otherwise intersectoral cooperation takes place in ad hoc government committees and working/steering groups set up to address specific issues or to plan reforms or to lead development projects. The EU membership has though brought in new needs for intersectoral cooperation and establishing of coordinating organa on national level (Inter-sectoral committee on EU affairs) and on regional level (Regional Management
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							Committees for the EU Structural Funds)
France	Centralised structure with regional trends and growing local government role	Ministry of Culture and Communication	No	Regional funds for e.g. contemporary arts, museums or libraries	No	Cultural Development Agreements signed between the Ministry of Culture and the regional and the local authorities	Interministerial agreements concluded between the Ministry of Culture and other Ministries on the development of specific programmes.
Georgia	Centralised system	Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sport	Council for Culture	Fund for Culture	Advisory bodies or branch committees set up at the Ministry of Culture made up of freelance experts.	No formal mechanisms of inter-governmental cooperation.	No special inter-ministerial agreements have been concluded.
Germany	Federal system	No national level Ministry of Culture. Federal Commissioner for Cultural and Media Affairs	German Arts Council	Federal Cultural Foundation	Parliamentary Committee on Cultural and Media Affairs. Commission of Inquiry set up for a limited time consisting of 11 parliamentarians and of experts.	There is no official body in charge of coordinating cultural policy initiatives, programmes and measures undertaken by all levels of government. Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) acts as a platform for co-operation and exchange among the Länder.	Takes place on the Länder level.

Greece	Centralised system	Ministry of Culture	Sector specific agencies.	No	Sector specific agencies.	No formal mechanisms of inter-governmental cooperation.	A number of inter-ministerial committees or joint programmes have been set up by the Ministry of Culture.
Hungary	Fairly centralised system	Ministry for Education and Culture	No	National Cultural Fund	No	No formal mechanisms of inter-governmental cooperation.	While inter-ministerial co-operation is mandatory by government decree, there are no formal procedures of special mechanisms to facilitate such governmental co-operation for culture.
Ireland	Centralised system	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism	Arts Council of Ireland	No	No	<i>Arts Act 2003</i> calls upon local authorities to draw up arts plans and is seen as a move to improve co-ordination between the national and local levels as these plans are realised.	There are few formal mechanisms for on-going inter-ministerial co-operation. There are two interdepartmental groups for culture: Public Art and some formal linkage with the

							Department of Foreign Affairs and the Creative Engagement Scheme with linkage to the Department of Education and Science.
Italy	Developing a federal approach	Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities	No	No	No	<i>State-Regions Conference</i> Multilateral Framework Planning Agreements in the cultural field have been signed by the Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities with 17 of the 20 Regions	Interministerial Commission on the problems of cultural financing
Latvia	Centralised structure moving towards decentralization	Ministry of Culture	No	State Culture Capital Foundation	National board of Culture, Supporters Council and 10 sector specific councils as advisory bodies to the Ministry of Culture	Cooperation is organised on an ad hoc basis	Cooperation is organised on an ad hoc basis
Lithuania	Centralised structure moving towards decentralisation	Ministry of Culture	Culture and Arts Council	Culture and Sport Support Fund Media Support Foundation	State Commission for Cultural Heritage Council for Protection of Ethnic Culture	No formal mechanisms of inter-governmental cooperation.	No formal structures of cooperation in place. Ad hoc governmental commissions, committees, working groups, etc. are established.

FYR of Macedonia	Developing a decentralised system	Ministry of Culture	No	National Film Fund	Special councils and working groups set up following the Ohrid Framework Agreement to facilitate the representation and participation of national cultural minorities in the public administration system and within the cultural policy making processes.	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	Cooperation between Ministry of Culture and other Ministries ongoing. A formal inter-governmental body responsible for promoting intercultural / multicultural dialogue set up.
Malta	Decentralisation of culture has become a priority	Ministry for Tourism and Culture	Malta Council for the Arts and Culture	No	Malta's Centre for Creativity	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	Inter-ministerial cooperation occurs on an ad hoc basis. E.g. a committee was created in order to link culture and the arts with the tourism sector.
Moldova	Decentralisation efforts are severely hampered the lack of experience of local authorities to set up their own budgets and is worsened by the general economic crisis	Ministry of Culture and Tourism State Agency for Culture	No	No	Board of Advisers of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	Inter-ministerial joint committees have been established.

