

Monitoring Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe

4th Annual Authors Meeting of “Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe”

1-2 July 2005

**Hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (the Hague)
at the Boekman Foundation (Amsterdam)**

MEETING REPORT¹

DAY ONE - 1 JULY

OPENING AND WELCOME

Ms Judith van Kranendonk, Director General for Culture and Media, Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science opened the 4th Compendium Author's meeting by warmly welcoming the Council of Europe, the ERICarts Institute and the authors to Amsterdam. In her opening words Ms van Kranendonk emphasized the value of the Compendium as a monitoring tool, which was constantly used by researchers and policy makers. According to Ms van Kranendonk, a review of cultural policy is under way in the Netherlands and the Compendium helps to inform their decisions by providing information about policies applied in other countries. She stressed the need to find a stronger role for cultural policy in society especially in the face of common challenges resulting from increased mobility and immigration leading to a growth of cultural diversity in all European countries. She expressed great interest in the outcome of the meeting in general and particularly following Day Two's discussion on cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion. To conclude, she congratulated the Council of Europe and ERICarts on the success of the project and thanked Mr Cas Smithuijsen and the Boekman Foundation for organising the event.

In his opening words *Mr Daniel Théron*d, Director a.i. of Culture, Cultural and National Heritage of the Council of Europe, emphasized the importance of cultural co-operation and intercultural dialogue on the Council's agenda for 2005 and reported on Council of Europe major events such as the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government (Warsaw, May 2005) and the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention. He stressed the importance of developing synergies between the Council of Europe, European Union and UNESCO in fostering co-operation and dialogue. According to Mr Théron, work on policies and ethics are a special responsibility of the Council of Europe in the cultural landscape. Mr Théron expressed his warm thanks to the Compendium authors and editors for their ongoing engagement and to the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Boekman Foundation as organisers of the meeting.

¹ A special thanks to Anna Kanerva, Research Co-ordinator, Foundation for Cultural Policy Research Finland (CUPORE), Helsinki for her meeting notes upon which this report was elaborated by the Compendium editors.

Mr Cas Smithuijsen, Director of the Boekman Foundation welcomed participants to Amsterdam and to the Boekman Foundation premises. He thanked the Dutch Ministry for its support and dedication in bringing the Compendium meeting to the Netherlands.

A YEAR IN REVIEW: Reports from the Council of Europe and ERICarts

Ms Kathrin Merkle from the Council of Europe Secretariat opened the joint session of the editorial team by reminding the participants of the seven year successful joint venture between the Council of Europe and ERICarts in developing the Compendium information and monitoring system.

She continued her presentation by referring to the high level political re-affirmation of the Council of Europe concerning the priority status of issues such as social cohesion, cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and citizenship education set out in the Third Summit of Heads of State in Warsaw in May. Ms Merkle also reported on the work just completed in CoE-DGIII on social cohesion indicators, on which Mr Samuel Thirion would discuss in more detail the next day. In her presentation, Ms Merkle stressed the importance of intelligent linking of the Compendium system to existing information systems (and those in development) and organisations in order to optimise the usefulness and efficiency of relevant information services available. She brought to the authors' attention the recently inaugurated *Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue Between Cultures* which has expressed serious interest in the conceptual work of the Compendium.

Concerning the development of the Compendium, Ms Merkle expressed the need to find a good balance between ambition and consolidation. Further development would require a more substantial budget for the project. She underlined the unique expertise of the Compendium authors, representing the "crème de la crème" of cultural policy researchers and her organisation's gratitude to work with them.

Mr Andreas Wiesand from the ERICarts Institute continued by reporting on results and successes achieved in the Compendium project. Five new countries joined the Compendium community, the total number of country profiles reaching 38 in 2004. Of the five new profiles three have been posted to the website and the remaining two (Denmark and Norway) will be posted later in 2005. According to statistics, the number of users has increased by 500% since the Compendium was 1st put online, while the number of Compendium newsletter subscribers has increased by 300%. With these figures in mind, Mr Wiesand reminded the group of the importance of thinking about how to sustain the use of the system while developing qualitative indicators to measure its success. Mr Wiesand presented the authors with some of the user feedback recently received. Increased use of the Compendium in universities, associations and research bodies has also been observed in 2004.

