



NEWSLETTER No. 30/ August 2015

Dear Compendium friends / chers amis du Compendium / Liebe Compendium-Freunde,

As customary, our Newsletter presents new content, elements and features of the "Compendium" www.culturalpolicies.net. Edited by the Council of Europe Secretariat and the European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts), this information and monitoring system provides key facts about cultural governance issues and trends in Europe – now operable in three languages ([English](#), [français](#), [deutsch](#)).

Many thanks especially to our long term supporters who continue to encourage us with feedback and through using the Compendium as their preferred information and research tool!

Your / votre / Ihr Compendium Team!

Wroclaw to host the 2015 Assembly of Compendium Experts



Save the Date: The 14th Assembly, including the Public Forum will be held from **12 to 13 November in Wroclaw/Poland** in the wider context of the city's role as European Capital of Culture 2016. With its **focus on a human rights approach to cultural policies**, including issues such as equal access to the arts and heritage and related tasks of democratic policy making to assure participation of all population groups, the event will contribute to the follow-up of the 2013 Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture (Moscow).

See more on the draft [Wroclaw Agenda](#)

In addition, this theme follows up on Recommendation 1990 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on "The right of everyone to take part in cultural life", where this right has been identified as "pivotal to the system of human rights" (January 2012). As part of the programme, the project on drawing up a comprehensive reference handbook on "Culture and Human Rights – The Wroclaw Commentaries" will be presented.

New Compendium Design and Features

The steadily **growing number of Compendium users** visiting the website through Smartphones and Tablets encouraged us to **rebuild the Compendium website** in order to facilitate the use of the Compendium website through small devices.

In the same time, implementing the new "responsive" features and the ideas of several users prompted the Compendium editors to **refresh the design of the website**.

A new element on the homepage is "[Support Your Compendium](#)" where you can donate, give feedback, add content or be involved in the Compendium!

Have a look at the new website – we look forward to your support.

The National Cultural Policy Profile of Cyprus is now available!

Thanks to the enormous efforts of senior cultural policy expert Elena Theodoulou Charalambous, the Compendium can now proudly present its 43rd country profile on the website.

In addition to the English version, a Greek version of the country profile will be accessible in the near future.

Culture & Democracy

Digitisation and its Impact on the Cultural Sector

One of the four new thematic areas of the "**Culture & Democracy**" section of the Compendium can highlight in particular how "culture stands as the soul of democracy": namely the area of "[Digitisation and Culture](#)".

Following on from last years' first multi-stakeholder Platform Exchange on **Culture and Digitisation** (Baku/Azerbaijan) a Council of Europe Recommendation on the "Internet of Citizens" has been prepared and should be launched later this year.



The **2015 Platform Exchange on "Smart Creativity, Smart Democracy"** will take place on **4-5 September in Linz** in the framework of the **Ars Electronica Festival**. This practice-driven exchange aims to reveal further evidence of the mutually reinforcing relations between citizens' digital creativity, media competence, access to and participation in culture, civic engagement, public outreach and democracy. Compendium Authors are welcome to attend the event -at their own cost- and register by 25 August at the latest via the electronic tool available at: http://a.cs.coe.int/team81/cdd/Registration/Linz_2015.aspx.

The draft programme can be downloaded here:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/digitisation/Linz_programme_en.pdf and conference papers will be available shortly at the conference website :

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/digitisation/linz_en.asp.

A number of papers from the 2014 exchange in Baku and other resources are available on the Platform website, in addition to being available in the section [key resources on Digitisation and Culture](#) in the Compendium.

Users are invited to suggest short abstracts with links to additional documents and information resources.

Something for our Statistics' Friends!

Updated Monitoring Tables on Public Cultural Funding & CUIPX

An updated version of the [Monitoring Table on Public Cultural Funding](#) is now available!

Covering 29 countries, the table addresses trends in:

- Public cultural expenditure per capita (in EUR) for 2000, 2005, 2009-2013;
- Public cultural expenditure as a share of total public expenditure for 2010-2013; and
- Public cultural expenditure as a share of national GDP for 2010-2013.

Additionally the [new 2014 CUIPX](#) data are now online!

While the CUIPX exercise was not intended to be a price index in the traditional sense when it started a decade ago, its results are now widely used in the media and in scientific comparisons. CUIPX figures help illustrate the effects, if any, of policy measures such as the fixed book price or differences between the prices of publicly funded arts services vs. private sector culture industry goods over the past years.

Further analysis of the CUIPX data is done by splitting the data in [Cultural Industries Consumer Prices \(CICP\)](#) and [Public Arts Services Prices \(PASP\)](#) (in EUR and %) and putting it in relation to OECD Purchasing Power Parity.

The Tables on the "[European recreation and culture expenditure index](#)" and "[Comparison of European price levels](#)" have also been updated.

[Comments and ideas for further improvements](#) in the statistics section of the Compendium are greatly appreciated!

The National Profiles of the Armenia, France, Hungary, Moldova, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Ukraine were recently updated.

Below are selected highlights of recent developments (2013-15)

Updates will be forthcoming from Georgia, Malta, Poland and Serbia

[Armenia](#)

- Currently, state financial support and the volume of films being made are increasing, although the sector still faces many challenges.
- Salaries of workers in cultural organisations remain lower than in education and health.