Monaco	Centralised structure	Department of the Interior, Directorate for Cultural Affairs	No	No	No	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	Cooperation takes place with different directorates for e.g. education or tourism.
Netherlands	Centralised structure with strong tendency towards decentralisation	Ministry of Education, Culture and Science State Secretary for Culture	Culture Council	Several public and semi-public sector specific funds	Culture Council	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	Committees for interdepartmental co-operation are set up on an ad hoc basis.
Norway	Bi-polar system centralised structure with vertical decentralisation	Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs	Arts Council Norway	Culture Fund	Sector specific expert bodies / councils	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	Cooperation organised on an ad hoc basis.
Poland	Decentralisation of management and financing of culture is ongoing; strong emphasis on local level authorities	Ministry of Culture and National Heritage	No	No	sector specific councils at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	No formal structures in place. Cooperation organised on an ad hoc basis.
Portugal	Some areas of devolution but hardly decentralisation	Ministry of Culture	National Culture Council	Sector specific councils	No	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	A number of protocols have been signed between the Ministry of Culture and other ministries with the aim of promoting inter-ministerial

							co-operation through transversal policies
Romania	Centralised system	Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs	No	National Cultural Fund	No	Intergovernmental cooperation mainly on large scale projects.	Permanent mechanisms of cooperation with other government departments. New inter-ministerial co-operation project is currently being elaborated to redevelop the national network of rural cultural centres.
Russia	Centralised system under transition to subsidiarity and division of responsibilities between the three administrative levels	Ministry of Culture	Council on Culture and the Arts by the Russian President	Russian Cultural Foundation	Sector specific expert councils by the Ministry; there are also such bodies by Agencies and by regional and local cultural administrations	Coordinating Council for Culture uniting administrators of federal and regional levels/	Cooperation between government departments takes place on an ad hoc basis and within the Federal Target Programmes
San Marino	Centralised system	Ministry of Education and Culture, University and Social Affairs	No	Special funds set up for different culture fields by the State and Bank Foundations	<i>Ad hoc</i> working groups and freelance experts for specific cultural projects	No formal mechanism of inter-governmental cooperation	Inter-ministerial technical working groups are set up on an ad hoc basis, mainly to cooperate/jointly fund events

Serbia	Decentralised system	Ministry of Culture	National Council of Ethnic Minorities	No	No	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	No formal structures of cooperation in place.
Slovakia	Decentralised system – allocation of competences in culture to 3 levels of public administration (state, autonomous regions, municipalities)	Ministry of Culture	No	Grant System of Ministry of Culture. Literary Fund, Music Fund, Visual Arts Fund	Grant system - sector specific advisory bodies. Ministerial expert groups for media, information science, cultural heritage, language, libraries, archaeology, research.	No formal mechanisms of inter-governmental cooperation.	Inter-ministerial working groups in the field of minorities, informatics, knowledge based society and heritage issues.
Slovenia	Centralised system; municipalities play an important role	Ministry of Culture	National Council for Culture	Cultural Fund, Film Fund and Slovenian Book Agency	Sector specific advisory bodies	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	No formal structures of cooperation in place.
Spain	Decentralised	Ministry of Culture	No	No	No	Permanent mechanism: Sub-Directorate General of Communication with the Autonomous Communities located in the Ministry of Culture.	Until 2004, Culture Cabinet Committee was responsible for overseeing inter-ministerial cooperation. Now done on ad hoc basis e.g. new inter-ministerial commission with participation from

							11 ministries to address questions of IPR.
Sweden	Centralised system; national level in constant dialogue with autonomous regional and local levels	Ministry of Culture	Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs	Sector specific funds e.g. Author's Fund, Arts Grant Committee	Sector specific advisory councils e.g. Swedish language council	No formal structures of cooperation in place.	Cooperation undertaken on an ad hoc basis e.g. several government ministries participated in the 2006 "Year of Cultural Diversity".
Switzerland	Federal structure; System of double subsidiarity	No national level Ministry of Culture. Federal Office of Cultural Affairs	Pro Helvetia Foundation	No	No	No formal structures of cooperation in place. Ongoing cooperation between the federal government and the cantons in the field of cultural education.	No special inter-ministerial agreements have been concluded.
Ukraine	Decentralizing system with elements of new approaches: agreements between central government (Ministry of Culture) and regions	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	No	No	The National Board for Cultural Affairs is an advisory body made up of independent experts.	No formal structures of cooperation in place. Local governments independently form relationships with central government agencies and receive funding for projects.	There are no long or medium-term inter-ministerial co-operation projects or specific inter-ministerial committees. The prototype commission is creating presently within the frames of CoE Programme "Kyiv Initiative".

UK	Centralised but with regional decentralisation trends in the main and important local government role	<p>England: Department for Culture, Media and Sport</p> <p>Scotland: Ministry for Tourism, Culture and Sport</p> <p>Wales: National Assembly Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport</p> <p>Northern Ireland: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</p>	3 Arts Councils (England, Wales, Northern Ireland) Creative Scotland	Sector specific councils e.g. Crafts Council, UK Film Council	No	<p>Vertical intergovernmental initiatives organised on ad hoc basis e.g. in the project <i>Where We Live!</i> to promote the value of culture in the creation of strong sustainable communities.</p> <p>Horizontal intergovernmental initiatives organised e.g. between Northern Ireland and Scotland on issues regarding language protection and promotion.</p>	Policy Action Teams set up on specific issues e.g. social exclusion.
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Source: Council of Europe/ERICarts, Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe, 10th edition, 2008

[1] The Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan has its own Parliament and Ministry of Culture and Tourism.