The year 2004 saw the implementation of a revised Compendium methodological grid and the preparation of tools for monitoring cultural trends and policies. Mr Wiesand stressed the expansion of chapter 5 (legislation) as an important process and thanked the authors for their additional work, especially in those areas where new chapters were introduced. During 2004, there was increased co-operation within the Compendium community as well as with international organisations and governments. The Dutch, Hungarian, Finnish and German governments allocated extra funds to the project. While many governments support the preparation of their own profiles by providing the

necessary information and data to national authors, it is also necessary for other governments to join in as sponsors of overall Compendium programme.

To conclude his presentation, Andreas Wiesand thanked the Council of Europe for successful collaboration on the development of the Compendium throughout the years.

IMPLEMENTING CHANGES TO THE COMPENDIUM GRID 2004

Ms Danielle Cliche, ERICarts Institute, chaired the session on implementing changes to the Compendium grid. She reminded that the Compendium project is first and foremost about human resources and welcomed new participants to the meeting. She also thanked all authors for their hard work at implementing changes introduced during the third authors meeting in Berlin in 2004, and on work carried out in individual working groups whose aims were to introduce new indicators and harmonise information under existing ones.

The Compendium editors and authors have aimed to improve the production and availability of comparative data, to introduce new indicators that would help monitor specific cultural policy issues and to produce data that would enable longitudinal analysis. According to Ms Cliche, monitoring activities have been made possible by the seven year process that is already behind the development of the system. Ms Cliche invited the working group leaders to address questions regarding the implementation of the new grid, improvement of the quality of the Compendium system and the capacity to generate comparative data, and the usage of information to monitor specific policy issues.

Participation Statistics (Chapter 8.2)

Mr Mikko Lagerspetz outlined his impressions concerning participation statistics in the Compendium and the overall aim of making them more comparable. However, according to Mr Lagerspetz, achieving comparable figures across all countries is not possible, and not even desirable. Comparisons are complicated because different fields of culture are covered and data presented refer to different years, not always including up to date information. Heavily institutionalised fields of culture (e.g. theatre and museum visits) seem to dominate the data available and hence provided in the Compendium country profiles. According to Mr Lagerspetz, a working group should be established within the Compendium project, gathering information/data related to participation levels from different sources and comparative exercises. Interpretation, rather than collecting data, should then be the responsibility of the authors.

The authors discussed the methodological work carried out e.g. by EUROSTAT on the collection and comparison of data on participation in culture. The methods and frequencies in collecting data differ sometimes significantly between countries. The authors also discussed the reliability of sources behind national statistical information. According to Mr Lagerspetz, comments on the reliability of data should be included into the Compendium system. A suggestion was made to add comparative tables on different policy measures aimed at increasing participation.

Regarding additional and specific data and information, it was felt important to keep the basic Compendium information short and sharp. It should be defined what makes up the basic text/set of data, and what is rather “à la carte” text/data. It would also be necessary to find a solution to link these two parts intelligibly.

Ms Ritva Mitchell reported on an interesting work being carried out in Finland on a “cultural life index”. *Ms Merkle* proposed to study this index more closely and examine its potential usefulness for ongoing reflections at the Council of Europe around the issues of access to culture, minimum cultural provisions, cultural development, etc.

Legal Provisions (Chapter 5)

Ms Vesna Čopič presented the authors with her observations on the revisions made last year to Chapter 5 on legislation. She thanked the participants for investing time into this complicated and diverse issue. As legislation is becoming more and more sophisticated, the authors’ role as mediators in trying to make others understand the field becomes increasingly important. The new grid is highly relevant, but would still need further clarification and development.

According to *Ms Čopič*, more effort should be made to help outsiders comprehend what is behind national legal systems. She reminded the group that the aim of the exercise was to give an overview of the basic information, explain the rationality behind national approaches and to make statements concerning the implementation of legislation. She stressed the difference between general legislation and specific sector-based legislation dedicated to culture so as to avoid repetition and duplication in the country profiles. It is indeed quite challenging to make distinctions between legal measures and policy measures. *Ms Čopič* suggested using more references in the Compendium text – including a database of original legal texts- to avoid overburdening the grid. As for the section on culture and national Constitutions, she recommended adding actual texts or parts relating to culture.

Some members of the group expressed difficulties in grasping the technical aspects of various pieces of legislation, especially since many are not legal experts as such. This challenge was discussed and it was agreed that information provided in the profiles does not necessarily have to address the technical details but rather inform on what has actually happened as a result of legislation.

