



COMMITTEE ON CULTURE OF  
UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS - UCLG

# REPORT 2015

FINAL

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14 March 2016  
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In 2015, the Committee on culture of UCLG was chaired by the European Metropolis of Lille, co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Montréal and México and vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona and Milano.

# REPORT 2015

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has several chapters

- The chapter "CONTEXT" summarizes the background of our Committee
- The chapter "ACTIVITIES" provides detailed information on each one of the activities in our work programme. There is detailed information in **green** on each one of the activities. Please, do not hesitate to ask for more information
- The chapter "PORTFOLIOS" reproduces the specific commitments that each Board city chose in January 2014.
- The chapter "DIARY" summarizes all the seminars / events attended in 2015. It includes names of the cities that participated in those events.

We will be happy to provide more information as requested by any member of the Governance Team of the Committee or by any member of the Committee.

# 1. CONTEXT

The Committee on culture is a unique meeting point. There is not another structure at a global level that gathers together cities, organisations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development

In 2015, the Committee on culture was chaired by the European Metropolis of Lille, co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Montreal and México, and vice chaired by Angers, Barcelona and Milano.

Following the meeting of the Committee held in Paris on 5 December 2015, a new governance was adopted: as of now, the Committee on culture of UCLG is co-chaired by Buenos Aires and the City of México and vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Milano, Paris and Porto Alegre.

The Agenda 21 for culture is the first worldwide document establishing an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. Around 650 cities, local governments and organisations from all over the world were linked to the Agenda 21 for culture on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG adopted Agenda 21 for culture as its reference document in October 2004 (Executive Bureau of Sao Paulo), constituted its Working Group on Culture in June 2005 (World Council of Beijing) which was succeeded by the Committee on culture in October 2007 (World Congress of Jeju) and ratified in November 2010 (World Congress of Mexico), upgrading the consideration of culture within the World organisation.

The mission of the Committee is “To promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture.” The programme has 5 objectives or priorities: (1) Policy development. (2) Development of projects. (3) Alliances and partnerships. (4) Funding and resources. (5) Better governance.

Since June 2013, the coordination office of the Committee on culture is at the UCLG World Secretariat (carrer Avinyó 15, Barcelona).

## 2. ACTIVITIES

**KEY:**

**In bold, name of the activity**, as written in the annual programme agreed in February 2015.

**In green, evaluation of the activity.**

### A. INTELLIGENCE

#### **STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK**

##### **Culture Summit of UCLG**

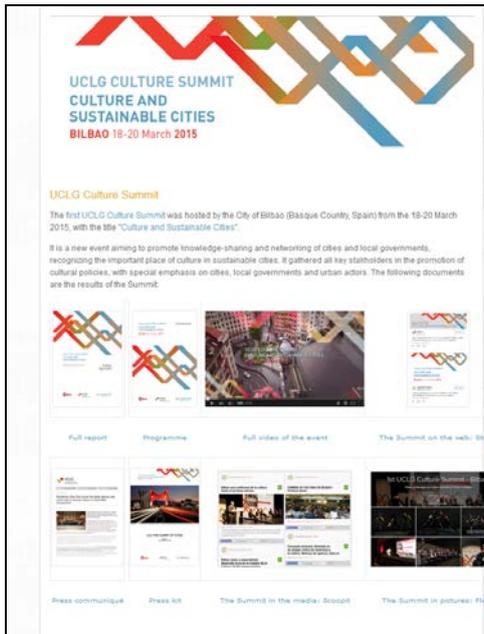
###### ACTIVITY 1

**Organise the first Culture Summit of UCLG on 18-20 March 2015, in Bilbao.**

###### EVALUATION

- The Summit was organised with great success. We achieved the goal to become the meeting place of all key actors in “culture in sustainable cities”
- A dedicated website with all information related to the Summit (general information, programme, press-kit, logistics) was disseminated to partners, collaborators and international actors well in advance. It also permitted to reflect the main results of the event (video and press-communicé).
- Around 300 key people attended the Summit.
- Culture 21 Actions was approved.
- A complete final report and two videos were elaborated, as well as a press-release, publications of some of the keynote addresses delivered at the Summit, a Flickr photo collection, a Storify based on the Twitter messages during the summit, a Scoop.it that reflects the Summit in the Media.
- A specific page in our website has all documents related to the Summit
- The partnership with Bilbao was outstanding.

## CULTURE SUMMIT OF BILBAO





All the information on the Summit is in three languages, and easy to download, [here](#).

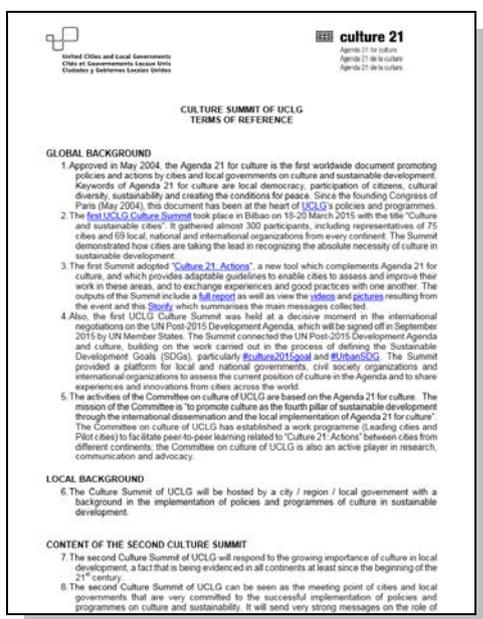
## ACTIVITY 2

### Launch call for candidacies to host the second Culture Summit of UCLG in 2017.

#### EVALUATION

- The Call was launched in June 2015
- The Call is open until 29 February 2016.
- A comprehensive document of “Terms of Reference” is available.
- The key features of the Culture Summit of UCLG are (i) it provides a remarkable international visibility to the city / region/ local government that hosts the event.; (ii) the Summit is a platform for local and national governments, civil society organizations and international organizations to discuss the current position of culture in the global Agenda; (iii) the programme of the Summit will emphasise that culture is an integral part of sustainable cities, and will promote the sharing of experiences and innovations from cities across the world; (iv) the programme of the Summit should include plenary/workshops. Some sessions would be open to the public, (v) the host city will work closely with UCLG in the preparation of all issues related to the Summit (content, communication and logistics)

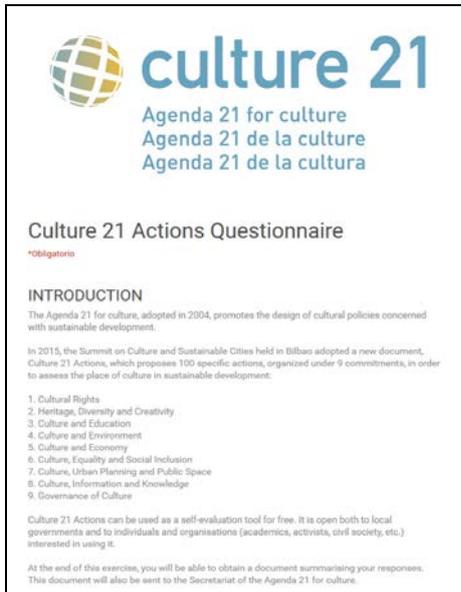
## SECOND UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT



Please see the Call for candidacies to host the second Culture Summit of UCLG [here](#).

