

FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY CONFERENCE
LUXEMBOURG, 16 OCTOBER 2025

CULTURAL POLICIES FOR DEMOCRACY

Cmpendium
cultural policies & trends



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Culture



Bibliothèque nationale du Luxembourg
Nationalbibliothék

Conference Portfolio

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Forword

We hereby present the conference portfolio of the “**Watch it! – Freedom of Artistic Expression. Cultural Policies for Democracy**” conference in Luxembourg.

The Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends, together with the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg, invite you to participate in a day of dialogue, exchange, and debate around one of the most fundamental pillars of cultural policies and democracy: the freedom of artistic expression.

At a time when democratic values face challenges from political, social, and cultural pressures, it is essential to reflect on the role of cultural policies in safeguarding and promoting this freedom. Questions of legal protection, societal perceptions, and the resilience of artists and cultural actors are increasingly urgent.

This international cultural policy conference will focus on the role of cultural policies in safeguarding and enabling freedom of artistic expression as a pillar of democratic societies. It aims to refine how cultural policies can effectively monitor early warning signs – key markers that signal shifts in artistic freedom and, by extension, the health of democracy – before violations occur. The conference seeks to move beyond static understandings and develop dynamic tools to safeguard freedom of expression as a vital barometer of democracy.

Key discussions will explore good and bad practices of cultural policies regarding freedom of artistic expression, and provide a platform for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to explore these diverse viewpoints and engage in constructive dialogue.

This conference is both a platform for reflection and a call to action. Together, let us reaffirm the importance of cultural policies as a safeguard of democracy, and ensure that the voices of artists remain free, diverse, and vital for our societies.

Organized by

Hosted by

Co-hosted by

International Cultural Policy Conference

Thursday, 16th of October 2025

09h00 Registration & Coffee

09h30

Opening | Welcoming

- Speech by Eric THILL, Minister for Culture of Luxembourg
- Speech by Claude CONTER, Director of the National Library of Luxembourg
- Speech by Anna VILLARROYA, Chair of the Association of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends
- Barbara ZECHES, Presentation of the conference and of the day

Part I: Freedom of artistic expression: Must Have or Nice to Have?

10h00

Under the Lens:

Different Perspectives on Freedom of Artistic Expression 30min

Input by Andreas J WIESAND

(Co-Founder of the Compendium + Author on FoAE)

Input by Sanjay SETHI

(Co-director Artistic Freedom Initiative)

10h30

Under Pressure:

When Freedom of Artistic Expression Starts to Quiver 30min

Input by Robert SPOTAK

(Former Director of the Slovak Arts Council)

==> Legislation vs. Social Reality: Early Warnings

Input by Audronė RIMKUTĖ

(Associate professor of Cultural Policy and Philosophy, Vilnius University, Compendium expert, Lithuania)

==> Defending Artistic Judgment: What Arguments Work?

Time for questions and answers

10min

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11h10

Under Scrutiny:

Legal Protection of Freedom of Artistic Expression

20min

Input by Juris RUDEVSKIS

(Lawyer of the European Court of Human Rights)

==> Caselaw of the European Court of Human Rights

Input by Klara KOŠTAL

(Policy officer, Austrian Commission for UNESCO),

**==> Freedom of artistic expression in the context of
UNESCO's 2005 Convention**

11h30

Under Discussion:

When Should Political Alarm Bells Go Off ?

45min

Panel discussion moderated by Carmen Croitoru

**(Manager of the National Institute for Cultural Research,
Romania, and Chair of the Council of Europe's CDCPP)**

- **Doire O CUINN**
(Policy Officer, DG EAC, European Commission)
- **Daniil KHOCHABO**
(Directorate for Democracy, Council of Europe)
- **Kimmo AULAKE**
**(Senior Ministerial Advisor, Finnish Ministry of Education
and Culture)**

12h15

Lunch at the Taberna Londrina

(35D Avenue John F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg)

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Part II: Supporting Freedom of artistic expression Before it Needs to be Defended

14h00

Monitoring / Mapping of Freedom in Other Fields and at National Level

45min

Input by **Ulrike BLUMENREICH**
(Compendium Coordinator)

==> Presentation of the Academic Freedom Index

Input by **Olivier GÖBEL**
(Compendium Coordinator)

==> Presentation of the Media Freedom Coalition

Input by **Jennifer LAOUROU**
(Researcher, Artistic Freedom Initiative)

==> Mapping of Freedom of artistic expression

Time for questions and answers

15min

15h00

Under Construction: Good Practices at the National Level of addressing Freedom of Artistic Expression

