



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS**

GREECE

Quadrennial Periodic report

on policies and measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions

Athens, 29 November 2016

Redaction Group:

Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports

- Directorate General of Contemporary Culture
Directorate for the Development of Modern Creation
Department for Synergies and Multilateral Cooperation

Ms Panagiota Kamposou, National Point of Contact, Greece
Department for Synergies and Multilateral Cooperation, Redactor
1 Rethymnou street, 106 82 Athens, Greece
Tel.: +302108201744
e-mail: pkamposou@culture.gr

- Directorate General of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage
Directorate of Modern Cultural Assets and Intangible Cultural Heritage

Dr Maria Fakiola, National Point of Contact, Greece, of the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Intercultural Issues, Redactor
17 Ermou Street, 10563 Athens, Greece
Tel: +302103240645
e-mail: mfakiola@culture.gr

- In Greece, the principle of promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue is expressed in the constitutional right¹ of freedom of artistic and literary expression, as well as in a variety of programs and actions that promote the country's cultural identity and encourage cultural expression and participation in cultural life without any discrimination, including the participation of children, youth and vulnerable social groups (the unemployed, the Roma community, disabled artists, former addicts, economic migrants, etc.). Special actions are taken for the promotion of the artistic work of creators that belong to vulnerable groups.
- The arm's-length organizations of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, including the regularly subsidized ones, a number of Municipal Authorities all over the country, the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation, libraries and local schools as well as private cultural bodies often organize awareness raising activities addressed to the broader public and aiming to combat racism and social exclusion through art.
- In addition, the Ministry of Culture and Sports (with EU funds) and private organizations have a constant concern for the improvement of infrastructures that enable the unhindered access of people with disabilities to cultural spaces and for the development of diversified and innovative cultural products for different vulnerable social groups, so as to enhance audience development.
- The State continues to be the primary sponsor of culture and the arts; however, private foundations have been gaining an increasing role lately, through supporting artistic creativity and participation or even co-sponsoring major capital projects. It should also be noted that in the last few years, culture has increasingly been dependent on funding from the EU Community Support Framework.
- Culture has a direct and positive impact on employment and the economy. Apart from the cultural and creative industries, the culture sector generates direct employment during the implementation of projects (craftspeople, archaeologists, engineers, conservators, etc.) supporting labor mobility, professionalization and the exchange of scientific knowledge and know-how. In addition, cultural infrastructures create jobs during their operational phase. Since 2011, employment opportunities have been largely linked to contemporary culture and attract young people in particular. The characteristics of employment in the cultural sector are geographically distributed across the country, following the geographical dispersion of monuments and archaeological sites, with highly skilled positions that reinforce gender equality. Heritage-related investments produce employment primarily in the tourism sector. According to a study carried out by Deloitte, in 2014 the total economic impact from the implementation of cultural projects produces a multiplying effect of 3.44 for the Greek economy.
- Despite the financial difficulties and lack of personnel, most cultural bodies and institutions in the public and private sector have expanded their activities to achieve

¹ Articles 14-16 of the Hellenic Constitution

audience development. This is done through a wide range of collaborations addressed to different social or age groups (including vulnerable groups), using a variety of means (digital or traditional), and covering different cultural and historical periods and ways to communicate and interact with their audiences.

- Certain categories of vulnerable groups pay a reduced price or are even completely exempt from having to pay an entry fee to museums, monuments and archaeological sites. Many private cultural organizations also have a ticket policy that favors the above categories.

Technical information

- a) Name of Party: Greece
- b) Date of ratification: 3/1/2007
- c) Organization responsible for the preparation of the report: Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports (Directorate for the Development of Modern Creation and the Directorate of Modern Cultural Assets and Intangible Cultural Heritage)
- d) Officially designated points of contact: Ms Panagiota Kamposou, Ms Maria Fakiola
- e) Date report was prepared: 29 November 2016
- f) Name of designate officials signing the report: Ms Maria Andreadaki - Vlazaki, General Secretary of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, and Chairperson of the Subsidiary Committee to the UNESCO 1970 Convention
- g) Description of the multi-stakeholder consultation process established for the preparation of the report: The Ministry sent a questionnaire to the relevant public, private, central, regional and local cultural organizations requesting them (through either questionnaires or open-ended questions) to contribute to the research for the implementation of the Convention. A full list of the cultural bodies that have responded to the research for the implementation of the Convention is available in Annex 1.
- h) Names of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, involved in the preparation of the report: see Annex 1.