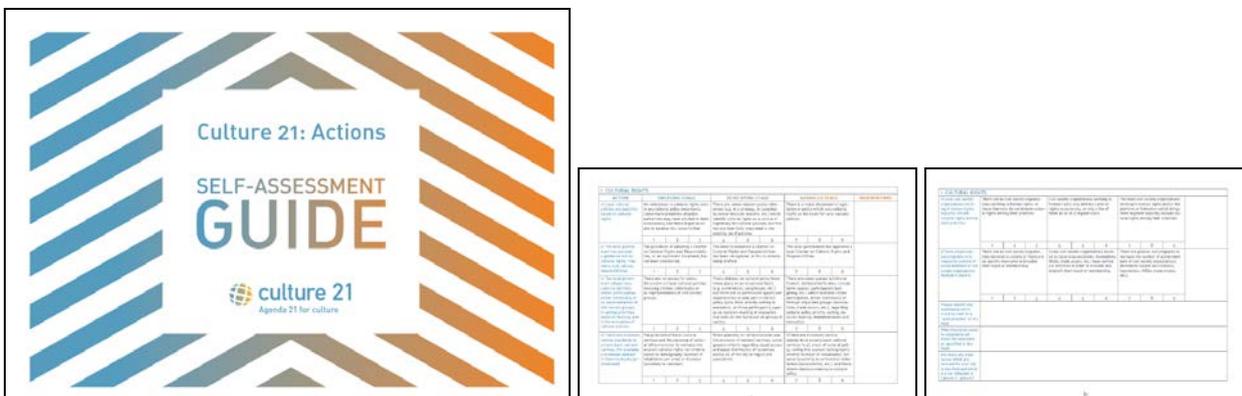


## QUESTIONNAIRE



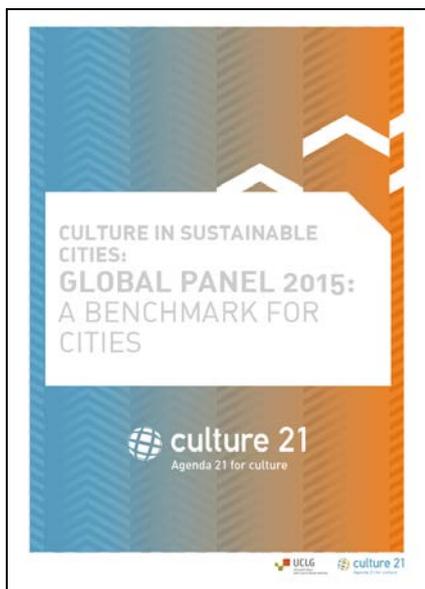
Everybody can answer the 100 questions of “Culture 21 Actions”. It takes around 15 minutes, and it gives a very complete picture on “culture in sustainable cities”. The questionnaire is [here](#).

## GUIDE



This guide is only available for cities that are implementing C21A (either Pilot Cities or Leading Cities).

## GLOBAL AVERAGE PERCEPTION BY THE GLOBAL PANEL



The results of the Global Panel are analysed in [this document](#).

## “International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21”

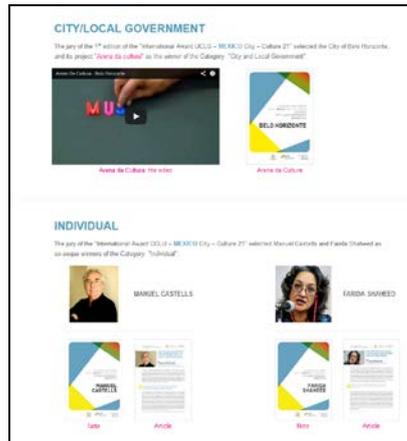
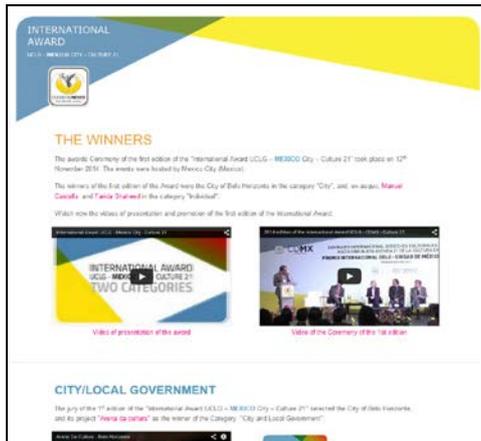
### ACTIVITY 5

### Wide dissemination of winners and good practices of the first edition (2014) of the Award.

#### EVALUATION

- There has been a wide activity on internet, mainly on twitter but also on Facebook, Storify and Flickr, as well as in the new bi-monthly Info newsletter of the Committee, disseminated since November 2015.
- A new dedicated website for the Award has been created, which makes easier the access to all information related to winners of the Award.

## WINNERS OF THE AWARD



The specific pages of the Winners are [here](#).

## ACTIVITY 6

**Prepare the second edition of the Award, with call for entries in September 2015.**

### EVALUATION

- The call was launched at the Executive Bureau and the World Council of UCLG in Paris (December 2015). The call for entries will be closed on 15 March 2016.
- A new dedicated website has been created in order to disseminate all information related to the 2nd edition of the Award. It also includes a specific section that mentions the results of the first edition (2013-2014).
- Extensive dissemination of the call has been made since December 2015, via targeted e-mailing and the dissemination on the Committee's website, "Info" newsletter and social media profiles, in UCLG's own media and in partners' websites and newsletters.

## SECOND EDITION OF THE AWARD





All information is available at [www.award.agenda21culture.net](http://www.award.agenda21culture.net).

## FOSTERING COOPERATION AND LEARNING

### Expertise and exchanges between cities

#### ACTIVITY 7

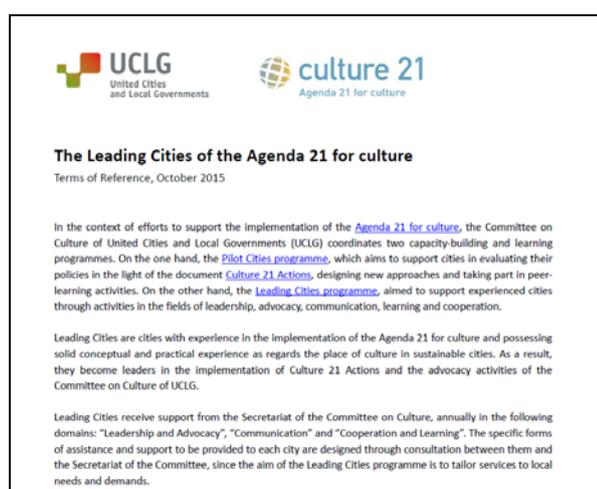
#### Consolidate group of 10-12 “Leading cities” as leaders of “Culture 21: Actions”

#### EVALUATION

- Leading Cities are cities with experience in the implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture and possessing solid conceptual and practical experience as regards the place of culture in sustainable cities. As a result, they become leaders in the implementation of Culture 21 Actions and the advocacy activities of the Committee on Culture of UCLG.
- This group of cities is formed (31 December 2015) by Buenos Aires and City of Mexico (as co-presidents of the Committee), Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogota, Jeju and Paris (vice-presidents of the Committee), as well as the European Metropolis of Lille

- (France) and the cities of Talca (Chile) and Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada).
- Other cities that are considering (31 December 2015) to become Leading Cities are Malmö, Milano, Porto Alegre and Sao Paulo.
- Leading Cities receive support from the Secretariat of the Committee on Culture, annually in the following domains: “Leadership and Advocacy”, “Communication” and “Cooperation and Learning”
- A complete specific document entitled “Leading Cities” is available. This document presents a standard set of areas of activity which may inspire Leading Cities when determining the areas in which support could be requested. Activities have been grouped under the three aforementioned domains.

