



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos



culture 21

Agenda 21 for culture
Agenda 21 de la culture
Agenda 21 de la cultura

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE REPORT 2009

President

Jordi Martí (Barcelona)

Vice-presidents

Madeleine Sjöstedt (Stockholm), Catherine Cullen (Lille), Hernán Lombardi (Buenos Aires)

Summary

Culture is becoming, partly thanks to the impact of Agenda 21 for culture, in **the fourth pillar of sustainable development** at a local level.

The Committee is becoming **a hub of information and expertise** on the relation between cultural policies and local development.

A. INTRODUCTION

The World Council of Jeju constituted the Committee on culture and approved a programme for 2008-2010. The **main aim** of the programme is:

To promote the role of culture as a central dimension of local policies, fostering the relation between culture and sustainable development and the processes of intercultural dialogue, through the international dissemination and local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture

B. POLICY ADVANCES

1. We have reached **a deeper relation with Unesco**.

- UCLG has been officially accepted as an observer to the Organs of the Convention on the protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of Unesco.
- Moreover, the Committee on culture (through the City of Stockholm) is assessing the programme "Network of Creative Cities".
- Last, but not least, the Committee has been involved in the process "Towards a new framework for cultural policies", convened by the Division on Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue.

2. We have presented **four reports** in 2009.

- "Culture, local governments and Millennium Development Goals", with articles by Inge Ruigrok, Amareswar Galla, José-Antonio González Mancebo and Nil Sismanyazici-Navaie.
- "The Agenda 21 for culture in France State of affairs and outlook", by Christelle Blouët, in cooperation with of the French *Observatoire des Politiques Culturelles*.
- "Culture and sustainable development: examples of institutional innovation and proposal of a new cultural policy profile", written for the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue of UNESCO.
- "A report celebrating the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture", with 20 articles of Mayors, councillors and civil society leaders.

3. In April 2009, the number of cities, local governments and organizations from all over the world that were linked to Agenda 21 for culture reached the figure of 350. An “**imaginary city map**” was produced as an illustration, and as a nice way to celebrate the fifth anniversary.

C. TOOLS and ACTIVITIES

4. We have a new **website**. Open source. Easy to upload documents. Easy to be transferred to new Chair or UCLG’s Secretariat. We send a **bulletin** with news.

5. The **translation** of Agenda 21 for culture reached the number of **17 languages**: Arabic, Bulgarian, Japanese, Persian, Russian, Serbian (Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian), Swedish and Ukrainian were added to previously existing: English, French, Spanish, Catalan, Galician, German, Italian, Portuguese and Turkish.

6. We organised **two events**:

- The seminar on “Culture, sustainable development and local governments”, in June 2009, in Barcelona, in cooperation with the French Observatoire des Politiques Culturelles and Unesco, order to mark the 5th anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture.
- The workshop on “African cities and local cultural cooperation”, which took place at the Euro-African Campus for cultural cooperation, in Maputo, in June 2009, in cooperation with OCPA – Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa and Interarts Foundation.

7. We have offered economic and technical support to the cities of Buenos Aires, Medellín and Quito on the elaboration of a **local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture**, with the support of AECID – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

D. MAIN PRIORITIES and ACTIVITIES for 2010

8. We are about to launch a **call for proposals** (with AECID and UCLG) on the local governance of culture. The call will be restricted to UCLG members, in Africa, Iberoamerica and the Mediterranean. Projects will have to be based on Agenda 21 for culture.

9. We will develop our **partnerships** with the European Union and the Council of Europe, and will deepen our **alliance with AECID** – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

10. We will focus on lobby and advocacy, within UCLG, so that culture has a plenary session the **World Congress** of Mexico and becomes a **strategic priority** of UCLG for 2011-2013.

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