Overview of cultural policy context

- The Ministry of Culture and Sports is in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The respect for international law and human rights, the active participation in international organizations, the constant pursuit of bilateral and regional cooperation and of networking with public and private institutions, are fundamental components of Greek foreign cultural policy. Greece also actively participates in all EU organs and institutions.
- The Ministry of Culture and Sports has included the 2005 Convention in its objectives (as is explicitly reflected in its organogram). Additionally, it promotes cooperation with other ministries and with the private sector to achieve the objectives of the Convention. The Directorate of Modern Cultural Assets and Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports disseminated the summary of

the 2013 OMC group report for Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue, prompting cultural actors to include intercultural issues in their work.

- The Ministry of Culture and Sports already operates a database for the voluntary registration of private cultural institutions. Additionally, it has created a site², through which the text of the 2005 Convention - including information on Intercultural Dialogue issues - is disseminated. On the same site, information about festivals and other cultural events nationwide is collected and made available.
- The Ministry of Culture and Sports prioritizes connecting culture with the creative economy throughout the whole range of culture (cultural heritage and contemporary creation). It has already started to implement a program to map all the cultural and creative industries in the country, aiming to offer a comprehensive understanding of cultural creation (its needs and problems) and to develop specific policies to support it.
- The Hellenic Ministry of Economy and Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, has included the cultural and creative sector as one of the eight (8) priority sectors in the new Operational Program Competitiveness-Entrepreneurship-Innovation (OPCEI) 2014-2020. The above Ministries also cooperate for the enhancement of SMEs.
- As a result of the specific pressure of rising migratory flows into the country, the Ministry has raised its concerns on the subject to both the central and regional services, as well as to the various cultural institutions in the country (museums and other cultural institutions, public or private) so that they can open up to individuals and groups from different cultural backgrounds and accept difference. From this greater awareness, new types of actions emerged, which take into account the needs of the whole population both as artists and as consumers of the cultural goods.
- Particular emphasis is given by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs to: i) The cultural education of young people, students and vulnerable groups; ii) The cooperation of the General Secretariat for Research and Technology with research institutes for the development and improved value of modern digital applications (with cultural and educational content).
- The Ministry of Culture and Sports is working on measures and projects to enhance the mobility of artists.

All state and supervised cultural operators and organizations from the whole spectrum of culture as well as nearly all active private entities have their own websites, thus facilitating equal access to cultural content, without restrictions (geographical, economic, etc.).

² festival.culture.gr

1. Cultural policies and measures

1. Establishment of structures in the Ministry of Culture and Sports in 2014³ which take into account the Convention and its objectives.

In August 2014, the new organigram reformed the structures in the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports. As regards contemporary culture, the competent General Directorate reorganized and divided it into four Directorates, so that it is no longer arranged according to a thematic division of the arts, but on the basis of highlighting the importance of planning and implementation of the objectives and the overall cultural policy measures in the field of contemporary culture. Some of these changes favor, inter alia, the promotion of cultural diversity as they facilitate the development of vertical activities/policies in the whole spectrum of contemporary culture. It is noteworthy that, in the new organigram, the 2005 Convention is clearly mentioned and its implementation has been assigned to two General Directorates: the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, in concert with the General Directorate of Contemporary Culture. In this way, the protection and promotion of cultural diversity is pursued through the cooperation between cultural heritage and contemporary culture, primarily with synergies and integrated policies in the cultural and creative sectors.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports/Department for Regional Cultural Policy and Festivals has developed a digital platform⁴, where the cultural activity of municipal and other cultural agencies across the country is promoted, articles and studies concerning cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are posted, and a database of the festivals (cultural, scientific and more) taking place each year in Greece is available. Future plans for the above platform include making it available in more languages.

Also, in 2011, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports established the “**Cultural Operators Portal**”⁵ an online source of information about cultural operators across the country, including statistical data on their profiles, activities, base of operations, legal status, employment status, geographical scope, etc. Thus far, 1686 cultural agencies from all over Greece have been registered, submitting their profiles and possible requests for funding.

