

Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

The Observatory is a Pan African international NGO created in 2002 with the support of African Union, the Ford Foundation, and UNESCO. Its aim is to monitor cultural trends and national cultural policies in the region and to enhance their integration in human development strategies through advocacy, information, research, capacity building, networking, co-ordination, and co-operation at the regional and international levels.



OCPA NEWS

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OCPA News aims to promote interactive information exchange within Africa and between Africa and the other regions. Please send us information for dissemination about new initiatives, meetings, research projects and publications of interest for cultural policies for development in Africa. Thank you for your co-operation.

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Previous issues of OCPA News at <http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/newsletter/index-en.html>

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development of our activities:***



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In this issue

A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director in March 2018

- A.1 OCPA at the Market for African Performing Arts (Abidjan, 10 – 18 March 2018)
- A.2 Meetings outside the MASA
- A.3 Seminar on a Guide for Implementing the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance
- A.4 Cooperation with the International Organization of the Francophony (OIF) in 2018
- A.5 Participation at the World Congress of Culture in Abu Dhabi
- A.6 Preparation of the First International Conference on Oral History of Mozambique
- A.7 OCPA publications

B. News, events and projects in Africa

- B.1 Atelier for Young Festival Managers (Johannesburg, South Africa, 23-29 March 2018)
- B.2 EU supports Namibia in a museum development project
- B.3 OIF symposium at MASA on the circulation of artists and their works (Abidjan, 11-17 March 2018)
- B.4 Nigeria: International Documentary Film Festival in Lagos
- B.5 Eritrea: Training workshop on cultural heritage concludes
- B.6 South Africa: The Badilisha Poetry X-Change Festival is returning to Cape Town!

C. News about cultural policies, institutions and resources in Africa

- C.1 Mauritania: Minister of Culture chairs the launching meeting of the Union of Festival Organizers
- C.2 The Pan-African Writers Association in Accra
- C.3 Cultural Mobility Funding Guide for Artists and Cultural Professionals – Africa
- C.4 The House of Urban Cultures (MCU) of Dakar
- C.5 Botswana: UNESCO Inscribes Dikopelo Folk Music

D. News, institutions, resources and events in other regions

- D.1 An integrated approach to cultural heritage - The Council of Europe's Co-operation Programme (2018)
- D.2 Festival Production Management Training session in 2019
- D.3 Creative Bureaucracy & its Radical Common Sense by Charles Landry & Margie Caust
- D.4 Cultural rights: controversies and action horizons
- D.5 Antonios Vlassis: Culture in the post-2015 development agenda
- D.6 2019 - International Year of Indigenous Languages

E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

- E.1 Links to portals
- E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica:
 - Angola: Culture Minister Wants Solidarity Spirit in Artists' Association
 - Senegal: Museum of Black Civilizations: Towards a Partnership with Gallerists
 - Senegal: Launch of the 2018 World Report "Rethinking Cultural Policies" in Africa

F. Info from newsletters and information services

- F.1 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies
 - The Arts Contribute More Than \$760 Billion to the U.S. Economy
 - Innovation in cultural heritage research
 - United Kingdom: Creative Nation (publication)
- F.2 Newsletter Casa África
 - The Programme Letras Africanas
- F.3 Culture resource – Mawred (Beirut)
 - The 5th Edition of the Research „To Strengthen Culture of Knowledge”
 - The Fifth Edition of the Laboratory of Arts Program Will Be Held Soon
- F.4 The Cultural Policy in the Arab Region (ARCP) Newsletter

- Sudan: Joint Projects Follow Digitisation of Sudanese Heritage
- Jordan: Economic and Social Council Publishes Its Vision for Culture
- Seventh Annual Arab Cultural Policies Group (ARCP) Meeting in Beirut

F.5 C-NEWS - Culturelink Newsletter

- The art of civil action. Political space and cultural dissent
- Arts Management: Master's Programme for Cultural Leaders and Entrepreneurs

F.6 Compendium Newsletter

- Change of Governance Structure and Business Model

XXX

A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director in March

A.1 OCPA at the Market for African Performing Arts (Abidjan, 10 – 18 March 2018)

OCPA participated substantially in the 10th edition of MASA which marked the 10th anniversary of the event. The Executive Director Lupwishi Mbuyamba and Assistant Research Coordinator Hamadou Mande had a special role to play in this edition.

