



THE SEVEN KEYS IN CONCEPCIÓN

INTRODUCTION:

THE UCLG COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE SEVEN KEYS

The city of Concepción (Chile) organised a Seven Keys workshop on 16 and 17 June 2022. The workshop was designed by the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG for cities and local and regional governments from around the world seeking to integrate the cultural dimension in the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This process allows the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda to be linked with the local challenges of a municipality as well as its local cultural actions and policies. Through the Guide for Local Action on Culture in the SDGs (UCLG, 2018), the process allows for the definition of 'Seven Keys', representing concrete commitments from local actors to localise the SDGs through the formulation of local cultural policies and actions.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a unique global platform that brings together more than 830 cities, organisations and networks in order to cooperate and promote the role of 'culture in sustainable cities'. Its mission is to 'promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture', and to foster and make more explicit the relationship between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

CONTEXT: THE CITY AND ITS MAIN CHALLENGES

CONCEPCIÓN

Located 500 km south of Santiago, along the Biobío river, the city of Concepción spans an area of 221 km² and has 230,000 inhabitants. Concepción is the regional capital and the centre of an urban area that includes 10 municipalities, in which almost 1 million people live, constituting the most important economic and cultural centre in the south of the country. Its physical and environmental characteristics, as well as its infrastructure and accessibility, make it one of the best cities to live in Chile.

Concepción is a university city, with more than 100,000 students at 13 universities and professional institutes. Since its foundation, Concepción has played an important role in the economic, social and cultural development of the country. Throughout its history it has had to overcome earthquakes and multiple disasters, forging a resilient and perseverant character in its inhabitants. It is the cultural capital of southern Chile, with a distinct, recognisable identity. Concepción is a musical city with high-quality cultural infrastructure such as the Biobío Regional Theatre, as well as public spaces capable of hosting large shows and festivals such as REC, a must for rock music in Chile.

In 2014 Concepción adopted the **2030 Concepción Cultural Plan**, which aims to incorporate culture as the fourth pillar of the city's sustainable development. The city stands out particularly for the quality of its participatory and citizen processes in culture and several of its actions are recognised by the UCLG Committee on Culture as **good practices** in the field of culture, citizenship and sustainability. Concepción has been a pilot city of the Agenda 21 for culture (2014–2018) and has been Leading City of the Committee on Culture since 2021. In this regard, and in the context of the drafting of the new Chilean Constitution, Concepción is carrying out work on cultural rights and sustainability and is seeking to refocus its cultural policies from this perspective. The Seven Keys workshop is currently being applied.

THE BIOBÍO REGION

As part of the Seven Keys workshop, participants from the different municipalities of the Biobío region were invited to develop a regional reflection on culture and sustainability. The Biobío region is one of the sixteen regions of the Republic of Chile, with Concepción as its capital. The region spans an area of just under 24,000 km² and has a population of 1.5 million inhabitants, making it the third most populated region in the country. Bordered to the east by the Andes Mountains and to the west by the Pacific coast, the region has a diverse range of climates, territories, cultures and socio-economic contexts. The region is made up of the provinces of Arauco, Biobío and Concepción, and is divided into 33 communes.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SESSION

Antoine Guibert, expert from the UCLG Committee on Culture and workshop facilitator, made a five-day visit to Concepción in June 2022. The Seven Keys workshop took place on 16 and 17 June and over two days brought together close to 15 participants from different communes in the Biobío region (see list of participants in annex).

The first part of the workshop took place on 16 June 2022 aiming to link the SDGs with local challenges as well as with local cultural actions and policies. After a presentation of the SDGs, participants gathered in groups to determine, as an initial exercise, the region's main challenges and identify which SDGs correspond with them. As a second exercise, a 'cultural mapping' of the region was carried out, highlighting the significant number of actions, activities, celebrations, festivals, landmarks and tangible and intangible heritage present in the region. These cultural aspects were then matched with the SDGs to which they contribute. In the same vein, participants identified the number of times an SDG coincided with local challenges—thus allowing the most relevant SDGs in the local context to be determined—as well as how many times an SDG corresponded with the identified cultural elements, thus determining which SDGs are most applicable in a local sense according to cultural actions as well as identifying where cultural actions and local needs converge (see Annex 1 for a list of local challenges, cultural mapping and this matrix).

