

Vienna Group Network meeting on Culture & Development 09.-10.01.2009

Agenda for the conference:

1. What has happened in the respective countries concerning culture & development policy?
2. Integrate Culture into Development – Linking Culture with Millennium Development Goals in order to facilitate its achievements?
3. Programmes of the European Commission
4. UNESCO 2005 Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions
5. Creative commons and potential ways of co-operation

1. Presentations on situation of International Cultural Policy and Development in respective countries

1.1 Austria

Franz Schmidjell

- Development Cooperation hesitant/reluctant – policy focuses on certain sectors/ reduction of involvement areas/partnerships in Austria
- Cultural Projects – UDTA, Cultural Heritage (Nepal, Bosnia, Guatemala), Culture & Arts (work in Austria) intrinsic to Ministry of Education – No coherent policy paper
- Development NGOs show more or less no interest in C+D

Challenges:

- development cooperation focuses on poverty reduction – Arts/ artists not concerned with these issues, fear of instrumentalisation
- personal attitude of Ministers, Ambassadors and people in institutions very important for successful cooperation
- VIDC in contact with Foreign Affairs office, plans to establish a working group on integrating culture in development policy
- mobilize civil society

1.2 Germany

Daniel Gad

BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)

- Development cooperation with focus on economic efficiency, since 2008 separate (small) division for C+D with focus on intercultural cooperation (no strategy paper published yet) + cultural framework of cooperation
- some interest in culture and art as a tool; no projects solely on arts; no cultural policy
- under influence of OECD

German Foreign Office (Ministry of Foreign Affairs):

- main focus: representing Germany abroad; but it is questioned
- since 2008 increased ODA-budget leading to the programme “Aktion Afrika”
- increased efforts in capacity building for cultural infrastructure and cultural producers & arts education (mainly implemented by Goethe Institut)

Operational level:

DED/Goethe institute/ DAAD/ EED and others

- problems due to funding on BMZ/ OECD criteria (economic focus)
- Monitoring and control mechanisms on efficiency difficult with approaches and aims of cultural / arts projects
- culture as a tool regarded easier / eligible for funding, arts for arts' sake not considered worthy of funding as results not measurable from the classical development perspective.

- Working group on C+D (Arbeitsgruppe Kultur und Entwicklung). Results published on: <http://www.ifa.de/info/dossiers/kultur-und-entwicklung/>
- Few exchange and collaboration with developing countries in scientific and training activities in the field of arts and culture (German Academic Exchange Service) due to OECD / BMZ criteria and to weak activities by German universities/schools.

NGO level (some examples)

KinderKulturKarawane <http://www.kinderkulturkarawane.de/>

A Hamburg based cultural project which annually invites 5-7 groups of young artists from ACP-countries to engage in a "cultural caravan" through a number of cities with the aim to promote a dialogue on equal terms and sustainable partnerships of projects and schools. Awards and positive feedback do not alter the fact that public funding is becoming harder for such a complex project which is operating in the field of C+D while costs increase.

CulturCooperation e.V. <http://www.culture-and-development.info/>

Carried out a three-year working programme on Culture & Development from 2005-2008, funded by the European Commission with partners VIDC, KIT (Royal Tropical Institute) and AFRICOM (African Council of Museums) with the aim to create awareness in the development community about the role of culture and the impact of culture on sustainable development and to mobilise civil society support for the claims of DCs for the protection of their cultural heritage as well as the restitution of cultural objects. Lobbying, successful networking, publications and conferences resulted in positive feedback of decision makers on worked-out proposals on the issue of C+D.

New follow-up project on "Crafts & Development" planned for 2010-2012.

Pan y Arte e.V. <http://www.panyarte.org/> (offices in Germany, Austria and Switzerland)

Supporting cultural projects in Nicaragua, main focusses: arts education, supporting reading, music and other creative skills, access to arts and culture, platform for professional artists and cultural workers (Casa de los Tres Mundos).

Initiative Kultur Bewegt <http://www.kulturbewegt.org/de/>

Research, Lobbying and Networking for C+D. E.g. coordination of a network within church institutions; a series of conferences to C+D focussing the arts (e.g. "World is Sound"); scientific research on "Cultural Policy and Development Cooperation" at University of Hildesheim.

1.3 The Netherlands

Marieke van der Velden

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: C+D and international cultural policy in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Institutions focusing on culture and development: Prince Claus Fund, Hivos, other small funds, co-funded by government
- April 2007: Changes in co-funding program 2009-2012. Several institutions didn't get co-funding, for example Hubert Bals Fund
- July 2007: Coalition of 17 Dutch organisations not only from culture and development, but also cultural organisations. Manifesto: A stronger role for culture and development in Dutch policy, signed by Minister Koenders of Development (contact Jorn Konijn – Sica)
- March 2008: **Curiosity without borders** "towards a truly international culture policy" – the conference, organised by the coalition which consists of now 23 organisations was a "small revolution", gap between competing cultural circuits appears to have been reduced.
- At the conference participants from the ministries were in favor of cooperation, yet some artists concerned about instrumentalization of the Arts
- Ministry signed an agreement on Culture being an intrinsic part of Development; increase of budget of 2 mill. € for C&D. Yet Minister Koenders does not agree on the demand for culture as 9th MDG: hopeless as not measurable, incorporate culture in other development goals a better solution (Culture as 9th MDG was initially a Hivos idea in 2005).

