

**Minutes**, Steering Group Meeting PA Culture EUBSR, Gdansk, 19.06.2019, 8:30 am – 10:00 am

## **I. BSR Cultural Dialogue about BSR-relevant activities and BSR added value**

Kaarina Williams (CBSS)

- Grant for the project “Cultural Cities”, Seed Money approved by Swedish Institute
- Baltic Festival (Östersjö-Festivalen), will take place end of August; will be streamed online; will be accompanied by a presentation/debate on sustainability

Marcus Hagemann (Ars Baltica)

- ABCDs (Ars Baltica Creative Dialogue) are running; the second round will start in September; topic will be sustainability, community building and implementation of the SDGs; together with Oleg Koefoed of Growing Pathways; kick-off for the second round took place at the Baltic Sea Youth Camp
- Ars Baltica is part of the Interreg project ‘Creative Ports’ which runs from 2019-2021
- Upcoming project is a Mobility Funding Guide; which should be regularly updated
- Another upcoming project: certification of cultural activities in regard to climate change prevention/activities; could be a step-by-step guide; will start with a workshop at Nordkolleg Rendsburg and piloting projects; Nordkolleg Rendsburg will finance the workshop

Dace Resele (NDPC)

- Working on a new strategy to organize cross-sectorial projects; eg environmental
- Will be partner in the Baltic Sea Festival Östersjö-Festivalen
- Will organize an event on circular economy with the Nordic Council of Ministers
- NDPC established secretariat and works on establishing an advisory board of experts

Maciej Hofman (EC)

- 2018 very busy year; Year of Cultural Heritage; not only events but also politically important
- Three important documents in the area of culture:
  - o New European Agenda for Culture (May 2018)
  - o Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022 (November 2018)
  - o European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage (December 2018)
- A Cultural Heritage Forum has been established; about 70 members; representing also EU MSs and international organizations; DDL for individuals and organizations closed in 21 May 2019; first meeting in the Autumn)
- Urban Agenda for the European Union – new Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage (2019); (two meetings already, in Berlin and Brussels, next: presence at European Week of Regions and Cities in October 2019 in Brussels)
- September Call (5<sup>th</sup> Call, Urban Innovative Actions)
- Joint Declaration for Digitalization of Cultural Heritage (2019)
- Joint Action OECD-DG EAC on how cities/regions can maximize the impact of culture on the local level – 4 peer-learning policy seminars from Q4 2019 to Q4 2020
- Advise: Follow Creative Europe on Twitter and Facebook!

Māra Braslava (Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia)

- Baltic Region Cultural Heritage Board Activities
  - o Operating under CBSS; Latvian chairmanship

- Mecklenburg-Vorpommern joined
- Priority of the Latvian chairmanship was “dialogue”
- Evaluation of regional cooperation in the last 20 years was conducted; publication will be available
- Next year there will be a Forum in Oslo

Agnieszka Grunwald (Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland)

- Ministry of Culture not only engaged in the Baltic region; but a very important region

Ida Fugslang-Damgaard (Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces)

- Focus on bi-lateral efforts until 2020; after that the strategy will be revised
- Nordic Council of Ministers; meeting in Canada
- Denmark not able to host the Annual Forum 2020 due to lack of resources

Rugilė Puodžiūnienė (Ministry of Culture Lithuania)

- New president; starting in July 2019; new government
- Strategy for Culture 2030; Main Agenda: ...?
- Culture Passport: initiative for equal access to cultural activities for students
- Museums under the ministry proposed that there will be free entrance on Sundays
- Focus on regional activities
- Guideline for development of Cultural Routes
- Forum of Modern City (September 2019)

## **II. Lobbying for better cultural funding after 2020 / current state of discussion with regards to ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and Interreg**

S Musiolik

- It was hard to fund culture through the European Regional Development Fund
- Positive development:
  - European Regional Development Fund – new Special Objective Number 5: Europe closer to its Citizens; good that Cultural Heritage is explicitly included
  - the European Parliament proposed not only to fund Cultural Heritage but also Culture in general through the Regional Development Funds

M Hofman

- Five big objectives; Europe closer to its Citizens is only one; Culture and Cultural Heritage can also be funded in the other objectives if there is a connection to the overall aim of the objective
- But this is the moment to push for the inclusion of Culture and Cultural Heritage because the Regional Development Funds are much bigger than Creative Europe

A Grunwald

- Poland is raising the issue in almost every bi-lateral talks with other ministries; to get better funding for Culture and Cultural Heritage