Workshop participants identified important local challenges in the social sphere, including territorial inequality, a lack of territorial and urban planning, informal and precarious employment, migration, mental health, education and child protection. On the other hand, participants identified extractivist policies as an important challenge in the environmental sphere. Finally, they highlighted important challenges in the area of security in the region (due to violence in general, drug trafficking, and the Mapuche conflict) as well as in the area of governance, due to strong institutional centralism and corruption.

The second part of the workshop was held on 17 June 2022. This session began with a presentation of inspiring examples from other cities with similar backgrounds to that of Concepción and the Biobío region, according to the UCLG **OBS Database of Good Practices**. Based on the above results, four working groups were established with the aim of defining cultural policies or actions that could be adopted at the local level to help achieve the SDGs locally. Participants were also asked to take into account and incorporate an approach based on cultural rights for these proposed actions. Each group was able to debate, exchange and build proposals for actions, which were presented in plenary to all participants, discussed, agreed upon, and grouped into six major 'Key Actions'.

THE SEVEN KEYS IN CONCEPCIÓN

To identify SGD, workshop participants proposed a series of key cultural actions, which were agreed upon and collated in the case of Concepción and the Biobío region in Six Keys¹:



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND CULTURE.

- SUPPORT FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND SEED SAVERS WITH TRAINING COURSES IN THE COMMUNES ACCORDING TO THEIR NATURAL PRODUCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS
- PRODUCE A REGIONAL RECIPE MANUAL (DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL), FUSING TECHNICAL AND ANCESTRAL ELEMENTS WITH GEO-REFERENCE (INCLUDING HERBS, EVIL EYE, INDIGESTION, BONESETTERS, ETC.)
- ESTABLISH PUBLIC POLICIES THAT MAKE SALES CHANNELS FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS COMPULSORY, RESPECTING FAIR TRADE AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE.

[SDGS 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14 AND 15]



CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

- CONDUCT A PARTICIPATORY AUDIO-VISUAL PROJECT ON THE REGION'S WETLANDS AND LAGOONS, FOR EXAMPLE, FEATURING AN INCLUSIVE DOCUMENTARY WITH THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL CLASSROOM-BASED OR ONSITE WORKSHOPS, PARTICIPATORY AUDIO-VISUAL WORKSHOPS, AND GUIDED TOURS IN THE COMMUNITIES; WITH AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH INVOLVING SUBTITLES, SIGN LANGUAGE AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION, FOR EXAMPLE
- PRODUCE MATERIAL (CATALOGUES, CLIPS, ETC.) ON THE CULTURAL IDENTITIES OF THE TERRITORIES
- ORGANISE A SCHOOL FILM AND ENVIRONMENT FESTIVAL WITH A REGIONAL CALL FOR ENTRIES, A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION, AND A HERITAGE FAIR FOR CRAFTS, GASTRONOMY, ETC.

[SDGS 4, 11, 13, 14 AND 15]



TRADES, ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS: PROMOTING LOCAL IDENTITY.

- PRODUCE AN AUDIO-VISUAL SERIES FOR LOCAL CRAFTS AND TRADES, WITH AN AGREEMENT THAT LINKS EXISTING MATERIAL WITH THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY OF EACH COMMUNE, THE CIRCULATION OF CONTENT, AND ARTISTIC MEDIATION ACTIONS
- CONDUCT A CADASTRAL SURVEY OF CULTURAL PRODUCERS AND ENTREPRENEURS AND CREATE A SCHOOL/MUSEUM/SHOP TO FOSTER THE LOCAL INCLUSIVE CULTURAL ECONOMY
- ENCOURAGE THE CIRCULATION OF CULTURAL GOODS IN THE REGION TOGETHER WITH LOCAL ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS.

[SDGS 1, 4, 8, 10, 11 AND 12]



CULTURE AND GENDER EQUALITY.

- STRENGTHEN LINKS WITH MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES IN ORDER TO DEFINE AND IMPLEMENT AN ACTION PLAN THAT FAVOURS GENDER EQUALITY (E.G. TRAINING FOR STAFF, AUTHOR AND READING SEASONS, BREAST-FEEDING SPACES, INCLUSIVE READING SHELVES, ETC.)

[SDG 5]



CULTURAL EDUCATION.

- INCLUDE PARTICIPANTS FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION BACKGROUNDS IN UNIVERSALLY-ACCESSIBLE ARTS WORKSHOPS (E.G. MAKE AGREEMENTS WITH UNIVERSITIES OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES; HOLD WORKSHOPS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS)
- ESTABLISH CURRICULA IN SCHOOLS THAT IDENTIFY AND INCLUDE LOCAL CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS IN PAID WORKSHOPS.

