

Short Outlook into the
Booklet "Culture and Development: Action and Impact"
Presented Tuesday 7th of December, at 12h15 in the framework of the European Dev Days
(The Square, Room 204, Brussels)

Launching a new publication on the synergy between culture and development came as a genuine impulse of the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency, that were highly encouraged by the significant latest achievements made in upgrading the cultural dimension within the EU development policy.

The results of September MDG Summit in New York that have concluded with the adoption of the final Outcome Document recognizing the central role of culture in alleviating poverty and contributing to aid effectiveness and ensuring real ownership by the populations concerned, are a strong confirmation of the undeniable potential of culture to act as a driver for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

On the other hand during the International Seminar of Gerona co-organised by the Commission and the Spanish presidency last May, it was highlighted the absence of a publication collecting best practices all around the globe, showing - in practice - the different dimensions where Culture could be instrumental in achieving key development objectives.

On these grounds this publication has taken shape. In its form, it is a compilation of **24 cooperation actions** undertaken in the cultural field in favour of the developing countries, among which:

- The large majority of them stand as examples of **best practices**, i.e projects with measurable impact on the socio-economic development of the communities concerned,
- and the remaining ones are examples of **promising projects**, interesting for their innovative approach but recently developed, the results of which are still to come.

To these it has been added also a brief overview of **actions undertaken within the EU Member States**, showing how funding from internal community instruments has been invested in projects related to culture giving evident results, particularly in terms of local and regional developments.

In substance, the experiences presented in this booklet aim at highlighting the contribution and positive impact of culture in the development process, as assessed from 2 inclusive perspectives:

- **culture as a "window" for promoting stability, peace and human development** (i.e: intercultural dialogue; civil society development and societal changes; democratic values and human rights; conflict prevention and reconciliation; social inclusion; good governance and citizenship; ownership)
- **culture as a driver for economic development at local and international level** (i.e: strengthening of export activities; job and revenue creation; innovation and creativity; social cohesion; protection and promotion of heritage and tourism development; strengthening of art-crafts activities and valuing of local resources).

All the projects included in the document have a heterogeneous nature and cover a large geographical area, going from Latin America, crossing the Mediterranean sea and the African continent, and stepping into the countries of Central and Eastern Asia.

By gathering examples from across different regions of the world that apply to various sectors of activities, means of intervention, results, objectives or budget, the current publication best illustrates the diverse range of possibilities for cooperation in the cultural field. This form

indeed a “corpus of experiences” that reveal the undisputed "binomium" Culture and Development, highlighting, at the same time, the future challenges that should be overcome to ensure tangible impacts of cultural cooperation actions.

All in all, the examples that this booklet brings forward reaffirm the concrete results that culturally inspired actions can bring to Development and the conviction on the need to provide specific follow-ups to the different political statements related to the cultural dimension, notably to launch **a comprehensive strategy** for integrating culture into the development policies of the European Commission and its Member States and to fine-tune **an efficient framework for coordination and distribution of work** for the implementation of support programmes for the cultural sectors.