

COMISIONES Y GRUPOS DE TRABAJO DE CGLU

COMISIÓN DE CULTURA DE CGLU CONTRIBUCIÓN A NUESTRO INFORME PARA UNESCO

CIRCULAR 26

Estimados miembros de la Comisión de Cultura de CGLU,

Nos place anunciar que hemos acordado nuestra participación en el proyecto “Hacia un nuevo marco de política cultural” de la División de Políticas Culturales y Diálogo Intercultural de UNESCO con un sucinto informe sobre “la innovación institucional en las políticas locales para la diversidad cultural y el diálogo intercultural”.

Nuestro informe se concentrará en esta ocasión en las políticas y los programas (y no en los proyectos puntuales) e incluirá las contribuciones que los miembros de la Comisión de Cultura de CGLU puedan enviar.

En el fichero adjunto pueden encontrar más información (solamente en inglés).

Cordialmente,

El Secretariado Mundial de CGLU
en nombre de la Comisión de Cultura



Institutional innovation in local policies for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

Call for contributions.

1. Rationale

UCLG's Committee on culture has agreed to contribute to the project "Towards a new cultural policy profile" of the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue of Unesco.

Our contribution will be a brief report on "institutional innovation in local policies for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue".

The report will focus on policies and programmes (not in specific projects) and will include those contributions the members of UCLG's Committee on culture may wish to send.

2. Framework

Culture and sustainable development

How a new cultural policy profile can be suggested? How do we advocate for culture in public policy making? How should culture be related to the sustainable development paradigm?

Policies for development are just built on three pillars: the economic pillar has to do with creating wealth (XVIII century); the social pillar redistributes this wealth (XIXth century), whilst the third pillar, the ecological (second half of XXth century), watches over responsibility for the environment. They make the "virtuous triangle" of sustainable development. It was developed in the second half of the 1980s (Brundtland's report being its key document. It was successfully consolidated afterwards (Rio de Janeiro 1992, Aalborg 1994 and 2004, Johannesburg 2002) and is used today in local, national and global strategies as a pattern for analysis and public action.

But, where is culture? The Australian researcher Jon Hawkes has formulated the need to structure a new "pillar" for sustainability in the document *The fourth pillar of sustainability. Culture's essential role in public planning*. The cultural actors know better than anybody that the circle of development cannot be squared without a fourth pillar: culture. The framework proposed by Jon Hawkes is extremely powerful: cultural actors and agents, we, need strong metaphors and images to raise awareness on the cultural dimension of human development, and to secure a solid role for culture in public action.

It is difficult for anyone to advocate for culture without creating bridges with the other spheres of governance. The fourth pillar allows us to advocate for culture to be at same

level of significance for the development of a society than the economy, the social and the environmental.

It does neglect neither a certain degree of overlap nor the complementarity with each one of the other pillars. The fourth pillar offers a strong metaphor and creates solid bridges.

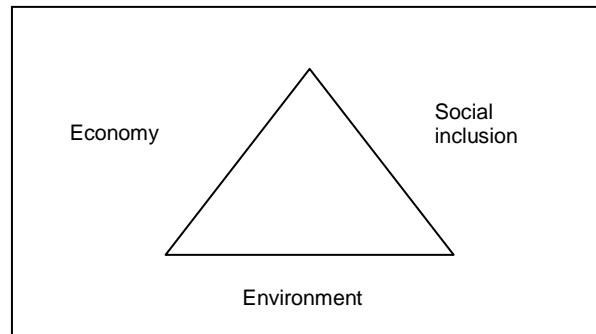


Figure 1. The old triangle of sustainable development

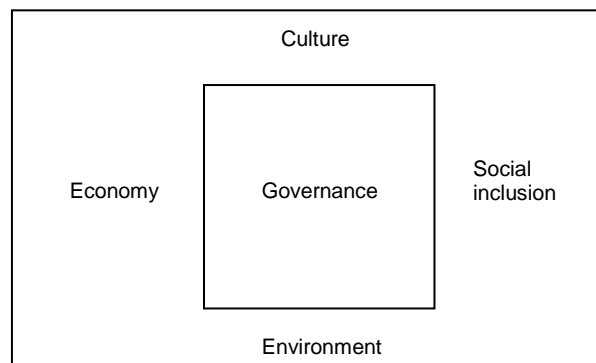


Figure 2. The new square of sustainable development

In a society with a growing diversity (not only ethnical diversity), that needs to value knowledge and life-long learning, that is connected (at least potentially) to all the societies of the world... cities need to build a cultural pillar that helps citizens to understand the world, by discovering that our roots, our traditions, our cultures, are not self-evident, by building on our human development through the access to, and practice with, cultural activities.

A cultural diversity momentum

The approval of UNESCO's Declaration (2001) and Convention (2005) on Cultural Diversity created the current cultural diversity *momentum*. Besides, other institutional processes have appeared, such as the Alliance of Civilizations (from 2006) or the European Agenda for Culture (2007).