2 . Financial support to the bodies and institutes carrying out activities relevant to the purposes of the Convention

Financial support for the bodies carrying out activities relevant to the purposes of the Convention: a) In general, during the past four years, the Ministry of Culture and Sports funded its arm’s-length organizations, private organizations and smaller cultural entities, as follows: €70,718,019.25 (2012), €64,891,114.00 (2013),

³ Promulgated with the Presidential Decree 104/2014 (Gov. Gazette 171/A/28.08.2014)

⁴ festival.culture.gr

⁵ drasis.culture.gr - Registration is on a voluntary basis

€46,699,362.00 (2014) and €48,721,922.26 (2015). In the field of contemporary culture alone, there are 32 arm's-length organizations or private cultural bodies regularly subsidized by the Ministry of Culture and Sports. These organizations are from the whole spectrum of the arts and support activities that are directly related, inter alia, to the objectives of the Convention on cultural diversity. The arm's-length organizations implement their programs, actions, and cultural policy through the decision-making process determined by the competent governing boards and (art) directors, in consultation, where needed, with the political leadership and relevant services of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. It is worth noting that due to the financial crisis, the funding of the work of artistic groups or individual artists has been drastically reduced over the last four years. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Culture and Sports regularly subsidizes the Municipal and Regional Theatres nationwide.

3. Utilization of EU programs to carry out activities that promote the implementation of the Convention.

The **Special Service for Culture** of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports has as its primary responsibility the management of European Union funding. The strategic goals of interventions co-financed by the European Structural and Investment funds include the promotion and enhancement of Greece's rich cultural heritage, support for the cultural and creative sectors and contemporary culture, and support for contemporary creation with an emphasis on young and emerging artists and creators.

The National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) was the reference document for the programming of European Union Funds at a national level for the 2007–2013 period. Greece's strategic planning for that period was implemented through eight (8) Sectoral Operational Programs (OP), five (5) Regional Operational Programs and twelve (12) European Territorial Cooperation Programs. These programs were funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Even though no distinct program was foreseen for culture, actions and measures for the sector of culture were mainstreamed in several Sectoral and all the Regional OPs, with an emphasis on the distinct characteristics and needs of each region.

The Special Service for Culture acted as the intermediary implementation body for the Operational Programs "Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship" (€98 million delegated budget), the Regional Operational Programs for Attica (€105.5 million delegated budget) and for the Ionian Islands (€10.5 million delegated budget), as well as the Operational Program "Human Resources Development" (€15 million delegated budget) co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF).

The years 2012 and 2013 marked the end of the 2007-2013 Programming Period. The Greek government has co-funded 654 projects all over the country, especially in the regions, to reinforce basic cultural infrastructure, to safeguard and enhance cultural heritage and to promote contemporary culture and creativity while at the same time providing access to cultural goods and services to a larger and more diversified public. These actions represent an investment of €624 million.

With support from the Operational Program “Digital Convergence” a systematic effort has been made in the last four years to exploit the potential offered by ICT in the field of culture, in particular for the promotion and protection of cultural heritage, the digitization of cultural content and archives, and the promotion of e-governance in the field of culture. A main objective of those actions has been to make digitized material publicly available and accessible to a wider audience and to increase the transparency of operations and the efficiency of ministerial bodies and cultural institutions, so as to provide better services to the public and to facilitate stakeholders’ access to administrative documents and decisions.

The new National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) 2014-2020 is the main strategic plan for the development of Greece with the help of significant resources from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). The NSRF will be implemented through seven (7) Sectoral Operational Programs and thirteen (13) Regional Operation Programs. The main objectives are to address the structural weaknesses of the country, which have contributed to the economic crisis and to tackle the crisis-related economic and social problems that have emerged. The NSRF 2014-2020 will contribute towards achieving the national targets of the "Europe 2020" strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

In the NSRF 2014-2020 culture is mainstreamed in practically all sectoral and regional operational programs, since culture, together with tourism and the cultural and creative industries, has been identified as one of eight priority sectors which are expected to make a greater contribution to economic growth. The implementation of the NSRF in the sector of culture is expected to further promote and enhance heritage for the benefit of wider audiences, to support contemporary culture, institutions and creators, and in particular to strengthen its support for the cultural and creative sectors that have been recognized as important drivers of growth. Promoting employment, education, and life-long learning and enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration in the culture sector are among the priorities of national policy.

The “**Creative Europe-Greece**”, **Desk**⁶ is responsible for the promotion of the “**Creative Europe 2014-2020**” program of the European Commission in Greece. The program supports cultural sector initiatives, such as those promoting cross-border cooperation, as well as platforms, networking, literary translation and audiovisual sector initiatives, such as those promoting the development, distribution, access to audiovisual works, etc. In the period 2014-2015 the “**Creative Europe-Greece**” **Desk** set up its own web site and organized seminars in many parts of Greece. Furthermore, it promoted the cooperation of stakeholders and their networking with organizations (39 in total) in EU countries and in other countries, which participate in the program. Under its guidance many projects have been implemented mainly by Greek cultural organizations.

