

Monitoring Cultural Policy, Co-operation and Diversity – ERICarts-Institute

25 Years of European Collaboration in Comparative Cultural Policy Research

The following table is a summary of main events and organisational developments in the emerging field of comparative cultural policy research. These activities have culminated in the recent establishment of a pan European research institute, **ERICarts-Institute**, for which an integrated, decentralised structure has been created active in ongoing transnational research projects as well as providing a sustainable focal point to the work undertaken in this field.

Year	Place	Event/Action	Results/Examples/Follow-up
1975	Helsinki	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and subsequent Expert Meetings	"Basket III" of the Final Act of the conference foresees the creation of a "European Cultural Data Bank" (ECDB). It was the first exchange on comparable culture statistics, joint studies ("Network Research"), thesaurus for culture etc.
1977	Strasbourg	Council of Europe (CoE) meeting of national experts in the cultural field	Chaired by A. Girard (Ministère de la Culture, Paris), the meeting advocates further co-operation (no clear follow-up)
1978-1980	Stockholm	First "joint studies" conducted within the framework of UNESCO	Publication of the model report "Culture and the Working Life - Experiences from six European Countries", prepared by Swedish and Yugoslav scholars.
1980	Strasbourg	First Meeting of "Centres for Cultural Information, Research and Documentation" to discuss a paper commissioned by the CoE	Paper presented by A. J. Wiesand (Zentrum für Kulturforschung/ZfKf, Bonn) on the future of research co-operation. 8 researchers, documentalists and other experts asked for "flexible, informal and pragmatic communication patterns... on a purely personal basis" instead of "elaborate mechanisms"
1982	Namur / Paris	ECDB-tasks transferred to UNESCO	Focus of co-operation is on statistics, other activities proposed in 1975 conference disappeared from the agenda
1984	Strasbourg	4 th "Meeting of "Centres for Cultural Information, Research and Documentation"	The name C.I.R.C.L.E. is adopted and a regular networking structure with Statute, Secretariat etc. envisaged, serving also the needs of CoE (discussion is continued until the mid-90's)
1985	Budapest	"European Cultural Forum" held in the framework of CSCE	A Resolution introduced by 16 countries, including the Soviet Union and the USA, underlined the importance of "comparative research into cultural conditions, activities and developments" and recommends steps towards the establishment of a "European Association for Cultural Research to promote international expert meetings and comparative joint studies".
1985	Stockholm / Oslo	"Methods to Evaluate National Cultural Policies" (meetings)	Results served as a basis for the CoE Review Programme of National Cultural Policies, starting with France in 1987/88
Mid 1980's	Vienna	Joint projects for UNESCO based on research by the MEDIACULT group, founded by Kurt Blaukopf	1986-89 international working group follows up on studies conducted by MEDIACULT in the 70's, e.g. the project "Production and Dissemination of Cultural Goods and Services: Training of Personnel".
1987	Budapest	European Culture Impact Research Consortium founded	EUROCIRCON directed by I. Vitanyi and E. Laszlo. Some overlap with CIRCLE membership (folded in the early 90's)
1987 / 1988	Hamburg / Budapest	1st CIRCLE Round Tables outside Strasbourg ; Network institutionalises further	Hamburg: Training for Arts Administration, with ZfKf; Budapest: East-West-Round Table "The State – Market – Culture" with Institute for Cultural Research.

		(legal statute, new sletter)	Since then, Round Tables continued annually in different cities
1989	Zagreb	CULTURELINK founded (UNESCO and CoE support)	Regular publication of a journal supporting worldwide networking activities by providing information on databases, conferences, publications, regional activities, research etc.
Late 80s, early 90s	Maastricht, Umea etc	Influences from the US foster academic research and comparisons	e.g. Association of Cultural Economics (conferences) economic impact studies; comparative studies of M.D. Schuster etc.
1991	Salzburg - Linz	Main idea for ERICarts is developed (during Austrian Cultural Policy Review)	R. Mitchell / A. J. Wiesand develop concept of an "integrated" European Institute, taking into account failures of loose networks to cope professionally with comparative research projects
1994	Hull	"Crossing Frontiers", organized by the International Comparative Policy Group (Government of Canada)	Comparative cultural (policy) research perspectives and experiences are the topic of this event, which proved influential in strengthening ties between experts from North America and Europe.
1999	Bergen	International Conference on Cultural Policy Research	The meeting demonstrated the increased interest for cultural research, some of which is comparative, in academic circles
2000-01	Luxembourg	Working Group on Cultural Statistics (EU/EUROSTAT) intensifies work	3 thematic Task Forces set up to harmonize statistical definitions and instruments (LEG groups on public expenditure, public participation and employment in the culture sector)

Overview of developments towards the European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts)

1992 / 1993	Bonn, Paris, Helsinki etc.	First steps to prepare a concept for a transnational Institution	Initiative for ERICarts founded December 1993 by 30 researchers as an Association under German law (e.V.) It was originally conceived in 1991-93 as CIRCLE's "research wing".
1994 / 1996	Bonn / Torino / Liechtenstein / Maastricht	Efforts to establish the ERICarts Institute with a permanent structure; first consultancy missions	Despite all efforts of Board Members and flexible "federal" structures proposed, time for the actual establishment of the Institute was not yet ripe. 2 nd Torino Assembly of e.V. members clarifies further research priorities.
1997	Königswinter	ERICarts Board decides to create a project secretariat and begin working on transnational projects despite absence of permanent funding. ZfKf offers to host the project secretariat	Following the Board meeting, ERICarts e.V. starts regular project work by co-organising - the EU-study "Women in the Arts and Media Professions – European Comparisons" (1997-2000) and - "Cultural Policies in Europe: a compendium of basic facts and trends" with the Council of Europe - online database of national cultural policy profiles.
1998/9	Amsterdam	Effort to set up the ERICarts Institute in Amsterdam	A co-operation with SISWO/Univ. of Amsterdam is envisaged but fails due to change of priorities and leadership at the University
2001	Visby/ Nörrköping	EU-Conference on Status of Artists/ "Creative Europe" project presented to University conference in Sweden	In past 4 years, ERICarts e.V. had been active in 20 transnational projects, the majority of which were financed by research commissions and sponsoring
2002	Strasbourg / Budapest	3 rd ERICarts Members Assembly Conference "Bigger-Better-Beautiful", Budapest	Members Assembly approves a new structure and legal status for the ERICarts Institute. Concept discussed and further developed by Transitory Board in Budapest 1 st Meeting of "Compendium" authors in Strasbourg
2003	Strasbourg	4 th ERICarts Members Assembly	Final Concept of ERICarts Institute approved by Assembly. ERICarts e.V. renamed "European Association of Cultural Researchers" (ECURES), which is to be one of the founders of the new institute together with "Centres of Excellence"
2004	Berlin / Helsinki / Amsterdam etc.	Launch of ERICarts-Institute as a non-profit company ERICarts participates in ECF-bid for the "Laboratory of European Cultural Co-operation" (LAB/G2CC)	3 rd Meeting of Compendium authors at the Berlin Foreign Office to pave the road towards enhanced monitoring functions 1 st Board of Governors Meeting of ERICarts-Institute in Helsinki In view of the LAB, ERICarts-Institute organises capacities for evaluating ongoing research on cultural co-operation in Europe