



EU Competences  
and National  
Cultural Policies:  
Critical Dialogues

EU kompetencije  
i nacionalne  
kulturne politike:  
kritički dijalozi

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## **'EU Competences and National Cultural Policies: Critical Dialogues' (CULPOL)**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018

IRMO

### **DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Call: 2016 Jean Monnet Activities**

**Jean Monnet Projects**

## Summary of the project

The primary aim of the project 'EU Competences and National Cultural Policies: Critical Dialogues' is to promote discussion and reflection on the impact of the EU agenda on the Croatian cultural policy. The EU has been indirectly contributing to the creation of common cultural policy frameworks through its soft cultural policy instruments and mechanisms that represent *de facto* policy approach to the various cultural policy issues and their related coordination instruments (e.g. Open Method of Coordination - OMC) and EU programme initiatives, such as the *Creative Europe* programme, the European Capitals of Culture (ECOC) initiative, etc. In addition to these soft policy instruments, a number of other policies have profound impact on cultural policy making, e.g. the state aid rules, intellectual property rights (IPR) or the Digital Single Market (DSM) strategy. Since Croatia's accession to the EU, there has not been any visible progress in terms of developing better coordination within the cultural policy research community and between cultural professionals and policy-makers responsible for the implementation of different EU instruments and agendas. The project will contribute to enhancing knowledge about the impact of the EU policies and its processes on the national cultural sector and will create synergies between national and EU stakeholders in the domain of culture.

The project will be implemented through a two-day international conference on EU soft mechanisms, one-day round table on the impact of the Digital Single Market strategy on the reforms of Croatian cultural policy and through the publication of research papers in the special issue of the Croatian International Relations Review (CIRR). The conference and round table will be open to academia, researchers, cultural professionals and policy-makers, while a special focus will be paid to engagement of postgraduate students, young professionals and young IRMO researchers. By bringing them together, these events will enable the cross-fertilisation of the ideas and fostering of the dialogue between different cultural-policy stakeholders and will contribute to enhancing the knowledge in Croatia about the relevant cultural policy processes at the European Union level. The participants will acquire new ideas and will widen their views relevant for their academic and professional life. The participation of European partners will provide a comparative angle and bring an added value to the reflection on the discussed issues.

The knowledge base assembled through the project will be useful resource for the existing cultural policy university courses in Croatia as this subject is being taught on the margins of different courses in sociology, cultural studies, political science, etc. and the interested students lack a more focused approach to the field. The special issue of CIRR will be a tool for knowledge dissemination gained through the project research, conference and round table among wider circle of Croatian cultural policy researchers and students.

The main project's outcome spans beyond the planned events and accompanying publication. The involvement of Croatian cultural policy researchers in the project's stakeholders group will contribute to the establishment of closer cooperation and networking among them, as well as with other cultural professionals and policy-makers that often work in a disconnected fashion. The project is also expected to give synergic effects while implemented in parallel with the current IRMO Jean Monnet Support to Institution – POLO project (2015-2018) and contribute to the sustainability of the IRMO's research and communication activities in European Studies.

## The organisation coordinating the project

### **IRMO - Institut za razvoj i međunarodne odnose (Institute for Development and International Relations)**

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**IRMO** is a public, non-profit, scientific and policy research institute, engaged in the interdisciplinary study of European and international economic, political, cultural relations and communication. It has 44 employees out of which 16 are tenured academic staff and 7 are doctoral or postdoctoral researchers.

Cultural policy and communication constitutes one of the fields of IRMO's expertise that has been continuously researched within the scope of activities of **IRMO's Department for Culture and Communication**. The Department is engaged in interdisciplinary scientific research in the field of cultural development, cultural and media policies in the EU context, international cultural cooperation and communication. In its' research approach, IRMO considers culture to be pivotal element in sustainable development of our society and is interested to contribute to advancing issues related to sustainability of cultural sector and its' activities. It has a relevant experience in international research related to diverse cultural policies issues, and in the design, coordination and implementation of projects. The Department staff have provided their expertise to European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO, and have participated in various EU funded projects and networks.

The Department's main areas of activity include scientific and applied research, academic publishing activities, organisation of scientific conferences and seminars and development of web-based platform supporting cultural research and cooperation. Since its' foundation in 1989 the Department is the focal point of the Culturelink Network, a global network for research and cooperation in cultural development. This has contributed to IRMO's rich experience in the field of international cultural cooperation and to creation of a wide international network of partners among cultural researchers, policy makers and cultural practitioners.