## LEADING CITIES



A document detailing the areas of activity of the “Leading Cities” is available on request.

## ACTIVITY 8

**Open a new call for 8-10 new “Pilot cities”. Provide the mechanisms of "transition" so that pilot city becomes a "Leading city" after some time of experience.**

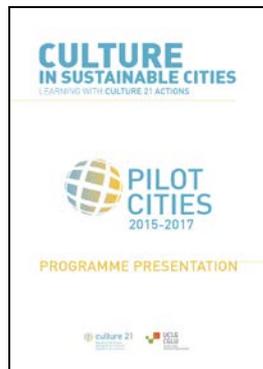
### EVALUATION

- A programme of “Pilot Cities” has been created. The ‘Culture in Sustainable Cities. Learning with Culture 21 Actions’ programme aims to provide opportunities for cities to participate in a learning process, on the basis of the principles and actions included in Culture 21 Actions.
- The call was opened in May 2015. In fact, the call was two-fold. One for European cities, in a partnership with Culture Action Europe and in cooperation with the CEMR, and a “general” or “global” call for the rest of the world.
- The European call has resulted in the selection of 11 Pilot Cities: Gabrovo, Galway, Lisbon, Izmir, Maastricht, Namur, Swansea and Terrassa (confirmed), while Łódź, Pécs and Timișoara are still pending to confirm their participation.
- A meeting of the pilot cities involved in the programme was held in Goteborg on 16 October 2015, in the framework of the Annual Conference of Culture Action Europe (CAE). The meeting provided for a presentation and discussion of the programme and its methodology and enabled mutual knowledge among participating cities. Nine pilot cities attended (Gabrovo, Galway, Izmir, Lisbon, Maastricht, Namur, Pécs, Swansea, Terrassa) whereas

two could not (Timisoara, Łódź).

- The global call resulted in the selection of 9 Pilot Cities: Chignahuapan, Concepción, Cuenca, Mérida and Puebla, as well as the state of Sinaloa (confirmed), while El Carmen de Viboral, Escazú and Konya are still due to confirm their participation.
- Two complete specific documents on “Pilot Cities”, presenting the detailed methodology of the programme, are available (“Terms of Reference”, see below).
- The Pilot cities programme is based on five main activities. A detailed document explaining each one of these 5 activities is being prepared.
- The mechanisms of "transition" for a Pilot city to become a Leading city are also being prepared.

## PILOT CITIES



Two documents as “Terms of Reference” for the “Global” and the “European” programmes are available in our website.

## MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN PILOT CITIES



A meeting of the European pilot cities was held in Goteborg on 16 October 2015, in the framework of the Annual Conference of Culture Action Europe (CAE).



## ACTIVITY 10

**Promote a digital information sharing platform that allows permanent contacts between the cities which work with the Agenda 21 for culture.**

### EVALUATION

- After having analysed several possibilities, the best option is to use the recently launched “UCLG platform”, customised and adapted for the cities and experts which work with the Agenda 21 for culture.
- This will include the Leading Cities, the Pilot Cities, the related experts and our key partners.
- This “culture chapter” of the UCLG platform will be ready in February 2016

## DIGITAL PLATFORM



The culture chapter” of the UCLG platform will be ready in February 2016.

## B. COMMUNICATION

### ACTIVITY 11

**Consolidate website as global portal on culture and sustainable cities, including a specific page for leading and pilot cities**

### EVALUATION

- The website is now the key reference for “culture in sustainable cities”
- A page is available for each one of the leading and pilot cities.
- The site received in average 2 473 single users per month. The visits have increased 39.10% since September 2014.
- In 2015, the homepage of our website has hosted 35 different “banners” and 40 different “news”, all of them related to key activities of members and partners of the Committee.

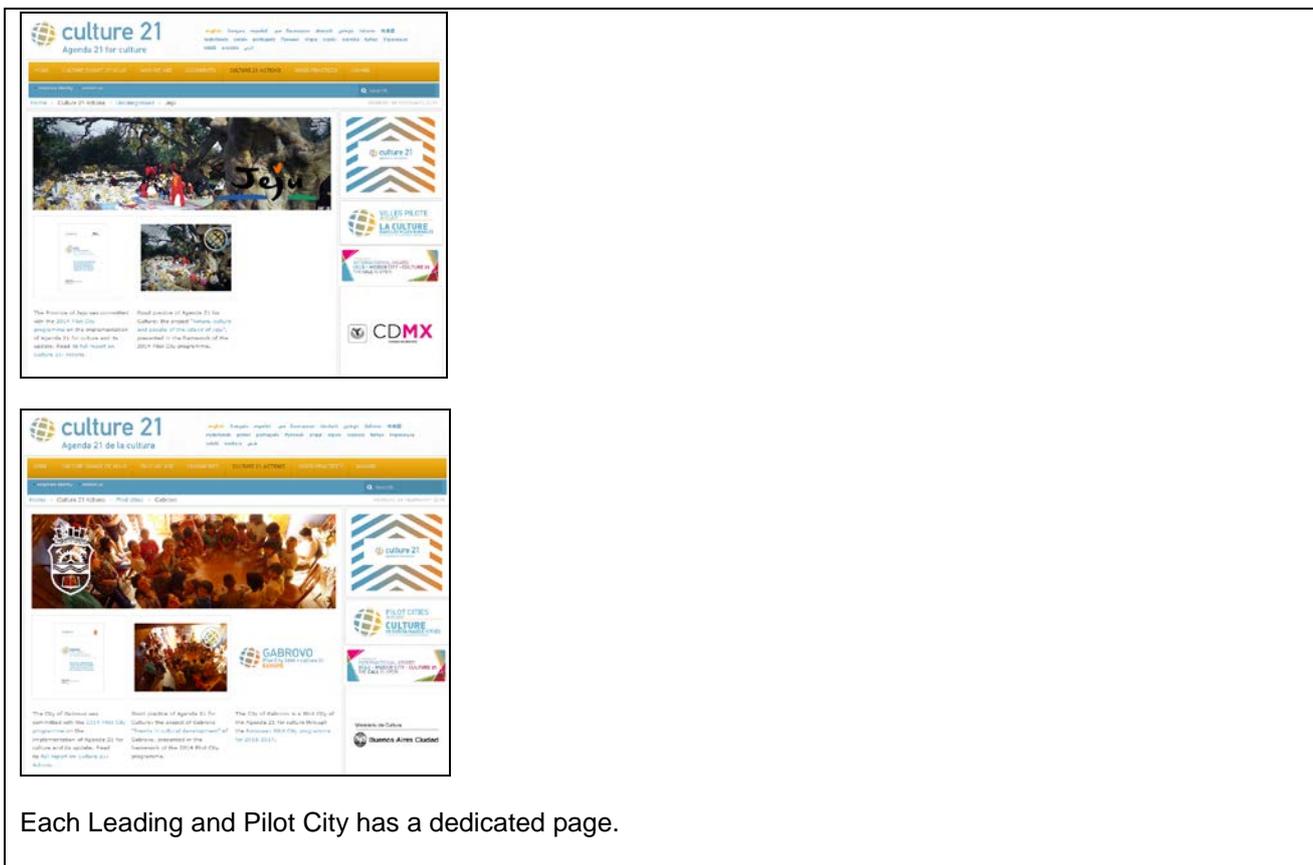
## OUR WEBSITE



Our website acts as a global portal on culture and sustainable cities.