The first gave the orientation speech of the Round Table co-organized by the International Theater Institute (ITI) and the Regional Center for Live Arts (CERAV-Africa, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso) on the theme of the Performing Arts in the world market. Then he co-chaired with Frédéric Jacquemin, the Director General of AFRICALIA, a conference organized for the students of INSAAC (Higher Institute of Arts and Culture of Abidjan) around the subject of youth, creation and migration. Later he was to chair a workshop on cultural relations between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, at the initiative of KOLATIER (Yaounde). Finally, taking part in the session of the Executive Board of the International Music Council's meeting for the occasion in Abidjan, he led the delegation of the African Music Council to the meeting organized for the occasion.

Hamadou Mande, on his side, receiving the delegation of the Executive Council of the ITI of which he is the regional representative for Africa, besides the own regulatory meetings of this one, animated several meetings indicated above of which he was the general rapporteur. He also took an active part in theatre performances of the Market namely in those performed by troops for which he had previously provided a technical guidance. Then he went to Paris to take part in the celebration at UNESCO of the World Theater Day on March 27th.

A.2 Meetings outside the MASA

As usual, the framework of MASA allowed for side meetings with representatives of several OCPA partners, including AFRICALIA, the Niger River Festival Foundation, the African Cultural Fund, CELHTO and CICIBA.

A.3 Seminar on the Guide for Implementing the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance

Returning to Maputo, the Executive Director of the OCPA announced the holding in the Mozambican capital, from 5 to 7 June 2018, of a seminar devoted to the elaboration of a Guide on the implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. This seminar will be a meeting of the African Union. It will be technically supported by the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) and officially by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

A.4 Cooperation with the International Organization of the Francophony (OIF) in 2018

Within this framework and in the pursuit of an agenda drawn up in the course of previous actions, OCPA will continue, in 2018, its active cooperation with the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF) with a view to the implementation of activities the details of which will be made public in the next issue.

A.5 Participation at the World Congress of Culture in Abu Dhabi

In the meantime, Lupwishi Mbuyamba will participate as a guest expert at the World Congress of Culture held in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates from 8 to 10 April.

A.6 Preparation of the First International Conference on Oral History of Mozambique

Meanwhile, the OCPA Secretariat is continuing preparations for the first international conference on oral history in Mozambique, scheduled for November 14-16, 2018, in Maputo at the initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

A.7 OCPA Publications

In relation with its research activities OCPA has produced some **25 books and publications** such as a strategy document (2004) and a research programme (2007 and 2010) on the cultural indicators of human development in Africa, a book on “African Musics – New Stakes and New Challenges” (with UNESCO, 2005), the Observatory’s 1st and 2nd Medium Term Strategy and Plan of Action (2006 and 2011), the Compendium of basic reference texts for cultural policies in Africa (E/F/S, 2006 and 2009), the Guidelines for the Design and Evaluation of National Cultural Policies in Africa (2008 and 2009). The Proceedings of the International Symposium on Policies, Strategies and Experiences in Financing Culture in Africa was published in 2010, the Manual for Training Specialist of Cultural Policy and Management in Africa and the book on the Contribution of Culture to Poverty reduction in Africa were produced in 2013.

Most of the Reports of some 25 meetings and training sessions organized by OCPA are published at <http://ocpa.irmo.hr/activities/meetings/index-en.html>.

Some 25 articles and studies are published in books and reviews of the OCPA Partners (Culturelink, AFRICOM, Interarts - Barcelona, África e Mediterraneo, Wale keru, Arts Management, Itau Cultural – Sao Paulo, Brazil, University of Pécs – Hungary, University of Gerona – Spain, Catalonia, Institute for African Culture and International Understanding - IACIU, Abeokuta, Nigeria, African Institute of the United Nations for Economic Development and Planning - IDEP, Dakar, etc.)