## Key staff involved in the project

### **Aleksandra Uzelac, PhD** (The academic coordinator and digital cultural policy expert)

Senior Research Associate at IRMO and Head of the Department for Culture and Communication, holding a PhD in Information Sciences. Over 20 years of professional experience in the area of cultural research, dealing with cultural development and cultural policy issues, digital culture, European cultural cooperation and networks. An active member of various expert groups that focused their activities in the field of cultural policies or digital culture, bringing into the policy mainstream issues related to the new context digital culture has brought to the cultural policies and cultural sector. Dr. Uzelac has provided her research expertise in the form of research studies and issue papers for the Council of Europe, the European Commission and European Parliament. She coordinated a group of experts providing cultural policy related expertise to European parliament and has participated in (and coordinated IRMO team) several EU funded projects where she contributed her research expertise.

### **Jaka Primorac, PhD** (Cultural policy expert)

Research Associate at the Department for Culture and Communication at IRMO, Zagreb, Croatia. Dr. Primorac holds a Ph.D. (2010) in Sociology from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia. Her research interests intersect the fields of cultural and creative industries, cultural and creative labour, media and cultural policy, digital culture and qualitative research methods. She collaborated on a number of research projects in Croatia and abroad (e.g. European Parliament, World Bank, etc). In 2005 she was the winner of Cultural Policy Research Award (CPRA) for her research project on the position of cultural workers in the creative industries of SEE. Since 2008 she is co-author of the Croatian country profile for COMPENDIUM of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe, project of Council of Europe and ERICarts

Institute. Since 2015 she is a member of Presidency of Croatian Sociological Association and a member of editorial board of *Sociological Review/Revija za sociologiju*.

**Višnja Samardžija, PhD** (Public policy and EU studies expert)

Scientific Advisor, Assistant Professor, PhD in economics. Professional experience as researcher, project manager, lecturer on European studies at postgraduate and doctoral programs. Analytical skills, experience in coordination of multi-sector research, socio-economic analyses, regulatory impact assessment, knowledge on public policies. Has both academic experience and skills in public administration service. Actively involved in international cooperation as member of TEPSA Board - Trans European Policy Studies Association, Brussels (third mandate). Currently academic coordinator of Jean Monnet Support for Institution project. Has coordinated EU funded projects (TEMPUS, Phare) and was member of the team of FP7, Erasmus+, FP6 projects. Participated on numerous conferences, published articles in journals and books. Area of expertise: Europe 2020, internal market, EU relations with Croatia, EU enlargement, civil security, communication with citizens.

**Senada Šelo Šabić, PhD** (Expert in European Union affairs and foreign policy)

Expert in European Union affairs and foreign policy with geographical focus on Southeast Europe and Turkey. An important thematic area of Senada's research interest is migration and challenges of integrating migrants in host societies. Culture is extremely important in facilitating the enabling environment for implementing various EU and national policies, in the case of the current migration crisis even more pronounced. Expert knowledge of broader political and security situation in Croatia and Europe will contribute to the debate on cultural policies by referring to current European and Croatian political discourses. As the editor-in-chief of the Croatian International Relations Review Senada will contribute to the process of paper selection, revision, and ultimate publication of the special issue of CIRR.

## Short description of the project and its relevance to the Jean Monnet Action

The primary aim of the project 'EU Competences and National Cultural Policies: Critical Dialogues' is to promote discussion and reflection on the impact of the EU agenda on the Croatian cultural policy. Croatian cultural policy researchers are a fragmented community and during the first three years of the Croatia's EU membership there has not been any visible progress in terms of developing better coordination within the cultural policy research community as well as among researchers, cultural professionals and policy-makers responsible for the implementation of different EU instruments and agendas. The project will try to remedy this situation and will contribute to enhancing knowledge about the impact of the EU and its processes on the national cultural sector as well as to create synergies between stakeholders in the domain of culture and communication. The project is also expected to give synergic effects while implemented in parallel with the current IRMO Jean Monnet Support to Institution – POLO project (2015-2018) and contribute to the sustainability of the IRMO's policy research and communication activities in European Studies.