## PAGES OF CITIES





Each Leading and Pilot City has a dedicated page.

## ACTIVITY 12

**Improve the interaction between the activities of the Committee in social networks (@agenda21culture on Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, Flickr, Storify, Instagram and Scoop.it) and those of cities and partners.**

### EVALUATION

- The interaction with some of the cities and partners is daily on Twitter. • Our Twitter account @agenda21culture has 2193 followers.
- We are also active on Youtube, with a dedicated channel.
- We are still working to identify some key accounts on Twitter, Facebook, Youtube and Instagram of all our cities and partners.
- We believe there is room to improve in our presence in Facebook.

## SOCIAL NETWORKS



Our Twitter account, see: <https://twitter.com/agenda21culture>.

Our Facebook page, see: <https://www.facebook.com/Agenda-21-for-culture-486220204861584/>

Our Youtube channel, see: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu3QK5NRPBX4auqLAX03RSA>

Our Flickr account, see: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/130068617@N04/>

Our Instagram account, see: <https://www.instagram.com/agenda21culture/>

Our Scoop.it account, see: <http://www.scoop.it/t/culture21>

Our Storify account, see: <https://storify.com/agenda21culture>

## ACTIVITY 13

**Provide a user friendly participatory tool of “Culture 21: Actions” available to all audiences.**

### EVALUATION

- We have uploaded the participatory tool of “Culture 21: Actions” in a Googledocs format, which is user-friendly and available to all audiences.
- It is available in English, French and Spanish. Users immediately obtain the results of their answers to Culture 21 Actions toolkit, in PDF format. Results are also relayed to the secretariat of the Committee, to increase the set of perceptions available on culture and sustainable development and to identify new cities interested in working with “Culture 21: Actions”.
- (See Activity 4.)

## C. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY

### Within UCLG

#### ACTIVITY 14:

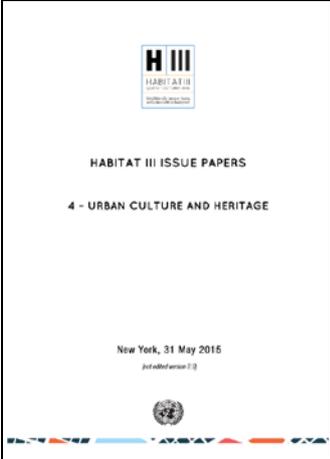
**Active presence in all UCLG processes: GOLD IV, Global TaskForce, Habitat III.**

#### EVALUATION

#### HABITAT III

- HABITAT is the global conference on housing and urban development organized every 20 years by the United Nations. The next conference will take place in Quito on 17-20 October 2016. The main topic of Habitat III will be sustainable urbanization.
- The Committee on culture has also been active in the preparation of Habitat III, with the following major actions: (a) active presence of our President, Ms Catherine Cullen, in the Prep Com II of Habitat III, which took place in Nairobi (Kenya) on 14-16 April 2015; (b) comments to the Habitat III Policy paper 4 (launched in May 2015) on “Urban Culture and Heritage”; (c) advocating for the role of culture in consultations on metropolitan issues (Montreal, October 2015) and intermediary cities (Cuenca, November 2015), as well as in Habitat III’s online forums (“Urban Dialogues”); and (d) contributing to UCLG’s documents regarding the Policy papers, by suggesting how cultural aspects could be integrated in several policy areas.
- The Committee on culture will have to prepare an “official” Position Paper on Habitat III in April or May 2016.

### HABITAT III



The Habitat III Issue Paper 4 (launched in May 2015) on “Urban Culture and Heritage”, and our comments are available [here](#).

## HABITAT III - PREP COM 2



Habitat III organised its second Prep Com in Nairobi (April 2015)

## UCLG RETREAT

- The Committee on culture attended the UCLG retreat in February 2015.

## UCLG RETREAT



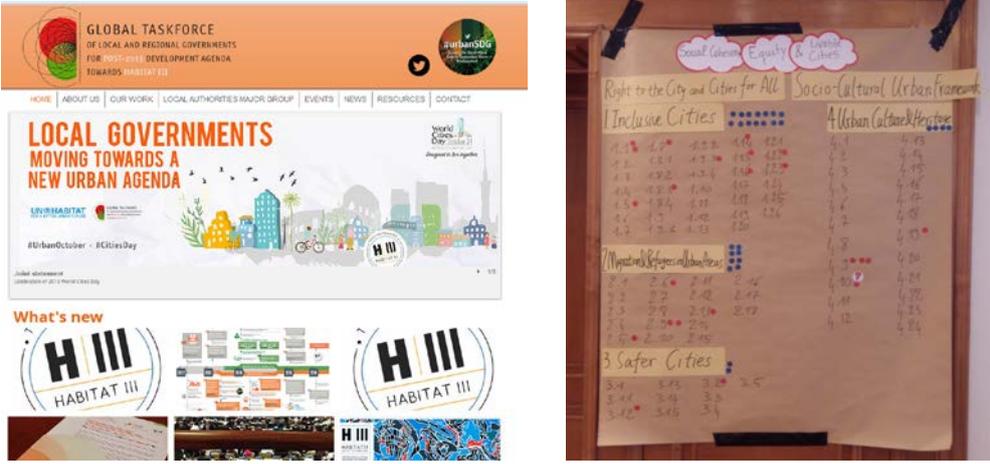
The retreat is the most important planning exercise of UCLG members.

## GLOBAL TASKFORCE

- The Global Taskforce was set up by UCLG ([www.gtf2016.org](http://www.gtf2016.org)) in 2014. Culture is a “key message” of the GTF.

- The Committee on culture has been present at the meetings of the Global TaskForce, convened by the World Secretariat of UCLG on 16-18 March 2015 and on 10-12 November 2015.

**GLOBAL TASKFORCE**



The image shows two parts related to the Global Taskforce. On the left is a screenshot of the website, which features a header with the text 'GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA TOWARDS HABITAT III'. Below the header, there is a main banner titled 'LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MOVING TOWARDS A NEW URBAN AGENDA' with a colorful illustration of a city. A 'What's new' section below the banner highlights 'HABITAT III' with a large 'H III' logo. On the right is a photograph of a whiteboard with handwritten notes. The whiteboard is divided into sections: 'Right to the City and Cities for All', 'Socio-Cultural Urban Framework', '1 Inclusive Cities', '4 Urban Culture Perspectives', and '3 Safer Cities'. The notes include various statistics and bullet points, such as 'Social Cohesion', 'Equality', and 'Inclusive Cities'.

See the website of the [Global Taskforce](#), where culture is a “key message”.

## GOLD IV

- This is the triennial major publication of UCLG. In 2014, a brief “Think Piece” on “Operationalising Culture in the Sustainable Development of Cities” was published.
- A follow-up, more complete article, to be written by Nancy Duxbury, Jyoti Hosagrahar and Jordi Pascual, will be finalised in February 2016.