M Hofman

- Letter addressed to Ms. Corina Crețu (European Commissioner for Regional Policy) and Mr Tibor Navracsics (European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports) that asks for better funding for culture should be shared and signed by more countries

S Musiolik

- The Steering Group should support the initiative of the European Parliament to include both Culture und Cultural Heritage into the five objectives

Kaarina Williams

- It is necessary to go down into the programs and that culture is mentioned there not only in the regulations; this is where in the countries lobbying should take place
- For the BSR Interreg it is still hard to include Culture

S Musiolik

- Our minister Sabine Sütterlin-Waack is lobbying for culture to get better funding, especially at the Interreg conference in Lübeck: "I would greatly welcome it, if the Interreg programmes could in future put a stronger focus on social and cultural cohesion than in the past." (Opening of the *Interreg* Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference on 9-10 April 2019 in Lübeck).

M Hofman

- Culture and Creative in Interreg: Conference, Valencia, September 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> ; would be good to have to presence of the Baltic Sea Region

S Musiolik

- A lack of funding of micro-projects; we need a possibility for smaller funds; should be implemented in cross-border Interreg; concrete proposal: applying for Seed Money in the Interreg calls; next round will probably be December 2019; PA Culture or/and CBSS could support smaller projects by applying or supporting the application for a big project; this project could then spread the money to the smaller projects

M Hagemann

- The proposal by S Musiolik is important because not all institutions have the administration to administer big applications
- Lack of micro-funding is the reason why projects don't get started

Rugilie Puodziuniene (Ministry of Culture Lithuania)

- Question: who will apply? Who will be Lead Partner?

S Musiolik

- This needs be decided – at the moment it is an idea; PA Culture cannot apply

M Hagemann

- Proposal: we should share knowledge and start to develop; this could lead to finding a Lead Partner

S Musiolik

- There should be a first draft; mid/end September a draft is necessary to meet the Interreg deadline for Seed money

K Williams

- CBSS is committed to this and will engage in it

S Musiolik

- We have two cross-border projects in Schleswig-Holstein that we can learn from and include into the initiative
- Proposal: The 2019 Strategic Development Workshop, together with Poland, could focus on developing an application for the funding of micro-projects; we could invite the cross-border projects from Schleswig-Holstein to the Strategic Development Workshop

M Hagemann

- When should the Project Development Workshop take place?

S Musiolik

- will be discussed by PAC coordinators

### **III. Report on the Baltic Sea Youth Camp**

M Hagemann

- Ars Baltica gave an input on culture as a means of exchange
- Ars Baltica ran two workshops (Ars Baltica Creative Dialogue)
- BSYC was directed at a specific group of young people who are very engaged and highly educated anyways, which is kind of natural
- Very committed and clear participants
- We have to take care of wording: it should not be 'we' and 'us' but all of us together; not the adults on the one hand and young people on the other hand

**K Williams**

- Extremely impressive
- Every engaged people; there were very concrete actions
- Participants of the Camp will take place in the Annual Forum and present their idea
- The format should be continued

### **IV. Revision of the Action Plan of the EUSBSR**

S Musiolik

- Youth should be better included also in the work of PA Culture
- People, the citizens should be more at the center of the Action Plan and the EUSBSR
- A better connection between Culture and the SDGs/Climate Change
- Anja Uhlenbrok will ask for input for revision of the Action Plan

- CBSS are interested in becoming a third coordinator of PA Culture – it would strengthen PA Culture and divide the workload and create more resources

K Williams

- There is a strong willingness and commitment by the CBSS to become third coordinator of PA Culture

## **V. Monitoring of the flagship projects PA Culture**

Zuzanna Przytkowska:

- Six flagships are active
- Evaluations have been made; four responses
- All flagships state that flagship status was very beneficial for communication and funding

## **VI. Outlook to PA Culture seminar on the Annual Forum**

M Hagemann:

- Topic of the seminar will be “Localising circular economy – creative solutions for the challenges of our time”;
- Will be moderated by Oleg Koefoed, Co-Founder Growing Pathways; Agata Etmanowicz, Vice-President of Impact Foundation was supposed to co-moderate but had to cancel

## **VII. Cultural Baltic Sea Cities**

K Williams:

- Project has just been approved
- More information will follow
- A city'/place for the kick-off meeting has to be decided on
- Will talk to CBSS about hosting it in Stockholm