Due to the subsidiarity principle engrained in the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union has not been involved in formulating an explicit common cultural policy. Nevertheless, the EU has been indirectly contributing to the creation of common cultural policy frameworks through its soft cultural policy instruments and mechanisms that represent *de facto* policy approach to the various cultural policy issues and their related instruments. Among such soft policy coordination instruments are Open Method of Coordination - OMC (introduced in the 'European Agenda on Culture in Globalized World'), the *Creative Europe* programme, the European Capitals of Culture (ECOC) as the EU cultural programme initiatives, and other similar mechanisms. With the introduction of the OMC, the EU got engaged in more explicit forms of policy-making but still within the framework of voluntary coordination rather than through compulsory adoption of common policies and legal documents. In addition to these soft policy instruments, a number of other policies have profound impact on cultural policy making, including in particular: the state aid rules, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) or the latest developments around the Digital Single Market (DSM) strategy.

The project team is interested in opening up the discussion and raising knowledge on the impact of EU agenda on the development of Croatian cultural policy on two levels:

- 1) the impact of EU soft cultural policy mechanisms on developments of national cultural policy-agenda and;
- 2) the reflection on public policies and support mechanisms for Croatian cultural and creative industries in the context of the development of Digital Single Market strategy.

The issues addressed and promoted within the EU – both at the policy levels and through funding schemes, penetrate the agenda of the Member States' national cultural policies were, in different formats, they get adopted as a part of strategic and policy documents. The occurrence of such documents has also been evident in Croatia. Given the lack of the systematic research of cultural policy related issues and particularly its' EU dimension in Croatia, this project will not focus on any particular narrow aspect of cultural policy. On the opposite, it will address the impact that the EU agenda has on overall cultural policy developments in Croatia. The key research questions that this project intends to address include:

- What is the impact of the EU programmes and instruments on the Croatian cultural policy three years after the accession to the EU?
- What do Croatian cultural stakeholders see as key cultural policy priorities to be dealt with on the European level?
- What are the effects of the involvement of Croatian researchers, cultural professionals and cultural policy-makers in the debates at the EU level?

The project will contribute to the establishment of closer cooperation and networking among Croatian cultural policy researchers, cultural professionals and policy-makers who often work in a disconnected fashion. The research and study of cultural policy is slowly making its' way to the academic curriculum in Croatia, but it is still a subject that is being taught on the margins of different courses in sociology, cultural studies, political science or different arts and management programmes and the interested students lack a more focused approach to the field. The cultural policy researchers are present within the European networks, while in Croatia they lack a platform for information sharing and exchange of opinions outside of their narrow circle of collaborators. On the decision makers' side, there is a lack of long-term strategies related to different aspects of cultural policy-making and often decision makers do not rely on research or policy advice in particular when it comes to implementing specific policies adopted at the EU level. Cultural

professionals, especially those involved in the pan- European networks and professional organizations, require data and analysis to be able to contribute to the development of joint EU platforms.

The project will be implemented through a two-day international conference on EU soft mechanisms, one-day round table on the impact of the Digital Single Market strategy on the reforms of Croatian cultural policy and through the research and publication of the collection of selected high quality research papers in the special issue of the Croatian International Relations Review (CIRR). The conference and round table will be open to academia, researchers, cultural professionals, policy-makers and interested public where a special focus will be paid to engagement of postgraduate students, young professionals and young IRMO researchers. By bringing them together, these events will enable the cross-fertilisation of the ideas and fostering of the dialogue between different cultural-policy stakeholders and will contribute to enhancing the knowledge about the relevant cultural policy processes at the European Union level. The participation of European partners will provide a comparative angle and bring an added value to the reflection on the discussed issues. The collection of papers will be a tool for lecturing and wider knowledge dissemination gained through conference and round table.

## **Work Programme**

### **The design and management of the activities**

IRMO team will deal with the management of the project issues, and will provide the backbone of the organizational board of the project. In order to assure the high quality of the work, IRMO team will also take part in the coordination of the stakeholders group, in work of the academic boards for the planned events and in the editorial board of the collection of papers.

The activities will be realized within the period of two years. IRMO will undertake all preparatory work and consultations with partners in the project.

### **Preparatory phase**

Kick-off meeting will launch the project.

The management and cooperation bodies of the project will be established. A stakeholders group will include members of the Academic Board for the planned events and editorial board for the planned journal issue, consisting of prominent Croatian and EU researchers and professionals. The members of the Academic Board will be responsible for setting the conference and round table programmes, evaluating and selecting the high quality speakers, as well as writing the background papers. Organization Board will include IRMO staff involved in project conceptualisation, management and organisation and running of the planned events.

The project webpage will be set up hosting all relevant information: background papers prepared for the planned events and the extended summaries of the presented conference papers, the open access online Conference reader, etc., as well as, other project related news and planned CIRR open access special issue.

