

CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES

LEARNING WITH CULTURE 21 ACTIONS



INTRODUCING C21LAB

June 2017



WHAT IS CULTURE 21 LAB?

Culture 21 Lab is a capacity-building programme on culture in sustainable cities.

WHY IS “CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES” IMPORTANT?

A people-centred sustainable city will not happen unless cultural themes, factors and agents are explicit and operational.

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), advocates for culture as a key dimension of sustainable cities, through the [Agenda 21 for culture](#) as a key policy document, and the [Culture 21 Actions](#) toolkit, which was adopted at the first Culture Summit of UCLG, held in Bilbao in March 2015.

Culture 21 Actions is a useful toolkit providing a framework on the place of culture in sustainable development. It covers 9 **commitments** or thematic areas:

1. **Cultural Rights**
2. **Heritage, Diversity, and Creativity**
3. **Culture and Education**
4. **Culture and Environment**
5. **Culture and Economy**
6. **Culture, Equality, and Social Inclusion**
7. **Culture, Urban Planning, and Public Space**
8. **Culture, Information, and Knowledge**
9. **Governance of Culture**

On the basis of Culture 21 Actions, the Committee on Culture of UCLG has established two long-term capacity-building and peer-learning programmes (namely, [Leading Cities](#) and [Pilot Cities](#)), as well as a short-term programme: the **Culture 21 Lab**.

HOW DOES A CULTURE 21 LAB WORK?

A Culture 21 Lab takes the form of a 1.5-day **workshop**, involving a group of 12-30 local stakeholders, including local government professionals and technicians, representatives of civil society organizations and private sector bodies, and academics.

A Culture 21 Lab is facilitated by UCLG and by an external expert.

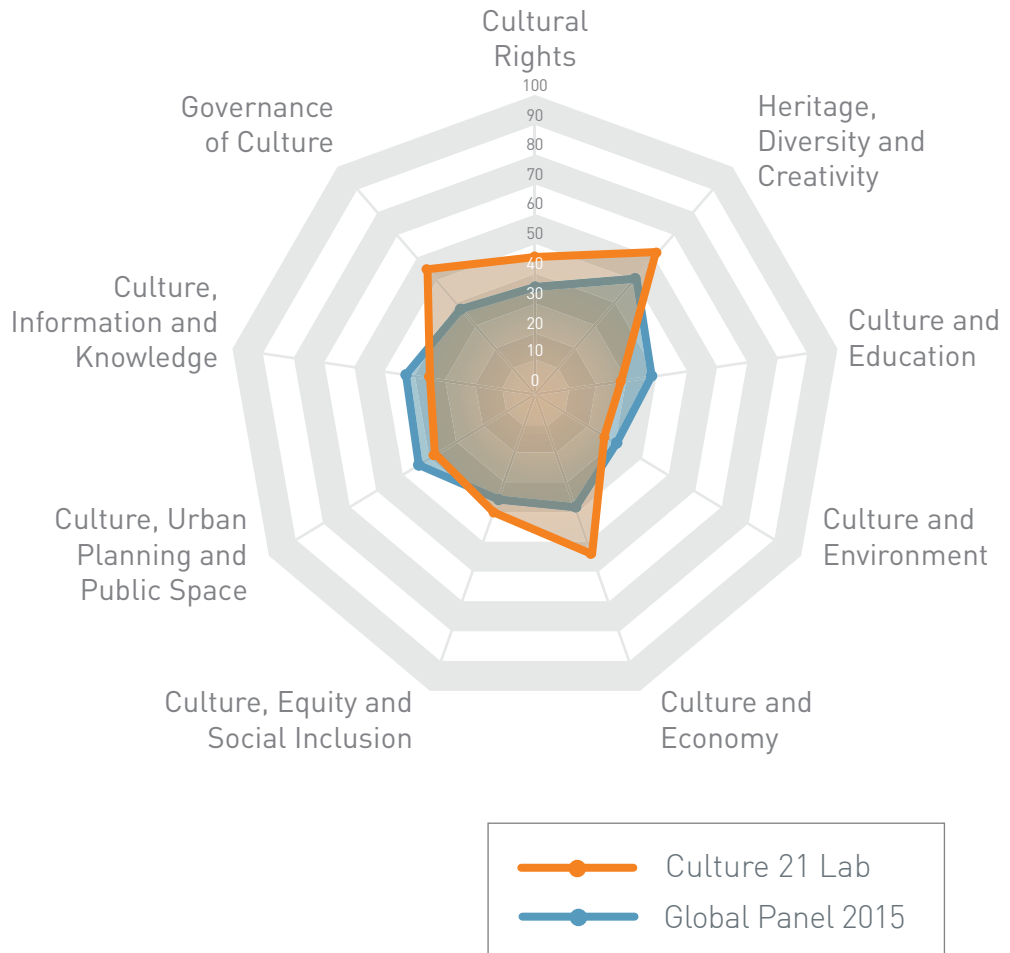
A Culture 21 Lab could be seen as an environment for **local dialogue and debate** on culture in the city's vision of sustainable development, including interaction with other areas of public, private and civil society action. Where necessary, the number of participants and duration can be adapted to suit local needs.

Workshop participants will be introduced to the Agenda 21 for culture and Culture 21 Actions, as well as related issues (sustainability, governance, participation, cultural rights, etc.). The workshop will serve to:

- Get a first-hand account of the current world debates on culture in sustainable cities
- Learn the vocabulary of culture in sustainable development and disentangle misunderstandings and misconceptions
- Acquire competences in "local cultural cooperation"
- Self-evaluate where the city stands in each of the nine thematic areas of Culture 21 Actions
- Identify local strengths and weaknesses
- Identify good practices that exist in the city and elsewhere

Following the workshop, a group of 2-3 participants and facilitators will prepare **a short report**, including the conclusions of the self-evaluation carried out during the Culture 21 Lab, a 'Radar' that shows the city's standing with regards to the nine commitments, relevant recommendations for follow-up work and some good practices that could be shared with other cities. A summary of this report will be translated and published by the UCLG Committee on Culture.

The **Radar** produced at the end of Culture 21 Lab will allow the city to compare itself with an international average of cities, as shown below:



As well as a Culture 21 Lab, **an additional public event** can be held, allowing the city to raise awareness of the Agenda 21 for culture and local policies and challenges in the field of culture and sustainable development among other relevant stakeholders and the broader public. UCLG and the external expert can take part in this event, and will also be available for **media work** if necessary. These are optional activities, which the relevant local government can decide whether to organise or not.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF CULTURE 21 LAB?

- **Capacity-building** of public, private and civil society stakeholders on culture and local sustainable development.
- **Final report** including a Radar; an identification of 2-3 areas in which further work is needed, with possible recommendations; an identification of 2-3 areas in which the city has strengths, which could be used in subsequent peer-learning processes.
- **Summary of the final report** translated and published in English, French and Spanish on the Agenda 21 for culture website.
- **Promotion** of the activities carried out via the Agenda 21 for Culture's social media profiles.

HOW CAN MY CITY PARTICIPATE?

Additional information on conditions for participation in Culture 21 Lab can be provided by the Secretariat of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

CONTACT DETAILS

Committee on culture of UCLG

Email info@agenda21culture.net

Web www.agenda21culture.net

Twitter [@agenda21culture](https://twitter.com/agenda21culture)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any additional information.

