



Culture Watch Europe



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### For more information

Visit the website of the  
Directorate of Democratic  
Governance, Culture and Diversity

[www.coe.int/culture](http://www.coe.int/culture)

and contact: [kathrin.merkle@coe.int](mailto:kathrin.merkle@coe.int),  
[anna.trigona@coe.int](mailto:anna.trigona@coe.int) or  
[sandrine.marolleau@coe.int](mailto:sandrine.marolleau@coe.int)

The Council of Europe's  
**information & exchange  
platform** for culture, heritage  
& media developments

## Strengthening democracy through culture

### Mission

The Council of Europe's CultureWatchEurope Platform (CWE) promotes culture as "the soul of democracy" by offering an innovative and evidence-based overview of culture, heritage and media developments in Europe. CultureWatchEurope adds value to the Organisation's existing information tools, programmes and methods by linking them and by inviting civil society to contribute.

CultureWatchEurope is value based, responsive, and aware: devised to pinpoint developments, difficulties, and good practices so that cultural governance and policy making can be enhanced Europe-wide, from a human rights perspective. Key words in this mission are: transparency, access and participation, respect for identity and diversity, intercultural dialogue and cultural rights.



### Action includes:

- generating and reviewing policy standards in areas of concern to governments and society by providing data, information, knowledge, comparative and trend analyses, expertise, advice and case studies;

- providing online information through joint access to the Council of Europe's electronic information tools:

- Compendium (<http://www.culturalpolicies.net>)
- HEREIN (<http://www.european-heritage.coe.int>)
- European Audiovisual Observatory ([www.obs.coe.int](http://www.obs.coe.int))

- enabling rapid consultation of key cultural data from European states in order to compare achievements;

- contributing to prospective analysis and forward thinking by addressing topical issues and emerging trends, developments and difficulties;

- offering a platform for creative exchange and synergy between governments, cultural practitioners and civil society on key issues through major conferences.

## Joining forces for shared values

### Key Partners



CWE is set up under the umbrella of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Culture, CDCULT, in close co-operation with the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape, CDPATER and the European Audiovisual Observatory. In addition, CWE co-operates with:

- Council of Europe bodies, including the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations;

- external partners from civil society, international organisations, research and academia, such as the Budapest Observatory, Culture Action Europe, the Culturelink Network, ERICarts, the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and LaborCulture, the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC), the International Cultural Centre of Cracow and Interarts;

- new associate partners are welcome to participate in CWE.

## Offering a platform for creative exchange

### Methods



The CWE electronic platform will provide a space for:

- sharing information and resources via joint access to three Council of Europe databases and thematic online spaces;

- engaging in an interactive policy debate through a forum linking key partners from the cultural sector as well as civil society actors and governments.

Annual CWE events, organised together with civil society representatives, address topical issues of concern to the cultural world, and contribute to trend analysis and forward thinking.

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## Getting to know more

### Achievements & Work Plan 2010/2011

In 2011, the CultureWatchEurope electronic platform and a joint search engine for the different online tools will be further developed. A forward-looking think-tank (Bled, November 2011) will discuss concrete measures that public authorities could take to enhance the governance of the cultural sector and implement change. Priorities, new legislative requirements, alterations to existing systems of public subsidy, parameters for state intervention and requirements for the protection of citizens' cultural rights need to be examined.



The 2010 Conference on "Culture and the Policies of Change" (Brussels, September 2010) studied the role of culture in promoting social integration and in managing cultural diversity, also with a view to environmental concerns. Resources for culture and the impact of the financial crisis on the cultural sector were analysed in detail.

A first CWE Conference on "Culture and development 20 years after the fall of communism in Europe" in June 2009 in Cracow, generated insights and recommendations for governments and other cultural stakeholders geared to stronger integration of the central and eastern European countries.

CWE, in association with the European Audiovisual Observatory and Eurimages, has prepared a recommendation adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on European film support policies. Other standard setting work will follow.