For previous news and OCPA activities click on
<http://www.ocpanet.org/activities/news/index-en.html>



B. News, events and projects in Africa

B.1 Atelier for Young Festival Managers (Johannesburg, South Africa, 23-29 March 2018)

The Festival Academy (an initiative of the European Festivals Association - EFA) is meant to give emerging festival managers further training in an international framework.

The Johannesburg Festival Academy, organized in partnership with the Market Theatre Foundation and the University of Witwatersrand's School of Arts, will be the 13th Atelier convened in this framework. It will be attended by **some 30 young festival managers from across the globe**, selected for the 7-day training programme aimed at to broaden their programming skills, widen their horizons new ideas with renowned festival managers.

Web site: www.TheFestivalAcademy.eu

Contact: info@TheFestivalAcademy.eu

B.2 EU Supports Namibia in a Museum Development Project

In 2017 the European Union launched a museum development initiative in Namibia. Titled "*Museum Development as a Tool for Strengthening Cultural Rights in Namibia*", the project was designed to preserve music and other elements of cultural heritage in the country.

The European Union will provide 237.000 Euros over a two-year period to support activities being carried out by the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) to support regional museum. The MAN acts with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to develop two new museums.

On 22 February 2018, the MAN hosted a stakeholder's workshop as a first step towards the development of a Museum of Namibian Music.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201802220836.html>

B.3 OIF Symposium at MASA on the Circulation of Artists and their Works (Abidjan, 11-17 March 2018)

As part of this 10th edition the Abidjan Performing Arts Market (MASA) March 13th was dedicated to the Francophony. It was punctuated by a symposium organized by the International Organization of the Francophony (OIF) on the circulation of artists and their works.

At the opening of this conference, the Director of the French Language, Culture and Diversity at the OIF, Ms. Youma Fall recalled that the Francophonie is wishing to promote the culture in the great diversity of artistic expressions aligned with the economy but also on the 'identity. It thus supports the actors in the development of the culture considered in its transversal dimension. This support is available through training, creation, access to content and setting up celebration spaces such as the MASA. To understand the issues of the sector, the OIF has set up the Observatory of Cultural and Linguistic Dynamics.

In his speech, Adama Traoré, comedian, director and artistic curator (theater) at Masa, spoke about the importance of training for all professions interested in the development of cultural industries in Africa and the local market.

The general manager of MASA, Yacouba Konaté, asked about how to facilitate market access with a view to greater mobility of artists.

Source: <http://en.allafrica.com/stories/201803190505.html>

B.4 Nigeria: International Documentary Film Festival Holds in Lagos

The 2018 edition of this Festival is produced by the Foundation for the Development of Documentary Film Festival in Africa, for the eighth time since 2010. The 2018 edition will explore the theme: Archiving Africa II: Frontiers and New Narratives. A three-day Training programme will precede the formal opening the festival. Starting on March 19, the training will focus on Storytelling,

African cultural materials are capsules of experiences that have moved us forward as a people and they are important archive of the progress we can make. It is sad, however, that these archives are locked in different museums outside the continent with evident little efforts or willpower by African political leaders to rightly request for the repatriation of such archives.

It is even more disturbing that African historians and researchers seem to show less concern and enthusiasm to trace the locations of the archives for the purpose of harvesting and harnessing the materials for educational benefits of the peoples, especially the younger generation.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201803130677.html>

B.5 Eritrea: Training workshop on cultural heritage concludes

Asmara, 01 March - The workshop on cultural heritage that was organized by the Commission of Culture and Sports in collaboration with UNESCO with the objective of Strengthening National Capacity for Implementing the Convention 2003 in Eritrea concluded on 28 February.

The training workshop was aimed at strengthening capacity in conducting the preparation of nomination files for inscription of cultural heritage on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Mr. Lovemore Mazibuko, UNESCO accredited Intangible Cultural Heritage expert, indicated that the trainees have consolidated the cumulative experience they previously had. He underlined the importance that Eritrea is giving to preserve its rich cultural heritage.

The training was attended by 32 people from various cultural organizations engaged in researches pertaining cultural heritage.

Read more at <http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/25865-training-workshop-on-cultural-heritage-concludes>

B.6 South Africa: The Badilisha Poetry X-Change Festival is returning to Cape Town!