25min

Input by **Anna VILLARROYA**
(Professor, University of Barcelona)

==> Spain's Cultural Rights Plan 2025-2030

Input by **Jean-Cédric DELVAINQUIÈRE**
(Senior Researcher DEPS, Ministry of Culture of France)

==> France's Plan and Guide for Freedom of Creation

Time for questions and answers

5min

International Cultural Policy Conference

Thursday, 16th of October 2025

15h30

Fishbowl

15min

Exchange on practices in relation to freedom of artistic expression at national levels

15h45

Coffee Break

16h00

Under Discussion:

Don't Touch my Freedom of Artistic Expression

45min

Policy Lab: Interactive exchange in small groups of participants on possible policy recommendations

16h45

Time for Action

20min

17h05

Closing remarks: where to go from here?

17h15

Guided Tour National Library (Optional) ca. 45 minutes

**8th General Assembly of the
Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends**

17th of October

The next day is only open to the Compendium community.
For more information on the agenda see **Page 8**.

AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE OF COMPENDIUM COMMUNITY

Friday, 17th of October 2025

- 08h30** **Departure by bus from Hotel Mama Shelter**
- 09h00** **Registration & Coffee**
Networking opportunity to start the day
- 09h30** **Opening | Welcoming**

8th General Assembly of the Association of Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends (Experts are guests)
Moderated by Anna Villarroya, Chair of the Compendium Association
- 10h30** **Focus Groups consisting of Compendium members & experts**
- 11h30** **Coffee Break**
- 12h00** **Presentation of Focus Group results**
- 12h15** **Assembly of Compendium Experts (ACE)**
Moderated by Péter Inkei, Vice-Chair of ACE (Members are guest)
- 13h00** **Lunch Break**
- 14h00** **Tour de Table of Members & Experts**
Gather input, opinions, or current situation from every participant on a specific topic or proposal
- 14h45** **Presentation of Research Projects (5 x 12 min.)**
 - **Karsten Xuereb (Malta) – Strategy 2030 Malta**
 - **Nigar Akhundova (Azerbaijan) - Baku Contemporary Music Society**
 - **Olga Kolokitha (Greece) – The Role of Orchestras in Contemporary European Societies**
 - **Ola K. BERGE (Norway) - Culture as Preparedness**
 - **Diana ANDREEVA (Bulgaria) - Cultural Participation and Cultural Passports for the Age Group 6-25 in Bulgaria**
- 15h45** **Closing remarks**
- 16h00** **Departure by bus from Bourglinster castle to the airport and then to the Hotel Mama Shelter**
Please note: The luggage cannot be left on the bus; a storage room is available at Bourglinster Castle

List of Experts and Members of the Compendium Community

alphabetically-ordered by country

ARMENIA

Haykuhi Muradyan (Expert)
Yerevan State University

AUSTRIA

Anna Steiner (Member)
Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service
and Sport

Klara Kostal (Expert)
UNESCO Austria

AZERBAIJAN

Yashar Huseynli (Member & Expert)
Ministry for Culture

Nigar Akhundova (Expert)

BELGIUM (Flanders)

Eva Van Passel (Member)
Department Culture, Youth and Media, Flanders

Simon Leenknecht (Expert)
Kunsten.be

BELGIUM (WALLONIA)

Jean-Gilles Lowies (Member & Expert)
Observatoire des politiques culturelles

BULGARIA

Diana Andreeva (Member & Expert)
Observatory of Cultural Economics

CROATIA

Jaka Primorac (Expert)
IRMO Institute

FINLAND

Anna Kanerva (Compendium Board & Expert)
CUPORE

Johanna Tuukkanen (Member)
CUPORE

FRANCE

Jean-Cédric Delvainquiere (Member)
French Ministry of Culture - DEPS

GERMANY

**Ulrike Blumenreich (Head of Compendium
Coordinator & Member & Expert)**
Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends &
Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft

Oliver Göbel (Coordinator Team)
Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends

Nina Wigger (Coordinator Team)
Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends

GREECE

Olga Kolokytha (Expert)
Universität für Weiterbildung Krems

HUNGARY

Péter Inkei (Expert)
Budapest Observatory

LATVIA

Ieva Raudsepa (Member)
Ministry of Culture

LITHUANIA

Audrone Rimkute (Expert)
Vilnius University

LUXEMBOURG

Barbara Zeches (Member)
Ministry of Culture

Monique Borsenberger (Expert)
Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research

