

Culture: Research – Policies – Development

International Scientific Conference

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Workshop Session on Applied Culture Research Methodologies

Co-organised by ERICarts and CIRCLE

Recommendations

(Presented in the Final Conference Session)

Cultural research as a scientific discipline

- In many European and non-European countries cultural research is generally recognised as a scientific field in its own right with infrastructure to support its development (education, training, accreditation, basic information infrastructure, links to the general academic and scientific context and policy development). Taking into account this development, the participants, therefore, recommend that cultural research be re-established and fully supported as a particular scientific discipline in Russia.

Co-operation in the field of cultural policy research

- The inter-related dynamic environment of policy making for the cultural field underlines the necessity for constant transnational exchange of information and knowledge in the field of cultural research.
- Particular emphasis could be placed on the development and upgrading of basic information infrastructures including the creation of databases and other necessary methodological tools.
- Given the size and complexity of countries such as the Russian Federation or Canada, it is optimal to facilitate co-operation with international networks such as CIRCLE and research bodies such as ERICarts via a consolidated national network of cultural researchers. In this context, culture researchers throughout the Russian Federation could organise themselves in a manner similar to the Canadian Cultural Researchers Network. Support for a Russian network could be provided by public and private bodies.
- One of the main obstacles to information and knowledge exchange and management has been language barriers. There is a need to establish a fund/programme on the international/ European level which would provide resources for the translation of basic texts in this field from Russian as well as other European sources (multiple language groups). A network of local "interpreters" or "editors" needs to be established to review these translations from a content perspective.

Policy making and cultural research

- It is important to demonstrate the interface between the production and the results of cultural policy research and their utility for policy makers as instruments in their daily work. Experiences from countries such as Slovenia, the Netherlands, Croatia could be studied as examples.
- Results of comparative cultural research should be translated in a way which is applicable to policy decision making.
- Cultural research should find its place within overall national strategy making activities not only in the context of cultural policy but also as a element of community development decision making.

Further Research

- There is a need for constant monitoring of work being undertaken on the development and application of different research tools and statistical indicators in the field of comparative cultural policy research. This information should be made available to the research community via, for example, the Internet.
- Topics for future research which could be taken up in the context of a future CIRCLE Round Table (possibly to be organised in Russia in 2003/4) or in the research activities of ERICarts and national research bodies:
 - ◇ understanding the role of cultural capital in regional and social development;
 - ◇ to have a basic text which clarifies the interrelations and the distinctions between culturology (Kulturforschung), cultural studies and cultural research;
 - ◇ to examine the effects of neo-liberal globalisation via studies on:
 - the consequences of WTO regulations, its treaties like GATS and TRIPs, on artistic cultural life around the world
 - reactions of identity (national, regional, ethnic) cultures to the globalisation of culture (acceptance, rejection, hybridisation)