



**Administrative arrangement for activities to be developed by the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) in partnership with the European Commission Services and the European External Action Service jointly referred to hereinafter as “the two Sides”**

## Background

The Council of the European Union emphasized that cultural exchanges and cultural cooperation can help to establish relations based on partnership, strengthen the place and the role of civil society, foster processes of democratization and good governance and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. For this reason it encouraged wider cooperation between the cultural institutions of the Member States of the Union in third countries, including cultural institutes and their equivalents in those countries in particular through the constitution of networks<sup>1</sup>.

The Council of the European Union also stated the need to go beyond projecting the diversity of European cultures in order to generate a new spirit of dialogue, mutual listening and learning, joint capacity building, co-creation and global solidarity<sup>2</sup>.

In the same spirit, the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council “Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations”<sup>3</sup> called relevant EU stakeholders at all levels to join forces to ensure complementarity and synergies in advancing cultural cooperation with partner countries. In this context, it proposed, *inter alia*, ‘enhanced cooperation with Cultural Institutes through a new form of partnership between the European External Action Service (EEAS), Commission services, national cultural institutes and their umbrella organization (EUNIC)’.

Against this background, the Commission services, the EEAS and EUNIC intend to enhance cooperation in the field of culture, both at the level of Headquarters and at the local level in partner countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Conclusions on the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in the external relations of the Union and its Member States, Brussels, 20 November 2008

<sup>2</sup> Council conclusions on culture in the EU's external relations with a focus on culture in development cooperation, Brussels, 24 November 2015

<sup>3</sup> JOIN (2016) 29

## SECTION A

### PRINCIPLES, VALUES AND OBJECTIVES

- (1) 'Culture' embraces a wide and inclusive range of policies and activities, which includes not only the arts and literature, but also, among others, inter-cultural dialogue, education and research, the creative industries and tourism, heritage, sport, artisanship as well as development cooperation. For this reason, a cross-cutting approach to culture should be encouraged.
- (2) In this respect the two Sides share the objective of developing a concerted approach to international cultural relations which would strengthen the European dimension of their initiatives, pool resources and achieve economies of scale by working together in non-EU countries on the basis of voluntary contributions and shared interests. The principles of subsidiarity and complementarity should be respected in the development of the joint activities.
- (3) The two Sides intend that the principle of 'variable geometry' should underpin their cooperation; in the sense that not all stakeholders on each Side are expected to necessarily participate in all projects and programmes but they can support those which fit with their own strategic priorities and match their capacity to deliver.
- (4) The two Sides envisage that the principles of co-creation with partner countries, bottom-up implementation and, whenever possible, co-financing of activities from different sources (including partner countries, EU institutions and EUNIC members) should underpin the activities to be developed in partnership.
- (5) The two Sides envisage that the activities they will develop in partnership should aim at an increased coherence and efficiency, consistency and synergies with other existing initiatives and activities, as well as at an enhanced quality and impact.
- (6) The two Sides expect that the partnership will be implemented at country level through seeking enhanced cooperation and complementarity with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organisations, public authorities, international organisations where appropriate, and between European Union Delegations and EUNIC clusters.

## SECTION B

### PRIORITY AREAS FOR COOPERATION

- (1) In line with the Joint Communication “Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations” and with relevant policy priorities, it is envisaged that joint activities will be developed in those countries where the conditions are more favorable. Other countries may also be considered taking into account the rapid evolution of international relations.
- (2) It is envisaged that cultural cooperation with the identified partner countries should focus on the three thematic areas defined in the Joint Communication:
  - Promoting culture and intercultural dialogue for peaceful inter-community relations
  - Supporting culture as an engine for sustainable social and economic development
  - Reinforcing cooperation on cultural heritage

## SECTION C

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR COOPERATION

- (3) Representatives of the two Sides envisage meeting and exchanging information on the activities to be developed in partnership on a regular basis.
- (4) In consultation with EU Delegations and local stakeholders, EUNIC clusters are developing cultural relations strategies for their work tailored to the needs and issues of the local environment. These strategies are expected to form the basis on which joint pilot activities could be proposed taking into account one or more of the above-mentioned thematic areas as well as other issues relevant to the country in question, including, when relevant, in the case of development and fragile contexts.
- (5) The joint pilot activities should help test method(s) of ‘enhanced cooperation’ between EU Delegations (or Headquarters when relevant) and cultural institutes in partner countries, including aspects of planning, resourcing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- (6) The joint pilot activities should also help analyse and test possible financing and partnership models in line with the existing rules and regulations.

This administrative arrangement is to come into operation on signature and may be amended by agreement between the two Sides and come to an end if notified by either Side giving six months' written notice to the other.

The foregoing record represents the understandings reached between the European Union National Institutes for Culture, the European Commission Services and the European External Action Service upon the matters referred to therein.

This administrative arrangement is not intended to create rights or obligations under domestic or international law.

Signed in three originals in Brussels on 16 May 2017.

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Lotte KNUDSEN	Michael METZ	Jens NYMAND-CHRISTENSEN
Managing Director, MD Global - Human rights, Global and Multilateral issues, EEAS	President of EUNIC	Deputy Director-General of DG EAC