Agents of Change: what is the role of cities and local governments in developing the arts and culture?

World Summit on Arts and Culture
Valletta, 20 October 2016
Background: the Agenda 21 for culture

- Barcelona, 2004
- Guidance to local governments on the integration of cultural policies and sustainable development
- Used by over 600 local governments and orgs. around the world
- Promoted by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
The nexus between culture, cities and development in global agendas: increasing recognition, emerging opportunities?
2030 Agenda / Sustainable Dev. Goals

- 2030 Agenda makes limited reference to culture
- However, the main entry point can be found in Target 11.4, which refers to cultural heritage in cities
- This should influence sustainable development policies, in the Global North and South, in the next few years
Adopted this week in Quito, the New Urban Agenda will inform local policies in the next 20 years. Final text includes several references to culture and its relation with development (inclusion, economy, heritage preservation, diversity, etc.). Better recognition of cultural rights and culture as 4th pillar of sust. development would have been desirable. Cultural aspects have been included in consultation process throughout.

- Proof of UNESCO’s increasing attention to local level (e.g. Creative Cities Network)
- Key messages of report include the need to integrate culture in local sustainable development strategies and to design new, more participative governance models
However, significant challenges remain

- Cities and towns are different and diverse, and **global frameworks need to be adapted**
- Strengthen **local capacities** (human, financial, organisational resources)
- Foster **understanding** of relation between culture and sustainable development, and **how to make it operational**
- Need to adapt **governance frameworks** (multi-level, transversal, participative)
What we are doing
(in partnership with others)
Advocacy / campaigning

- In partnership with IFACCA and other networks, we’ve called for the integration of culture in global development agendas (2030, New Urban Agenda) and in the policies and programmes resulting from them.
- We will continue to promote international networking among actors interested in culture and sustainable development.
Peer-learning / policy innovation
Peer-learning / policy innovation

Source: UCLG Committee on Culture, on the basis of results provided by participants in the initial workshop convened by the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality and the Izmir Mediterranean Academy (Izmir, 11 March 2016) and the average obtained from a world panel of 34 experts.
Research

- Research underway with IFACCA, on relation between national and local govts in cultural policy
- Draft report provides information on **diverse degree and types of frameworks** outlining responsibilities and enabling cooperation
- Report to be further enriched in coming months and then published – **please contribute!** (Deadline: 30 November)
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