<http://creative-europe.culture.gr/>⁶ -“Creative Europe-Greece”, Desk - Department of International Relations and European Union of the Ministry of Culture and Sport.

The Greek Film Center is in close collaboration with the European Commission in the framework of **MEDIA Program** (MEDIA Desk Hellas)⁷. The Program supports Greek cinema with funds of over €1.5 million a year⁸.

4. Film policy

The key objectives of film policy⁹ are to promote new artists, create new jobs, increase investments in film production, attract foreign producers and enhance the outward-looking character of the Greek film industry.

According to the above law, there had been a special tax included in the price of movie tickets, which was used for the enhancement of Greek film industry. Until 2015, when this tax was abolished, the revenue generated from this tax was allocated annually to: the Greek Film Center for the implementation of its policy; to Greek film producers; to the owners of cinema theaters¹⁰ where Greek films were screened, and to many other agencies active in the domestic film sector.

Another source of funding¹¹ for the development of Greek cinema comes from the obligation of the public Greek Radio Television Company (ERT SA) to allocate 1.5% of its annual turnover to the enhancement of Greek film production, while the private television stations and ICT companies would also pay 1.5% of their annual income from advertising to the same purpose. Collecting these revenues is not an easy task for the competent state agency.

In addition to the legal measures, while also based on them, there are a further two main measures that are used to accomplish the objectives mentioned above: providing financial support to the Greek Film Center and the Thessaloniki International Film Festival,¹² and the import and export strategy.

The Greek Film Centre (GFC)¹³ aims at: the protection, support and development of the art of film in Greece and the presentation, promulgation and the artistic and the commercial promotion of Greek films both at home and abroad¹⁴. The GFC works closely with the European Commission through the MEDIA Program (MEDIA Desk Hellas). The GFC also

⁷ http://www.gfc.gr/index.php?option=com_contentandtask=viewandid=1508andItemid=118andlang=el

⁸ <http://www.gfc.gr/Publications/magazine/media39.pdf>

⁹ According to Law 3905/2010

¹⁰ Winter and summer (open-air) theaters.

¹¹ According to the aforementioned Law 3905/2010.

¹² Both being arm's-length organizations of the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

¹³ http://www.gfc.gr/index.php?option=com_contentandtask=viewandid=75andItemid=40

¹⁴ In the framework of this export strategy, the "Hellas Film" department of the GFC works productively and has important results. The economic benefits are not great since the structure of the organization is a nonprofit and it operates according to non-commercial criteria. Generally, it is as high as €30,000 per year. More important is the fact that this investment pays off by enabling Greek cinema to win a position in the international arena. More specifically every year the results are:

- Preparation of 45 Greek feature and short-length films for their commercial and artistic promotion in international arena.
- Organization of the participation of Greek films in 75 international festivals. Organization of 40 major retrospective programs in cooperation with foreign film organizations, museums, Greek embassies and expatriate institutions.
- Distribution of at least 150 Greek films through international and local TV channels.
- Permanent conservation of archives in digital betas, dvds and promotional material.
-

represents Greece in **Eurimages**¹⁵.

The Thessaloniki International Film Festival¹⁶ (an arm's-length organization of the Ministry of Culture and Sports) is the platform through which the year's Greek film productions are presented. It is one of the leading (and perhaps the oldest) film festivals in the South East Europe Region for emerging film-makers from all over the world. It is mainly funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and partly from the EU and other sources. The Thessaloniki International Film Festival has established close collaborations with various local, national, regional and international film institutions, cultural, educational and social organizations, as well as embassies and cultural agencies of other countries. Its main activities are: the International Film Festival, The International Documentary Festival ¹⁷, a cinema museum, educational programs, the provision of scholarships to pupils in intercultural schools in the city of Thessaloniki (in collaboration with private schools), and “**The THESSALONIKI AGORA – MARKET**” initiative (see more in Section 4 and Annex 3).

