

## Dear Compendium friends and users,

Welcome to the 11th edition of Compendium, the information and monitoring system providing key facts about Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe.

Whether you're a first time user or a long term supporter, we are sure that the online Compendium will prove to be an essential research and information tool for you.

This newsletter highlights some of the latest additions and features that have been developed.

Find more under <http://www.culturalpolicies.net>

With best wishes from the Compendium Team!

## Hot Topic & Poll: The Financial Crisis and its Effects on Public Arts Funding

by *Andreas Joh. Wiesand*

Is it pure coincidence that, 5 years after the General Assembly of UNESCO adopted its Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, one of the cornerstones of this document is already put into question by many of the signatory states?

I'm referring to their "sovereign right to formulate and implement cultural policies" that include, in particular, "measures aimed at providing public financial assistance" and "establishing and supporting public institutions" (Art. 5 and 6).

To defend this principle - or "exception culturelle" - against the World Trade Organization (WTO) and others who insist on a pure free-market system without any financial action or interference on the part of public authorities, may indeed become redundant if it is not invigorated by corresponding practice. Recent severe cuts affecting cultural budgets in a number of European countries seem to point in that direction.

[For more, see our new Hot Topic...](#)

## Open Compendium initiative bears fruit

Decisive steps towards the launch of a global Internet information system on cultural policies and trends based on the Council of Europe/ERICarts Compendium experience were taken September 5 at a preparatory meeting of different stakeholders in Brussels. Read more on the websites of [IFACCA](#) and the [ERICarts Institute](#).

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## Cultural Policy Actor in Focus!

**Kimmo Aulake** is currently Special Government Advisor and Deputy Head of Cultural Exports and Exchange Unit at the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland.

He has worked professionally in the field of cultural policy for 20 years. [...read more](#)



## Cultural Rights & Ethics

Latest Online Poll Results regarding the concept of "cultural rights"

In my opinion the concept of "cultural rights"

may help to specify cultural issues and to safeguard individual rights

61%

is already taken care of within the universal human framework (conventions, etc.)

19%

is again only a theoretical concept without much practical relevance

20%

Total number of votes: 124 / 07.12.2010

New [articles](#) were added to this section, including:

[ECRI: Racist violence is growing in Europe](#)

[Habermas: The Concept of Human Dignity and the Realistic Utopia of Human Rights](#)

[Controversial Ban of a Theatre Play in Malta](#)

## Linguistic Diversity

The Compendium editors are developing an online tool to allow users to access country profiles not

## Country profile structure to be updated

Following the annual Compendium Meeting in Zurich (April 2010) and additional consultations with the national authors and experts, the Compendium editors decided to give the country profiles a new structure. It will come into effect with the launch of the 12th Compendium edition, early 2011.

only in English but also in the original language version.

This tool should be available after the launch of the new Compendium edition. At first, it will consist of 10 country profiles (with more to come in future editions)

## Recently updated: Cultural Policy Profile of Romania ! Selected highlights

### ORGANISATIONAL REFORMS

[Chapter 22](#): 2010 saw the establishment of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, by separating the two fields from religious affairs.

[Chapter 23](#): In May 2010 a new interministerial committee on urban planning, architecture and construction was established.

### POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

[Chapter 1](#): Strategic Plan for the Years 2009-2013 of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage sets out public policy in this sector.

[Chapter 241](#): Romanian cultural diplomacy for 2010 focuses on Russia, China, Caucasus, Western Balkans, Japan, South Korea, India, and Brazil.

[Chapter 426](#): A number of reports and measures to support the culture industries have been produced recently.

[Chapter 428](#): INFOCARTE is the first online catalogue for the publishing market in Romania released in March 2010.

### NEW STATISTICAL DATA

[Chapter 821](#): Attendance at cultural activities in Romania has declined by up to 20% since the second half of 2008.

## Upcoming Compendium Conference in Ghent, June 2011

**SAVE THE DATE: At the invitation of the Forum voor Amateurkunsten and the [AMATEO Network](#), and with the support of the Culture Department of the Flemish Government, the next annual meeting of Compendium authors and experts will be held on June 8 - 10, 2011 at the University of Ghent.**

It will be combined with a Research Conference on topical problems of cultural participation. The latter will include a number of Compendium-related themes, inter alia:

- The latest research facts and figures on cultural participation in Europe;
- A Round Table debating policies and structures supporting an active cultural participation;
- Intercultural participation and artistic practices of minorities;
- How to enhance the participation of the older generations?

**The Conference is open to the public; contributions are invited, please contact the [editors](#)**

## Answering Your Questions

**Contact the Compendium Editors for overall questions and comments:**

[Kathrin Merkle](#) Council of Europe

[Andreas Wiesand](#), ERICarts

**Contact the Web Master with your technical questions:**

[Joerg Torkler](#), Medianale Group

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