[SDG 4]



CULTURAL GOVERNANCE.

- CATALOGUE, DESCRIBE AND ANALYSE GOOD EXAMPLES OF SELF-MANAGEMENT, AUTONOMY AND COMMUNITARIANISM AND CREATE EXCHANGES TO INSPIRE AND LEARN
- FROM THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, MAKE A TERRITORIAL ACTION PLAN BASED ON THE SDGS FOCUSED ON CULTURE AND INVOLVING A LETTER OF COMMITMENT
- CREATE A CITIZEN GOVERNANCE BOARD WITH TERRITORIAL AGENTS LEGITIMISED BY THEIR COMMUNITY, WITH AN APPROACH AND PROFILE BASED ON CULTURE, ART AND HERITAGE, WHICH CREATES TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY, AND WHICH COUNTS ON THE COLLABORATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS
- CARRY OUT ASSEMBLIES AND INFORMATION FAIRS FOR THE DESIGN OF ACTION PLANS FOCUSED ON CULTURAL RIGHTS AS WELL AS TRAINING AND DISSEMINATION WORKSHOPS ON CULTURAL RIGHTS.

[SDG 16 AND 17]

¹ The Seven Keys methodology is adjusted to each territory and local context and allows for an adaptation in terms of the number of key actions set out in each territory, taking seven as an indicative reference. Thus, in previous experiences, Puerto de la Cruz identified six keys, Lisbon and Xi'an identified seven keys and Bulawayo identified eight keys. In the case of Concepción and the Biobío region, following the presentation made by each team and by way of summary, six key actions were identified.

CREDITS

THE ORGANISERS

United Cities and Local Governments - UCLG: United Cities and Local Governments

- **UCLG** is the global network representing and defending the interests of local governments on the world stage. Based in Barcelona, UCLG's mission is 'to be the united voice and world advocate of local democratic self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments and within the wider international community'. Since its creation in May 2004, as heir to the century-old international municipalist movement, more than 240,000 towns, cities, regions and metropolises, and over 175 local and regional government associations have joined this global network.

UCLG Committee on Culture: The **UCLG Committee on Culture** is a unique global platform that brings together more than 830 cities, organisations and networks that cooperate and promote the role of 'culture in sustainable cities'. The mission of the UCLG Committee on Culture is 'to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture'.

Concepción: Concepción is a city with 230,000 inhabitants and is the regional capital and centre of an urban area that includes 10 communes, in which almost 1 million people live. The city is the most important economic and cultural centre in southern Chile. From 2014 to 2018 Concepción was a pilot city of the Agenda 21 for culture and since 2021 it has been a Leading City of the Committee on Culture.

Seremi de las Culturas, Biobío region: The liaison office of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage of the Biobío region, its mission is to implement national policies at the local level. Its programmes include Red Cultura, a unit in charge of coordinating the work of the Culture Departments of the municipalities that make up the Biobío region.

The facilitator: Antoine Guibert is a consultant on culture and sustainable development and is a UCLG Committee on Culture expert on Agenda 21 for culture.



ANNEX 1: LOCAL CHALLENGES

Workshop participants identified the following factors as the main challenges facing their region in terms of development:

- **Territorial inequality:** challenges related to wealth redistribution, overcrowding, place of birth as a social determinant, access and level of access to education
- **Deficits in territorial and urban planning:** challenges related to connectivity, mobility and night-time transport; challenges in the field of the environment; deficient planning, e.g. in the case of the Costanera
- **Informality and job insecurity:** deindustrialisation, economic reconversion, itinerant trade, etc.
- **Migration:** arrival of large numbers of migrants; problems related to discrimination; the arrival of irregular migrants leads to social and human problems; existence of migrants linked to drug trafficking; etc.
- **Security:** violence and insecurity in the territories; drug trafficking; conflicts between the Mapuche and the state; loss of civic values and coexistence
- **Drug trafficking:** generates violence, loss of public space and freedom; justice system ineffective in the face of the situation
- **Mental health** of the population, especially in the context of successive crises
- **Child protection.**
- **Education** throughout the life cycle, whether civic, environmental or artistic-cultural
- **Unregulated extractivist policies** that generate environmental vulnerability
- **Institutional centralism**, including central government and universities, in the area of public services and policy-making
- **Corruption**, which is observed in a cross-cutting and institutionalised manner, both public and private, at macro and micro levels.

