



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

Ajuntament  de Barcelona

Institut de
cultura ■

Working Group on Culture

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Subject: **Study on « local policies for cultural diversity »**

This message is sent to the members of UCLG's Working Group on Culture, as well as to cities and local governments wishing to contribute and participate in this study.

Background

This study has been commissioned by UNESCO, in the framework of its efforts for the promotion of cultural diversity and in view of the publication of a report on the state of cultural diversity in the world. The Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue of UNESCO has commissioned a study on "local policies for cultural diversity" to the Institut de Cultura – Ajuntament de Barcelona, as Chair of the Working Group on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments.

The study commissioned by UNESCO proves that cities and local governments are seen as key-players in the « cultural diversity » debate, for their direct relation to citizenship, the transversality of the policies and a capacity to innovate.

The study is developed following to three strands. (1) Three researchers with an expertise in cultural diversity on a local level will be asked to write a report: Dr Colin Mercer, Dr Nancy Duxbury and Interarts Foundation. (2) Cities will be asked to provide specific case-studies. (3) Research of experiences and case-studies already available in portals and websites. The coordination of UCLG's WG on Culture will deliver a final report with a coherent framework.

The full study will be made available to UCLG members and all participating cities. The deadlines of the study are extremely tight. The study has to be submitted on 7th April 2006 at the latest. This deadline is fixed by UNESCO.

Conceptual framework

The terms of reference of the study describe "local policies for cultural diversity" in the following ten points:

1. The main objective of the study is to "investigate what types of public policies on a local level support the diversity of forms of cultural expressions".
2. The concept used, "support", is preferred over "protect" or "promote" as the latter can lead to ambiguous or more restricted interpretations. The term "support" is perhaps too wide, but it will allow the study to include the variety of public local policies.
3. The emphasis is on public policies and not merely on policies developed by the area/sector/department for culture. The support of the diversity of forms of cultural expressions goes often beyond the cultural area/sector/department and is closely related to social and economic aspects.
4. The emphasis in local policies does not mean the public private partnerships should not be taken into account and described; it is rather the opposite: many local policies are successful because they are based in partnerships with civil society, NGOs and private agents. The study should explain these partnerships.

5. The emphasis is on local policies, that is, policies elaborated, implemented and evaluated by local authorities. The study could include local policies that have a regional or national framework, that is, that respond to general policy orientations given by the regional or national authorities.
6. The study should also clarify to what extent cultural diversity is perceived as an issue in public policies and how the approach to cultural diversity differs between national public policies and local public policies.
7. "Cultural diversity" is defined following to the "Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity", adopted by the 31st General Conference of UNESCO in 2001, and the "Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions" adopted by the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO in 2005. These documents define cultural diversity in broad terms. "«Cultural diversity» refers to the manifold ways in which the cultures of groups and societies find expression. These expressions are passed on within and among groups and societies. Cultural diversity is made manifest not only through the varied ways in which the cultural heritage of humanity is expressed, augmented and transmitted through the variety of cultural expressions, but also through diverse modes of artistic creation, production, dissemination, distribution and enjoyment, whatever the means and technologies used" (Article 4.1, "Convention").
8. The concepts "cultural development", "cultural vitality" and "cultural diversity", among others, often overlap. The purpose of this study is also to analyse the relation between cultural development and cultural diversity at the local level. The study will suggest a set of indicators to describe local cultural development, and will indicate, among these indicators, which could be used to evaluate the support to the diversity of forms of cultural expressions.
9. The study will focus on a specific number of local policies. A tentative, non-exhaustive list could be as follows:
 - a) Policies to guarantee, protect or promote the cultural rights at local level. Complementarities or reciprocity between the protection of cultural diversity and human rights.
 - b) Policies that aim to guarantee a diversity of cultural expressions at local level: diversity of venues, agents, supports, partners... The concept of local cultural ecosystem might be useful.
 - c) Policies that aim to involve citizens in cultural practices.
 - d) Policies that foster the use of public spaces as areas of conviviality and interaction.
 - e) Policies that relate cultural diversity and social inclusion. Combating poverty, the search of peace and understanding at local level among different communities, the participation of citizens in the elaboration / implementation of local policies...
 - f) Policies that relate the cultural sectors, the creative industries and the economy.
 - g) Strategies to ensure culture finds a central place in the urban policies: governance of culture at local level, culture as the fourth pillar of local sustainability and development.
10. The study will take into account the principles and the undertakings of the Agenda 21 for culture. This is the first document with world-wide mission that advocates establishing the groundwork of an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. The Agenda 21 for culture was agreed by cities and local governments from all over the world to enshrine their commitment to human rights, cultural diversity, sustainability, participatory democracy and creating conditions for peace. It was approved by the 4th Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion of Porto Alegre, held in Barcelona on 8 May 2004 as part of the first Universal Forum of Cultures. The Agenda 21 for culture is used as a document of reference for cities and local governments in the planning of their cultural policies.

Case-studies

- A « case study » is a project or a programme that a city selects as an innovative illustration of a « local policy for cultural diversity ».
- The case study could be a public, a private or an NGO project.
- In order to facilitate the elaboration of the case-study, this structure is suggested:
 1. Title of project
 2. Context : Baseline situation, problems to be addressed, foreseen difficulties
 3. Content : Actions implemented.
 4. Management : Direction, leadership, partnerships, time-scale, resources, budget.

5. Sustainability : Evaluation of the project, conditions to be adapted by other cities.
 6. More information : document, book, website.
 7. Contact person
- Length of the case-study could be between 500 and 1000 words.

Your contribution is extremely valuable. If you are interested in elaborating a case-study, or want to know more about this study, please, send us an email. The deadline for the reception of case-studies is March 25th.

Contact

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