



Performing Arts Center
MULTIMEDIA



Project: CULTURE FOR/ FROM ALL*

REGIONAL CONFERENCE (DRAFT VERSION)

“Re-thinking local cultural policy: new identity and new paradigm”

17th -19th of September 2010, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

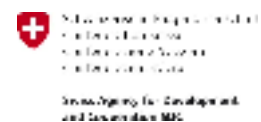
Initiators and organisation: Performing Arts Center MULTIMEDIA, Skopje and ODA, Pristina

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City cultural policy

Throughout world history, cities and municipalities were initiators and carriers of cultural development. Within the space of socio-cultural centres (which not always coincide with cultural institutions), people discover and develop their talents, actively involving themselves in cultural activities. In these centres, social cohesion, interaction, solidarity, providing help among neighbours, participation in the life of the neighbourhood, cultural heritage preservation, etc., are encouraged and strengthened. The basis of the twentieth-century society was established upon industrialization, but the twenty-first century society has moved beyond knowledge and information as its bases, and progresses along the lines of creativity. This indicates that creativity will take a central role in society. In referring to such changes, the twentieth-first century will be the era of ‘city’ (particularly the cultural or creative city), whereas the twentieth century can be called the era of ‘nation’.

This conference’s starting point is the presumption that Culture is not just some kind of an extra option to the Municipalities in the Balkan region, but it is an essential component for social regeneration, improvement to the life quality of its citizens, as well as to its economic development.

A city's culture is its seal - a unique collection of distinctiveness, resources, skills and assets that make it different from any other city. City's culture could be the key to provide improved quality of life for the citizens and visitors. Everyone has something to contribute to the cultural development of its own city. It is the diversity, skills and ideas of the community that could make each city an interesting one and a place where people want to live, work and visit. Culture touches all of us in our daily lives and can make a real difference to our future. Culture can make a significant contribution to achieving the city's objectives. It can impact on the economy, employment, crime, health, education, the environment, transport, etc.

Culture has become an increasingly important contributor to the revival of cities. Successful cities have a rich and varied cultural offer which improves quality of life and marks them out as desirable places to live, work in and visit. The broad range of cultural sectors – arts, heritage, sports, leisure, built environment, tourism, natural environment and the creative industries - form the distinctive features that contribute to the success of contemporary city life. None is significant on its own, but their collective contribution is multi- faceted and very powerful.

Regional context

The majority of the European Cities from London, through Amsterdam, Barcelona and Venice are significant entities in their own countries and regional powerhouses with impact far beyond their society. The same is already happening in Eastern Europe with cities like Prague, Budapest or Ljubljana regaining their historic importance in the wider world. Many other cities, particularly the Balkan’s, are already polished and restructured into the world’s perception. Many of those images

of the Balkan cities are good and some are still bad. And this, the process of re-imagining, re-thinking and re-defining of those cities and how these processes are managed is exactly what the city policy should be about. And this is the topic that we are going to discuss during the conference.

Unfortunately, most of the cities of the Balkan and yet of the Eastern Europe have hardly been equipped by systematic and clear cultural or city development policies. At the moment, their restructuring and development is rather chaotic. The non “existence of cultural policy” is based on short term projects that depend on decisions usually not based on serious professional reflection or promoted by the majority of citizens, who might be able to influence democratic procedures in the decision making process. There are still many problems that reflect on city development as well as chaos in urban planning processes, bad traffic systems, bad conditions of the cultural centres, low level of human resources that deal with culture etc.

Anyway, there are still some examples of successful and less successful local cultural policies for cities. For example: Tirana, Zagreb, Skopje.

About the project “CULTURE FOR/ FROM ALL”

The project is based on the presumption that culture is not just some kind of an extra option to the municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Kosovo, but it is its essential component for social cohesion, an improvement to the life quality of its citizens regardless of their ethnical, religious, educational, social, gender background, as well as to its economic development.

If culture is about identities, lifestyles, conduct, ethics, governance and the ways in which we go about our daily lives, this should not be too difficult to countenance. If we agree to have policies about culture or link culture to development objectives then we are also consenting, explicitly or implicitly, to logic of planning. Planning, that is to say, is not just about 'hard infrastructure' but also about soft and creative infrastructure: people and their needs and visions.

