

SUPPORT TO DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH THROUGH CULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS

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Restitution of
***Study on projects using
cultural expressions as a
lever for employment, human
rights, democracy and other
human development areas***

This presentation reflects exclusively the opinion of its author

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Objective of the study

- A study to identify, select and analyse a sample of culture related selected projects supported by the EU through its cooperation instruments or by member states
- Its aim is to illustrate how cooperation projects involving cultural operators, cultural sectors of activity and/or cultural content can contribute to current EU development priorities

Scope and Methodology

- comprehensive process of identification, consultation and analysis
- 30 projects selected and grouped in three categories:
 - Projects that have demonstrated positive and significant impact in sustainable economic development
 - Projects illustrating how cultural operators and cultural sectors of activity can contribute to reinforce human rights, democracy and good governance
 - Projects with impact in other domains of development (health, environment, gender equality, social inclusion...)

Scope and Methodology

- variety of different profiles:
 - geographic dispersion - only projects implemented in developing partner countries
 - size (going from micro-projects to a 35 M € programme),
 - operational approach, implementation modalities,
 - origin of funds,
 - role of culture in the project, etc.
- to illustrate alternative intervention possibilities in projects including a cultural dimension

Scope and Methodology

- main obstacles in the process:
 - lack of a standards in terms of the information available for each project in the EC system
 - absence of information to measure impact

The European development cooperation framework

- *“Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change”*
- sets a benchmark for EU development policies

The European development cooperation framework

- Agenda for change doesn't include explicitly culture as a sector or goal of cooperation with third countries
- the legal and political EU framework integrate culture as a core sector of cooperation

The European development cooperation framework

- culture has been widely acknowledged as an essential dimension of development
- Including cultural related projects in EU cooperation programmes can contribute to attain the objectives of the Agenda for Change

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The European development cooperation framework

- EU legal cooperation framework offer an opportunity to include culture in different forms
- Cultural operators and cultural sectors of activity can be integrated through:
 - Development cooperation instrument (DCI)
 - European instrument for democracy and human rights (EIDHR)
 - EDF

Good Practices in the area of Democracy, Human rights, Governance

- A sample of 12 projects have been studied
- A diversity of objectives identified:
 - Improve human, citizens' and cultural rights
 - Improve or provide mechanisms of local governance
 - Enhance citizens participation and influence in democratic and nation-building processes, as well as in improving governance
 - Defend individual and collective freedom

Good Practices in the area of Democracy, Human rights, Governance

- The limitation of cultural rights jeopardize human rights.
- The degradation of social cohesion is closely linked to the loss of cultural identity and pride, which generates social violence, youth disorientation and educational failure

Good Practices in the area of Democracy, Human rights, Governance

- Cultural operators and culture related civil society has proved very effective in:
 - promoting human, citizens' and cultural rights
 - stimulating participation
 - consolidating the democratic process
 - reinforcing governance, at local and national levels

Good Practices in the area of Democracy, Human rights, Governance

- Recommendations
 - In the case of EIDHR, Cultural operators and culture related civil society to be specifically targeted in all support programmes
 - NSA programmes to include support to cultural civil society, as an essential tool to reinforce human rights, democracy and good governance
 - Long term approach and systematic support to build citizens collective consciousness

Culture as a resource for Inclusive growth and sustainable development

- 12 projects from different parts of the world
- They demonstrate that projects that support cultural operators or are addressed to cultural sectors of activity can have significant impact in terms of economic growth and social development.

Culture as a resource for Inclusive growth and sustainable development

- Demonstrated direct economic impact:
 - through increased activity in cultural sectors of activity:
 - structured sector
 - Income generating activities
 - culture as a driving force for local development
 - culture and heritage related tourism
 - tangible heritage as a backbone of urban development,
 - economic activity generated by cultural events or cultural venues (festivals, museums, etc.).

Culture as a resource for Inclusive growth and sustainable development

- Demonstrated impact in:
- Cultural sectors induced economic impact in other sectors:
 - tourism related services,
 - heritage maintenance related activities (restoration, buildings, materials, etc.),
 - media related activities
 - equipment and materials for music, audiovisual, cinema, publishing, etc.

Culture as a resource for Inclusive growth and sustainable development

- Education in the cultural sectors of activity:
 - better trained professionals,
 - more structured cultural sectors and
 - enhanced entrepreneurship in cultural domains
- Indirect economic impact, through an improved image of a city region or country, enhanced individual creativity, more adaptable individuals.

Culture as a resource for Inclusive growth and sustainable development

- Sustainable development:
 - creating value-added activities with little or no use of natural resources, thus contributing to sustainable development;
 - contributing significantly to the knowledge driven new economic dynamics.

Culture in other areas of development

- At a local level, a comprehensive development project with a strong cultural dimension can have significant impact in different development domains, such as environment, citizens' social participation and local governance, public services, health, education, etc.

Culture in other areas of development

- A project that includes a strong cultural dimension has impact in other areas of development, thanks to a ripples effect that go beyond the original scope of a project.

Culture in other areas of development

- Culture offers adequate and valuable tools to:
 - convey information
 - raise awareness
 - sensitize
 - teach
 - promote socially on sensitive social development issues, such as reproductive and sexual health

In conclusion

- There is evidence that projects addressed to cultural operators or cultural sectors of activity, as well as projects with a significant cultural dimension, can significantly contribute to all current EU development priorities:
 - economic growth and sustainable development
 - powerful tool to promote human rights, good governance and democracy
 - effective means to advance:
 - mainstreamed development areas, such as environment, social inclusion, gender equality,
 - other areas of development such as health and education.

Operational Recommendations

- At EC strategy level
- explicitly integrate the possibility to cover cultural related sectors and operators, in EU programming documents for:
 - Development cooperation instrument (DCI),
 - European instrument for democracy and human rights (EIDHR) 11th EDF.
- Culture to be integrated in programme documents with the explicit objective of contributing to EU current development priorities .

Operational Recommendations

- At a programme level
 - Programme implementation modalities in DCI, EIDHR or EDF should explicitly integrate provisions to ensure eligibility for cultural operators
 - At a bilateral cooperation level, countries have identified future sectors of concentration: in many cases cultural related cooperation can contribute to national cooperation priorities, in particular in sectors such as: human rights, democratisation process, governance, private sector, urban development, education, social inclusion, decentralisation and local development.

Operational Recommendations

- The integration of the cultural dimension of development should be generally mainstreamed in development projects
- Economic development programmes should integrate culture related sectors, especially in countries/regions with few potential development resources

Operational Recommendations

At a project level

- Best project results are obtained when:
 - The implementation partner has proved its capacity to achieve results and its commitment to generate socio-economic development.
 - A permanent and perennial structure receives funding through different EU sources in order to support long term development of the structure.
 - Adequate visibility of the project objectives for all stakeholders, and comprehensive set of activities

Operational Recommendations

At a project level

- Best project results are obtained when:
 - All activities of the project ought to include a capacity building component, through training or transfer of competence and skills.
 - Projects aiming to build a fully-fledged cultural sector of activity leading to economic development should integrate a collective sectoral approach and foresee the involvement of professional associations operating in the sector.

Operational Recommendations

At a project level

- Best project results are obtained when:
 - Effective communication strategy and media coverage, including the use of cultural expressions and cultural goods and services
 - Participation of all relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the project. Active participation of relevant groups in the decision making process