The **Greek Film Archive Foundation (GFAF)**¹⁸ is another non-profit cultural organization subsidized by the state on a regular basis, whose purpose is the research, collection, conservation and promotion of the Greek and international film heritage. It promotes world cinema to Greek audiences and promotes Greek cinema abroad, through a large number of activities. The GFAF is responsible for protecting the copyright of the distributed films. It also promotes the adoption of the appropriate methods for the research and collection of non-filmic material relating to the films under its care. It plans and supervises the distribution of this information according to the principles of the protection of the international audio-visual heritage. During the period 2012-2015 and particularly 2013-2015 in the framework of the “Cinephilia in the New Era” program (NSRF 2007-2013) there was a notable enhancement of the mobility of artists and cultural professionals. The GFAF offered hospitality to about 70 film professionals (33 film directors, 10 actors, 3 visual artists and 26 other cultural professionals). In the other direction, the GFAF organized the trips of four artists to present their films at festivals abroad. Also, as part of its goal to disseminate know-how on many levels, almost all the special seasons or festivals organized by GFAF in the years 2012-2015 were accompanied by parallel events¹⁹ (see more in Annex 3).

5. Institutional supporting measures for the status of artists

(pensions, annual state literature awards, biannual state playwriting awards, mobility of artists).

According to a law of 2007, which was amended in 2013²⁰, Greek authors –and writers in general, translators, and artists from the whole spectrum of the arts have the right (after a certain age) to apply for a pension with the Ministry of Culture and Sports. This

¹⁵ http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/eurimages/default_en.asp

¹⁶ <http://www.filmfestival.gr/>

¹⁷ <http://tdf.filmfestival.gr/>, whose programs and parallel activities aim to inform, raise awareness and mobilize the audience on critical social and cultural issues, or about problems in developing countries in Africa and Asia.

¹⁸ http://www.tainiothiki.gr/v2/lang_en/index/index/

¹⁹ Twenty-seven round seminars, 7 masterclasses, 4 workshops and 1 conference.

²⁰ Law 3620/2007 and Law 4151/2013.

is a monthly, lifelong pension awarded by the state. A nine-member Committee expresses its substantiated opinion on the distinguished services the artist or author may have offered in the fields of literature and the arts. Annually, up to twenty (20) potential beneficiaries are proposed by the Committee. The process ends with a decision made by the Ministry of Finance, after criteria relating to the potential beneficiary's income have also been examined.

To enhance creativity in literature and the arts, the Ministry of Culture and Sports awards - on an annual basis - twelve (12) prizes to novelists and other writers and translators. Also every two years, three (3) playwriting awards are granted.

As regards to international cooperation, many cultural organizations support the mobility of artists. Some of the activities of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, of the Greek Film Archive Foundation²¹ and of the Onassis Cultural Centre (OCC²²) are directed towards this goal.

Residencies: the Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA) has seven (7) "Annexes"²³ across the country, which are used by the Institution as special educational centers: in Hydra, Delphi, Mykonos, Rethymno, Rhodes, Mithymna (Lesvos) and Tsepelovo (Zagorochoria). They aim to provide students with additional and specialized training, conduct special workshops (in cooperation and mutual exchange with foreign academic institutions and art centers), assist students in the preparation of their projects, as well as hosting seminars, exhibitions, lectures, screenings, and other cultural events. ASFA graduates, as well as members of other Greek and foreign Art Schools and relevant academic Departments, may also use the facilities of the ASFA Annexes.

The International Writers and Translators' Center of Rhodes²⁴ (IWTCR), operated by the Municipality of Rhodes, has a program of residencies for writers and translators and, since 2008, for researchers and artists from all over the world (see more in Section 3). There are also many others private residencies for artists all over the country (some are listed in the Res Artis network²⁵).

The Hellenic Copyright Organization (H.C.O.)²⁶, is a legal entity under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, and its mission is to protect the rights of creators and neighboring rights, to prepare relevant legal instruments, to represent the state in international organizations and fora, to provide training to judges, lawyers, administrators and right holders and to supervise the Collecting Societies. The H.C.O. has developed numerous actions for reducing and gradually eliminating the

²¹ See details in the above measure n.4

²² See more for OCC in the ANNEX 3

²³ <http://www.asfa.gr/greek/Annexes/index.html?httpandandwww.asfa.gr/greek/Annexes/ydra.htm>

²⁴ <http://www.writerscenter.gr/en/>

²⁵ http://www.resartis.org/en/residencies/list_of_residencies/

²⁶ <http://www.opi.gr/index.php/en>

phenomenon of piracy of copyrighted works and continues to be active in this field. An **Observatory on Piracy** features at the Organization's website²⁷.

