

Research and report: Culture in fragile contexts and peace reconciliation

Terms of Reference

Background

EUNIC – European Union National Institutes for Culture – is the European network of organisations engaging in cultural relations. Together with our partners, we bring to life European cultural collaboration in more than 90 countries worldwide with a network of over 120 clusters, drawing on the broad experience of our members from all EU Member States and associate countries.

EUNIC advocates a prominent role of culture in international relations and is a strategic partner of the EU, actively involved in the further definition of European cultural policy. EUNIC is a platform for knowledge sharing and for capacity building amongst its members and partners.

A definition of fragile states proposed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), according to which applies to "...a ... region or state [which] has weak capacities to carry out basic governance functions and lacks the ability to develop mutually constructive relations with society..."¹ Accordingly, fragility does not only refer to the presence of a conflict; countries in deep economic crisis or affected by humanitarian and natural crisis are fragile too.

Cultural relations are understood as reciprocal transnational interactions between two or more cultures, encompassing a range of activities conducted by state and/or non-state actors within the space of culture and civil society. The overall outcomes of cultural relations are greater connectivity, better mutual understanding, more and deeper relationships, mutually beneficial transactions and enhanced sustainable dialogue between people and cultures, shaped through engagement and attraction rather than coercion.²³

The arts and culture can play an important role in supporting the international community's efforts to stabilise societies experiencing or recovering from conflict. Culture plays a role in supporting resilience and fostering development in fragile contexts, both for conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery.

In order to build on the findings of previous reports EUNIC would like to commission an in-depth review on what is the added value of culture and cultural relations in a fragile context in supporting peace and reconciliation. This could include mapping and reviewing of EUNIC members' projects in fragile environments, the different operational models and their adaptivity to different contexts in different countries and regions.

Research question:

Examine how taking a cultural relations approach to cultural programmes supports peace and stability in fragile contexts.

Particularly examining projects/programmes and the evidence base that focuses on confidence building, skills training, self-expression, intergroup understanding and tolerance in a cultural relations context, the specific values of the approaches, considering the context and how effective these focuses might be.

Most of the previous reports/studies have more of a descriptive and qualitative focus, where projects are presented in brief as a collection. The aim of this study would be to look deeper into the case studies and analyse if we could identify some of the core elements in these programmes and projects that "work" or add value in dealing with fragile contexts and reconciliation building on previous research and evaluation work in this area by EUNIC members and others.

¹ OECD (2014) Fragile States 2014: Domestic revenue mobilization in fragile states

² https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/lit_review_short_working_paper_final_final.pdf

³ Refer also Draft Council conclusions on an EU strategic approach to international cultural relations and a framework for action <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7749-2019-INIT/en/pdf>



The approach would be in-depth analysis of current/past projects from EUNIC members, looking also at immediate short- and medium-term outcomes and where possible longer-term outcomes where the evidence base supports.

Thematic areas to consider specifically in relation to fragile contexts (conflict and post-conflict situation) :

- Cultural Relations in fragile countries;
- Culture in conflict / contexts of fragility, contexts of displacement;
- Culture peace and reconciliation;
- Cultural value of heritage
- Culture and gender & equalities, human rights.

Geography

TBC when examples are confirmed but from example projects from organisations from EUNIC member countries⁴

Objectives for this research

- Influencing EU policy and national policy. Making a case for culture and cultural relations in the new Development instrument of the Commission/ Influencing EU funding (integrate culture in a wider areas of development programmes, not solely focus on the economic aspects of culture in development)
- Highlight the work of members of EUNIC (and other cultural operators) in fragile contexts

Target audience for this research:

- EU: primarily DG DEVCO, NEAR, EEAS, EU's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), European Parliament's Development and Foreign Affairs Committees (and sub-committee on human right, defence and security), Culture and Education
- International organisations: NATO, UNESCO
- National governments in Europe and beyond
- Others (e.g. organisations working in these areas, PN)

Tasks

1. Review of supporting research literature and theory in relation to cultural relations, culture and in fragile contexts and peace reconciliation identifying key themes, evidence sources that focuses on confidence building, skills training, self-expression, intergroup understanding and tolerance in a cultural relations context, the specific values of the approaches, considering the context and how effective these focuses might be?
2. Working with EUNIC and EUNIC members, identify and review project examples working in fragile contexts and peace reconciliation in light of the review of the supporting research literature and theory.
3. How these examples link to EU policy areas, mapping to policy areas.

Proposed Report Structure

- Setting up the context: review of past and ongoing research and practices.
- Identify and analyse a series of case studies from a mixture of EUNIC members, and potentially Members of the Practitioners Network. (European agencies for development)
- Using M&E available from EUNIC members projects such as the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund.
- Based on research and practice, providing evidence to answer the core research question.
- Appendix: Research Method, sources, list of those consulted / interviewed.

Application Proposal Submission

The successful candidate will be selected according to their profile, the quality of their proposal and the financial offer they have made.

⁴ <https://eunicglobal.eu/about>



- Experience and Knowledge: CV's of the proposed researchers and your experience in this field of focus, familiar with the European decision-making process and with the EU development policy and aware of the development cooperation policy in Fragile States
- Proposed research approach and research method for this work.
- Proposed Budget: Give details of full cost, including a break-down of cost per phase / deliverable and the hourly rates and anticipated number of hours involved in conducting the project.
- Any potential risks and mitigations to this research due to Covid19;
- Your Research ethics approach.
- How you would work with the project team at EUNIC and British Council?

Deadline for proposals is: Monday, 30 November 2020
Please email your proposals to: research@eunicglobal.eu
The available budget for this piece of work is in the region of 10,000 euros including VAT

Supporting Background Reports

- EUNIC Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Working in Fragile Contexts Report <https://www.eunicglobal.eu/media/site/3594280403-1593614326/report-eunic-knowledge-sharing-workshop-working-in-fragile-contexts.pdf>
- The Art of Peace: The Value of Culture in Post-Conflict Recovery <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-policy-insight/insight-articles/art-of-peace>
- Ifa Culture and Conflict Challenges for Europe's Foreign Policy <https://ifa-publikationen.de/Zeitschriften-und-Editionen/Kulturreport/Kultur-und-Konflikt.html>
- Ifa Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals The Role of the European Union <https://ifa-publikationen.de/en/Home/New/Culture-in-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals.html>
- Culture in an Age of Uncertainty - a joint report by the British Council and Goethe-Institut - <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-policy-insight/policy-reports/cultural-relations-age>
- The value of cultural relations <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-policy-insight/insight-articles/value-cult-relations>
- The Missing Pillar – Culture's Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals <https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/our-stories/the-missing-pillar-sdgs>
- United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG, Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A guide for local action.