1.4 Slovakia

Zuzana Duchová

Ministry of Culture – Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Ministry of Education involved in cultural policy

- CCP - independent project – state funded (multi-level financing; sponsorship, EU-Commission)
- Official document on the meaning of culture in general – well written and up to date, yet not realistic.
- Culture not explicitly included as important for development.
- Independent NGOs often have monetary problems due to a lack of experience in fund-raising
- Difficulties with the mentality of cultural practitioners who mostly rely on state funding
- Opportunities for connection at conferences for an improvement in networking and putting an end to the issue of debating the lack of money
- Division of high culture (Fine Arts) and popular culture, culture as a way of living not considered worthy to sponsor, development agencies more concerned with financing and not open to broadening their work on culture in development

1.5 Switzerland

Diego Gradis

- Negative balance with respect to government involvement in comparison with past practice of the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (DDC/DEZA)
- Swiss engagement in C+D has gone backwards; no re-orientation: thematic division for culture has been abolished; Culture not a federal mandate, but at Cantonal level
- At Cantonal level there are no activities on C+D, since development cooperation projects are undertaken by Canton Government Departments but none by the Culture Department (rather Health & Education ministries)
- 1% of SDC support to priority countries is for culture; but no specific guidelines, so project selection depends on the head of each SDC in-country office.
- Pro Helvetia is a foundation in charge of promoting Swiss culture abroad - presenting other cultures in Switzerland has been cancelled. Sensitizing Swiss public to other cultures is hard to find funding for.
- In general, culture issues receive no great interest from Development cooperation NGOs, neither do they feel they should be involved in the implementation in CH of the 2005 Convention.

2. Inputs – Integrate Culture into Millenium Development Goals?

Presentation by Daniel Gad

- Statements discussed:
- Berne Declaration <http://www.evb.ch/p25003577.html>
- Beyond Diversity: Moving towards MDG no. 9
<http://www.hivos.nl/index.php/content/download/4473/26305/file/phpwd0gUI.pdf>
- Integrate Culture Into MDG to Facilitate Its Achievements. (George Hagan, Chairman of the National Commission on Culture, Ghana 2008)
http://ghana.gov.gh/ghana/integrate_culture_mdg_facilitate_its_achievement.jsp
- Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund /UnDP/Spain 2007
http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=37898&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
- Integrating Culture into the PRSPs/Senegal 07 – Culture and Poverty Alleviation in Africa – DCCP (Denmark) – “economic perspective”
<http://www.incd.net/docs/Document%205%20-%20Sagnia%20Paper.pdf>

There are different perspectives on this topic:

1. Intercultural communication and cultural framework of the cooperation between north and south
2. Art & culture as another dimension of development that is linked to the classical dimensions

3. Culture as an overarching / eternal MDG

4. Art & culture as an MDG on its own

To sum up, the papers discuss the issue of C+D in favour of promoting Culture in Development Policy, not necessarily meaning Culture becoming MDG no.9.

The participants agreed that culture is of significant importance for itself and that not every contribution to the cultural life has to be economically utilisable. Yet, as the MDG campaign does not prove to be an efficient tool in improving living conditions in DCs, the participants agreed that it would not make sense to engage in a promotion of including Culture as MDG No. 9 in the policy framework. Nevertheless, the MDGs are the essential component of development policy both nationally and internationally and will thus form the framework for all projects with respect to funding criteria.

3. Programmes of the European Commission

Presentation by Franz Schmidjell

Objectives of promoting culture in external and international development cooperation

- Intercultural dialogue. An instrument for peace and conflict prevention
- Culture in political dialogue
- Cultural diversity – counterbalance uniformity
- Protection and promotion of cultural heritage
- Access to local culture/ access of cultural goods to foreign markets
- EU better involved in work of relevant international organisation

Cultural Programmes in EC Development Cooperation

1. Global: Investing in People
2. Global: Non-state Actors and Local Authorities
3. ACP – EU Cultural co-operation
4. Latin America
5. European neighborhood
6. Asia

Strategies/possible ways for enhancement of C+D issues at High Level Colloquium meeting April 1-3, 2009 in Brussels:

- Forcing the realisation of Articles 12-18 – implementation of UNESCO Convention – use every instrument we have (legal frameworks/ agreements as well as promote support of civil society)
- Member states have to push it – identify interested decision-makers/ political stakeholders
- Exchange between networking partners to know each other's projects and progress in lobbying
- Connection of NGOs – use the meeting as an open space for civil society exchange

4. UNESCO 2005 Convention on the protection & the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions

Presentation by Diego Gradis

3 essential elements:

- **Dual nature (cultural and economic value of cultural goods & services)**
- **Sovereignty of States to develop cultural policies**
- **Culture becomes an issue of Development cooperation**

