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Conference 2012

The 2012 Annual UNeECC conference will take place in Maribor, Slovenia in October hosted by the University of Maribor.

www.uni-mb.si/ or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Maribor

Watch this space for more details!



Conference 2011 Antwerp

The 5th UNEECC Conference 'Culture in and Crisis' was held at the Lessius University College, Antwerp thanks to the hospitality of UNEECC President Flora Carriijn and Board member Wim Coudenys. www.lessius.eu

Eighty eight people attended the conference, 66 from Universities and 22 from other institutions. They were from 46 cities (22 from ECoC cities and 24 from non-ECoC cities) which was the highest number of cities represented at any of our conference. Thirty five delegates presented papers and a record 17 were PhD students.

In the last year we have attracted two new members, the University of Malta and the University of Wroclaw.

It was good to welcome new colleagues from applicant and future European Capitals of Culture including Mons, Cyprus and Malta (V.18)

For many the highlight of the Conference was the award to Francois Carbon of the first UNEECC Award for services to culture in the university sector of European Capitals of Culture.





Comments on Antwerp

New, first time attendees included Ali Edelstein, a Fulbright Student at Lessius, Yiannis Vakis from Cyprus, Liverpool and Alexandra Appleton of Liverpool. Ali commented that

'Overall, the papers delivered at the 5th annual UNeECC conference were as diverse as the participants who presented them. However, they paled in comparison to the inquisitive conversations they provoked. During the lunch and coffee breaks, I watched extensive connections being made that will support the future endeavours of UNeECC members.'



Yiannis Vakis said

'I really enjoyed the conference. From my perspective I found it interesting to be exposed to new ideas relating to cultural topics within the EU. Universities tend to shape the cultures of the cities that they belong to and UNeECC's role seem to be very important on that aspect. Personally I would be even more happy if there were more technical presentations so that we learn about the practicalities of being a candidate city/actual cultural city, and the after effects/benefits/drawbacks etc after being a cultural city. I look forward for next year's event and as Cyprus has 3 candidate cities for 2017 we could also make our contribution to the agenda. The 3 cities (Limassol, Pafos, Nicosia) just submitted their candidacy applications a week ago and I am sure that we will be able to obtain a vast amount of information! As regards as the logistics of the conference I found

everything to be very well organized. I personally believe that the event could have commenced a day earlier (the evening before) for ice breaking purposes! I also found the Belgium beer excellent especially the brands that are produced at the Monk territories!! Hope to see you soon in Cyprus or some other cultural city in EU!!'

Alexandra Appleton said that Antwerp

'marked my first experience of attending the UNeECC annual conference. My first impressions of the conference were very pleasant as it was wonderfully organised and welcoming. Recognising that people had travelled from all over Europe to attend, the organisers went out of their way to make sure that everyone was introduced to each other and fully involved in the proceedings.

I believe that the conference holds real value in bringing together an interesting mix of presentations, as well as many thought-provoking discussions. Importantly both balanced the real, physical experiences of becoming a Capital of Culture with the political, historical and social issues surrounding the award. Overall, it was a fascinating two days and I'd like to say a big thank you to the organisers for all their hard work.'

Reflecting on the city of Antwerp, experienced conference organiser, presenter and attendee Hatto Fischer commented on its tremendous transformation since it was European Capital of Culture in 1993. He was disappointed that this was not highlighted at the conference apart from on the excellent tour and would have appreciated contributions from people like Eric Atonis, director of Antwerp '93 and Bart Verschaffel, coordinator of literature.

Many people hoped that the undergraduate student activities could be more closely integrated with the main conference.

New Publications

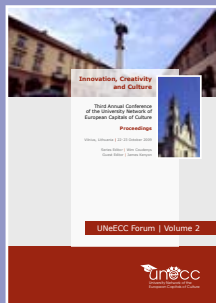
UNEECC Proceedings

With the publication of the Vilnius (2009) and Pecs (2010) volumes of UNEECC's Annual Conferences to supplement that from Liverpool (2008) we now have 58 papers published on the European Capital of Culture movement. This represents a very rich resource for scholars.

The proceedings are available on the UNEECC website www.uneecc.org in pdf format or by clicking below:



To download I. UNeECC Forum Liverpool please click [here](#) (cover) and [here](#) (text).



To download II. UNeECC Forum Vilnius please click [here](#) (cover) and [here](#) (text).



To download III. UNeECC Forum Pecs please click [here](#) (cover) and [here](#) (text).

Peter Campbell peter.campbell@liv.ac.uk from the Liverpool Impacts 08 team has just had a paper 'Creative Industries in a European Capital of Culture' published in the International Journal of Cultural Policy Vol. 17, No. 5, November 2011, 510-522. In this he examines the benefits associated with staging the European Capital of Culture on Liverpool. The idea that the ECoC can promote broadly 'creative' activity is posited as being merely one aspect of the major goal of city rebranding rather than anything more substantive.

