



Cultural Base

Social Platform
on Cultural Heritage
and European Identities

Policy seminar:
Cultural heritage policies for a
troubled Europe.
Proposals from the CulturalBase
Social Platform.
Brussels, 31 January 2017

info@culturalbase.eu
www.culturalbase.eu

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Introduction

Europe is in trouble. The Great Recession has heavily hit Southern Europe and has polarized the Continent between North and South. Growing nationalism in many EU countries and the increasing division of national societies provoke a tendency to fragmentation. Racism and xenophobia are also on the rising nearly everywhere. The crisis is deep and manifold and there are not simple remedies for it. But some of the most important European troubles are cultural in nature and others, like the economic ones, can be fruitfully connected to culture and cultural development. Therefore, cultural policy presumably can play a significant role in facing the current situation. The European Year of Cultural Heritage will offer a strategic opportunity for highlighting the benefits of acting on this field.

This policy seminar organized by CulturalBase aims to contribute to clarify the path that cultural heritage policies should follow for better addressing the challenges that Europe is confronting nowadays.

CulturalBase is a project funded by the European Commission in the framework of the programme H2020. It is a social platform bringing together researchers in many fields of the social sciences and the humanities, practitioners from the socio-cultural and artistic sectors (galleries, libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions), as well as policy stakeholders (at European, national and/or local levels). CulturalBase aims to develop a research agenda and policy guidelines in co-creation with stakeholders in the area of cultural heritage, cultural identities and cultural expressions.

Taking into account the different societal challenges Europe needs to face, CulturalBase identified a number of major research questions and key policy issues related to these questions. Then it developed a series of Vision Documents and a set of proposals for research and policy intervention in relation with them.

The seminar will focus on some of these central issues. It will offer academic and practitioner stakeholders from the social platform the opportunity to share and discuss with policy-makers some of the most important policy-oriented results that CulturalBase has obtained so far. These cultural policy proposals by CulturalBase will be presented in the context of a previous discussion on the new opportunities that the European Year of Cultural Heritage can now provide for advancing the agenda in this



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area. Finally, the seminar will be completed by a complementary discussion on the possibilities for improving the impact of EU-funded research on culture-related issues in the future.

Organizers:

The seminar is organized by the CulturalBase consortium partners. They acknowledge the cooperation of Bozar – Centre for Fine Arts (www.bozar.be) and of Culture Action Europe (www.cultureactioneurope.org).

Date:

31 January 2017

Venue:

Rotonde Bertouille
Bozar, Centre for Fine Arts
Ravenstein, 23
1000 Brussels, Belgium

For more information, please contact:

info@culturalbase.eu



Draft Programme

8:30–9:00 **Registration and coffee**

9:00–9:30 **Welcome and introduction**

Zoltán Krasznai, DG RDT
Arturo Rodríguez Morató, University of Barcelona, CulturalBase Coordinator
Paul Dujardin, Bozar

09:30–10:45 **Session 1: How can the European Year of Cultural Heritage help to address the challenges of the current European crisis?**

2018 will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage. Among the overall objectives of the European Year are to promote the role of European cultural heritage as a pivotal component of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue and to enhance the contribution of European cultural heritage to the economy and society. What are the dimensions and the measures within these frameworks that can most effectively address the challenges that the current European crisis poses? How should the European Year be implemented at national, regional and local level in order to maximize its effects in this respect? May the connections that it can promote with other world regions be also relevant for improving the current situation in Europe?
(10 minutes per speaker)

Chair: Mercedes Giovinazzo, Interarts

Speakers:

Erminia Sciacchitano, DG EAC
Albert Gauthier, DG Connect
Europa Nostra representative (tbc)
Constanze Itzel, House of European History
Paolo Fontani, UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels

Discussant:

Robert Manchin, Culture Action Europe

10:45–12:30 **Session 2: CulturalBase contributions**

CulturalBase has explored the new challenges and the new potential of culture along three analytic perspectives: Cultural memory, Cultural inclusion and Cultural creativity. Combining the knowledge stemming from academic and non-academic worlds the work of the social platform has produced



strategic research agendas and connected policy guidelines from these three perspectives. Also in correspondence with them and on the basis of the work done by the platform so far this session will focus on three cultural policy issues that seem to be particularly relevant in the present context. Stakeholder engagement and their empowerment as providers of meaningful input for future research and policy-making has been one of the *raison d'être* of Cultural Base: there is no better way to present the project results than to discuss them with stakeholders. Therefore, this session will address the selected three crucial items in a double and closely connected perspective: first, presenting them in a programmatic way, and then illustrating them through a specific case or experience. (10 minutes per speaker and discussant plus open discussion)

Chair: Philip Schlesinger, University of Glasgow

Speakers:

Arturo Rodríguez Morató & Matías Zarlenga, *Promoting plural and inclusive cultural creativity*

Tere Badia, Hangar

Dominique Poulot, *Building community through heritage*

Simona Bodo, ISMU

Jean-Louis Fabiani, *Participating in European Identity and Heritage today*

Cornelia Dümcke, Culture Concepts

Discussant:

Walter Zampieri, DG EAC

12:30–1:30 *Lunch break*



1:30–2:30 **Session 3: CulturalBase and the future of EU-funded research on culture-related issues**

The EU-funded research on cultural heritage, cultural identities and cultural production is expanding and gaining prominence. CulturalBase will play an important role in orienting and strengthening this development. In this regard, contributions from projects in this area as well as the experience of the European Commission in promoting this kind of projects are essential. This session will present two projects that represent different thematic areas and analytic perspectives as well as different relations with stakeholders. Their coordinators will comment on the research agendas developed by CulturalBase and make suggestions for improving collaboration among projects and the dissemination and take up of their results by stakeholders and policy makers. Then relevant officers of the European Commission will discuss those views in the context of the accumulated experience of similar projects and the current perspectives for EU-funded research on culture-related issues.

(10 minutes per speaker and discussant plus open discussion)

Chair: Gerard Delanty, University of Sussex

Projects:

Susannah Eckersley, CoHERE - Critical Heritages: performing and representing identities in Europe
Lluís Bonet, Be SpectACTIVE!

Discussants:

Barbara Gessler, DG EAC (tbc)
Zoltán Krasznai, DG RDT

2:30 **Closing remarks**

Zoltán Krasznai, DG RDT
Arturo Rodríguez Morató, University of Barcelona, CulturalBase Coordinator