→ Provisions of the Convention – policy statement for development cooperation

- Focus of the convention is recognizing culture as a part of the world economy. Yet it is important to have culture not only as an economic tool but as an important value for social transformation – fight the influence of WTO in international trade.
- Civil society is recognised as a fundamental role in the implementation of the Convention (Article 11).
- UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee - culture becomes a fundamental element in cooperation

- → Supporting Developing Countries: develop the cultural field – support development of cultural industries – provide access to the market for artists – provide access to get involved in cultural activities for everyone - tax advantages
- Preferential treatment for developing countries – draft guidelines to be adopted at the next **Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) meeting in March 2009**. NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee asked to collect position of Civil Society organizations and if possible prepare consolidated responses to a questionnaire by end of January.
- **International Fund set up by the Convention** – starting implementation structures, 1 Mio \$ at the moment – voluntary annual contribution: Put pressure on states to contribute to the Fund – secretariat will call experts committee for deciding on the use of the Fund.
- “Our creative diversity” report had a broader perspective – Convention cut backs on the process: development strategies are left out, creation, production and distribution prioritized. Convention should be part of national development policy – but it has not been discussed yet.

The UNESCO convention is favourable to all kinds of cultural/ artistic expressions and thus makes it an important juridical tool to remind the national governments/ MPs of their commitment when ratifying and to promote world cohesion through intercultural cooperation.

How can the Convention be used to bring life into the discussion, to make it work?

- use Brussels meeting for national lobbying (substance paper to be given to the conference participants) and organise a side-event to meet with partners from the South
- raise civil society's awareness – making them get involved in the debate
- use existing network structures and expand the “Vienna group” to all EU-countries and include partners from the South to give force to substance papers (now and in the future)
- continue discussion on culture & development – share different experiences – set new guidelines – exchange about common questions
- establish regular meetings for an efficient exchange about projects and ideas
- ingrate the needs and arguments of representatives of developing countries into the process / invite them to participate in our group
- real life meetings are important besides mailing list and Power of Culture newsletter

5. Creative commons & potential ways of cooperation

Defining culture & development for the coalition of present members of the Vienna Group

- 2 concepts of culture: arts & culture/ cultural expressions versus the way of living/life
- Both should be addressed – diversity of creative expressions
- include institutions in the network that deal with intercultural communication and development within Europe, include migrants and migrant cultures as experts for development/ cultural projects from their respective home countries

Overall objective:

PROMOTE THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. Make sure the contents of the UNESCO 2005 Convention are put to work for international cooperation for culture by:

- increasing cultural sensitivity of the development world
- improving cultural infrastructure and status, income, gender gap, education etc. of artists in ACP countries and migrant artists in Europe
- improving structures for intercultural dialogue and arts cooperation
- exchanging of knowledge about funding practices/ lobbying
- reaching and involving artists
- spreading positive news/ creating different images about the South, increasing the awareness of the power of culture in Europe, mobilize civil society

specific objectives:

- improving communication flow within the network on good practice, strategies, experiences on local, national and collective levels
- expanding network (use each other's existing network)/ keeping counterparts informed (DCs)
- keeping informed/ getting involved in multilateral processes, specifically amongst OECD, UNESCO, and EU-Commission
- platform for joint projects/ side events/ thinktank/ source of resources amongst members: *Do-Tank*
- solidarity for movements / countermovements
- organization of annual network meetings (next at the beginning of 2010)

Aims, objectives and planned activities will be implemented with the potential perspective to organise an evaluation conference on the implementation of the UNESCO 2005 Convention (Articles 12 to 18) with respect to international cooperation issues in 2-3 years time.

To Do:

- **Substance Letter to government participants**
- **Side Event Brussels – contact local partner Africalia in Belgium – participants from the South**
- **facilitate information flow – communication major tool, informing each other: Mailing list – personal contacts – list of included people/ or why persons are hesitant to participate – invite operational government institution representatives to next meeting, members NGO-only**
- **Organisation of annual meeting – VIDC part of preparation committee – first semester of 2010**
- **put efforts into expanding the network; Third Circle should be contacted – minutes be forwarded to organizations, institutions, contact persons, further communication centralized**
- **Contact the National Coalitions of the Convention in each country of present participants**
- **bring decision-makers to network meeting, give them input**
- **www.powerofculture.nl as network base, more partners**

List of participants

- **Walter Posch**/ Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation VIDC (A) www.vidc.org
- **Franz Schmidjell**/ VIDC – Moving Cultures (A)
- **Horst Watzl**/ VIDC – Moving Cultures (A)
- **Ralf Classen**/ Büro für Kultur- und Medienprojekte (GER) www.kinderkulturkarawane.de
- **Diego Gradis**/ Traditions for Tomorrow (CH/F)/ UNESCO (CH) www.tradi.info
- **Zuzana Duchová**/ Cultural Contact Point (SK) www.ccp.sk
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- **Barbara Plankensteiner**/ Kuratorin Museum für Völkerkunde Wien (A), Department sub-Saharan Africa