

Exploring the potential of a European Culture Vitality Index

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Ambition and Motivation

- To explore **potential in relation to developing an arts/culture indexing on a European scale** (beyond the EU boundaries);
- To envision a possible future **measurement tool of European culture vitality**;
- To develop a **credible source of information** for a wide variety of users with the purposes of:
 - Fostering “evidence-based” cultural policy making
 - Running an “awareness-raising tool”
 - Maintaining an “Early Warning System”
- To to build a **collaboration among stakeholders** in Europe.

Concept development of European Culture Vitality Index (ECIX)

Phase II: Concept and methodology

Phase III: Feasibility study and conclusion (by ERICarts)

Phase I: Diagnosis

Conceptual framework
(A.Wiesand, ERICarts)

Design and preparation

Background paper on
arts/culture -related
indexes (P. Inkei)

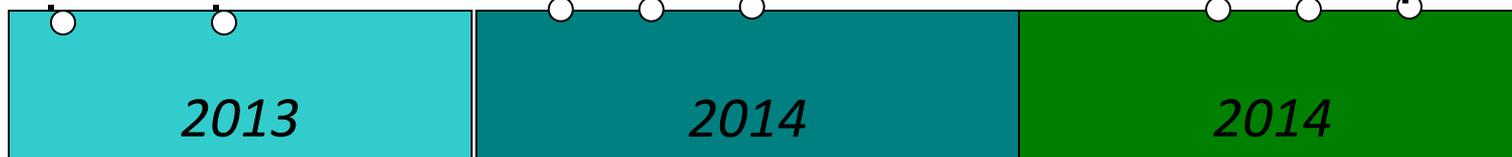
International Expert
Meeting: Validation of
the first draft of ECIX

Realisation

International
Expert
Meeting

Consultations:
alternatives and
statistical methods

Recommendations
and next steps





Concept of ECIX

- **Conceptual shift** from European Arts Index to European Cultural Vitality Index (ECIX)
 - Vitality: development and sustainability;
 - Broader concept of culture going beyond arts sectors
 - Broader geographical scope beyond EU boundaries
- **Four “pillars”** of “ideal” indicators (ca 55) :
 - Participation
 - Financing
 - Governance
 - Cultural expressions
- Building on **established methodology** (by OECD, JRC, etc.)

Feasibility study: Objectives

- **Validate the concept** of a European Cultural Vitality Index (ECIX) in broader range of European countries.
 - the scope and objectives.
- **Fine-tuning the research's methodology.**
 - analysis of available comparative data resources;
 - decided on concrete statistical methods for improving data comparability.
- **Outlining possible alternatives** to the proposed index.

Feasibility study: Methodology

- **Mapping of comparable culture-related data**
 - Identifying ca. 55 “ideal” indicators in 18 countries
 - Based on an evaluation of information in the “Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends I Europe”
- **Expert survey**
 - The questions addressed the main objectives; data availability and possibility to transform descriptive information into measurable data; pros and cons of such tool, possible alternatives;
 - 25 answers from 16 countries were received.

Feasibility study: conclusion

- The proposed conceptual model of ECIX **cannot meet the original expectations** as a meaningful awareness raising tool
 - The choices and validity of indicators;
 - The relevance of its European added value.

Concept of ECIX: Challenges

Concept:

- Ambiguity of “*cultural vitality*” concept within different countries;
- The model questions the *diversity* concept promoted by ECF

Data:

- Lack of sufficient and comparable data for each country
- 50 % of the indicators are based on qualitative information

Other:

- Limited impact of the index on cultural policies in Europe

Alternatives

- Building an index based on a very limited numbers of indicators, representing almost scientific quality of statistical data;
- Building separate thematic indicators;
- Building an index based on representative surveys.

Next steps for ECF

Methodology

- To explore the potential of a Comparative Trends Indexing of Culture based on methodology developed by the Dutch Statistical Office
 - Expert meeting in January

Potential synergies

- To explore various potential synergies
 - with CoE (Contribution of Culture to Democracy)
 - with JRC (New Research Trends on Culture)
 - with OECD (Measuring Subjective well-being)

Thank you!

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