After several weeks spent on the road interacting with poets in the Free State, Northern Cape, North West, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape, Badilisha Poetry X-Change is returning to Cape Town with hearts and hard drives full of poetry. The goal of the 2017/2018 edition of #BPXRoadTrip was to profile poets who write in South African indigenous languages and live in the targeted provinces. To celebrate its homecoming Badilisha will host on 29 March 2018 a **bonus recording session** for Cape Town-based poets who write in **Afrikaans, Xhosa, Setswana, Sepedi, Zulu, and Ndebele**.

Web site: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badilisha_Poetry_X-Change

E-mail: info@africacentre.net



C. News about cultural policies, institutions and resources in Africa

C.1 Mauritania: Minister of Culture chairs the launching meeting of the Union of Festival Organizers and Major Cultural Competitions

March 10, 2018 - The Minister of Culture and Handicrafts, Official Spokesperson of the Government, Dr. Mohamed Lemine Ould Cheikh, presided over the launch of the activities of the Union of the Organizers of Festivals and Major Cultural Competitions.

The Union wants to be the platform of all the organizations which intervene in the cultural field in particular in order to contribute to the cultural and economic development of the country.

On this occasion, the minister said that his department has been working for some years to support cultural activities that are experiencing unprecedented dynamism in the country.

He stressed that the editions of the Festival of Ancient Cities have a positive impact on the lives of the citizens of these cities through the realization of economic projects and vital infrastructures in the fields of water, electricity, as well as by support for income-generating.

The minister added that culture plays a key role in strengthening social cohesion, indicating the importance of the exploitation of historic sites in the field of tourism and culture.

He urged the Union to attract as many cultural organizations as possible to ensure that each of them plays their role form in the context of sustainable cultural development, the benefits of which will serve te interests of the citizens of these towns and villages.

Source: https://www.chezvlane.com/Le-ministre-de-la-Culture-preside-le-demarrage-des-activites-de-l-Union-des-organisateurs-des-festivals-et-des-grands_a6534.html

C.2 The Pan-African Writers Association in Accra

The Pan African Writers Association (PAWA) is a leading cultural institution, made up of the continent's 52 national writers' associations, whose mission is to strengthen the cultural and economic links between peoples in the context of cultural and political heritage. and diversified but rich economy of the African continent.

With the majority of its members coming from English-speaking and French-speaking countries of the continent, French and English remain the main working languages of the Association, whose founding roots go back to the very first "Congress of Black Writers and Artists" held in Paris in 1956. The French Embassy in Ghana and all the partners of the France In Ghana network congratulate the association for its in-depth work on issues related to the development of pan-African culture and literature.

Alice N'taye ntayea@africa-union.org

C.3 Cultural Mobility Funding Guide for Artists and Cultural Professionals – Africa

This 2018 edition of this Guide was published by Art Moves Africa, the British Council and On the Move. Its main objective is to provide an overview of the funding bodies and programmes that support the international mobility of artists and cultural operators from Africa

and travelling to Africa. It also aims to provide input for funders and policy makers on how to fill the existing gaps in funding for international cultural exchange.

It hopes to contribute to the development of a more efficient and fair funding system that can ensure more sustainable support of cultural mobility to and from Africa. A total of **128 funding organisations and 195 funding schemes related to Africa** are listed in this guide. Download the [guide at http://on-the-move.org/files/AMA.Mobility%20Funding_2018_1_singlepages_final.pdf](http://on-the-move.org/files/AMA.Mobility%20Funding_2018_1_singlepages_final.pdf)

C.4 The House of Urban Cultures (MCU) of Dakar

The MCU is the first center in the city of Dakar dedicated to urban cultures (cultural entrepreneurship, video, photography, graphic design, screen printing, computer-assisted music, urban music, urban dances, DJ, graffiti, beatbox, fashion, circus, etc.).

Real center of training for young people of urban cultures, the MCU will offer them quality training to enable them to improve and adapt themselves to new socio-cultural changes with the introduction of the new information and communication technologies in their daily work.

The MCU is a framework for expressing the different disciplines of urban cultures. The Dakar Municipality opted for a participative approach by collaborating with Urban Culture Consulting. Its objective is to support the creation, production and diffusion of urban cultures.