Jean Reitz (Expert)
Arts & Cultural Management and Consultant

MALTA

Karsten Xureb (Member & Expert)
Arts Council Malta

Adrian Debattista (Compendium Board & Expert)
Ministry of Culture

MONTENEGRO

Natasa Kraljevic (Member & Expert)
University "Mediterranean" Podgorica

List of Experts and Members of the Compendium Community

alphabetically-ordered by country

NETHERLANDS

Rogier Brom (Member)

Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Heidi Heinonen (Expert)

Boekman Foundation

Jan Jaap Knol (Expert)

Boekman Foundation

NORWAY

Bård Kleppe (Expert)

Telemark Research Institute

Ola K. Berge (Expert)

Telemark Research Institute

POLAND

Dorota Ilczuk (Expert)

University of Social Sciences Warsaw

Anna Karpinska (Expert)

University of Social Sciences Warsaw

Maciej Koziel (Expert)

University of Social Sciences Warsaw

PORTUGAL

Cristina Farinha (Expert)

Freelance policy expert

ROMANIA

Carmen Croitoru (Member & Expert)

Chair of the CDCPP

SPAIN

Anna Villarroya (Compendium Board & Expert)

University of Barcelona

SWEDEN

Andreas Petersons (Member & Expert)

Kulturanalys

SWITZERLAND

Claudio Bucher (Expert)

Zurich University of the Arts

COUNCIL OF EUROPE (Compendium Founder)

Daniil Khochabo (Compendium Board)

Directorate for Democracy

ERICarts Institute (Compendium Founder)

Andreas Wiesand (Compendium Board)

Executive Director

Invited Speakers and Guests

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Juris Rudevski

Lawyer European Court of Human Rights

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Doire O Cuinn

Policy Officer, DG EAC

FINLAND

Kimmo Aulake

Senior Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Education and Culture

SLOVAKIA

Robert Spotak

Former Director of the Slovak Arts Council

SWITZERLAND

Sanjay Sethi

Co-Director, Artistic Freedom Initiative

Jennifer Laourou

Researcher, Artistic Freedom Initiative

Irene Pavesi

Researcher, Artistic Freedom initiative

Organiser of the Conference:

Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg

- Barbara ZECHES

- Julie MATHIEU

Compendium Coordinator

- Ulrike BLUMENREICH

- Olivier GÖBEL

- Nina WIGGER

LOGISTICS

Airport / Hotel / Event Location

AIRPORT:

Luxembourg Airport

- 4, rue de Trèves, L-2016 Luxembourg (+352 24640)

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Mama Shelter Luxembourg

- 2 Rue Du Fort Niedergrunewald L2226 Luxembourg (+352 20 80 44 00)
- <https://mamashelter.com/luxembourg/>

From the airport:

- Tram: station on the right when exiting the airport, direction "Lycée Bouneweg" or "Stadion". Stop "Europaparlament/Parlement européen" or "Philharmonie/MUDAM".
- Busses 16 or 6. Station in front of the airport. Stop "Jean Monnet" (approx. 10 minutes walk to the hotel). For timetables and maps: www.mobiliteit.lu
- Taxis are available in front of the airport (average fare to the City centre: €40)

From the train station:

- Tram: station in front of the train station, direction "Luxexpo" or "Findel Luxembourg Airport". Stop: "Europaparlament/Parlement européen" or "Philharmonie/MUDAM".
- Bus 18. Station in front of the train station. Stop "Jean Monnet" (approx. 10 minutes walk to the hotel)
- Taxis are available to the left of the main exit of the train station.

Nota bene: public transport is free in Luxembourg, no ticket is needed (except for 1st class in trains).

RESTAURANT

Restaurant "Taberna Londrina"

- (35D Avenue John F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg)
- <https://www.tabernalondrina.com/locations/kirchberg-luxembourg>

LOGISTICS

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EVENT LOCATIONS:

Location on Thursday, the 16th October:

