



Education and Culture DG



## Lifelong Learning Programme

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### **Museum literacy for people with low educational level: Successful ENCATC project meeting and seminar on 24 and 25 June**

Museum professionals, specialists on audience policies, researchers and policy makers from 9 countries, around 50 participants in total, met on 24 June in Brussels to explore new paths to include people with low schooling level in museum audiences. The event, hosted by ENCATC, was part of a series of encounters organized in the framework of the EU project MusLi ("Museum Literacy").

The meeting started with a project work session led by ENCATC member Nicoletta Gazzeri from the Fondazione Fitzcarraldo in Turin, to finetune the MusLi project methodology. Central to the discussions were two case studies on publics with low schooling level in Italy and Hungary. The seminar in the afternoon kicked off with the presentation of a study carried out for the Louvre Museum by Anne Krebs, Head of Studies and Research Department at the Louvre Museum in Paris, and chair of the ENCATC working group "Audience policies in Europe". The study, entitled "Bringing culture into prison: an experiment in a closed environment", analyzed the social, psychological and cognitive impact of art works on prisoners. A further presentation was given by Donato Giuliani, Head officer for the European and international cooperation service at the Department for Culture at the Lille-Nord-Pas-de-Calais Euroregion, focusing on "Cultural mediation and regional cooperation: public policies for specific publics in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Euroregion". Donato Giuliani, who is involved in the ENCATC network since many years, also coordinated the study visit to the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region on the following day. The project partners and other seminar participants, around 50 in total, visited the LAAC museum in Dunkerque and the museum of Arras to study current examples of cultural mediation practices.

Museums are today considered as a valuable environment for lifelong learning, embodying the idea of access to culture for all. In practice, however, museums tend to remain institutions that are more exclusive than inclusive. This clashes with the contemporary notion of culture as a key boost and tool to build citizenship, substantial equality, and the conditions for personal and civic development in modern society. Against this background, MusLi aims to support museums in developing strategies that reach out to publics at risk of cultural exclusion, with special emphasis on those with a low educational level. The next MusLi project meeting will take place in Manchester in October.

**For more information, contact**

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**Museums Literacy – Museums and publics with low schooling level (MusLi)**

is an EU project supported by the Grundtvig Learning Partnership as part of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. It runs from 2008 to 2010 with the aim to support museums in developing strategies that reach out to publics at risk of cultural exclusion, with a special emphasis on publics with a low educational level. MusLi involves nine museums, administrations and training institutions from five EU countries. The project partners are: Fondazione Fitzcarraldo, Turin; Foundation for Museums and Visitors, Budapest; ENCATC, the European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres; the 'Ufficio Cultura Italiano', Bozen/Bolzano; and the Manchester Museum / University of Manchester, Manchester. Associated partners are the municipality of Turin, the Musée du Louvre, Paris; the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region and the Hungarian Museum Association, Budapest.