## ACTIVITY 15

**Improve the cooperation with the rest of Committees of UCLG and support the initiatives of UCLG regional sections on culture and sustainable cities.**

### EVALUATION

- Specific cooperation has been implemented with the Committee on Social Inclusion (CISDPDH) with regard to the UCLG Culture Summit (March 2015) and the seminar “From COP21 to Habitat III: Local governments and citizens at the centre of the challenges” (organised by CISDPDH in Saint Denis on 5 December 2015).
- Also, specific cooperation was implemented with the Committee on Peripheral Cities, for the UCLG Culture Summit (March 2015).
- Also, specific cooperation was implemented with the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, which organized a seminar on “Women Leadership and Development” (Paris, 6 December 2015) that included representation from our Committee.
- Also, specific cooperation was implemented with the Committee on Local Economic Development, on the dissemination of the “World Forum on Local Economic Development” that took place in Turin on 13-16 October 2015.
- With sections, there is an ongoing cooperation with MEWA, the first UCLG section to have launched a regional Committee on culture. This cooperation has resulted in the translation

into Turkish of Culture 21 Actions and the regional dissemination of our key programmes (Summit, Award and Pilot Cities programme).

- There is a growing cooperation with CEMR. The European section of UCLG is closely involved on the European programme of Pilot cities and also took part in the UCLG Culture Summit in Bilbao, where a session was devoted to the cultural policies of leading European cities. Also, the Committee on culture will be participating in the CEMR Congress in April 2016.
- There is a growing cooperation with UCLG-ASPAC, which created in 2015 its own regional Committee on culture, chaired by the Province of Jeju. This cooperation will lead to the joint organisation of a "learning" project on "culture and sustainable cities in ASPAC" to take place during the ASPAC Congress in September 2016 in Jeollabuk-do. There is also close cooperation with UCLG-ASPAC on our International Award.
- There is also a growing cooperation with UCLG-A, mainly in the preparation of the second edition of our International Award, but also in the feasibility of a specific scheme of Pilot Cities in Africa.
- There is also an emerging cooperation with the UCLG section in EuroAsia in the preparation of the second edition of our International Award.

## UCLG SECTIONS

## ACTIVITY 16

### Organisation of two workshops/seminars at the UCLG statutory meetings: Executive Bureau of Porto Alegre (June 2015) and the World Council of Paris (December 2015).

#### EVALUATION

- We supported the organisers (On the move, Julie's Bicycle, COAL) of the "professional workshop" ARTCOP21. Our members Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bogotá, Jeju and the European Metropolis of Lille, as well as the coordinator, participated in the professional workshop
- It became the most important event on culture and climate change during COP21.

#### ARTCOP 21



The outcomes of the professional workshop are available [here](#).

## ACTIVITY 17

### Preparation of the presence of our Committee in the UCLG World Congress of Bogotá (2016).

#### EVALUATION

- There has been active presence of the Committee on culture in the preparation of the UCLG World Congress of Bogota (12-15 October 2016), with active contacts with the World

Secretariat of UCLG as well as with the Department for Culture, Leisure and Sport of the City of Bogota.

- The presence of a wide delegation of cities and local governments in the “World Summit on Art and Culture for Peace”, held on 6-11 April 2015 in Bogotá attested to the commitment of our Committee with the city of Bogotá.
- Also, the Committee is exploring the feasibility of the photographic project “I am my city” that is promoted by the city of Vaudreuil-Dorion.

**UCLG CONGRESS IN BOGOTA 2016**



WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS  
5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Congress  
Bogotá, 12-15 October 2016

THE SUMMIT | PLAN YOUR STAY | MEDIA | ABOUT BOGOTÁ | ABOUT UCLG

**2016 BOGOTÁ** 4 FULL DAYS OF NETWORKING AND PEER TO PEER LEARNING EXCHANGES

- 300+ JOURNALISTS AND ANALYSTS
- 40+ INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
- 200+ SPEAKERS
- 100+ COUNTRIES
- 3,000+ PARTICIPANTS

246 DAYS 05 HOURS 35 MINUTES 23 SECONDS

2016 REPORT OF THE

See the website of the Bogota Congress [here](#).

## With networks

### ACTIVITY 18

#### Active involvement and promotion of #culture2015goal campaign.

#### EVALUATION

- The campaign published two documents in 2015.
- In February 2015, the document “Recognizing the role of culture to strengthen the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda” was published. This document explains in detail the indicators which could be used to measure the place of culture in the promotion of sustainable development, especially in the following SDGs: Goal 1 (poverty), Goal 4 (education and life-long learning), Goal 8 (growth, employment and work), Goal 9 (infrastructure, industrialization and innovation), Goal 11 (cities and human settlements), Goal 12 (consumption and production patterns), Goal 13 (climate change) and Goal 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and inclusive institutions at all levels)
- In September 2015, in the lead-up to the Special Summit on Sustainable Development, which was held within the UN's 70th General Assembly in New York on 25-27 September, the leaders of the global campaign 'The Future We Want includes Culture', including the Committee on Culture of UCLG, released a joint communique. The Communique identifies

achievements and shortcomings of the UN processes that led to the Outcome Document, 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', which includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with regard to the recognition of culture's role in sustainable development. It also identifies six steps that the campaign hopes to take in the future, based on the experiences gained to date. The title of this communiqué is "Culture in the SDG Outcome Document: Progress Made but Important Steps Remain Ahead"

- The members of the campaign have committed to continue working together. "The Future We Want Includes Culture" campaign has set a new global agenda for culture by gathering and presenting – for the first time ever in a unified way – the voices of peoples and civil society on the importance of culture in sustainable development. A global initiative such as this will continue to be necessary, in order to advocate for the inclusion of culture in development frameworks and strategies, operate as a watchdog, raise awareness and bring together local, national and regional perspectives and initiatives.
- The Committee on culture of UCLG has participated in key meetings of key partners of this global campaign, namely, (a) the "Thrive seminar" organised by IFACCA on 28-31 August 2015 in Singapore, (b) the world congress of the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity which took place on 23-24 October 2015 in Mons (Wallonia, Belgium), as well as (c) the Arterial Network seminar which was organised during the Africities Summit in Johannesburg (Gauteng, SouthAfrica) on 29 November.

**#CULTURE2015GOAL campaign**



**RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF CULTURE TO STRENGTHEN THE UN POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

We represent the global constituency on culture that is actively engaged in the pursuit of sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels. We urge governments and non-governmental organizations. We are fully committed to a successful elaboration and implementation of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda.

During the last decade the international community has collected substantial evidence on the role of culture in development. The conclusion is that, most often, development policies and projects which do not take into account the cultural dimension have failed. Culture effectively contributes to policies, strategies and programs targeting inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, harmony, peace and security. Culture is both a driver and an enabler of sustainable development.