Efforts made over the last year have focussed on monitoring certain trends in legislation. This exercise is not exhaustive and could in the future be linked to original texts which are deemed most important according to the authors. Again, the question came up on what is basic, what is “à la carte” information concerning legislation. Work on the optimisation of the legal section shall be ongoing under the leadership of *Ms Čopič* and the editors, bearing in mind that the sophistication and depth of information provided in the sections on legislation will depend on available resources and partnerships and with other experts and exercises.

Public Financing Statistics (Chapter 6.4)

Ms Carla Bodo and Mr Otto Hofecker presented statements concerning the guidelines adopted on public financing statistics. The work carried out on financing of culture is a prime example of partnership and synergy: there has been significant co-operation between members of the Compendium working group on financing culture and the respective EUROSTAT group.

According to *Ms Bodo*, comparisons of public cultural expenditure by level of government are made difficult because of differences in the levels and scope of government in different countries, which should be made even clearer in the exercise. When comparing expenditure by sector some countries still used old classifications instead of a new one based on the EUROSTAT framework, and as decided at the Compendium authors’ meeting 2004. Problems have also been encountered in

some countries in making a distinction between direct expenditure and transfers to institutions. The importance of clarifying all transfer-related issues was stressed by Ms Bodo.

Mr Otto Hofecker started his presentation by reminding the authors of the good reference work done by EUROSTAT. He then commented on the amount of figures, shares and indicators: how many would be needed? The methodological discussion on what to include in the country profiles should be continued. Mr Hofecker encouraged the authors to strive to produce as good and coherent figures as possible and questioned whether the differences in figures really indicate differences in expenditure or rather in definitions? Comparisons and time series are also made difficult by the fact that the data available is for different years in different countries.

In the discussion, it was felt that it might be less interesting to have all possible figures from all possible countries, but rather to compare few countries with similar systems (e.g. federal system or small-sized countries) in relation to certain issues only, and thus deepen research. Comparability is a good objective, but it is also subject to mistakes and misinterpretations. He reminded the group that work in this area was ground breaking work. Indeed, Mr Hofecker stated that the results of the Compendium work in this area were better than ever and the remaining questions were -after all- a sign of progress.

In the conclusion to the discussion, it was agreed that the category of transfers to institutions is to be dropped from the table in section 6.4, while transfers between different levels of government are to be kept in the grid in section 6.3. It was also decided that the financing working group should continue to consult and advise on which tables should be put online.

COMPARING INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CO-OPERATION POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Mr Melle Lyklema (political scientist, Amsterdam) and *Ms Diane Dodd* (Boekman Foundation) presented a project commissioned by the Laboratory of European Cultural Co-operation (LAB of the European Cultural Foundation) called "Cultural Components of European Foreign Policy". The project has been inspired by preliminary work by Kathinka Dittrich van Weringh and Ernst Schürmann ("Does Europe need a Foreign Cultural Policy?" 2004) in which they called for a feasibility study into the adoption of a European foreign cultural policy. According to Mr Lyklema and Ms Dodd, this first phase of the project consists of a comprehensive desk research by examining existing documents, papers, strategies, treaties, actions and programmes related to European cultural co-operation with countries outside Europe. First results are expected in 2005.

In the discussion following the presentation, Compendium authors expressed their views on the importance of taking into account the disparities between the rhetoric presented in strategies and policy documents and the reality of cultural co-operation. How do policies relate to practice? The inclusion of, for example, the third sector and NGOs was deemed critically important. According to the presenters this would form part of the second phase of their project.

According to Ms Dodd, the Compendium has been an invaluable source of information during the project. Ms Dodd encouraged the participants to visit <http://www.connectcp.org/research.php>, where project literature is made available.

Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of DGIV of the Council of Europe participated in the meeting during the second day. In an opening statement she expressed her profound interest in the project and the debates taking place as well as her commitment to helping implement changes and ideas brought forth during the 4th Compendium authors' meeting.

COMPENDIUM EXPERIMENTS 1: Cultural Diversity, Intercultural Dialogue, Social Cohesion

Ms Danielle Cliche chaired the session on cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion. The session was considered extremely important for the Council of Europe regarding its mandate and current priorities. Ms Cliche reminded the participants of the Opatija Declaration of 2003 where the Compendium authors were asked to start collecting information and cases of good practice regarding dialogue, diversity and cohesion. While the three concepts are understood as interrelated, data collection and indicators have been separately outlined for each topic in a comprehensive paper prepared by John Foote and by the editors. According to Ms Cliche, important issues for consideration in this respect are the upcoming UNESCO convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions and the ongoing methodological exercises of the Council of Europe such as the social cohesion indicators guide by DG III.

