



CAMPUS EURO-AFRICANO DE COOPERAÇÃO CULTURAL

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WORKSHOP REPORT

Research

Challenges and opportunities of Euro-African Co-operation in the Field of Cultural Policy for Development

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Maputo, 24-25 June 2009

Campus workshop on research took place throughout the afternoon of the 22nd and 23rd June. It featured presentations by six speakers and was attended by 32 participants. The underlining questions of the workshop were the following:

- **What challenges can be identified for Euro-African cooperation in the field of research?**
- **What good or bad practices exist and could provide relevant models – What are the initiatives involving cultural research cooperation between African and Europe, particularly in the African context?**
- **What recommendations can be made to improve policies in this field, at local/national/regional/interregional level?**
- **What opportunities do workshops participants envisage to pursue their cooperation after the Campus? Have any specific proposals been made?**

1st Workshop session, Monday 22nd June

The presentation on the 22nd titled, “New approaches to cultural cooperation and cultural research in the 21st century”, was delivered by **Ana Zuvella Busnja, Culturelink and Nicola Mullenger, LabforCulture.org.**

Presentation summary

The aim of this presentation is to offer new insights on innovative possibilities for cultural research cooperation in the 21st century.

Cultural cooperation, particularly in the domain of cultural research is conceived as communication in the fields of science, education, culture (in the narrow sense of the word), in arts and in the sphere of ICT. The view of culture as an overall value system and the development of communication means and mediums have given a new dimension to cultural cooperation. This new dimension aims to sustain the principles of equality, the active access and involvement of all participants and the impartial evaluation of their contributions.

Cultural cooperation in cultural research should be closely linked with all other types of international cooperation as culture integrates in itself and involves in cultural cooperation diverse fields of human activities e.g. technical and technological cooperation, economic and political cooperation.

The usage of technological tools will revolutionise the 21st century: the ability to be an individual and yet exchange your knowledge, opinion, ideas and creativity online, and distribute to millions of unknown people, with the prospect of creating communities around that individual, is a highly significant development. This possibility brings many members of the international, national, regional or local community and other agencies together, in a new way to work together.

Presentation discussion and contributions

- Consider difficult situations of lack of energy and connectivity in Africa (Ghana, Zimbabwe) and dangers of losing the indigenous knowledge due to new technologies impact (Zambia);
- Need of increased capacity building on ICT skills and promotion of data collection/research/content in Africa;
- Flexible lesson learning and shaping of tools and models to apply in Africa when taken from European practices
- Need of clarification of the concept of cultural cooperation and cultural research, and clear prioritisation of local/regional/national research agenda

- Need of cooperation with Europe in the process of dissemination of the research results, and vice versa, for example the new website announced by the Africa Centre
- Research is not only an exercise of exchanging information and communication; it is also to find something and to access to a certain quantity of information
- Euro-African cooperation should be geared towards providing support to cultural research bodies and actors to acquire the technologies needed to use the new ICT tools available for cultural research exchange.
- Research can be used as a tool for advocacy, policy lobbying and bridging the gap between cultural policy and the cultural sector. Also, cultural research should obtain a better position and given higher relevance in cultural/wider policy making processes.
- Lack of awareness/generational gap of ICT possibilities and usage within research and community consultation/participation/engagement
- Further exploration and discovery of community research needs and engagement of the amateur in conjunction with the traditional experts

2nd Workshop session, Tuesday 23rd June

The presentations on the 23rd offered examples best practises in cultural research from Europe and Africa by Máté Kovács (OCPA), Raymond Weber (College d'Europe, Bruges), Paul Nchoji Nkwi (University of Yaounde, Cameroon) and Fernando Dava (ARPAC, Maputo).

Presentation summaries

The contribution by **Máté Kovács (OCPA)** focused on the following points:

- Research producing knowledge-based information on cultural realities is indispensable for all the various aspects of cultural policy and cultural development.
- In the field of culture and cultural policy, research and is generally less developed than in other fields of socio-economic development. Thus, cultural policy is all too often designed with scant knowledge of the complex problems that it is supposed to address.
- In Europe there are many national research institutions but it is often felt that research findings are not duly taken in consideration by the decision makers and policy instances.
- In most African countries national research infrastructures are either absent or insufficiently developed
- In spite of this trend there are good examples of fruitful co-operation between Europe and Africa in implementing joint research projects. In many cases research activities in Africa are implemented with the support of European counties, development co-operation organizations or foundations

The contribution by **Raymond Weber (College d'Europe, Luxembourg)** focused on the following points:

- identifying the meaning of cultural cooperation and cultural research
- underlining the need for interaction between fields, sectors and actors
- the need for restructuring of information and work on indicators
- cultural research becoming more relevant and extending to other fields: research focus should be expanded to contextualisation of crisis (health, economic and social) and globalisation
- the need of interaction and connection between research and action
- the need of cross sectorial cultural actors to be involved in the cultural research
- examples of cultural research work informing cultural policies in Eastern Europe and West Europe

- the emphasis on cultural policies model being derived from respective or national contexts, rather than a “one size fits all” approach

The contribution by **Paul Nchoji Nkwi (University of Yaounde, Cameroon)**

focused on the following points:

- offering a chronological view on research infrastructure and activities in Africa
- the importance of the research work on Africa and African subjects not to be limited to conventional boundaries or those applied from European models
- the need for research work to be more project focused and deliver concrete briefs and documents for African policymakers
- attempt to establish and foster sustainable research, partnerships between Europe and Africa
- the relevance of generating funds for cultural research in Africa rather than outside
- improve and promote capacity building through the ICT tools and mediums
- promote “brain circulation and slowing down of brain haemorrhage”
- the importance of the mentoring processes: research and publication: senior and junior

The contribution by **Fernando Dava (ARPAC, Maputo)** focused on the following points:

- ARPAC has representation through the country
- Areas of intervention: governance, health, education
- need to transform culture into the opportunity for Mozambique

Conclusive recommendations deriving from presentation discussion and contributions

1. Establish cultural profiles database for all African member states and create a data base of best practices; collect, process and disseminate data related to research priorities
2. Adapt and develop methodological tools and guidelines as needed to each region
3. Setting-up a co-ordinating mechanism: creation of a Euro-African research consortium (e.g submission to possible donors for funding joint research activities, funding for ICT equipment, co-ordination of meetings, publications, information exchange, development of methodological tools, training of research specialists, a prize, etc)
4. Organization of Euro-African summer schools for young researchers with emphasis to cultural research training and set up a mentoring system for helping young African researchers
5. Set criteria for research (transversality, link research and action, overcome the gap separating research and decision making, seek operational results, ensure the participation of people concerned by the research)
6. Develop statistics and cultural indicators; participation from the cultural research point of view in the re-definition of “indicators of quality of life” (OECD, UNDP, Stiglitz, A. Sen, etc.)
7. Promote real two-way sharing and transmission of knowledge, facilitating the development of centres of excellence as well as spaces (ex. network meetings, training sessions, etc.) that guarantee the continuity for co-operation in cultural research
8. Use of ICT to make cultural research results more accessible and legitimate
9. Allocate 5% of project budgets to research activities and their dissemination
10. Adapt and develop research partnerships as needed to each cross local/regional/national and continental situation
11. Adapt and develop methodological tools and guidelines as needed to each region