Committed to an effective Post-2015 Development Agenda, we have made regular inputs to the goal development processes. We have followed closely the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including in particular its Outcome Document, published on 19 July 2014,<sup>1</sup> and the Synthesis Report of the UN Secretary-General released on 4 December 2014.<sup>2</sup>

- We are pleased to see that some references to culture are included in the Outcome Document. However, as these references are scarce and fragmented, we remain concerned. The Outcome Document fails to embrace the full potential of culture, despite the many UN treaties and resolutions, the evidence collected by universities and experts and the existence of a global constituency representing millions that strive to fulfil culture's role as driver and enabler of development.
- We are pleased to see that the Synthesis Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda fully acknowledges our shared conviction: "... we must mobilize the power of culture in the transformative change we seek. Our world is a remarkable mosaic of diverse cultures, informing our evolving understanding of sustainable development. We still have much to learn from cultures as we build the world we want. If we are to succeed, the new agenda cannot remain the exclusive domain of institutions and governments. It must be embraced by people. Culture, in different aspects, will thus be an important force in supporting the new agenda."<sup>3</sup>

1 See e.g. Culture in Goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2014) and other documents available at [www.culture2015goal.net](http://www.culture2015goal.net)  
2 Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (2014), Open Working Group progress for Sustainable Development Goals, 2014/27/Rev.1, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/OWG-report-2014-27-rev-1.pdf>  
3 See the Secretary-General's report on the post-2015 development agenda, A/69/59, annex, including the "Our shared vision for the world we want" (para. 100) and the "Our shared vision for the world we want" (para. 100) and the "Our shared vision for the world we want" (para. 100).  
4 Ibidem, para. 100. Our emphasis.



**COMMUNIQUE: CULTURE IN THE SDG OUTCOME DOCUMENT: PROGRESS MADE, BUT IMPORTANT STEPS REMAIN AHEAD**

The Special Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in New York on 25-27 September, within the 70th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 70), will adopt the Outcome Document "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. This document will guide sustainable development policies and strategies in the next 15 years.

Since 2013, the global campaign "The Future We Want Includes Culture", led by several regional and global civil society organizations, has advocated for the inclusion of culture in the SDG Outcome Document. The campaign's *Cosmos*, which was translated into eight languages, was endorsed by over 900 organizations and thousands of citizens from 120 countries, proof of its universal appeal.

All global leaders prepare to adopt the SDG Outcome Document, members of the "The Future We Want Includes Culture" campaign present this communiqué in order to convey the following observations:

**1. Achievements**

The nature of the process leading to the adoption of *Transforming Our World*, with wide consultations involving regional, national and local organizations and civil society actors, should be welcomed. A global community has been able to discuss its vision for sustainable development in a broad forum of relevant stakeholders. Such participatory exercises should also be applied in the future, not least when preparing National Development Plans which will implement the 2030 Agenda on a national level.

When compared to the Millennium Development Goals, *Transforming Our World* represents a significant step forward with regard to the acknowledgement of the role of culture in development processes. The following elements are noteworthy:

- **Target 10.c** refers to the need to respect cultural diversity (para. 11) and pledges member states to foster inter-cultural understanding, tolerance and mutual respect, while acknowledging the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognizing that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development (para. 36). Other aspects highlighted by the Preamble, such as the vision of enabling a world of universal literacy (para. 7), are also essential to foster access to culture and promote cultural understanding.
- **Target 3.5** focuses on the need to ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, in order to achieve the goal of ending hunger and achieve food security etc.
- **Target 4.7** stresses the need for education to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

The two documents produced by the campaign #culture2015goal are available [here](#).

## ACTIVITY 19

**Develop the partnership with Culture Action Europe to develop "Culture 21 Actions" in European cities.**

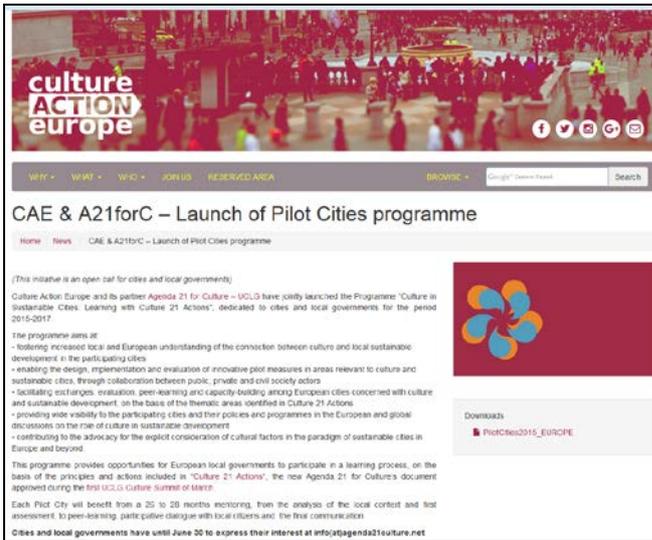
## EVALUATION

- The partnership with Culture Action Europe is now developed, and a Cooperation agreement on "Culture in Sustainable Cities: Learning with Culture 21 Actions in Europe

(Pilot Cities Europe 2015-2017)” has been signed.

- A meeting of the pilot cities involved in the programme was held in Goteborg on 16 October 2015, in the framework of the Annual Conference of Culture Action Europe (CAE).
- Moreover, the Committee on culture of UCLG was closely involved in the international seminar “Kathréptis” organised by Culture Action Europe in Athens (20-21 November 2015).

## CULTURE ACTION EUROPE



**CAE & A21forC – Launch of Pilot Cities programme**

(This initiative is an open call for cities and local governments)

Culture Action Europe and its partner Agenda 21 for Culture – UCLG have jointly launched the Programme "Culture in Sustainable Cities: Learning with Culture 21 Actions", dedicated to cities and local governments for the period 2015-2017.

The programme aims at:

- fostering increased local and European understanding of the connection between culture and local sustainable development in the participating cities
- enabling the design, implementation and evaluation of innovative pilot measures in areas relevant to culture and sustainable cities, through collaboration between public, private and civil society actors
- facilitating exchanges, evaluation, peer-learning and capacity-building among European cities concerned with culture and sustainable development, on the basis of the thematic areas identified in Culture 21 Actions
- providing more visibility to the participating cities and their policies and programmes in the European and global discussions on the role of culture in sustainable development
- contributing to the advocacy for the explicit consideration of cultural factors in the paradigm of sustainable cities in Europe and beyond

This programme provides opportunities for European local governments to participate in a learning process, on the basis of the principles and actions included in "Culture 21 Actions", the new Agenda 21 for Culture's document approved during the first UCLG Culture Summit of March.

Each Pilot City will benefit from a 25 to 28 months mentoring, from the analysis of the local context and first assessment, to peer-learning, participative dialogue with local citizens and the final communication.

Cities and local governments have until June 30 to express their interest at [info@agenda21culture.net](mailto:info@agenda21culture.net)



**BEYOND THE OBVIOUS 2015**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE [ & ASK ]

15 - 17 October 2015  
Borås, Sweden

Programme

THURSDAY 15  
UNIVERSITY OF GÖTHEBURG - Vasagatan 1



**What: SUSTAINABLE CITIES**

This before culture can act as a green catalyst for social transformation, it can be a key element to accelerate and territorial development – a mission that also requires the cultural sector to build alliances beyond itself.

Using culture as a way to build new processes of local development, we – as citizens – can act to make our city a better place to live in and to design the way we inhabit it. Sustainable the city is on.