**The implementation phase** of the project is concentrated around four main strands of activities:

- 1) Research will be implemented during the lifetime of the project.
- 2) International conference 'Perspectives of national cultural policy development in the EU context: critical dialogues' a 2 days event to be held in Zagreb in spring 2017 that will bring cca 80 participants from Europe and Croatia.
- 3) Expert Round table on public policies and support mechanisms for Croatian cultural and creative industries in the context of the development of Digital Single Market strategy to be held in winter 2017/2018;
- 4) The thematic issue of journal the Croatian International Relations Review - CIRR entitled 'European Union and Cultural Policy' that will serve as a useful resource for the existing university courses covering European Union studies and cultural policies in Croatia. CIRR is an open access journal (<http://cirr.irmo.hr/>) dedicated to social sciences and is indexed in Scopus database. Independent peer review process will ensure high academic quality of the articles included.

### **Evaluation, follow-up and dissemination**

With this project IRMO will benefit in strengthening its' position as relevant institution in EU studies and as an important cultural policy research focal point in European Union and SEE in particular.

Evaluation: The quality assessment of the proposed project activities will be ensured by involving prominent cultural policy researchers into their preparation (conference academic board, CIRR special issue editorial and review boards); and through evaluation polls from conference and round table participants. Internal evaluation by project stakeholders' group/board will be made after each event in order to ensure the implementation of the project activities according to the planned objectives and budget (timing, quality, quantity of outputs, identifying problems and finding solutions).

Dissemination: The conference, round table and the project's published output will enable the exchange of knowledge, cross-fertilisation and creation of new ideas about the impact of EU soft policy mechanisms and other sectorial policies that are relevant for the development of cultural policy agenda at the national level. The published output will be a useful resource for university teachers, researchers and students in the cultural policy field.

To wrap up the project and launch the CIRR thematic issue a debate will be organised with the authors.

Culturelink Network's and IRMO's resources (C-news newsletter, web pages) as well as Culturenet Croatia portal and other media outlets will be used for dissemination purposes throughout the duration of the project. IRMO and Culturelink follow the open access policy in their work, with the special emphasis in making educational and research materials available to students and academia.

Follow up: the project will provide space for continuous debates and preparation of high quality material related to the impacts of EU cultural policy on different aspects of cultural policy in Croatia. The research outputs will continue to be published in relevant journals and debated in public after the lifetime of the project.



## Project Activities:

### DELIVERABLES

<b>Deliverable Nr.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Special issue of international journal CIRR</b> (Electronic open access journal <a href="http://cirr.irmo.hr/">http://cirr.irmo.hr/</a> )
<b>Description</b>	<p>Preparation of the thematic issue 'EU and Cultural Policy Issues' of the Croatian International Relations Review (CIRR) will enable publishing the peer reviewed papers. Authors of relevant, high quality conference contributions will be invited to submit their papers in full length to be published in the thematic issue of the IRMO journal (CIRR), referred in Scopus data base. The journal will be prepared as a final output of the project.</p> <p>The special issue of CIRR, will be broadly disseminated both electronically and in a printed version to most important stakeholders, both at national and international level. It will serve as a useful resource for the existing European Union related university courses which some members of the project team members have developed, as well as for the existing courses focusing cultural policies in Croatia.</p>
<b>Language</b>	English

<b>Deliverable Nr.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Project website</b> <a href="http://culpol.irmo.hr/">http://culpol.irmo.hr/</a>
<b>Description</b>	<p>The website of the project will be developed including all the information about the project background, resources, activities and events. The project website will be closely connected to the websites of IRMO and the Culturelink Network that will provide wide visibility of the project activities.</p> <p>The project website will provide all the necessary information about the project to the general and specialised public. The published materials will follow the open access policy and will be available for download and further dissemination, in order to make broader impact of this topic to the wider audience.</p>
<b>Language</b>	English and Croatian