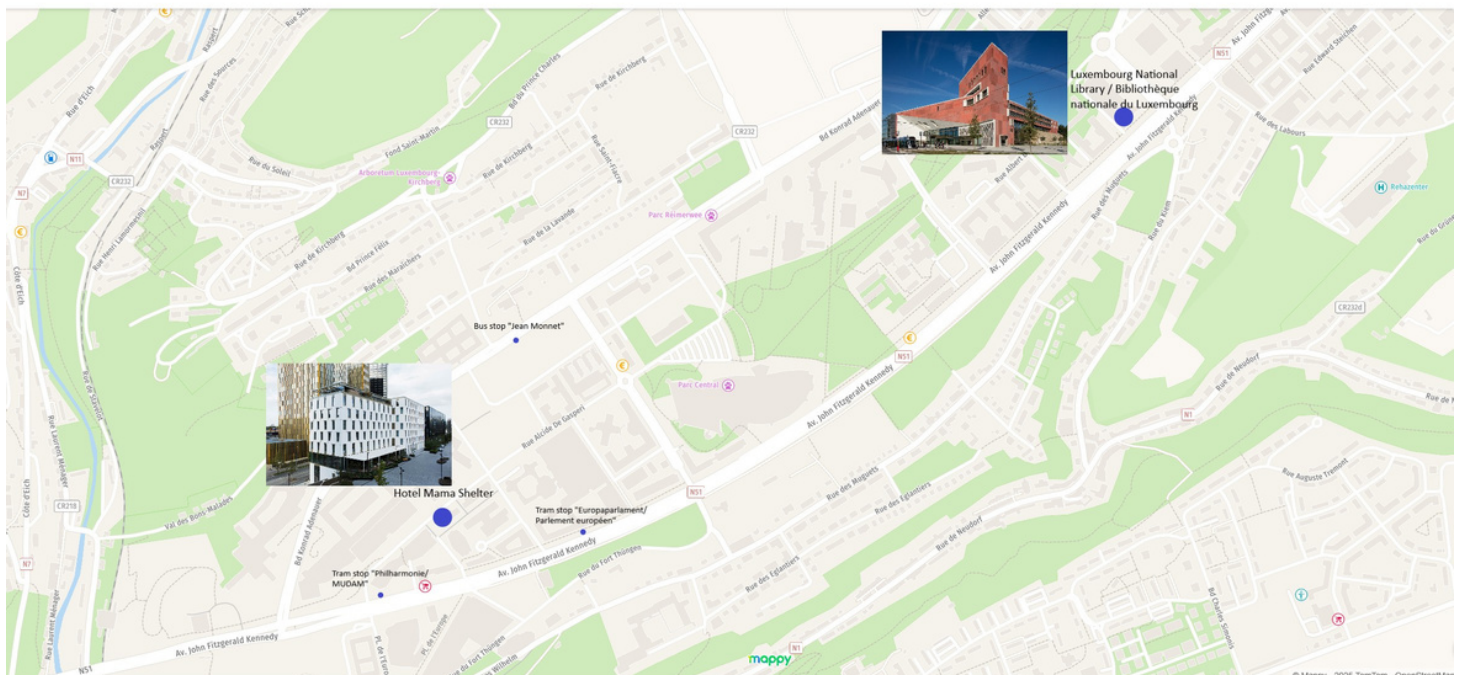
National Library of Luxembourg

- 37D Avenue John Fitzgerald Kennedy L-1855 Luxembourg
- bnl.lu
- Tram : direction "Luxexpo" or "Findel-Luxembourg Airport". Stop "Nationalbibliothék/Bibliothèque nationale" (3 stops from the Hotel Mama Shelter)
- Distance on foot from the Hotel Mama Shelter: 2km

Location on Friday, the 17th October:

Bourglinster Castle

- At 8:30 a bus will bring the participants from the Hotel Mama Shelter to Bourglinster Castle
- At 16:00 a bus shuttle will also bring the participants from Bourglinster Castle to the Airport and Hotel Mama Shelter



Event Location

16th October 2025

WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY



37D, Avenue John F. Kennedy, Kirchberg, Luxembourg City

The National Library of Luxembourg (Bibliothèque nationale du Luxembourg) is the country's largest library and principal heritage institution. Founded in its present form in 1899, its origins date back to 1798. Since October 2019, the library has been housed in a modern, purpose-built facility in the Kirchberg district, designed to meet the functional needs of a national library in the 21st century.

The BnL holds more than 1.8 million printed items, including books, manuscripts, newspapers, journals, maps, photographs, and music scores, making it a central resource for research and cultural preservation in Luxembourg. As a legal deposit library, it also serves as the country's ISBN, ISSN, ISMN, and ISNI agency, ensuring the systematic collection and preservation of Luxembourg's intellectual output.

In addition to its heritage mission, the library functions as a major scientific and research hub, offering access to extensive digital resources, databases, and international publications. It regularly organises exhibitions, conferences, and cultural events, often in collaboration with other institutions, thereby fostering exchange and innovation.

A striking contemporary landmark in Luxembourg City, the National Library not only preserves the nation's cultural memory but also embodies its commitment to knowledge, openness, and future generations.