CAE has several dedicated pages to our cooperation:

- Pilot cities: <http://cultureactioneurope.org/news/first-pilot-cities-agreed-for-europe/>
- Culture in sustainable cities: <http://cultureactioneurope.org/what/culture-and-sustainability/>

## KATHÉPTIS



The seminar took place in Athens on 20-21 November 2015. See:  
<http://cultureactioneurope.org/milestone/kathreptis/>

### ACTIVITY 20

**Agree on specific partnerships with national ministries and networks, for example, in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, México, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Africa and Tunis.**

#### EVALUATION

- The Committee on culture is in close contact with national ministries and networks, especially in the countries listed above.
- The Secretariat of the Committee is closely working with the Cultural Development Network of Victoria (Australia), with the network of Brazilian Councillors for culture (whose annual meeting took place in Belo Horizonte on 7-8 May 2015), with les Arts et la Ville (Canada) and with SALGA (South Africa). Also, contacts with the Ministries for culture of Brazil, Peru and Tunis have become more intense in 2015, and could lead to specific programmes.

### With intergovernmental organisations

#### ACTIVITY 21

**Explore long-term partnerships with the European Union.**

#### EVALUATION

- The Committee on culture is closely working with the DG for Culture and Education (EAC) of the European Commission, which is very interested in promoting the role of culture in urban development of European cities. The director of Culture and Creativity of the European Commission, Mr Michel Magnier, was a speaker in the opening of the Culture Summit of Bilbao.
- The Committee on culture is also working with the DG for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO) of the European Commission, which is very interested in promoting the role of culture in the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) programme. The Secretariat of the Committee on culture attended several meetings on this issue: 17 January 2015 (launch of the European Year for Development), 16-18 March 2015, 29 March 2015 and 4 June 2015. Also, the Committee was present in the "Conference on culture, Post-2015 and SDGs", organised in the framework of the Luxembourg presidency of the European Union, on 3 September 2015, in Luxembourg.

## EUROPEAN UNION



## EUROPEAN YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT



### ACTIVITY 22

#### Explore long-term partnerships with UNESCO.

#### EVALUATION

- The Committee on culture is closely working with UNESCO on the following issues: (a) the activities related to the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities; (b) the statutory meetings of the Convention 2005 on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and (c) the work of UNESCO in the preparation of Habitat III.
- Also, in January-September 2015, we held continuous consultations with the Culture Sector of UNESCO in the process of the elaboration of the documents of the #culture2015goal campaign

- Also, in January 2015, the president of the Committee, Ms Catherine Cullen participated in the seminar on the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Development, in Trang-An (Vietnam)
- Finally, the president of the Committee, Ms Catherine Cullen, presented “Culture 21 Actions” at the UNESCO General Conference on 12 November 2015.



## D. GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING

### ACTIVITY 23

**All board members fully involved in the leadership of the Committee.**

#### EVALUATION

- The Board members of the Committee received periodical update of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Committee.
- The interaction was particularly intense in the period of preparation of the Summit (January-March 2015), as well as in the process of preparing the meeting of the Committee in Paris (October-December 2015).

### ACTIVITY 24

**Prepare the election of a new board in 2016.**

#### EVALUATION

- The Committee meeting in Paris approved a new governance team.
- The new Governance team of the Culture Committee for 2016 is composed by two Co-presidents (Mexico City and Buenos Aires) and nine vice-presidents: Angers, Barcelona, Milano, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Paris and Porto Alegre.
- This governance team will be in place for 10 months (January-October 2016), because all UCLG Committees will be evaluated in the framework of the next UCLG World Congress and their continuity would only be confirmed then.

### ACTIVITY 25

**Organise a teleconference with Board members every three months.**

#### EVALUATION

- We failed to organise a teleconference every three months.

- The board members personally met in Bilbao (March 2015) and Paris (December 2015); also, meetings involving several members of the Board took place in Bogotá (April 2015) and Buenos Aires (October 2015).

#### ACTIVITY 26

#### **Organise a Committee meeting in Bilbao (18-20 March 2015).**

#### EVALUATION

- The Committee organised two meetings in 2015: one in Bilbao (18 March 2015) and another one in Paris (5 December 2015).
- The meeting in Bilbao approved Culture 21 Actions.
- The meeting in Paris involved presentations and discussions on the main activities of the Committee during 2015 and plans for 2016. Addresses were delivered by the 1st Vice-Mayor of Paris, the Mayor of Bilbao, the Mayor of Belo Horizonte, and the representative of the City of Mexico. It also warmly thanked Catherine Cullen, who stepped down as Chair of the Committee after having served for three years on behalf of the European Metropolis of Lille - Métropole Européenne de Lille (MEL). The meeting agreed on the Committee's Governance Team for 2016 and approved the beginning of the work to elaborate a strategic plan of the Committee.

#### **BILBAO 2015. MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE**



See [Circular 109](#) and [Circular 113](#), with announcement and report of the Committee meeting in Bilbao.

## PARIS 2015. MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE



See [Circular 119](#) and [Circular 121](#), with announcement and report of the Committee meeting in Paris.

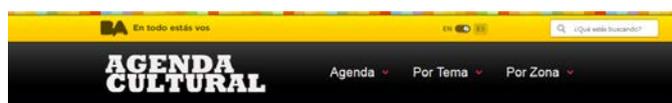
### ACTIVITY 27

**Organise a Committee meeting and a peer learning seminar in a core / pilot city in the second half of 2015 (it could be merged with seminars in Mexico or Buenos Aires, see activity 28 below).**

#### EVALUATION

- A regional meeting (including Mercociudades) on implementation of Culture 21 Actions in Latin American cities was organised in Buenos Aires on 6-9 October 2015.
- This meeting was complemented with a technical seminar of key experts on Agenda 21 for culture, namely Jordi Baltà, Catherine Cullen, Antoine Guibert, Enrique Glockner and Lucina Jiménez. These experts are in charge of the implementation of the Culture 21 Actions in several cities in Latin America.

## REGIONAL MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES



### Seminario Internacional: Ciudades, Cultura y Futuro 3

El Teatro San Martín será sede del encuentro e intercambio de ideas sobre buenas prácticas culturales, innovación en la gestión cultural y nuevo rol en las ciudades del Siglo XXI. La actividad es gratuita, con inscripción previa. Cupos limitados.



## ACTIVITY 28

**Actively support the thematic seminar to be organised by Mexico City (cultural centres - FAROs), as well as a regional seminar to be organised by Buenos Aires (Ibero-American cities). To explore the realisation of a regional seminar in Wuhan (Asia-Pacific cities).**

### EVALUATION

- Although a specific thematic seminar on cultural centres was postponed to 2016, two regional seminars aiming at the dissemination of the Agenda 21 for culture were organised: (a) on 23-26 July 2015, in San Luis Potosí (Mexico), on “Cultural policies, cities and local development”, and (b) on 30-31 July 2015 in Coquimbo (Chile), as a “Mercociudades regional meeting on Culture 21 Actions and social cohesion”.
- A Latin American regional seminar was organised by Buenos Aires (see Activity 27).
- An ASPAC regional seminar on “Cities, culture and tourism” was organised in Jeju (Republic of Korea), as the first meeting of the ASPAC Committee on culture (22-23 November). The President of the Committee, Ms Catherine Cullen, was the keynote speaker in this seminar.

ACTIVITY 29:

**Explore and sign a sponsorship agreement with at least a global private partner.**

EVALUATION

- The Secretariat has initiated contacts with a few possible partners. These contacts will be continued in 2016.