To successfully carry out its mission, the MCU has made available to actors and professionals of urban cultures a platform of infrastructure and modern technical equipment.

Website: www.facebook.com/mcudakar

Email: mcudakar@gmail.com

C.5 Botswana: UNESCO Inscribes Dikopelo Folk Music

Mochudi — Botswana has made yet another significant milestone by inscribing Dikopelo folk music of Bakgatla ba Kgafela in the UNESCO urgent safeguarding list.

On February 28 in Mochudi, Assistant Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development, Kefentse Mzwini said the decision on inscription was taken last December in Jeju, South Korea, by a UNESCO inter-governmental committee on ICH. He further noted that the significance of the inscription into the urgent safeguarding list was that it would increase the visibility of the element both at local and international level.

The continuous growth of dikopelo provided prospects for Kgatleng District as a tourist attraction destination. Government was committed to helping communities in diversifying the economy of the country. Dikopelo could be used for this purpose.

Mzwini said his ministry has a number of programmes that promote the transmission of ICH from one generation to the other, and that among them were the National Culture Day, Languages Day and President's Day Competitions.

Read more at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201803020044.html>



D. News, institutions, resources and events in other regions

D.1 An integrated approach to cultural heritage - The Council of Europe's Technical Co-operation and Consultancy Programme (2018)

This book (John Bold and Robert Pickard (eds), ISBN 978-92-871-8529-7, 109 p.) summarizes the work of the Council of Europe in the field of cultural heritage that has increasingly emphasised an integrated approach that combines the promotion and protection of cultural diversity, democratic governance and democratic innovation.

This publication on the Technical Co-operation and Consultancy Programme (TCCP) not only presents an overview of the Council of Europe's work in the field of cultural heritage over the last 40 years, but also lays out the evolutionary progression of the Organisation's work in this field, offering a comprehensive analysis of its activities and demonstrating the role of heritage in revitalisation and sustainable development.

The experience and methodologies of the TCCP will provide insight for future initiatives, capitalising on the opportunity to situate heritage in transversal projects.

More at <https://book.coe.int/eur/en/cultural-heritage/7536-an-integrated-approach-to-cultural-heritage-the-council-of-europes-technical-co-operation-and-consultancy-programme.html>

D.2 Festival Production Management Training 2019

The Festival Academy, an initiative of the European Festivals Association - EFA, calls for applications to the 2019 edition of the Festival Production Management Training. The three-module programme focuses especially on production management in terms of realising and implementing the vision of the artistic director. The deadline for applications is 31 March 2018.

The fourth edition includes the following three modules

- Module I: a 4-day workshop with panel discussions, practical study visits and exchange of experiences (Antwerp, Belgium, 16-19 January 2019);
- Module II: a practical, hands-on placement at a festival (minimum one week);
- Module III: a 3-day concluding session

Web site: <http://www.TheFestivalAcademy.eu>

Contact: info@TheFestivalAcademy.eu

D.3 Creative Bureaucracy & its Radical Common Sense - Charles Landry & Margie Caust

Public bureaucracies across the globe face a converging, escalating crisis and they have fewer resources to respond to growing needs. This needs an agile, alert bureaucracy that can reclaim a distinctive leadership role, but framed in a 21st century context. Increasingly complex problems demand new ways of thinking and problem solving. There is a massive, urgent task ahead for bureaucracies to help create a fairer more equal world. They need to be more imaginative. A city will fail if part of the system is uncreative and citizens want more say as we shift from representative to participative citizenship and democracy. The rise of civic movements is a reflection of this. Our bureaucracies should shift from a "no, because" culture to a "yes, if" culture. The book is available to order post free from Book Depository.

