



ABSTRACTS

Overview on the cultural policy context and the state of the arts

Nadia von Maltzahn, Research Associate at the Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), Lebanon

Abstract

Cultural policies are driven by a number of diverse institutions and actors. However, the situation in the Arab region where the state often played a principal role in cultural production and dissemination of culture led to the widespread perception that only a strong ministry of culture could create cultural policies. This is something being addressed by working groups on cultural policies in a number of Arab countries, seeking to advocate for inclusive cultural policies in which civil society plays a major role. In this lecture, I will provide an overview of the context in which cultural policies are formulated, focusing on the state of the arts and some of the main challenges. I will first give an insight into the state of cultural policy formulation and cultural policy research inside and outside of academia, before turning to the challenges that are being faced and how to move forward. I will distinguish between cultural policies in the Near East and North Africa on the one hand, and in the Gulf region on the other hand.

Session I: Distilling value from EuroArab cultural cooperation projects

Matina Magkou, Cultural Manager and PhD Researcher, Institute of Leisure Studies, University of Deusto, Spain

Abstract

How is the value of international cultural cooperation projects in the EuroArab region perceived by funders, participants and evaluators? And how is it monitored and demonstrated? Are there challenges that are specifically relevant to the EuroArab region?

The observations derive from interviews and conversations with people involved in EuroArab cultural cooperation projects, namely the Tandem Shaml programme, the Cultural Innovators Network, the Cimetta Fund mobility grants and with experts in international cultural cooperation.

Session II: The experience of Arab Culture Policy Groups: mapping and research, challenges and set backs

Fatin Farhat, PhD Researcher in cultural policy, University of Hildesheim, member of the Palestine Group, Germany

Abstract

Post the Arab Spring era and as a result of the rapid political changes occurring in the Arab region, there existed an immense need for the development of the environment of the cultural work in order to empower the cultural sector to play an effective role in the process of democratization. For this reason, Culture Resource (Cairo) launched an initiative that aims to improve the system of cultural work in countries undergoing democratic transformation, through providing alternative cultural policy proposals to the Arab governments, creating a channel for dialogue with the state, to empower the independent cultural sector and civil society to play an important role in the development of new cultural policies. National cultural policy groups were created for pressure and awareness in 13 Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Syria). The national groups have made significant strides in drafting proposals for new national cultural policies in preparation for presenting them to official government bodies. In addition National cultural policy groups managed to stimulate dialogue on cultural policy between different Arab countries through research, publications, focus groups, and regional conferences. The presentation will present the initiative, methods of operation, successes and challenges and future recommendations.

A European panel on the Role of universities in cultural management and policies programmes in Mena regions

Emilia Petrikova, Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers

Abstract

The Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers is a document which is aiming to represent aspirations, challenges and possible solutions of problems of early-stage researchers to policymakers on EU, national and institutional levels. Ten young researchers from different countries, areas of research and age groups have created the declaration, with a support from Slovak presidency of European Council and DG RTD from European Commission. We have presented the results at Informal Council of Ministers and it will be an annex of Council Conclusions. Bratislava Declaration is build on four aspirations: enabling of great ideas and people, sustainable and transparent career trajectories, diverse and including research environment and healthy work-life balance. Our group described several proposals to fight the challenges to reach these aspirations, e.g. individual research grants, better structured and more sustainable research career trajectory and wide ratification of Athena SWAN-like charter.

Professionalizing the arts sector in the MENA region

Daniel Gad, UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development, Department of Cultural Policy, University of Hildesheim, Germany

Abstract

The UNESCO Chair at the Department of Cultural Policy of the University of Hildesheim in 2017 is about to launch two activities which aim to offer teaching and knowledge exchange in the field of cultural policy and management which have a close relationship to the MENA region. Lead by Al Mawred Al Taqhafy an Beirut based pan-Arabic network institution the Master study programme "Cultural Policy and Management" will be opened at Hassan II Unversité in Casablanca, Morocco in collaboration with the Hildesheim UNESCO chair as a first university based programme in the whole region. At the same time the first edition of the Arts Rights Justice Academy will be organized at the Hildesheim Kulturcampus in Germany as part of a collaborative structure with partners such as the International Cities of Refuge Network reaching out to regional partner such as Al Mawred Al Taqhafy or Racines based in Casablanca, Morocco.