ACTIVITY 30

**Approve a coherent budget for 2015, prepare a transition (with members of the Board, Leading Cities and Pilot Cities) and approve a new budget for 2016-2018.**

EVALUATION

- The budget (242,174 €) was agreed by the Board cities in February 2015 and it has been implemented.
- Actual at year-end exceed budget (282,620 €) due to new opportunities appeared during the year (especially the Leading and Pilot Cities activities).

### 3. PORTFOLIOS

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| <b>EUROPEAN METROPOLIS OF LILLE</b>   |         |
| (a) Core relation with UCLG World Secretariat and leadership on the UCLG global agenda, including post-2015 agenda - SDGs and Habitat III                 | Done    |
| (b) Partnerships with the European Union  | Ongoing |
| (c) Partnerships with global civil society on culture   | Done    |
| (d) Funding of the Committee for 2016-2018  | Done    |
| (e) Preparation of new board from 2016  | Done    |
| <b>BUENOS AIRES</b>   |         |
| (a) Organisation of a regional meeting on the implementation of Culture 21 Actions in IberoAmerican cities  | Done    |
| (b) Partnerships with Interlocal and Mercociudades  | Done    |
| (c) Leadership in the implementation of "Culture 21 Actions" in IberoAmerican cities  | Ongoing |
| <b>MÉXICO DF</b>  |         |
| (a) Organisation of a thematic meeting on cultural centres (FAROs)  | Ongoing |
| (b) Preparation of the second edition of the International Award "UCLG – MEXICO City – Culture 21" on cultural policies and sustainable development       | Done    |
| (c) Leadership in the implementation of "Culture 21: Actions" in Mexican cities   | Ongoing |
| <b>MONTREAL</b>   |         |
| (a) Partnerships with UNESCO (Convention 2005, Creative Cities network, and other dossiers)   | Done    |
| (b) Partnerships with private sector and global sponsor   | Ongoing |
| (c) Partnerships with the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity and Les Arts et la Ville, as well as with cities in North America | Ongoing |
| <b>ANGERS</b>   |         |
| (a) Support to analysis of training and learning packages of the Committee  | Done    |
| (b) Support to communication  | Done    |
| <b>BARCELONA</b>  |         |
| (a) Support to analysis of training and learning packages of the Committee  | Done    |
| (b) Support to communication  | Done    |
| <b>MILANO</b>   |         |
| (a) World Expo 2015   | Done    |
| <b>ALL BOARD MEMBERS</b>  |         |
| (a) Representing the Committee in key meetings on culture and sustainable development, especially those organised or convened by UCLG                     | Done    |
| (b) Diffusion of the Declaration on culture as 4th pillar of sustainability   | Done    |
| (c) Analysis on new research and long-term activities   | Done    |

## 4. DIARY

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|--|--|
| 17 January 2015, Brussels, European Year of Development and Africa.  | Coordinator  |
| 22 January 2015, Trang An (Vietnam), seminar on UNESCO World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Development   | European Metropolis of Lille   |
|  |  |
| 16 March 2015. Brussels, Global Taskforce meeting  | Coordinator  |
| 16-18 March 2015. Brussels, European Union: Third Policy Forum on Development  | European Metropolis of Lille   |
| 18-20 March 2015, Bilbao, Culture Summit of UCLG   | ALL  |
| 29 March 2015, Brussels, European Union, Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) programme   | Coordinator  |
|  |  |
| 6 April 2015, New York, High Level Thematic Debate on Promoting Tolerance and Reconciliation (UN Agenda Post-2015)   | at distance  |
| 6-11 April 2015. Bogotá (Colombia), World Summit on Art and Culture for Peace  | Coordinator and cities of Belo Horizonte, Concepción (Chile) and Córdoba (Argentina) |
| 14-16 April 2015, Nairobi, Habitat III, Prep Com II  | European Metropolis of Lille   |
|  |  |
| 6-8 May, 2015. Helsinki (Finland), "Culture(s) in Sustainable Futures: theories, policies, practices" final seminar  | Coordinator  |
| 7-8 May 2015, Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil), meeting of the Brazilian network of Councillors for culture   | Coordinator  |
| 15 May 2015, New York, High Level Thematic Debate on Strengthening Cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional organizations (UN Agenda Post-2015) | at distance  |
|  |  |
| 4 June 2015, Brussels, Bozar and EULAC foundation, seminar on culture, public spaces and urban development   | Coordinator  |
| 10-12 June 2015, Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil), Executive Bureau of UCLG  | European Metropolis of Lille   |
| 10-12 June 2015, Paris, UNESCO, Conference of Parties, Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions                 | Coordinator  |
| 24-26 June 2015, Timisoara (Timis County, Romania), 3 <sup>rd</sup> International Danube Conference on Culture   | Jordi Baltà, researcher  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  |   |
| 23-26 July 2015, San Luis Potosí (México), Encuentro de cultura: “Políticas culturales, ciudades y desarrollo local”.                        | City of Mexico with researcher Jordi Baltà  |
| 30-31 July 2015, Coquimbo (Chile), Mercociudades regional meeting Culture 21 Actions and social cohesion                                     | Buenos Aires and coordinator  |
| 28-31 August 2015, Singapore, Thrive seminar organised by IFACCA, ELIA and Arts Network Asia.  | Coordinator   |
|  |   |
| 3 September 2015, Luxemburg, Conference on culture, Post-2015 and SDGs, in the framework of the LUX presidency of the European Union         | European Metropolis of Lille  |
|  |   |
| 6-9 October 2015, Buenos Aires, regional meeting (including Mercociudades) on implementation of Culture 21 Actions in Latin American cities. | Barcelona, Talca, and coordinator<br>Also: key experts for non European Pilot Cities attended |
| 13-16 October 2015, Turin (Piedmont, Italy), World Forum on Local Economic Development, UCLG and partners                                    | at distance   |
| 15-16 October 2015, Göteborg, Culture Action Europe, annual conference and seminar.  | European Metropolis of Lille and Coordinator.<br>Also, all European Pilot cities attended     |
| 23-24 October 2015, Mons (Wallonia, Belgium), International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, world congress                  | European Metropolis of Lille  |
|  |   |
| 3-18 November 2015, Paris, UNESCO, General Conference  | European Metropolis of Lille  |
| 20-21 November 2015, Athens (Greece), Kathréptis seminar with Culture Action Europe and British Council Greece                               | Coordinator with Lyon   |
| 22-23 November 2015, Jeju (Republic of Korea), ASPAC seminar on Cities, culture and tourism.   | European Metropolis of Lille  |
| 26-27 November 2015, Brussels, European Culture Forum organised by the European Commission   | Postponed to April 2016   |
|  |   |
| 29 November – 3 December 2015, Johannesburg (Gauteng, SouthAfrica), Africities Summit  | at distance, with skype presence of the coordinator   |
| 3-4 December 2015, Paris, ARTCOP21   | Barcelona, Belo   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | Horizonte, Angers, European Metropolis of Lille, Jeju and Bogotá with coordinator |
| 5-7 December 2015, Paris, World Council of UCLG: OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE: NEW GOVERNANCE | ALL   |
| 10-11 December 2015. Hangzhou (China), UNESCO seminar on post-2015 and Habitat III                            | at distance   |

## Contact

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In 2015, the Committee on culture of UCLG was chaired by the European Metropolis of Lille, co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Montréal and México and vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona and Milano.



In 2016, the Committee on culture of UCLG is co-chaired by Buenos Aires and the City of México and vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Milano, Paris and Porto Alegre.