



Report on the Final Meeting of the Jean Monnet Project on EU Competences and National Cultural Policies: Critical Dialogues (CULPOL)

by Matea Senkić

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A final meeting of the Jean Monnet project EU Competencies and National Cultural Policies: Critical Dialogues (CULPOL) was held at the Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb on 11 June 2018. It was attended by 26 Croatian cultural policy researchers, cultural professionals, representatives of cultural civil society organizations and policy-makers in the field of culture. The majority were from Zagreb (19 participants), three participants came from Rijeka, Osijek and Split, two from Novi Sad, Serbia, one from Ljubljana, Slovenia and one from the USA.

The main aim of the final meeting was to present the project's results and realized activities, and to discuss project outputs and possible future collaborations within the framework of cultural policies with CULPOL project stakeholders. The event served as an opportunity to promote the special issue of the scientific journal *Croatian International Relations Review (CIRR)* entitled *European Union and Challenges of Cultural Policies: Critical Perspectives* (Vol. 24 No. 82) published within the framework of the CULPOL project.

The agenda of this final meeting was as follows:

11:00 – 12:00 - CULPOL Organizational Board evaluation meeting (closed session)

12:30 – 13:00 - Registration and welcome coffee

13:00 – 13:20 - Greetings from the Project Coordinator and greetings from the representative of the Ministry of Culture

13:20 – 13:40 - Overview of CULPOL activities and outcomes (2016-2018)

13:40 – 14:50 - European Union and Challenges of Cultural Policies (Presentation of the Special Issue of CIRR „European Union and Challenges of Cultural Policies: Critical Perspectives“)



15:00 – 16:30 - The state and perspectives of Croatian cultural policy development
(stakeholders' discussion on CULPOL projects activities and future plans)

16:30 – 17:30 - Networking

This one-day event started with the *CULPOL Organisational Board Evaluation Meeting* (closed session), that took place during the morning hours in the course of which the core members of the CULPOL team discussed the project and its main activities and outputs, as well as opportunities for possible future cooperation activities.

After the welcome addresses, delivered by Dr Aleksandra Uzelac, CULPOL Project Coordinator and Head of the Department for Culture and Communication and Ms Nives Zvonarić, Head of the Media Sector of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, the working part of the meeting started with an overview of the CULPOL project's activities, presented by Dr Aleksandra Uzelac.

Dr Uzelac presented the general framework of the CULPOL project, its key objectives, expected impacts and realised activities. Through its two-year activities, the project contributed to enhancing the knowledge about the impact of the EU's policies and processes on the national cultural sector, and created synergies between national and EU stakeholders in the domain of culture. All the planned project activities have been realized according to the initial plan – two major international events, three stakeholders' group meetings and a number of supporting meetings and events were held, and a number of analytic outputs were published on the CULPOL website. Both 2017 and 2018 were very fruitful years. The papers published within the CULPOL Commentary and CULPOL Issue Papers series explored different ways in which the European Union impacts the cultural policies on national and local levels. Nine analytical papers were published on the project's website. According to the statistics, between 2016 and 2018 the CULPOL web platform registered ca. 20.000 visits. Around 60% of the visitors stayed on the CULPOL web page for around three and a half minutes, which is a good indicator of their interest in the project. Also, the CULPOL papers raised noticeable interest – approximately 500 downloads and views confirm this. “All in all, the main aim of the CULPOL Commentary and CULPOL Issue Papers series was to pool the research of the project stakeholders as well as to give an opportunity to young cultural policy scholars and cultural workers to publish their work and make it more visible and accessible to all the interested parties, and we certainly fulfilled this goal”, said Dr Uzelac.



The session on *European Union and Challenges of Cultural Policies* focused on the presentation of the Special Issue of the Croatian International Relations Review (CIRR) entitled *European Union and Challenges of Cultural Policies: Critical Perspectives*. The session gathered Dr Senada Šelo Šabić, Editor in Chief of CIRR, Guest Editors Dr Jaka Primorac, Dr Aleksandra Uzelac and Dr Paško Bilić, as well as special issue authors Dr Goran Tomka, Dr Višnja Kisić from Serbia and Dr Andrej Srakar from Slovenia to discuss and share thoughts about their contributions to this special issue, the main goal of which was to gather contributions that critically address different issues and challenges that the European Union and national cultural policies are facing in the 21st century. The special issue includes five papers, two conference reports and four book reviews.

As Editor in Chief of the Croatian International Relations Review (CIRR), Dr Senada Šelo Šabić, gave a brief introduction into the review's history and its focus. CIRR is an interdisciplinary academic journal published in English since 1995, with a focus on political science, sociology, law and economics. Published electronically by the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO) in Zagreb, CIRR is indexed by 40 scholarly databases, including ESCI, Scopus, Erih Plus, EconLit and DOAJ, testifying to its high quality.

Dr Jaka Primorac, one of the guest editors, presented the overall focus of the special issue and introduced the four contributions published in this issue. Three CIRR contributors, Dr Goran Tomka, Dr Višnja Kisić and Dr Andrej Srakar, attended the CULPOL final meeting and discussed the research they conducted. In their paper entitled *From Inconsistencies to Contingencies - Understanding Policy Complexity of Novi Sad 2021 European Capital of Culture*, authors Dr Goran Tomka and Dr Višnja Kisić from Novi Sad, Serbia critically analysed the European Capital of Culture Programme and the ways in which the existing EU cultural policy framework determines and restricts (local) cultural policy. Dr Andrej Srakar presented his research on *Internal and External Factors in the Development of a Network Organization in the Arts: Case Study of Društvo Asociacija*, in which he used a mixed-methods approach (descriptive analysis, statistical and econometric modelling and mediation analysis) to outline the development of Društvo Asociacija, a network of non-governmental organisations and freelancers in culture and the arts in Slovenia, between 2004 and 2017. Also, Dr Srakar argued for more inclusion of individual civil society organisations and networks in the policy-making process. Lively discussion followed the editors' and authors' presentations.

The session that followed, *The State and Perspectives of Croatian Cultural Policy Development*, included a debate with the present stakeholders about their realized cooperation within the CULPOL project and about the opportunities that the project has opened for further



collaboration. In the discussion, participants stressed that the CULPOL project succeeded in bringing together researchers and practitioners in the cultural field and that it provided a good platform for the dissemination of knowledge on cultural policy practice and research. It also created new collaborations between previously disconnected stakeholders, and offered a framework for further cooperation, not only on the national but also the international level. The project team highlighted that the experience in the CULPOL project indicated the existence of further space for the development of collaboration with educational institutions (notably the dissemination of knowledge among students), local and national government (life-long learning programmes dedicated to cultural policy), and a stronger collaboration with the media. Participants also highlighted the need for a critical approach in cultural policy research, whether the focus of future project endeavours be on the local, national or international level. The participants agreed on the relevance of the CULPOL project and all of its outputs, highlighting the need for a follow up of the project.