



CAMPUS EURO-AFRICANO DE COOPERAÇÃO CULTURAL

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WORKSHOP REPORT

CULTURE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

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Main Conclusions

At the occasion of the 1st Euro-African Campus for Cultural cooperation a two day-workshop was organised at the initiative of the Committee on culture of United Cities and Local Government, UCLG and the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa, OCPA.

The workshop mission was to explore current role of culture in local development strategies in Africa and to discuss possible joint initiatives in the field of city-to-city or multilateral cooperation.

Introductions from speakers reviewed cultural policies and local cultural strategies from the cities of Kampala, Maputo and Barcelona and presented relevant networking experiences such as Agenda 21 for culture, the Cultural Policy Guideline for cities in Africa or the Intercultural Cities project promoted by the Council of Europe and the Eurocities Culture Forum. Workshop was attended by around 30 researchers, local practitioners and representatives of cultural organisations from Africa and Europe.

From the discussion with workshop participants main challenges to foster the role of culture in local development strategies were identified: to develop decentralisation of cultural administration; to tackle faster urbanisation process in African metropolis which have dramatically reduced urban standards; to enhance the role of participation and proximity strategies in the settlement of new programmes; and to promote city networking as a key tool to advocate the role of local authorities in development programmes.

By the end of the second session of the workshop several recommendations were raised to strengthen in the future the role of culture in local development.

- The need to increase existing resources for cultural programmes at the local level and to raise the role of artists and cultural agents in the design of local cultural programmes.
- The importance to further develop research on the action of local governments for cultural development, as well as the need to increase networking projects to transfer know how on best practice experiences.
- The empowerment of local governments in the field of cultural policies within the national and regional frameworks and programmes.

In order to implement these recommendations, participants agreed to foreseen the inclusion of new African partners to the Agenda 21 for culture network, which fosters the debate on the role of cities in cultural development; and welcomed the announce from the chair of the UCLG' Committee on a coming fund, in cooperation with the Spanish Agency of Cooperation (AECID), to support cultural planning abilities and cultural programmes promoted by local authorities.