Cultural Diversity

Ms Nina Obuljen commented on the tables and experiments addressing cultural diversity posted on the Compendium website. According to Ms Obuljen information concerning diversity is already satisfactory and she felt it not necessary to make substantial changes to the grid. However, it might be necessary to make the work already done on diversity more visible within the Compendium.

As to the draft UNESCO convention on cultural diversity, Ms Obuljen felt it to be too early to assess in all details what it will mean for the Compendium. After the convention has been adopted, a Compendium working group could be established to see to the possible extension of the Compendium monitoring activities. Ms Obuljen mentioned the following as important follow-up issues: identifying and monitoring policies relating to cultural diversity; the development of statistics and indicators in the field and the definition of cultural goods and services; monitoring of changes in the fields relevant to the UNESCO convention. She then stated as a major problem the sometimes enormous gaps existing between expectations at the governmental level and the available knowledge regarding diversity issues, especially related to cultural goods and services.

In the discussion the integrated and horizontal approach to cultural diversity of the Compendium was once more favoured, but in addition, it was felt important to create a specific place for debate on diversity issues. Ms Merkle, supported by Mr Foote and others, highlighted the importance of such an enhanced presentation of the diversity issue in the Compendium and expressed their wish to see the Compendium working group on diversity issues closely linked to the forthcoming work by the Council of Europe on a strategy for the democratic management of culture.

Ms Battaini-Dragoni recognised the difficulties in measuring cultural diversity. According to her, reference points and standard-setting instruments and texts such as the charter on

regional and minority languages existed at the European level that can be monitored, whilst framework conventions were more difficult to monitor. Diversity issues are wide, and monitoring instruments should be devised accordingly.

The difficulties and importance of defining cultural goods and services and related indicators was vividly discussed among the authors. The possibility of filling knowledge gaps via the Compendium with new types of information was also taken up. The problem with data on cultural goods and services seems to be its dispersed nature, and the value added of the Compendium would be to tie data together to provide a larger picture on certain issues (e.g. market penetration). Also, it would be necessary to conduct a study on the kind (and ways) of data and information already collected by different organisations.

Mr Lluís Bonet identified three challenges in relation to cultural diversity: how to protect national cultures, how to work in protecting national minorities and how to open markets to include products coming from other origins. In the Compendium, policies should be presented in respect to these challenges. *Mr John Foote* felt that tables addressing human and cultural rights (including existing conventions and regulations and programmes and policies at all levels of government) and anti-racism methods were lacking under the diversity heading.

Ritva Mitchell presented preliminary information on an upcoming CUPORE/Boekmann/CIRCLE/ERICarts conference on the WTO in Helsinki in June 2006. In connection to the conference a working session of experts on indicators on cultural goods and services could be organised involving the members of the Compendium group.

Intercultural Dialogue (ICD)

Kathrin Merkle and France Lebon (working group on Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict Prevention) presented Council of Europe sectors, programmes and activities dealing with intercultural dialogue. Ms Merkle brought attention to the prominent position of intercultural dialogue on the Council of Europe's agenda within the framework of the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention, the Opatija Declaration and the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of May 2005, which re-affirmed intercultural dialogue as a central priority in cultural policy frameworks (and thus its relevance in the Compendium system). Ms Merkle then introduced preliminary results arising from a survey of good practices in intercultural dialogue, collected by the Council of Europe from national ministries responsible for cultural affairs. She also suggested a good practices section on intercultural dialogue to be added within the Compendium to make it an even more practical and policy relevant tool in the field. Ms Lebon underlined the pertinence of close collaboration between the Compendium- and the ICD project group of the Council of Europe.

Ms Gabriella Battaini reminded the participants of the common framework adopted in the Council of Europe on the interrelated concepts of diversity, dialogue and cohesion. Intercultural dialogue is on the very top of the political agenda at the moment. According to Ms Battaini, it should be considered as a dialogue within our societies towards cohesion and with our neighbouring countries and between Europe and other parts of the world at large. Ms Battaini then outlined an initiative of the Council of Europe to draw up a strategy on the democratic management of cultural diversity and a white paper on intercultural dialogue, to come up with an integrated framework and to bring together different policy perspectives. The white paper would most probably include different layers of analysis, including the refinement of concepts, their impact on standard-setting, indicators and evaluation of policies, good-practice information and recommendations.