For orders and details visit the page <http://charleslandry.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jrhhdld-iltduulkiy-t/>

D.4 Cultural rights: controversies and action horizons

Cultural rights have long been recognized in many international texts. Here they are integrated into our legislation (NOTRe law and CASL law). They offer multiple horizons of action to deepen and rethink public policies. However, the adoption of this concept in law has been the subject of heated debate in the Senate and the National Assembly and is provoking controversy among cultural professionals. What are the misunderstandings or fears she raises? What does it bring new or complementary in our approach to cultural policies? What are the different interpretations? How to translate them into action? Communications coordinated by Baptiste Fuchs, Vincent Guillon, Alice-Anne Jeandel, Lisa Pignot, Jean-Pierre Saez, 15 €

Read more at www.observatoire-culture.net/rep-revue/rub-sommaire/ido-47/resume-entier/droits_culturels_controverses_et_horizons_d_action.html

D.5 Antonios Vlassis: Culture in the post-2015 development agenda: the anatomy of an international mobilisation, Third World Quarterly 36 (9)

Throughout 2012–15 several actors were advocating that culture be explicitly integrated within the post-2015 UN development agenda. My article offers an anatomy of the recent international mobilisation in order to understand the cleavages and the contrasting visions. In doing so, it seeks to analyse the policy process through which the agenda is made, why and how a critical mass of actors is attempting to embrace the inclusion of culture in the post-2015 agenda and the political reactions vis-à-vis this mobilisation.

https://www.academia.edu/35843451/Antonios_Vlassis_2015_Culture_in_the_post-2015_development_agenda_the_anatomy_of_an_international_mobilisation_Third_World_Quarterly_36_9_1649-1662

D.6 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

In 2016, at its 71st Session, the United Nations' General Assembly adopted, under the Agenda item 65 (a), the Resolution 71/178 on the Rights of indigenous peoples.

In this resolution, the General Assembly, reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, stressing the importance of promoting and pursuing the objectives of this Declaration, including the right to maintain and strengthen the distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions of indigenous peoples and the right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Recognizing the importance to indigenous peoples of revitalizing, using, developing and transmitting to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literature, recognizing the value and the diversity of the cultures and the form of social organization of indigenous peoples and their holistic traditional knowledge of their lands, natural resources and environment, the General Assembly

- Decides to continue to observe in New York, Geneva and other United Nations offices every year on 9 August the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, and proclaims the year beginning on 1 January 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, to

draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages;

- and to take further urgent steps at the national and international levels, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to serve as lead agency for the Year, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, within existing resources.

Read more at http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/178



E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press

E.1 Links to portals

<http://fr.allafrica.com/arts/bydate/?n=1>

<http://www.africaonline.com/site/africa/arts.jsp>

<http://www.apanews.net/news/fr/rubrique.php?id=65>

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2003/646/culture.htm>

<http://english.alarabonline.org/display.asp?code=zculturez>

E.2 Selected information from Allafrica

Angola: Culture Minister Wants Solidarity Spirit in Artists' Association

Luanda — Culture minister Carolina Cerqueira last Wednesday in Luanda appealed to the members of the Angolan Association of Artists and Songwriters (UNAC) to adopt a spirit of solidarity and serenity in face of the recent controversy in the institution, following an alleged dismissal of its chairman. The minister was reacting to the controversy that arouse recently in UNAC after its management commission held a meeting in which was decided the dismissal of the institution's chairman, Masssano Júnior. The Culture minister appealed for serenity for the preservation of UNAC's good name. UNAC was founded 29 years ago and currently it has just over 3000 members, among singers, songwriters, musicians, theatre actors and directors, playwrights and dancers. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201803080714.html>

Senegal: Museum of Black Civilizations: Towards a Partnership with Gallerists

In the perspective of the opening of the Museum of Black Civilizations (Mcn), in the last quarter of this year, the Minister of Culture, Abdou Latif Coulibaly, chaired a meeting between gallery owners and professionals of the sector. The objective is to inform these actors about this project with a view to exploring avenues for collaboration and partnership. The objective of this meeting is to inform the actors about the museum project "and to explore together avenues of collaboration and partnership". <http://www.lesoleil.sn/2016-03-22-23-38-25/item/76620-musee-des-civilisations-noires-vers-un-partenariat-avec-les-galeristes.html>

Senegal: Launch of the 2018 World Report "Rethinking Cultural Policies" in Africa

