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Working Session 5 : 'Tolerance and Non-Discrimination I'

Contribution of the Council of Europe

Cultural identities, shared values and citizenship

Following the Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict Prevention Project and as a contribution to the preparation of the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue, the Council of Europe carried out a two-year Project on "Cultural identities, shared values and citizenship" which was implemented following the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government (Warsaw, May 2005). The Project ended with a Forum on "Cultural values for Europe" (Strasbourg, 3 December 2007). The results of the Project were presented to a wide number of participants from the Council of Europe's member States as well as international non-governmental organisations. The participants supported the wide dissemination of:

- the European Manifesto for Multiple Cultural Affiliation;
- and the Handbook on cultural values for Europe.

They encouraged the Council of Europe to continue its work on the interpretation of the cultural heritage in different cities and regions throughout Europe.

The final versions of the Manifesto and the Handbook are available.

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Intercultural Cities: governance and policies for diverse communities

The Intercultural cities programme emerged from the Council of Europe's significant experience of projects that focus on issues concerned with the management of diversity, and considerable reflection that has been undertaken in relation to the principles and practices of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

Intercultural cities is a capacity-building and policy development field programme complementary to many of the current projects and events (conferences, research, exchanges, and campaigns) implemented by the Council of Europe in partnership with the European Commission. The programme's long-term, comprehensive approach will

contribute to the sustainability of the political impetus of one of the Council of Europe's declared priorities concerning the practice of diversity in today's world.

The programme's starting point is the belief that as communities across Europe grow increasingly diverse, their governance models, their public and media discourse, the management of their institutions and their policies determine whether this diversity becomes an asset or a threat. Successful cities (and societies) of the future will be intercultural: they will be capable of managing and exploring the potential of their cultural diversity to stimulate creativity and innovation and thus generate economic prosperity, community cohesion and better quality of life.

The Intercultural cities programme studies successful experiences in a range of cities in Europe (and possibly beyond) and harness this experience to encourage the development of structures, policies and practice in other cities through good practice exchange and city-to-city mentoring. In addition to the direct exchange, good practice will be made publicly available by means of an annual "Intercultural cities share fair" as well as web and print-based publications.

A.   Methodological tools

In order to guide cities in the process of understanding the concept of interculturalism, its impact of the policies and actions of the city, and the processes which could lead to the building of a vision for intercultural city development, shared by all main stakeholders, the following methodological tools have been prepared:

- A Concept Paper explaining the notion of intercultural city and processes which need to be put in place in order to mobilise a range of stakeholders and actors in the city in favour of intercultural vision- and city-building.

- A Resource pack presenting a variety of conceptual and practical resources related to intercultural mapping, vision building, leadership, strategy development, project planning, consultation and participation, ensuring sustainability, progress review and learning.

- A Policy assessment grid as a practical tool for intercultural policy development in cities.

- A media diversity concept has been prepared proposing a set of activities (media monitoring, diversity training, seminars) for journalists in pilot cities, to be carried out by the Media Diversity Institute, if the cities chose to do so, at their own cost.

- Intercultural city index (in process)

  The Index will be commonly-adopted format for defining and measuring performance. This Index is not intended to be a pure scientific tool. It would be impossible to reduce the essence of interculturality to a few measurements, or to establish clear-cut relationships of cause and effect between policies and actions and outcomes in something so subjective. The intercultural city approach is not a science but a general set of principles and a way of thinking. Thus, the Intercultural City Index aims to highlight a few common facts and phenomena - or what we

might describe as crucial "acupuncture" points, - which suggest the level of interculturality of a city, and which enable the beginning of a discussion whereby one city can be compared with another. However, it is not the intention of the project to use the Index for the crude 'ranking' of cities. Rather it should be used as spur to greater self-reflection, learning and improvement.

B.   Activities

- Diagnostic city visits

- The first round of visits to the shortlisted candidate intercultural cities has been completed. The purpose of the visits was to confirm the cities' capacity for participation in the programme and establish intercultural profiles as a reference and a point of departure for activates in the context of the programme. Eleven cities have been confirmed: Berlin Neukölln (Germany), Izhevsk (Russian Federation), Lublin (Poland), Lyon (France), Melitopol (Ukraine), Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Oslo(Norway), Patras (Greece), Reggio Emilia (Italy), Subotica (Serbia), Tilburg (the Netherlands).

- Policy assessment visits
  The second round of city visits aims at analysing and discussing in depth policies and approaches in pilot cities from intercultural point of view, using a specially developed tool, the Policy assessment gird). A representative of another pilot city is also involved in the visits (peer review/mentoring principle) to learn and provide feedback and advice. In addition to experts, representatives of other pilot cities took part in the policy assessment visits in order to provide insights, advise and support for fellow cities with similar profiles and concerns, as well as learn from the experience of the host city (city-to-city mentoring).

  The following visits took place in 2009: Berlin-Neukölln (May), Melitopol (June), Lublin (August).

- Thematic Events

  Thematic events have been organised in order to further consolidate the conceptual and methodological basis of the programme and identify policy guidelines in specific areas. The events have involved relevant representatives of pilot cities – policy makers and professionals from the area concerned, experts and if appropriate representatives of third cities.

  In 2008 three thematic events (workshops, conferences) and two study visits have been organised. As a result of the thematic event on intercultural governance and citizenship, the key principles and approaches for intercultural governance were validated. Following the event on cultural policy in the intercultural city a set of guidelines is being prepared. The thematic event on the role of media resulted in a series of media reports which are being collected and will be made available on the programme web site.

Following a pilot phase (2008-2010), an implementation phase will begin, with a larger network of cities, possibly on a global level. Interested cities and partner organisations are invited to contact us.

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Information system on cultural diversity and good practices information on intercultural dialogue and CultureWatchEurope Initiative

Since 1998, the Council of Europe has developed a web-based cultural policy information and monitoring system (Compendium available at http://www.culturalpolicies.net and comprising 41 cultural policy country profiles, which also provides a *database of good practices* on intercultural dialogue. Information presented relates to projects undertaken within individual countries to facilitate dialogue among the different cultural groups living there. They are initiated on the national, regional or local level and range from artistic productions to training programmes, awards, festivals, public events, media productions etc.

A new thematic space dealing with "Ethical issues in Cultural Policy Making" is being introduced as of 2009 to the system. It will discuss ethical dilemmas and provide links to existing Compendium sections dealing with cultural rights-related issues.

Another focus of the online system is on diversity policies. Cultural diversity is understood as:
- the pluralistic ethno-cultural linguistic identity and origin of cultural creators, producers, distributors and audiences;
- a diversity of artistic and other cultural content which diverse audiences can have access to through the media or other distribution channels;
- the diversity of actors which are involved in decision-making, regulating and /or funding creators and their works.

Since the beginning of the *Compendium* project, cultural diversity as a component of cultural policy making has been treated as a transversal issue with references to relevant sub-sections of *Compendium* country profiles, such as cultural minority groups, language diversity, media pluralism and artistic creativity/content production. Comparative overviews have also been compiled. Such information assists national governments and NGOs in their efforts to begin monitoring cultural policies and measures which support cultural diversity, as promoted in the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

This work is being extended in 2009 through the CultureWatchEurope initiative, which is to enhance cultural governance and policy making Europe-wide, in a human rights driven perspective and in collaboration with civil society partners. Specifically, CultureWatchEurope:

- generates and follows-up policy standards and instruments in the culture and heritage sectors;
- provides online information through joint access to the Council of Europe's electronic information tools;

- enables rapid consultation of key cultural data;
- offers a platform for creative exchange and
- contributes to prospective analysis and forward thinking.

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