Impacts08: European Capitals of Culture Policy Group

http://www.liv.ac.uk/impacts08/complementary-programmes/EC_cultural_policy_group.htm



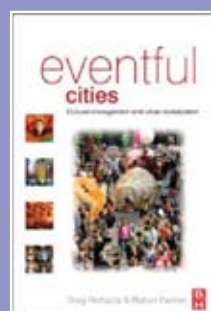
This project saw the Liverpool Impacts08 research framework adapted into an international model that can be replicated by future European Capitals of Culture, as well as other cities assessing the impact of major cultural initiatives.

Impacts 08 was awarded a 'Cultural Policy Networks' grant by the Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission. This grant allowed the maximising of knowledge exchange opportunities between Liverpool and future European Capitals of Culture (ECoCs). Between September 2009 and July 2010, they partnered with the international team at the Culture Liverpool office to work in collaboration with representatives from Stavanger (host of Norway's ECoC in 2008), Turku 2011, and Marseille 2013. The main objective was to exchange lessons in best practice for the research and delivery of the ECoC programme.

The final report An international framework of good practice in research and delivery of the European Capital of Culture programme, has just been produced. It was co-written by members of the group and edited by Matti Allam and Martin Thompson. It provides invaluable guidance on both the delivery and research of European Capital of Culture programmes, or other major cultural events.



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Robert Palmer and Greg Richards have recently published Eventful Cities (Routledge 2010) in which they argue that processes of globalization, economic

restructuring and urban redevelopment have placed events at the centre of strategies for change in cities. Events offer the potential to achieve economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes within broader urban development strategies. This volume evaluates theoretical perspectives and links theory and practice through case studies of cities and events across the world. Critical success factors are identified which can help to guide cities and regions to develop event strategies.

Poiein kai Prattein (Create and Do)

<http://poieinkaiprattein.org>

www.poieinkaiprattein.org/europe/european-capitals-of-culture



Led by Hatto Fischer, Poiein kai Prattein is setting up a platform where information about future ECoC cities can be validated by further action

research. Materials gathered already relate to the just selected cities of Wroclaw and San Sebastian, but also to Maribor in 2012 and to Marseilles in 2013, and to Sonderborg 2017. Linked to that is the aim to upgrade the archive of Poiein kai Prattein with regards to European Capitals of Culture. It would be good if there could be achieved as a platform an interconnection with other archives e.g. Ruhr 2010. At the Antwerp conference, this idea of a research archive was discussed. The idea would be to create a peer group which ensures validation of information inputs to the archive before it can be considered valid knowledge about these cities. There should be developed as well some specifications about research needed to be done, in order to be able to counter the usual spin reports claiming overt success when in substance the city failed to leave a mark, culturally speaking.

Anyone interested is asked to contact Hatt at hfischer@poieinkaiprattein.org

European Cultural Parliament Pecs 2011



During the Opening Ceremony of the 2011 European Cultural Parliament in Pecs the famous Hungarian Oscar-winning film director István Szabó gave an incredibly successful keynote speech: 'The relevance of European culture, politics and economy in era of global competition'.

In this speech he examined the situation of European culture in the world of globalisation, in connection with questions of economy and politics. He argued that films serve as a mirror of culture, a set of examples, a representation of dreams

and also as the propaganda of relation-systems. He talked about the impact of stars including Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, Ingrid Bergman or Leslie Howard, Laurence Olivier, Peter Lorre, Béla Lugosi, Rudolph Valentino, Pola Negri, Anna Magnani, Gina Lollobrigida, Sophia Loren, Jeanne Moreau, Gérard Philipe, Jean Gabin, Jean Paul Belmondo, Alain Delon, Vanessa Redgrave, Catherine Deneuve, Mastroianni, Monica Vitti, Liv Ullmann. He argued that they represented our culture, the way how we love, how we are jealous, how we hate, how we forgive, how we argue, what gestures we use, how we express our emotions, what words we use, how we solve our problems, how we ask and give –that is on what level our relationships work. Our culture was reflected on the film screens, and also the world came to know our culture through our films.

He argued that European culture is different (colourful, local) that German culture is different from Italian, English is different from Spanish, Swedish is different from Hungarian, or more, Prussian is different from Bavarian, Milan is different from that in Sicily. But there is still something common in this picture which is formed from mosaic-pieces of many different colours and shapes, this is what we call European culture. He asked what is the common strand? What is the common root which feeds every European culture; let it be in the North with cold and short days, or under Mediterranean climate, either in a big language family, or in a small language community, no matter if it is Catholic, Protestant, Greek-Catholic, Orthodox or Jewish? What is the essence of every European culture, the common spirit of Europe, that only Europe owns, something that we must protect in this world of globalisation which requires likeness, adaptation, correspondence, market assimilation and the competition according to different rules? Is this the social sensitivity taught by the Bible, or the feeling of solidarity, the tolerance for the weak, the fallen, the struggling –is this also a teaching of the Bible? Or is it the idea of democracy, the heritage of the ancient Greek, the desire for human equality, or the nostalgia for the purity of law remembering Rome? Maybe it is the desire for freedom since the French revolution? The desire for freedom which is not selfish, which doesn't only acknowledge its own interests but also its duty with respect for the freedom of other people.