UNESCO's 2018 World Report "Rethinking Cultural Policies" was launched on 21 March at the Théodore Monod Museum in Ifan, Dakar. According to experts in culture, Senegal has made notable advances in the cultural sector, although challenges remain. With the Dakar Biennale, Dakar, a creative city, "Senegal is a country that stands out in West Africa in

different areas of culture," said the UNESCO National Commission General Secretary Aliou Ly. However, the challenges are still numerous in particular in strengthening cultural governance to better support artists and actors in the sector through the "revision which is planned of the Letter of sectoral policy" for culture.
<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201803220974.html>



F. Info from newsletters and information services

F.1 News from IFACCA (International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies) - ACORNS

The Arts Contribute More Than \$760 Billion to the U.S. Economy

National Endowment for the Arts, 6 March 2018, USA - New data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) offers an insightful picture of the impact the arts have on the nation's economy. The arts contribute \$763.6 billion to the U.S. economy, more than agriculture, transportation, or warehousing. The arts employ 4.9 million workers across the country with earnings of more than \$370 billion. Furthermore, the arts exported \$20 billion more than imported, providing a positive trade balance. <https://www.arts.gov/news/2018/arts-contribute-more-760-billion-us-economy>

Innovation in cultural heritage research

Europa Press, 13 March 2018, Belgium - The European Union of Cultural Heritage in 2018. This is a notable attempt to assess the potentials and challenges of European cultural heritage. Research on these complex challenges is aimed at improving education, culture, social and other policies at the European, national and regional levels.

<https://publications.europa.eu/it/publication-detail/-/publication/1dd62bd1-2216-11e8-ac73-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF>

*****United Kingdom: Creative Nation (Publication)**

Creative Nation uses official, open and web data to map the creative industries in the UK, their evolution, contribution to local economic development, the strength of their support ecosystems - including research and informal networking - and their connections with each other. Ultimately, it seeks to contribute to our understanding of the sector and inform the best policies to support it. It has been created by Nesta in collaboration with the Creative Industries Council. The report presents eight key findings based on our analysis of the data, and is accompanied by an open dataset and interactive visualisation to help anybody explore the data.

<https://www.nesta.org.uk/publications/creative-nation>

Web site: www.ifacca.org

Contact: info@ifacca.org

F.2 Newsletter Casa África

The Programme Letras Africanas

Letras Africanas is a program of Casa África that was born in 2009 with the aim of bringing the main voices of contemporary African literature to the Spanish public. Literature is

undoubtedly one of the essential ways to approach the social, political and cultural reality of the African continent. However, the access of the Spanish reader to this literary production is very limited, for reasons that have to do with its translation and its scarce insertion in the book market in our country. With this project, Casa África wants to contribute to remedy that lack, facilitating the presence in several Spanish cities of the most outstanding writers of the continent, special priority given to the authors published in the Casa África Collection of Literature.

Web site: <http://www.casaffrica.es/en/letras-africanas.jsp.html>

Web site: <http://www.casaffrica.es/>

E-mail: info@casaffrica.es

F.3 Culture resource – Mawred (Beirut)

Al Mawred has the pleasure to announce an open call for projects that aim to develop or change cultural policies on the local or regional levels in the Arab region. Applications are accepted from institutions/individuals/groups from all Arab countries until 12 April 2018. Grants of up to 7000 USD are awarded to each project selected. Projects are chosen by an independent jury of cultural policy experts from the Arab region. This grant is part of the Cultural Policy Program, a regional initiative launched by Al Mawred in 2009, seeking to build a knowledge database to support cultural planning and co-operation in the region, and to propose mechanisms for developing the cultural systems in the Arab countries.

The 5th Edition of the Research „To Strengthen Culture of Knowledge”

Sixteen researchers started working on their projects with the support of 12 supervisors of various disciplines under the fifth edition of Research: To Strengthen Culture of Knowledge. This phase on building research skills comes after the completion of the capacity building phase launched for 12 researchers launched at a workshop in Beirut in last November. It includes studies among others on Syrian handicrafts, the institutional response to the risk management of Syrian material cultural heritage. Researchers are expected to submit their papers in early June.