### RESEARCH

<b>Title</b>	<b>The key impacts of European cultural policy on Croatia</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>The research will make a solid basis for addressing the European and Croatian cultural policy issues within all project events and other envisaged outputs. The research will be implemented during the whole life-time of the project.</p> <p>The proposed research will focus on the following key issues and different aspects of cultural policy from EU and Croatian perspectives looking into <b>A)</b> issues and priorities for European cooperation in cultural policy-making for the period 2015-2018 that have been identified in the Council Work Plan for Culture 2015-2018; <b>B)</b> the impact of the <i>Creative Europe</i> programme on cultural policies and practices in Croatia; <b>C)</b> lessons learned from participation in the competition for the European Cultural Capital 2020 <b>D)</b> lessons learned from participation in the Open Method of Coordination and the Structural Dialogue.</p> <p>The background papers resulting from the research will provide the state-of-the art materials for the informed discussion during the planned events; they will be distributed to the conference participants in advance, and will be available online as open access materials for further dissemination to the interested parties. The background papers providing relevant analysis on the European Union and cultural policy will have a high impact at the relevant stakeholders as the conference will gather members of academia, postgraduate students, cultural researchers, cultural professionals and cultural policy makers.</p> <p>Background papers and conference participants' short papers (3 pages each) will be published on the project website as a part of the online Conference reader.</p>

## EVENTS

<b>Event Nr.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Kick-off meeting</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>To launch the project, and to stir interest in the project activities, kick-off meeting will be organised inviting the main stakeholders for discussion about project work plan and invite them to join the stakeholders group of the project and to contribute to creation of a space for sharing research and establishing knowledge transfer between different cultural policy related research fields and between research and practice.</p> <p>The Kick-off meeting will contribute to visibility and cross-fertilisation between the IRMO team and all stakeholders of the project. The aim of this activity is to reach specialised public interested in the theme of the project, and to stir interest among the postgraduate students of European studies and cultural policy, cultural professionals, and other interested parties and target groups.</p>

<b>Event Nr.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>International conference 'Perspectives of national cultural policy development in the EU context: critical dialogues'</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>The international conference is planned as a two days event to be held in Zagreb in spring 2017 that will bring approximately 80 participants from Croatia and Europe. The conference will be concentrated on promoting the discussion and reflection on the mechanisms that will enable participants to acquire new knowledge about the Union and its' process related to development of national cultural policies. This two-day conference will be structured through sessions devoted to critically assess the main themes presented in the project. In order to examine what are the bottom-up reflections on the themes proposed and articles presented, the focus will be on the discussions with the audience, and time will be provided for the discussion after the presentations.</p> <p>The conference will be open to academia, researchers, cultural professionals, policy-makers and interested public where a special focus will be paid to engagement of postgraduate students and young professionals. By bringing all these stakeholders together, it will provide space for the cross-fertilisation of the ideas and fostering of the dialogue between them. Through the participation of European partners the conference will provide a comparative angle and bring an added value to the reflection on the discussed issues.</p>

<b>Event Nr.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Round table on the impact of the Digital Single Market strategy on the reforms of Croatian cultural policy</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>The round table is planned as a one-day event to be held in Zagreb in 2018 bringing a smaller group of participants (cca 25) that are directly linked with the development of the Digital Single Market (DSM) strategy. The aim of the round table is to give a general information about the DSM strategy (cross-sectorial overview), to critically address the implications for the cultural and creative industries (CCI) at the European level and in particular the implications for the future developments of the Croatian CCI market. The participants of the round table will represent all key stake-holders in Croatia: government representatives taking part in the debates at the EU level, MEPs, representatives of the State Office for IPR, Croatian Audio-visual Centre and other relevant agencies, representatives of professional organizations (active at the national and EU level), representatives of the business community, cultural professionals, researchers and academics.</p> <p>The round table will enable exchange of views and positions regarding the DSM strategy between different stakeholders. The impact of the DSM strategy on the Croatian CCI, intellectual property rights, digital practice, cultural diversity, trade of cultural services as well as potential tax evasion at the EU level has not been addressed in Croatia in a systematic way. The round table will be an opportunity to articulate different positions and establish partnerships in this process which will, by no doubt, have profound impact on the future development of policies and practices of the cultural and creative sector.</p>

<b>Event Nr.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Dissemination event / Promotion of the CIRR special issue 'European Union and Cultural Policy'</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>This event is planned as a final dissemination event of the project and promotion of the collection of papers published in a special issue of journal CIRR entitled 'European Union and Cultural Policy' that will serve also as an opportunity to kindle the debate on the issues related to the topic. The event will launch the CIRR special issue with the open debate with the general public.</p> <p>The aim of this activity is to make an impact to general and specialised public about the project results.</p>