For the full lecture please click

<http://www.kulturparlament.com/index.php?option=displaypage&main=2&show=154&subid=158>



European Cultural Forum Brussels October 2011

Running concurrent with Antwerp and UNEECC (sadly!) was the annual European Cultural Forum in Brussels.

<http://culture-forum-2011.ec.europa.eu/indx.jsp>

This is branded as the European Commission's key culture event of 2011 and on 20 and 21 October, it brought to Brussels 800 participants from culture civil society, the EU Member States and EU institutions. It provided a unique opportunity to debate and raise the profile of European cooperation in the field of culture, bringing together both policy-makers and stakeholders from the sector from all over Europe and partner countries.

It addressed some of the most topical questions for culture in the current context of economic crisis and globalisation, in particular: what are the new skills and strategies required from artists and the cultural sector to adapt to the challenges of a globalised and digitised world? Which new business models can be developed by the cultural sector to reap the opportunities of digitisation? How can local and regional authorities best invest in their cultural assets and thereby contribute to the smart and inclusive growth which Europe needs?

It also looked at culture in the EU's external relations, with a focus on the role of cultural actors in transitional and democratic processes, and a discussion on how the EU can best help such processes.

A comment received from Hatto Fischer linking Antwerp and Brussels may be of interest to colleagues!

It would have been important for someone to report to the conference in Antwerp the outcome of the two day Cultural Forum where the new vision of the cultural program was presented by the EU Commission. Since it relates to the matter of how to deal with the crisis in Europe, a crisis of a very general nature, it would have been all the more important to be critical aware what are the reasons for the crisis in culture and the crisis in the European Capital of Culture project. Since no reference was made to either the public consultation about the future selection of ECoC cities nor about the recent controversies surrounding the selection of Wroclaw and San Sebastian for 2016, it made the conference of UNEECC appear to be very academic and much more interested in academic research than in being in tune with a crisis threatening to put an end to the ECoC project. As a matter of fact, the EU vision 2020 does not include culture.

Any responses from UNEECC members? Please send to the Newsletter editor Bill Chambers at chambew@hope.ac.uk for the March issue of UNEECC News.

Crakow May 8-10th 2012

The Cultural Role of Technical Universities in the Integrated Development of Young Personalities. Jointly organised by the AGH University of Science and Technology, the University of Agriculture and the Pontifical University of Jean Paul II. Supported by UNEECC. Enquiries to: Antoni Tajdus, Rector, AGH University of Science and Technology tajdus@agh.edu.pl



Maribor, Slovenia 15-17th May 2012

Out of the Box: Innovative Ways to Improve the Culture of Living.
www.outofthebox.si

News from Europe

Keep up to date with the websites of the European Commission Education and Culture Directive

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/index2011_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/index2011_en.htm

Actions and Programmes

Culture Programme (2007-2013); European Capitals of Culture; EU Culture Prizes; European Heritage Label; The Story of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue; Artist Mobility; Former Programmes and Actions; Library of Programme.

Cultural Heritage Month

Don't forget the annual Cultural Heritage month each September

<http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/september-cultural-heritage-month>



Europe-Brazil Cultural Co-operation Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/documents/brazil_coop_en.pdf

The Europe-Brazil Cultural Co-operation programme offers great opportunities for creative creativity in three key areas:

- the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions:
- the development of the cultural and creative economy and its industries:
- Cultural Heritage and Museum Sector Policy cooperation2



Creative Europe and Erasmus for All programmes

On Thursday 24 November, the European Commission will announce its detailed proposal for 'Creative Europe', the new programme for the cultural and creative sector and 'Erasmus for All', the new programme for education, training, youth and sport.

Related Organisations

European Cultural Foundation

<http://www.eurocult.org/home>



The ECF acts as a catalyst for change through arts and culture in Europe. Its aim is to inspire, engage and empower. It is an independent foundation based in the Netherlands that has been operating across Europe for nearly 60 years. Its guiding principles have them committed to the whole of Europe and its neighbouring regions but it does target its support to where it is most needed. It champions and transmits cultural exchange and new forms of artistic expression. It shares and connects knowledge across the European cultural sector, and campaign for the arts on all levels of political decision-making.

ECF is now embarking on a search for Narratives for Europe – seeking people and communities who are building stories and visions which shape Europe of today and tomorrow. This will be ECF's primary theme for the coming three years in all the work it does. Its ambition is to ensure that these narratives are shared and spread across Europe and beyond, and are also brought into spheres of influence.

Les rencontres

Association des villes et regions de la grande europe pour la culture

Association of european cities and regions for culture

www.lesrencontres.eu

We hope you have enjoyed and found useful this first edition of UNEECC News. The next UNEECC News will be published in March 2012. Anyone with material of interest to UNEECC members please send to Bill Chambers at chambew@hope.ac.uk