Mr John Foote noted in the discussion that the experimental table on public bodies, programmes and policies addressing intercultural dialogue posted on the Compendium website following the last authors' meeting had proved challenging. It was essentially put together to map the scene on the level of policy documents and programmes. According to Mr Foote, it is important to have a place for emerging policy issues in the Compendium website that don't necessarily fit the grid, but are considered as very significant. As some authors commented in the debate, much actual work on intercultural dialogue is being done at the local level and thus it would be interesting to have examples of local cultural projects. According to the authors, the role and contribution of intergovernmental organisations facilitating initiatives in intercultural dialogue in different countries should also have a more prominent place in the table. The Compendium group shared the view that intercultural dialogue was an important issue to be followed up within the Compendium and expressed interest in contributing to the preparation of the Council of Europe's white paper. It was agreed to continue work on indicators, the grid and the integration of the "good practise" cases into the Compendium system in the near future.

Social Cohesion

Mr Samuel Thirion from the Directorate General for Social Cohesion presented the ambitious work carried out at the Council of Europe to draw up a methodological guide to the definition and collection of social cohesion indicators. Indicators addressing cultural dimensions of social cohesion are also included in the guide. Referring to this work, Mr Thirion defined social cohesion as the capacity of societies to ensure the well-being of all.

Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni informed authors on the Revised Strategy for Social Cohesion approved in 2004 by the Council of Europe which has replaced the original strategy text adopted in 2000. The original strategy and its assumptions were tested in a process in which indicators, knowledge transfer and update were proven to have clearly influenced the policy process.

COMPENDIUM EXPERIMENTS 2: CUPIX and the Time Capsule

Mr Costis Dallas chaired the session and began by introducing the background of "CUPIX", which was started in 2003/4 as an experiment to collect data on cultural goods and services and on the "Time-Capsule" model that aims at providing a snapshot on prices for popular cultural goods. The experiment has been especially interesting in pointing out differences between the "East" and the "West" in average and individual spending power. The introduction was followed with short statements made by the working group representatives.

Mr Péter Inkei commented on the relevance of the cultural items selected to act as indicators. According to him, the CUPIX experiment is about finding things that are illustrative enough to grasp something inherent in culture. Dorota Ilzcuk shared with the authors experiences from her students, who helped with the Polish part of the exercise. The experiment is generally felt to offer very interesting information.

Mr Andreas Wiesand reminded that the "time capsule" is not and will not become an index, but essentially is a snapshot of prices for certain products at a certain time. A composite price index based on UN classification (with Germany as an example) has been posted under the experiment section on the Compendium website. According to Mr Wiesand, there is potential in

statistical offices across Europe. It would be interesting to go on with this experiment and have more countries participate according to the German model profile.

In the discussion it was pointed out that the experiment is useful also in finding out about policy measures such as the fixed book price. Regarding the comparability of the quarterly package of cultural goods and services agreed as part of the experiment, it was noted that in some countries parts of the package can be obtained free of charge.

Mr Costis Dallas concluded the session by stating that there is significant value to the experiment and it would be necessary to investigate issues further. According to Mr Dallas, the discussion should be continued online.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Reaching Out: Exploring Synergies, Sharing Methodologies/Indicators

Ms. Ritva Mitchell opened the “reaching out” session by indicating different forms of co-operation which are taking place. She first referred to the obvious horizontal cooperation taking place within the Council of Europe itself and thanked Samuel Thirion from DG III for joining in on the discussions. Ms. Mitchell also referred to ongoing co-operation between HEREIN – Council of Europe database of heritage policies – as well as with the intercultural dialogue programme, both within DG IV. She informed the group that there have been several requests from foundations and other networks both in and outside of Europe to collaborate with the Compendium community in different ways. For example, by transferring know-how and sharing methodologies with regions wanting to create their own information system on cultural policies and referred to a recent meeting Bangkok organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation where the Compendium was presented. A living example of this knowledge transfer, mentioned by Ms. Mitchell, is seen in the EURO CULT 21 project on Urban Cultural Policies which based is based on the Compendium methodology.