- A special grant programme of the Armenian Ministry of Culture was created for individual artists, institutions and artists unions.
- The number of visitors to museums rose steadily between 2010 and 2013, while book lending from libraries is in decline.
- In recent years, civil society in Armenia has become much more active in the form of citizens' initiatives and public advocacy groups which are influencing cultural development.

France

- Two new trends, the emergence of "inter-municipal co-operation" and territorial devolution, will gradually and unavoidably impact on the cultural field.
- In 2014, a reform of the national school curriculum introduced more extracurricular activities, including cultural activities.
- In 2014, a report on Francophonie proposed 53 measures including an increase in French teaching, building cinema theatres in Africa, and the creation of a Francophone Economic Union.
- In 2014, negotiations regarding the national Unemployment Provision Convention, which planned to modify the specific regime of temporary performing artists and technicians, caused a series of strikes that troubled several summer festivals.
- Direct State expenditure for Culture and Communication (including all Ministries) in 2015 is estimated at 12.9 billion euros, which is an increase as compared to 2013 and 2014.
- A survey on corporate sponsorship in France (2014) provides information on the allocation of funds and on issues of interest for sponsors.
- The government plans to deliver a report on the implementation of a special lottery on the European Heritage Days, the benefits of which would go to the Centre of National Monuments.

Hungary

- Five parliamentary acts and several government decrees on culture were passed between 2011 and 2014.
- New Hungarian Cultural Institutes are planned for Baku, Istanbul, Zagreb, Beijing, Tokyo, Cluj and Ljubljana.
- A new public research institute was set up by the government in 2013 to 'strengthen national cohesion' and to consider the history of the past 150 years in (re)building national historic identity.
- As from 2015, the Prime Minister's Office will be working on a 'new, comprehensive modification' of the heritage protection regulations.
- In 2014, a new Hungarian Language Strategy Institute was set up under the Prime Minister's Office. Thousands of unemployed people are being given temporary contracts in cultural institutions across the country as part of the government's employment policies.

Moldova

- A "National Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Moldova / Culture 2020" was completed in 2014, providing general directions and objectives for the medium and long term.
- A set of priority actions for culture and the cultural industries is to help create better conditions for entrepreneurial development, in order to raise the share of culture to 3% of GDP in 2020.
- In November 2014, a policy document was drafted to help guarantee the creation of a platform for sustainable development of the cultural industries.
- It is hoped that the goals set for participation will lead to a progressive increase in citizens' participation in cultural activities. It is planned that by 2020 the participation rate will be at least 40% of the population.
- A national programme is aiming at digitising 75% of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova by 2020.
- The government has increased salaries in the cultural, sports and youth activities sector by 17.6% in 2014, as current rates are below the minimum subsistence basket rate.
- The 2014 Law on Cinematography governs activities to support the development of the film industry and the national cinema heritage.

Slovenia

- Architecture and design have been added to the list of cultural fields supported by the Ministry of Culture, both for policy and programme development.
- The National programme for culture 2014-17 introduced new areas of cultural and creative industries, cultural market discourses and explicit mention of the labour market in the cultural sector.
- Funds for international cultural cooperation have fallen between 2001 and 2014.
- The Slovenian Film Centre and the Slovenian Book Agency, whose existence was threatened in 2012 owing to austerity measures, have now been rescued following protests by cultural professionals.
- The media accounted for 1.64% of the national budget in 2013, which was half of the amount dedicated to this purpose in 2005 (3.59%).
- VAT rates were changed in 2014 to harmonise with EU Directives, with a reduced rate of 9.5% on books, cinema tickets and entertainment events.
- The Minister of Culture managed to negotiate a much lower cut of the budget for culture in 2014 than the government had planned.
- There was a significant drop in public cultural expenditure per capita in 2013 (163 EUR in 2012 and 138 EUR in 2013).

Sweden

- A Cultural Policy Bill was passed by Parliament, setting new objectives for Swedish cultural policy.
- A national project (2013-2015) will study how museums influence the perception of national identity.
- Changes in the unemployment insurance rules have been feared to harm artist groups with short-term employment contracts, although the impact on the cultural sector is not yet clear.
- Public cultural expenditure per capita in 2012 at all levels of government was 274 EUR compared to 278 EUR in 2011.

Ukraine

- Since 2014, there is a special Presidential Adviser on cultural issues as an independent office in the State Secretariat.
- In 2014, Ukraine negotiated with the European Commission on participation in the Creative Europe programme and establishing a programme office in the country.
- A research programme on cultural industries in Ukraine was launched in 2014. It is to provide a basis for a future State Programme for Cultural Industries Development.
- The new Law On Principles of State Regional Policy 2015 includes the issue of sustainable development based on cultural heritage and regional historical, ethnic and cultural uniqueness.
- Cultural infrastructures at the local level have been threatened by 2015 Budget plans, as they will have to compete with other vital services for scarce resources.
- Drastic changes in exchange rates and the rapid drop in the value of the hryvnia (national currency) led to cultural expenditure declining threefold in international comparisons.
- The Law on Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine 2015 exempts national book producers from VAT.

Answering Your Questions

Contact the Compendium Editors for **general** editorial questions and comments:

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Contact the Web Master with your technical questions:

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