CULTURAL MAPPING

Workshop participants identified the following factors and aspects as 'cultural' (in a broad sense) in the Biobío region:

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

ANCIENT WISDOM

ARTISANS

MUSEUMS

LIBRARIES

REC

CONCEPCIÓN CRAFT FAIR

COMICON

TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS

GASTRONOMY

CRAFTS

GASTRONOMIC TRADITION

SUMMER FESTIVALS

COSTANERA PARK

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

PEASANT TRADITION

REGIONAL FESTIVALS

LANGUAGES

CEMETERIES

ARTS EDUCATION

CONCEPCIÓN THEATRE

SCHOOLS

BIOBÍO THEATRE

MARINE SPACE

LOCAL TRADES

INDUSTRIAL AREAS

MINING AREAS

MAPUCHE CULTURE AND WORLDVIEW

ARTS EDUCATION

MEMORY SITES

EVENTS

UNIVERSITIES

ECUADOR PARK

UDEC

UNIVERSITY OF CONCEPCIÓN THEATRE

BEACHES

BARRIO NORTE LAGOONS AND

WETLANDS

SACRED SITES

NONGUEN RESERVE

LAGUNA GRANDE, SAN PEDRO

PARKS

NAHUELUTA MOUNTAIN RANGE

LAJA FALLS

ANTUCO VOLCANO

IDENTIFYING POINTS OF CONVERGENCE

LOCAL CHALLENGES AND LOCAL CULTURE IN REGARD TO THE SDGs



OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- SDG 5 (gender equality) was linked to a significant number of local challenges but few identified cultural actions were linked to this SDG, which seems to point to insufficient consideration of gender equality in local cultural actions. This aspect would deserve special attention from public institutions. In this respect, participants proposed an important key action on culture and gender equality.
- The importance of the social and socio-economic challenges facing the Biobío region was underlined by the participants, with the SDGs in the social sphere (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 8 and 10) standing out significantly, particularly SDG 1 in relation to ending poverty and SDG 10 in relation to inequalities. It is worth mentioning, however, that few of the identified cultural actions were linked to these SDGs (with the exception of SDG 3 related to health and well-being, for which a significant number of cultural actions were identified), which also seems to point to insufficient consideration of social aspects in local cultural actions, where they would deserve special attention.
- It should also be noted that, in general, many cultural actions related to the environmental SDGs were identified and that the participants proposed several actions related to food sovereignty, the environment and landscapes, and the local identity of the territories. This demonstrates the importance of the cultural dimension of the environment and territory in the Biobío region, especially due to the diversity of local worldviews. Similarly, SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) was linked to many local challenges, and in a more balanced manner to many cultural actions, including in relation to natural and cultural heritage. On the other hand, participants proposed actions related to the cultural economy generally focused on the revitalisation of local identities and cultures, as well as on sustainable development and the cultural rights of local communities. Thus, it appears that an approach based on 'local cultures, environment and territories' could potentially be a core focus of public policies on culture in the region.
- Finally, SDGs 16 (institutions) and 17 (partnerships) were linked to many important local challenges, and few cultural actions seem to respond to these SDGs, which also seems to point to insufficient consideration of these aspects in local cultural actions. To respond to this situation, participants proposed numerous actions in relation to governance that are highly relevant in the local context.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Carlos Toledo Marte, Culture Officer, Municipality of Hualpen
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Fernando Acuña Carcamo, Culture Officer, Municipality of Alto Biobio
Pablo cabezas, Culture Officer, Municipality of Quilaco
Omar Venegas Orellana, Culture Officer, Municipality of San Pedro de la Paz
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Maria Alejandra Valdivia, Culture Officer, Municipality of Chiguayante
Viviana Muñoz Henríquez, Culture Officer, Municipality of Hualqui
Ricardo Valenzuela, Culture Officer, Municipality of Santa Juana
Erick Vasquez Inostroza, Culture Officer, Municipality of Penco
Javiera Matus de la Parra, Manager, Los Angeles Municipal Cultural Corporation
Johann Borquez Bohn, Head of Concepción Creation Centre (C3), Municipality of Concepción
Guadalupe Lloves Requejo, Head of Concepción Arts Centre, Municipalité de Concepción
Daisy Retamal, Head of the Culture Network Programme, Seremi, Biobio Region, Seremi Culture, Arts and Heritage of the Biobio Region
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SEVEN KEYS WORKSHOP



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