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Newsletter of the Compendium Association #39 27-04-2023



Safeguarding Artistic Freedom

The 9th World Summit on Arts and Culture will bring together leading policy makers, researchers, managers and practitioners from the arts, culture and related sectors from around the world to explore artistic freedom as a fundamental pillar of cultural policy and examine how we can – and why we should – safeguard artistic freedom

The 9th World Summit is scheduled to take place in **Stockholm**, Sweden from **3 - 5 May 2023** (Official Opening 2 May). As the Compendium we are thrilled to be on site in Stockholm and to take part in the summit.

We welcome the thematic focus of IFACCAs 9th World Summit on Arts and Culture as it is very much aligned with this year's research campaign "Silent Dissent? On Barriers to Freedom of Artistic Expression". It shows that we all take the current increase in populist and anti-democratic tendencies in European (cultural) policies seriously.



How big is the price difference in European countries for the same **cultural good** or **activity**? How much are people paying to go to a **cinema** in Switzerland, compared to Albania? Or how do the prices for **dance lessons** differ in each country?

The <u>Cultural Price Index (CUPIX)</u> has been updated with recent <u>prices</u> (December 2022) for selected cultural goods and services from 20 countries provided by our respective <u>experts</u>.

On top of the existing indicators, *new* indicators have been included in this survey: Prices for concerts by international artists, prices for e-books, theater performances and dance lessons. In addition, for the first time, details concerning the prices for children and young people up to the age of 18 and information on value added tax have been included in the data.

CUPIX has been delivering data for comparable prices of the cultural sector in European countries for 20 years now.



Armenia: New Cultural Policy Report

A recently updated version of the <u>cultural policy profile for Armenia</u> is available due to the great efforts of our colleagues and experts

Yulia Antonyan and Haykuhi Muradyan.

Some of the recent **cultural policy developments** in **Armenia** include:

- The national education development programme for 2022-2030 was accepted in October 2022, with a number of institutional, ideological, programmatic and methodological changes planned.
- Although the new cultural policy is not officially developed yet, some new approaches pay special attention to students' cultural rights and opportunities, as well as accessibility of cultural events and institutions.
- The pandemic and the Second Karabakh war of 2020 have seriously affected the cultural sphere and currently it is still in the reanimation process.
- Collaboration between art professionals from abroad and local NGOs have become important since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war e.g. a residency programme on issues relating to urban spaces.

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Czech Republic: New Cultural Policy Report

A recently updated version of the <u>cultural policy profile for the Czech Republic</u> is available due to the great efforts of our expert <u>Pavla Petrovà</u>.

Some of the recent **cultural policy developments** in the **Czech Republic** include:

- The status of the artist is an important issue being raised in Czech cultural policy and plans post pandemic.
- In the Strategic Framework of Sustainable Development in the CR to 2030 culture is viewed as essential to the socioeconomic development of the Czech Republic.
- Czech publishers are seeking a zero rate of VAT on books (currently 10%) due to rising cost.
- The Centre for the Roma and the Sinti in Prague will open in 2023, showcasing Roma history and culture and will offer a range of educational and cultural activities.



Russian Federation: Interim Cultural Policy Profile

The Compendium strongly condemns the Russian Federation's armed attack on Ukraine that resulted in a war on European territory. This act not only violates international law and human rights, it also tramples on democratic values such as peace, freedom, and equality.

We believe that in times like these, European values need to be reaffirmed and strengthened. The Compendium stands for the strengthening and integration of cultural policies and related research of different European states. Therefore, we confirm that values such as peace, freedom, equality, justice, as well as non-discrimination are central to our work.

In the context of non-discrimination, we proudly release today an abridged cultural policy profile of the Russian Federation that could serve as a place holder until a regular new country profile can be realised. It contains important updates on **culture-related developments** in **Russia** and has been prepared by our independent cultural policy expert <u>Tatiana Romashko</u>, currently working at the **University of Jyväskylä in Finland**, who also condemns the Russian military attack and stands for scientific and democratic values.

Especially in these times of conflict, the Compendium underlines the importance of free exchanges of knowledge as well as of the study of different cultural policy perspectives and approaches, both of which can serve as an inspiration to restoring conditions for peace, freedom and dialogues based on the recognition of human rights.

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New Short Cultural Policy Updates

This month we were able to publish the first ever short cultural policy profile for **Estonia** as well as updated versions of the short cultural policy profiles for **Austria** and **Belgium (Flanders)**. Once again, we would like to thank our Estonian expert Marko Lõhmus, our Austrian experts Veronika Ratzenböck and Klara Koštal, as well as our expert for Belgium (Flanders) Simon Leenknegt.

- Cultural policy developments in Estonia focus on new support measures for visits to cultural institutions, failed attempts to pressure the government to continue direct subsidies post-Covid 19 pandemic, rising minimum wages in the cultural sector and the establishment of the city of Tartu as a European capital of culture.
- In Austria, highlighted cultural policy developments are a new fairness strategy for fair pay and social security of cultural actors, the role of the arts and cultural sector towards sustainable development, and the aim to promote gender equality in the field.
- Highlighted **cultural policy developments** in **Belgium** (**Flanders**) include an increase in government expenditure on the arts and supporting frameworks like the Arts Decree in an effort to cope with the repercussions of inflation and other crises. Further, cultural policy in Belgium focuses on the implementation of fair practices, like the fair practice charter and the toolbox Juist is Juist.

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