

## **WorldCP – International Database of Cultural Policies** **worldcp.org**

WorldCP aims to be a central, web-based and continuously updated database of country-specific profiles of cultural policies modelled on the Council of Europe/ERICarts Compendium project. The database will also provide the capacity to monitor and analyse global trends in key aspects of cultural policies.

### **How are WorldCP country profiles developed?**

#### *The role of the author*

The profile author is an independent research expert with cultural policy expertise, commissioned by the project partners to prepare and annually update their respective WorldCP country profile. In some countries it may be necessary to have more than one author to prepare the profile, but there should always be one responsible author who co-ordinates the profile and communicates with IFACCA and/or the regional editor on a regular basis. The selection of the author is made in consultation with IFACCA, the regional secretariat and the national government agency. All authors will be listed on [connectcp.org](http://connectcp.org), the international who's who of cultural policy, planning and research.

Profile authors are supported as an active community to encourage mutual professionalisation. There are opportunities for training and liaison with regional and international experts in the field.

#### *The role of national government agencies*

In each country, the government agency responsible for cultural policy is invited to provide advice on the selection of the author and to supply the author with relevant information and data. The agency is also responsible for translation of country profiles if required, promotion of the profile nationally, and for assisting authors to attend training or coordination workshops.

#### *The role of regional networks*

In each region of the world, a local secretariat will be established which will have responsibility for liaising with authors, reviewing profile content from the region, organising regional training and coordination workshops, participating in the global working group, and some aspects of project funding. It also has a role in promoting the initiative within the region, and with networking and partnership development. The regional secretariat is a key contact point for national governments wishing to become involved in the project.

The Asia Regional Secretariat was formed in early 2011, and is currently managed by the Asia-Europe Foundation. IFACCA is also in discussions with the African Arts Institute, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Al Mawred Al Thaqafy and the European Cultural Foundation for the Arab country profiles, and with the Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura for the Latin American profiles. The Council of Europe and ERICarts coordinate the European information system and relationships with 41 European countries (plus Canada) see: [culturalpolicies.net](http://culturalpolicies.net)

#### *The role of IFACCA and international partners*

IFACCA is the lead partner for the project working with national regional and international partners to oversee the development of WorldCP. It is in discussion with UNESCO, Culturelink and other international organisations and funding bodies about their participation in the project. An international working group (IWG), comprising senior personnel from each partner organisation, advises on and helps direct the project. The latest meeting of the IWG was held in June 2012 in Helsinki.

### **Benefits of WorldCP**

WorldCP aims to provide the following benefits to national governments, policy-makers, partners and the international community:

- Significantly enhanced access to national and international cultural policy information
- A consistent format and methodology for documenting policies, developed and informed by, but not limited by, the shared expertise gained over 10 years creating the European Compendium

- An international database and searchable website to present each country's cultural policy profile
- Reliable information for cultural policy research and analysis
- The capacity to facilitate exchange and cooperation around policy making and analysis
- A mechanism to assist in reporting on international legal instruments and conventions
- Positioning and engagement with a significant international cultural research platform
- Presentation of profiles in English and, where possible, in the native language of the country.

### **Structure and content of profiles**

Country profiles are researched and written by national experts and are made up of 80 categories and indicators, organised into nine main chapters:

1. Historical perspective: cultural policies and instruments
2. General objectives and principles of cultural policy
3. Competence, decision making and administration
4. Current issues in cultural policy development and debate
5. Main legal provisions in the cultural field
6. Financing of culture
7. Public institutions in cultural infrastructure
8. Promoting creativity and participation
9. Sources and links

### **worldcp.org**

The WorldCP website provides some country profiles, updates on the project, and information on how to participate in this initiative. In time it will also present analyses of the data collected through the national profiles and reviews of key issues in cultural policy. The pilot website was launched with a small number of sample profiles in October 2011. WorldCP continues to expand, with the addition of profiles from countries in Asia, Africa, the Pacific, the Middle East and the Americas, as well as existing profiles from Europe.

### **Partners in WorldCP**

International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies

ERICarts

Council of Europe

Asia-Europe Foundation – ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Union

Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura

Arterial Network

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

European Cultural Foundation

Al Mawred Al Thaqafy

Culturelink

Medianale

Australia Council for the Arts

International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture, Sports & Tourism, Vietnam

*IFACCA is seeking expressions of interest from international and regional organisations, foundations, national government agencies and national policy experts wishing to participate in the development of WorldCP, an international database of cultural policies.*

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact:

**International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA):** [worldcp@ifacca.org](mailto:worldcp@ifacca.org)

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