The Fifth Edition of the Laboratory of Arts Program Will Be Held Soon

Ettijahat is preparing to launch the fifth edition of the Laboratory of Arts program in April 2018. The program will return to its usual course after a special edition in 2017 under the fifth anniversary of Ettijahat. It will cover the usual artistic and literary categories: Animation, Theater, Dance and Performing Arts, Creative Writing, Visual Arts (including Plastic Arts, Installation, Visual and Graphic Design Projects), and Music. The Laboratory of Arts is a program is aimed at helping Syrian artists and cultural entities to carry out their creative practices. The program enhances forms of artistic expression to provide opportunities for independent creators to present their artistic works.

Web site: <http://mawred.org/>

E-mail: mawred@mawred.org

F.4 The Cultural Policy in the Arab Region (ARCP) Newsletter

Sudan: Joint Projects Follow Digitisation of Sudanese Heritage

On 12th and 13th 2018, the Sudanese Ministry of Culture conducted a workshop entitled “Casting Light on the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

2003 and its Execution in Kordofan and the Blue Nile”. The workshop is part of a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture, UNESCO, and the Institute of African and Asian Studies in Sudan. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Culture is also working to digitise the country’s heritage through the National Culture Programme.

Jordan: Economic and Social Council Publishes Its Vision for Culture in Jordan

This advisory body created in 2007 to provide advice to the Jordanian cabinet, recently published a paper on *Culture in Jordan: The Crisis and Prospects for Development and Change*. The 19-page paper diagnoses the level to which cultural life in Jordan is in decline, criticising the lack of a national programme concerned with progress and the country's transition towards what it described as a 'production society and knowledge economy'. The paper stated that economic or social success – or indeed any sort of advancement – cannot occur without cultural development that adheres to scientifically-tested and planned methodologies.

Seventh Annual Arab Cultural Policies Group (ARCP) Meeting in Beirut

Al Mawred Al Thaqafy hosted the seventh ARCP group meeting on 13th and 14th January 2018 in Beirut. The meeting brought together a number of cultural activists from national policy groups in several Arab countries, including Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, and Tunisia. It aimed to assess the work of national cultural policy groups and discuss the challenges faced by these groups in several Arab countries. It also included training in cultural policy advocacy on the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005.

Web site: <http://www.arabcp.org/site/index>

Contact: <http://www.arabcp.org/site/contact>

F.5 C-NEWS - Culturelink Newsletter

The art of civil action. Political space and cultural dissent

Through a colourful mix of case studies on citizen-led cultural initiatives from Europe and around the world, the book *The Art of Civil Action. Political Space and Cultural Dissent* considers how to establish a sustainable, transnational civil space, and what role culture and the arts can play in this process. <http://www.culturelink.org/news/publics/2018/publication2018-003.html>

Arts Management: Master's Programme for Cultural Leaders and Entrepreneurs

The Master of Arts in European Arts Management (EAM) is a part-time, international programme that is taught entirely in English. Central concerns are corporate cultural management and cross-border and interdisciplinary cooperation in and with European players. Deadline: 6 July 2018. <http://www.culturelink.org/news/network/2018/news2018-005.html>

F.6 Compendium Newsletter

Change of Governance Structure and Business Model

At the end of 2017, the partnership between the Council of Europe Secretariat and the European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts) to manage the Compendium was replaced by a new governance structure in the form of a non-profit association. Set up in the Netherlands, the "Compendium Association" is now open to the membership of a wide

range of stakeholders. The Council of Europe and ERICarts have a special, statutory role as the Founding Members of the new Association.

The official inauguration of the Compendium Association took place in Prague on 9 November 2017. To date, the Association's membership includes 10 countries; the **European Association of Cultural Researchers**, the Council of Europe and ERICarts.

The Association's work is sponsored by the Netherlands. In the framework the **Boekman Foundation** (*Institute for arts, culture and related policy*, Amsterdam) ensures the coordination and implementation of the core of the European Compendium of Cultural Policy project, namely the up-dating of the country profiles from 43 countries and the technical development of the online information system and specific Compendium projects (summary profiles, comparative tables, thematic sections, etc.) as well as the organisation of the next Assembly of Compendium Experts in Rijeka, Croatia (9 - 11 October 2018).

Web site: <http://www.culturalpolicies.net>

Contact: info@culturalpolicies.net



Please send addresses, information, and documents for the OCPA list serve, database, documentation centre and web site!

Thank you for your interest and co-operation
