

European Cultural Parliament
6th session, Sibiu, Romania

Sibiu declaration

Europe is a cultural project

Europe is a space of shared values

intercultural dialogue is an essential tool

common space for culture

communicating the idea of Europe

ECP research programme on culture

We as individual educators, artists and cultural animators assembled in the European Cultural Parliament share responsibility for the future of Europe, must make sure that the idea of Europe that we project – among ourselves and among others living outside Europe – should be that of a promoter of peace, based on the ideas of justice, equality and freedom.

Europe is a cultural project

Europe's identity is characterized by a rich diversity of cultures

Culture is gaining a new strategic significance for the development of vibrant and inclusive communities in search of shared European aims and ideas

Culture provides a domain with new opportunities actively inspiring social, political and sustainable economic development

Culture stimulates all citizens and in particular young people to take part in the ongoing development of the European idea

A cultural perspective should be integrated into the decision making processes in public bodies throughout Europe

Europe is a space of shared values

An intercultural dialogue does not threaten the common underlying values:

- human rights
- democracy
- rule of law

- freedom of religion
- freedom of political and creative expression
- equal rights for women and men
- freedom of sexual orientation
- peaceful solution of conflicts
- prohibition of the death penalty

A secular state is the best way to guarantee and safeguard these freedoms

intercultural dialogue is an essential tool

intercultural dialogue is characterized by specific qualities

it acknowledges 'the other' as a source of inspiration and allows us to recognize that we, too, are 'the other'

it is essential for cultivating diversity and has the potential to bypass the dichotomy between assimilation and multiculturalism

as history conditions identities, mentalities and culture a true dialogue requires an appreciation of the history, customs, traditions and possible futures of oneself and the other

it affords opportunities for personal and social growth

it allows us to widen circles of solidarity at the local, regional, national, European and global levels

common space for culture

an intercultural dialogue flourishes in a 'common space'

a 'common space' is characterised by genuine dialogue and requires participants to abandon any notion of cultural superiority

a 'common space' would take us beyond existing cultural practice and allow for a new quality of dialogue

a 'common space'

aggregates behaviours and shapes communities of allegiance

allows for both expression and reflection on critical issues

creates transformation beyond tolerance and acceptance

a 'common space' grants human beings' creative space free from violence. More than any other group in any society children deserve and are in need of such space.

communicating the idea of Europe

the process of intercultural dialogue is simultaneously shaping and communicating the ideas of Europe

intercultural dialogue allows us to restate the implications of the basic values we aspire to

culture should stimulate all citizens and especially young Europeans to act as ambassadors for cultural transfer

intercultural dialogue may touch the hearts of individual Europeans, strengthen the identity of groups, develop the richness nations and stimulate a sense of Europe

ECP research programme on culture

The ECP recognize that the new role of culture requires research to be developed further.

Therefore one of the strategic goals of the ECP is the promotion of sustainable research on creativity and culture.

Currently the following activities are taking place

- The ECP research group on the strategic use of culture
- NUROPE, the nomadic university on art, philosophy and enterprise
- EUSTORY, History Network for Young Europeans
- Public Space, research into public space as a catalyst for change
- ArtConstitution, creating a 'constitution' of invited artworks
- AsTide, art for social transformation and intercultural dialogue in Europe networks

The ECP will share the results of these programmes with the Council of Europe, members of the European Parliament and other cultural and political institutions