Building strong partnerships between civil society organizations and local governmental institutions, as well as building up cultural and artistic network with a focus on promotion of arts and culture, we hope to ensure systematic interaction and mutual confidence, joint and coordinated activities at all levels.

This project is implemented under the partnership agreement of Performing Arts Center Multimedia www.multimedia.org.mk from Skopje, Macedonia and ODA (www.teatrioda.com) from Pristina, Kosovo.

The conference is free of charge. However, **registration is mandatory for all interested participants that plan to attend the Conference.** Please fill the **Registration Form** available at <http://www.multimedia.org.mk> and <http://www.culturefromforall.org/> and send it to the following e-mail address: info@multimedia.org.mk

AGENDA (WORKING VERSION)

Friday, 17th of September 2010

15:00 Arrival of participants, Hotel check –in

16:00 Opening session

Representatives from the Government of The Republic of Macedonia (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Local-self Governance of The Republic of Macedonia),
City of Skopje,
Representatives from the DONORS of the Conference

17:00 – 18:30 Keynote: Local cultural policies in the Balkans: current situation: challenges and opportunities

Moderator: Mr. Robert Alagjovzovski

Speakers:

Ms. Milena Dragicevic-Sesic, PhD Prof., University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia

Mr. Sanjin Dragojevic, PhD Prof., University of Political sciences, Zagreb, Croatia

Ms. Aida Kalender, M.Sc., Director of NGO "AKCIJA", Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina

Ms. Violeta Simjanovska, M.Sc., deputy executive manager and project manager at PAC Multimedia, Macedonia

Mr. Labinot Salihu, project manager at ODA, Kosovo

Directors of culture/municipal representatives from the cities of Tetovo, Gostivar, Kichevo (Macedonia) and the cities of Prizren, Novo Brdo, Gnilanje (Kosovo)

18:00 -18:30 Discussion

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Visit to a cultural event in Skopje

Saturday, 18th of September 2010

10:00 -11:15 Re-thinking the cities: creativity and politics

Moderator: Ms. Violeta Simjanovska

Speakers:

Mr. Koce Trajanovski, Mayor of the city of Skopje

Mayors of the cities of Tetovo, Gostivar, Kichevo

11:15 -11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 -12:45 *Re-thinking the cities: new identity*

Moderator: Mr. Skender Bolshttrakaj

Speakers:

Ms. Milena Dragicevic-Sesis, PhD Prof., University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia

Mr. Nebojsa Vilic, PhD Prof., University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia

Mr. Sanjin Dragojevic, PhD Prof., University of Political sciences, Zagreb, Croatia

Ms. Aida Kalender, M.Sc., Director of NGO "AKCIJA", Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina

Mr. Aliriza Arenliu, Kosovo

Mr. Pane Temov, Baskerfest, Macedonia

12.:45 -15:00 Buffet Lunch

15:00 – 16:15 *Culture as an aspect of public policy: active citizenship*

Moderator: Mr. Skender Bolshttrakaj

Speakers:

Mr. Teo Celakovski, Croatia

Mr. Sanjin Dragojevic, PhD Prof., University of Political sciences, Zagreb, Croatia

Mr. Rade Ilieski, Manager for Social Affairs at the city of Probishtip, Macedonia

Mr. Predrag Cvijeticanin, Serbia

Mr. Janko Ljumovic, M.Sc., Montenegro

16:15 -16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 -17:45 *Evolving culture in the 21st century cities: new models and new paradigms*

Moderator: Mr. Robert Alagjozovski

Speakers:

Mr. Aleksandar Brkic, M.Sc., Serbia

Mr. Aleksandar Stankovski, artist, Macedonia

Representative from First Arhibrigada, Skopje

Mr. Florent Mehmeti, director, ODA, Kosovo

17:45 -19:00 *Presentation of Conference Papers*

Moderator: Ms. Violeta Simjanovska

20:00 Dinner

21:00 Cultural event

Sunday, 19th of September 2010

10:10 -10:45 Conference summary

10:45 -12:00 Outlook: Follow up to the conference - conference partners

12:00 -12:15 Closing of the Conference

12:15 -13:00 Light Lunch (Optional)

13:00 *City Tour around Skopje*