[!\[\]\(99af31d6d7b9b738106c66bf7ffde536_img.jpg\) National Library of Luxembourg](#)

Event Location

17th October 2025

WELCOME TO THE BOURGLINSTER CASTLE



Bourglinster Village, 17 km east of Luxembourg City

Bourglinster Castle, also known as Schloss Buerglënster, is a historic fortress with origins dating back to the 11th century. First mentioned in 1098 as a property of St. Simeon of Trier, the castle originally featured a residential tower, chapel, and fortifications. Over the centuries, it was expanded and reconstructed, including the addition of a Renaissance wing in the 16th century and a Baroque façade in the early 18th century.

The castle was partially destroyed during wars in the 16th and 17th centuries but was carefully restored following its acquisition by the Luxembourg State in 1968.

Today, Bourglinster Castle is often used by the Luxembourg State for official events and receptions, and its conference facilities often house business meetings by both public and private actors. In summer, the banqueting halls are also a favoured location for wedding parties.

Bourglinster is also a cultural location, hosting concerts, lectures, open-air English theater etc. The former stables have been converted into spaces for arts residencies and workshops, with also a space for second-hand books

With its rich history, architectural splendor, and versatile facilities, Bourglinster Castle is not only a landmark of Luxembourg's heritage but also a vibrant venue for both cultural and professional gatherings.

Practical Information for Compendium Delegates

Mama Shelter Luxembourg

2 Rue du Fort Niedergrunewald, Luxembourg City

Mama Shelter Luxembourg is a modern and vibrant hotel offering a unique blend of comfort, design, and convenience. Check-in begins at 15:00, and check-out is at 12:00. Early check-in or late check-out may be available for an additional fee.



Language & Currency Information

The official languages of Luxembourg are Luxembourgish, French, and German. Luxembourgish (Lëtzebuergesch) is the national language, while French and German are widely used in administration, education, and daily communication. English is also commonly spoken, especially in business and tourism. The currency used in Luxembourg is the Euro (EUR). Most international cards are accepted throughout the country.

Climate Information

Luxembourg has a temperate oceanic climate with mild winters and moderate summers. For your comfort during the conference, light layers are recommended in summer, while warmer clothing may be needed in spring and autumn. Conference venues typically have heating and ventilation, but not all historical sites are air-conditioned, so dressing in layers is advisable.

Medical Information & Emergency Contact Information

The medical emergency and rescue number is 112.

Police can be reached under the number 113.

On-call hospitals in Luxembourg-City alternate between the Hôpital Robert Schuman (9, Rue Edward Steichen, L-2540 Luxembourg) and the Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg (4, rue Ernest Barblé, L-1210 Luxembourg).

Many doctors' appointments during office hours can be made online via www.doctena.lu.

Outside normal consulting hours, three medical centres provide GP and on-call medical care:

- Weekdays between 20:00 and midnight

- Saturday, Sunday and holidays: from 8:00 to midnight.

Address of the medical centre in Luxembourg-City: 5, rue des Primeurs, L-2361 Strassen.

Pharmacies are widely available, usually open from 8:00 to 18:00/18:30 (hours may vary).

Outside office hours, on-call pharmacies can be found on the website <https://www.pharmacie.lu/pharmacies/garde>

Additional Information

WELCOME TO LUXEMBOURG



One of the smallest countries in the world, and the world's only Grand Duchy, **Luxembourg** covers an area of 2.586km² and is home to a very diverse population of approx. 681.900 residents, of which nearly 47.3% hold a non-Luxembourgish nationality.



The country is marked by a great variety of landscapes, with the Oesling region up north - featuring shale, high plateaus, steep slopes, wooded valleys and murmuring rivers -, the Guttland region in the centre - essentially made up of sandstone, countryside and forests -, and the Minett in the south, dubbed "land of the red rocks" for its iron ore mining past. In the eastern region, the Moselle river attracts with important vineyards and the village of Schengen, while the Mullerthal, often referred to as "Luxembourg's Little Switzerland", is a unique composition of rocky hills amidst winding watercourses.



The country's capital, Luxembourg-City, lies on a rocky plateau above the Alzette and Pétrusse rivers. Its name comes from the fortress Lucilinburhuc, first mentioned in 963 AD, around which the city developed and became one of the most significant defensive sites in Europe for nearly a thousand years, listed as UNESCO World heritage since 1994. Today, it is the country's administrative centre, home to many European institutions and Robert Schuman's birth house, as well as many museums, theatres and music halls.



While Luxembourg's society is strongly attached to its festivals and traditions, it is also characterised by its international openness and an innovative spirit, making it a vibrant and cosmopolitan kaleidoscope and Luxembourg a country to be experienced, felt and explored.