Mr Daniel Thérond from the Culture and Cultural Heritage Department presented the HEREIN information service (<http://www.european-heritage.net>) on heritage policies and resources as a sister system of the Compendium and highlighted the main differences and similarities between both. Similar to the Compendium, the HEREIN project began as a “paper exercise” and was transferred into an online information system with the help of a grant from the Information Society Directorate of the European Commission, in addition to the funding provided by the Council of Europe. A monitoring function is being developed and a multilingual thesaurus has been recently developed (the online version is now available in English, French and Spanish). In contrast to the Compendium, Mr Therond stated that HEREIN is not a research tool as such. The information is provided by administrators and the target group is national directorates responsible for heritage policies. He expressed his intentions to explore further synergies between the two exercises. As Ms Battaini-Dragoni resumed, areas of common interest were to be defined more clearly in the near future. This could be achieved by bringing Compendium authors into contact with HEREIN national correspondents.

Mr. André Lange presented the well known and appreciated work of the European Audiovisual Observatory, its governing body and staff structure. The Observatory was created by and remains a unique partnership agreement between the Council of Europe, the European Union, national governments and individual experts. Mr. Lange referred to preliminary discussions between the EAO, the RDU and ERICarts regarding co-operation between the work of the

Observatory (legal, regulatory, market and financing information) and the data and information collected by the Compendium. He agreed that intelligent linking between policy information e.g. in the film sector, which is being collected by the Compendium experts and the statistics collected by the EAO and which are publicly available from its website as well as the legal analysis presented in the IRIS database, would be an interesting first case to examine the practical means to realise co-operation.

Mr. Sten Mansson, researcher at the University of Linköping, Tema Q, presented an exciting new project which he is developing entitled “X-land’s Culture in the World and the World’s Culture in X-land: Cultural Patterns in a Globalised World” to the participants. A full copy of the proposal for this comparative study was sent to all participants by email. Mr. Mansson proposed a two-way form of co-operation: to make use of the national information and data provided in the Compendium as well as to integrate comparative data to be compiled for this new project into the Compendium project overall. This project generated great enthusiasm among the participants of the meeting (as did the announcement of discussions on the creation of a new Swedish Culture Observatory) as it coincides greatly with earlier discussions to present information on the Compendium website on the mobility/flow of cultural goods and services throughout Europe. Co-operation links were made between the work of the Compendium authors, the EAO and Mansson’s project. Individuals interested to be more involved as partners in his project were asked to contact him directly.

Elements of a Compendium “Model Profile”

Andreas Wiesand along with *Joerg Torkler* from the Medianale Group presented some ideas on how to manage the inclusion of a variety of specific data and information (“à la carte text”) which normally cannot be included fully in the condensed country reports of the Compendium. According to Mr Wiesand, the “Model Profile” would be a way to prepare the Compendium in a better way, facilitating updating and making it possible to add to its content. He reminded that these possibilities were still under discussion and would require authors to be active in collecting information that they would like to add to their pages. Decisions would need to be taken and funds appropriated before work could begin.

The “extra information”, e.g. institutional, bibliographical, legal and political information or documents would be placed in another database from which it would be available to those interested. The core profiles would remain short and sharp. According to Mr Wiesand almost all chapters, but especially chapters four (current issues in cultural policy development and debate) and five (legislation) would benefit from this extra information. He then presented the German draft model profile ERICarts had prepared as an example.

The idea of core and additional information was much welcomed and generally thought to be feasible, as information differs from country to country and different approaches should be possible according to personal interest, ambition and resources. The Compendium could be made more alive, attracting even more visitors. This approach would make it possible to create extra space for evaluation and analysis of issues. In the discussion it was noted that identifying examples and good practises, adding links etc. would not be a problem and such information would be very valuable to users of the system. However, conditions in which the authors are working differ greatly and additional work will require additional resources. It would be important to emphasize governments’ responsibilities in providing information and texts to authors and to provide them with ongoing support overall. According to Ms Battaini-Dragoni, it is important to develop the Compendium strategically on those issues that are politically of highest importance. Areas in which added value

could be offered should be systematically identified, whilst at the same time the crucial balance between the needs and resources of the project was to be kept in mind.

CLOSING SESSION

Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni closed the meeting full of optimism, recalling the positively changing parameters for work in the area of culture and education at the Council of Europe. This genuine interest was expressed by members of top management and at meta-level events explicitly referring to culture. There is also substantial interest in these areas expressed by the current and forthcoming Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which will hopefully also be reflected in increased budgetary allocations for the sector. She thanked the Compendium authors and editors for their hard work over the past years and underlined the importance of bringing action and vision together in policy making - perfectly manifested by the Compendium authors' group and the Council of Europe's agenda.