But the institutionality has its limits:

- The task of deconstructing / reconstructing collective identities (that implicitly cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue entails) is very difficult for the vast majority of nation states.
- The civil society has not yet articulated a global movement for cultural rights, cultural diversity or intercultural dialogue. There is no cultural Greenpeace or

Amnesty International. There are very interesting seeds, such as Culture Watch Europe, the INCD - International Network for Cultural Diversity, the Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity or the World Cultural Forum. No solid role of culture in sustainable development will be attained without loud voices of civil society.

- Cities and local governments are an emerging actor, but the world organisation of cities is still a young organisation.

The connection between culture and sustainable development is poor. The results of the summits of Rio de Janeiro (1992) and Johannesburg (2002) do not include much cultural content (although there was a noticeable progress in the decade 1992-2002). Bold steps are needed to stock the progress made in our decade 2002-2012. The UNDP summit of 2012 (where? when?) would be an interesting target for those preoccupied by the current situation of culture in sustainable development and convinced to upgrade its centrality in the global agenda.

The role of cities and local governments

Cities cannot defend teleological discourses on the “cultural identity” of their citizens, as nation-states do (or used to do). Cities have always been the point of destination of immigrants, who, after a few years, become inhabitants and citizens. The identity of cities is obviously dynamic: it has always balanced the expression of traditional cultures with the creation of new cultural forms.

The essential cartographies of cities look very much alike. Citizens request democracy at a local level, services delivered with efficiency, processes that are transparent, a facilitating local government, a city as an open-ended system, a city that creates new meaning with its inhabitants.

Cities and local governments cannot be absent from the debate on the role of culture in globalisation, because:

- Cities are the spaces where globalisation becomes clearly and immediately obvious.
- Citizens exercise their cultural rights at a local level.
- The human development is based in the provision of local services.
- Creative processes take place in cities.
- New shared imaginaries are originated in cities.

A number of recent United Nations reports have repeatedly revealed the need for states, international and inter-governmental bodies to listen to the voice of cities and to work with them on the implementation of their strategies. For example, the report on the relations between the United Nations and civil society, known as the Cardoso Report [2004], or the report elaborated by Jeffrey Sachs [2005] on the Millennium Development Goals and the world struggle against poverty. These reports recognise that cities and local governments have a priority role as elements of democratisation and efficiency.

One of the main challenges of our societies is to give visibility to and to legitimise the processes of construction and reconstruction of citizens' *imagineries*, or narratives. Cities are ready to act in the world today both with the universalistic formula “think global, act local”, and also with its diversalist complement “think local, act global”.

At the end of the 20th century, cities had won a place on the international scene. The unification of world municipalism in United Cities and Local Governments (May 2004), has undoubtedly been a milestone. In the field of cultural policies, UCLG adopted an *Agenda 21 for culture* as a reference document.

3. Topics

UCLG's Committee on culture calls to members and interested parties to contribute to the report "institutional innovation in local policies for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue" with examples of policies and programmes responding to these issues:

- Culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. Evidences from local policies.
- Cultural planning integrated into broader national planning accompanied and facilitated by appropriate infrastructure.
- Institutionalized processes in place to promote the linkages between culture and social cohesion, sustainability and the well-being of people creating synergies between different policy areas and/or moving beyond specific policy sector boundaries.
- Maintenance/renewal/restoration processes put in place that are mindful of intercultural/interfaith relations, lifecycle planning and positive community development.
- Effective ways identified to optimize recognition, safeguarding and use of diverse knowledge systems - including traditional knowledge and occupations for sustainable development
- Strategies in place to promote intercultural competencies in planning
- A new civic mindset in institutions and civil society organizations/initiatives that understands cultural facilities as part of national infrastructure development
- Culture sector activity innovated and/or expanded taking into account latest thinking and practice regarding intercultural/interfaith issues, intercultural competence and dialogue, commemoration and collective memory, popular culture, the safeguarding of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the promotion of the diversity of cultural expression.
- Effective coordinating mechanism at national and local levels that facilitate the implementation of innovative approaches across traditional institutional or geographic boundaries.

4. Guidelines for contribution

Contributions to the report may follow this template:

- a. Name of the programme / policy
- b. Outline of the programme / policy (100 words)
- c. Brief description of the context (150 words)
 - Location (city, state, province, country)
 - Background – Institutional context of the programme
 - Explicit the problems that the programme wished to address
- d. Content of the programme (200 words)
 - Goals
 - Actions implemented
 - Innovative solutions
- e. Management of the programme (150 words)
 - Explain partnerships (public, private, NGOs...)
 - Explain legal frameworks (if relevant)
 - Main difficulties in management
- f. Impact of the programme (150 words)
 - Results and key lessons learnt
 - Does the programme still exist?
 - Has the programme been evaluated?

- What are the “pre-requisites” in other contexts / cities to develop the programme?
- g. Documents related to the programme
- Documents. Study reports. PPT. Publication. Photos. Website.
- h. Contact information
- Leader of the programme: name, position, organisation, website, email.
 - Author of this note: name, position, organisation, website, email.

5. Deadline

Deadline is 30th April 2009

6. Contact

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