#### **Networking events /supporting working meetings**

<b>Event Nr.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Stakeholders group working meetings</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Stakeholders group working meetings will have a thorough impact on the quality of the planned events. By inviting researchers from different universities and research institutions to join the Stakeholders group they will have opportunity to establish closer relations and exchange knowledge about cultural policy related issues and EU and its' processes. If interests arise, joint thematic events may be organised in cooperation of different partners.</p> <p>Out of the wider Stakeholders group, the Academic Board will be established consisting of prominent Croatian and EU researchers who will be responsible for the academic quality of the project and the planned events. They will discuss and agree on the details of the programme, background papers, suggest the invited speakers etc.</p> <p>Editorial board will be established to ensure the quality of contributions of the Special Issue of CIRR. They will meet to discuss the theme concept, invite contributions, set deadlines, propose members of the review board, assess the received papers, make the first selection and provide first comments to the authors, review the revised versions (if changes were requested), send the selected accepted papers to the review board for the final evaluation and peer reviewing and plan the launch of the CIRR special issue and the accompanying debate with authors (event no. 4).</p> <p>The review board will consist of prominent researchers of cultural policy issues from Croatia and EU.</p>

## Methodology

In order to ensure that this project contributes to cross-fertilisation of ideas related to the impact of EU policy/instruments on national cultural policies and promotes discussion and reflection on EU policy issues and enhances knowledge about the Union and its processes, the working methodology of this project combines events, production of academic research papers and educational materials as well as state-of-the-art background research. IRMO will be leading the project, but it will work closely with researchers and other cultural policy stakeholders based in other Croatian and international primarily European cultural, research and educational institutions that deal with different cultural policy themes. Furthermore, the composition of IRMO team on this project will enable the approach to cultural policy issues from interdisciplinary point of view.

The events will differ in their approach and their target audience, and will tackle different levels of EU cultural policy issues that will be debated and the knowledge exchanged among different stakeholders.

The first event is the academic conference that is planned as a multidisciplinary event open to cultural researchers and professionals working in academia, ministries and local governments and other professional governing or regulating bodies. Special attention will be made to young cultural professionals and students and to the involvement of the actors from the independent (civil society) sector. Different methodological approaches to the subject will be taken into account, to enable the creation of synergies between all the participants and to contribute to the innovations in the educational approaches to the cultural policy studies.

The second event is the expert round table that will debate occurred and anticipated changes due to digital shift on cultural and creative industries. It is planned as an event oriented to experts and to professional audience.

In addition to the two main project events, promotional events and working meetings have also been planned as supporting events, in order to enable efficient knowledge transfer and strengthen Croatian cultural policy research community.

In order to make sure that knowledge generated through the planned events remains widely available, the knowledge resources generated will be made available through the conference webpage in the form of e-Readers consisting of the background papers prepared for the events, short papers of the speakers, programme and contact information about all the participants.

In order to foster the systematic research on the proposed topic, call will be made for the contributions to the special thematic issue of the Croatian International Relations Review (CIRR) that will publish relevant, high quality papers dealing with issues related to EU competences and national cultural policies and will serve as useful resource for the existing courses covering cultural policies in Croatia.

## Expected impact of the project

This project has several aims:

**To contribute to the establishment of the closer cooperation among Croatian cultural policy researchers** – the project aims to include as partners existing academic institutions that are involved in studying and teaching cultural policy as well as partner institutions providing training and education in European policies and financing (e.g. University of Zagreb: Academy of Drama Arts, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Political Sciences, Faculty of Law; Department of Cultural Studies, University of Rijeka; Department of Cultural Studies, University of Osijek; Foundation 'Kultura nova', Croatian Audiovisual Centre, etc.).

The project will **contribute to developing knowledge on the European Union related issues with cultural policy agenda**, in order to raise awareness on the EU related instruments and the subsidiarity principle. Thus the project will increase interest of key target groups in understanding and participating in cultural policy development and contribute to more active citizenship in Croatia.

The project will contribute to **bridging the gap between the activities of researchers and academics; cultural professionals and cultural policy decision-makers**. Even though Croatia has joined the EU three years ago, there is little, if any, interest about the key developments at the EU level among cultural professionals and general public. The decision-makers and officials participating in the EU policy processes have not been successful in communicating about the key developments to the interested public. If realized as planned, this project has the potential to serve as a turning point for changing the current practices and for the establishment of long-term collaboration and dialogue between key stakeholders. The project will contribute to networking among different shareholders groups.

Through the active inclusion of the academic and teaching institutions, the project will focus in particular on students and young professionals **with the aim to ensure better position of the EU-related topics in the curricula of existing and future programmes, and to kindle interest in EU related topics among young researchers and cultural civil sector**.

The project will contribute to the pooling of the existing research resources, thus enabling the development of further research in the related fields, as well as, developed in the **educational materials** for the university programmes **in European studies and cultural policy programmes**.