6. Book Policy - Book Market in Greece 2012-2015

The Greek government amended the Fixed Book Price Law in 2014, which had been in force since 1997 (Law 2557/1997), allowing discounts on all books with the exception of fiction and children's books, whose retail price was kept under discount control (there can only be a discount of up to 10% for a maximum of two years, as long as the book is not republished). However, VAT was raised from 6.5% to 23% on all the intermediate stages of the publication of a book (including purchasing paper, book design and printing). – *see more at Section 7.*

The **National Book Centre of Greece** (NBC, EKEBI in Greek) was a private non-profit legal entity established in 1994 by the Ministry of Culture to implement the national policy for promoting books. In 2014, the Ministry merged the operations of the NBC with those of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture, although without the relative personnel (Law 4250 26/3/2014).

“**Biblionet**” books-in-print database²⁸, created in 1998, continues to offer free access to information in Greek on book titles published in Greece, including: detailed entries (title, name of author, publisher, DDC number, subject heading, ISBN, short description), photographs, biographical and bibliographical information on authors, and trade information (publisher, distributor, price and availability).

Intellectual rights sales are a healthy vehicle for Greek publishing, because of the small size of domestic consumption. To guarantee them, however, the language barrier must be overcome. This has partially been addressed by the creation of the country's translations subsidy scheme (called Frasis in the 2012-2014 period). The **Frasis Funding Program for the Translation of Greek Books** was a program set up by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the National Book Centre of Greece. It sponsored the publication abroad of notable Greek works in high-quality translations, which reflect the diversity of Greek publishing. Frasis covered publications in genres such as fiction, poetry, essays, the humanities, philosophy, history, archaeology, drama, children's and young people's literature, religion, psychology, autobiography and chronicles, biography, anthologies, illustrated volumes, comics, gastronomy, ecology and the environment, music and the applied sciences. Grants pertain exclusively to the cost of the translation, for which the full cost is covered (100 percent). Since 2014, the Frasis program has been run by the Hellenic Foundation for Culture.

²⁷ <http://www.opi.gr/index.php/en/general-information-on-copyright/observatory-for-piracy> -The Observatory is a dynamic webpage, constantly updated regarding the latest developments. It has collected the entire relevant legal framework, both Greek and European Union, the competent authorities, the Collecting and Collective Protection Societies, at a national and international level, as well as the relevant national case law and the latest developments concerning copyright infringements.

²⁸ <http://www.biblionet.gr>

Greek eBooks were launched in the trade market in 2010, following their rising success in the English-speaking countries. Their degree of penetration six years later, however, is less than 1% of the value of the market. This is due to the lack of a low-cost reader device and software (such as Amazon's Kindle, for example) to support a large Greek-language ebooks inventory, and the relatively high price of tablets such as Samsung Galaxy or iPad in the Greek market. Greek language e-books amount to approximately 7,000 titles today, and include mostly ePub versions of the new titles that have come out in printed form.

7. Actions for the social integration of vulnerable groups (social awareness and social cohesion).

Implementation of programs and activities aiming at the enhancement of the intercultural dialogue, the social inclusion of vulnerable groups (including women), raising awareness and social cohesion (see more in Sections 4 and 6 and Annexes 5, 6, 7).

The arm's-length organizations of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, plus those it regularly subsidizes, alongside a number of Municipal Authorities throughout the country, the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation, libraries and local schools, as well as private cultural bodies, often organize awareness raising activities addressed to the broad public on combating racism and social exclusion through art. Furthermore, many cultural bodies organize actions to promote the artistic work of creators from vulnerable groups (disabled artists, former addicts, migrants, etc.) and their equal participation in the cultural life of the country – *see more in Section 4*.

All the public and most of the private cultural organizations and institutions have a ticketing policy for vulnerable groups – *see more in Section 4*.

Promotion of Policies for Gender Equality (in the field of culture) – *see more in Section 6*.

8. Programs (and Networking) of the Public and Municipal Libraries nationwide, to broaden the readership and a familiarity with new technologies

Public and Municipal Libraries in Greece

Apart from the large number of municipal libraries throughout the country, there are also the National Library of Greece plus a further 46 public libraries²⁹. Public libraries are under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (Law 3149/2003) and are financially supported (mainly) by the State. Both municipal and public libraries are a powerful resource for the dissemination of knowledge, cultural development and social inclusion in local societies. They offer their services for free and address everybody without discrimination. Many of them run educational programs for children (in cooperation with local schools) and young people, lifelong learning and capacity building programs. Some of the libraries (public and municipal

²⁹ <http://publiclibs.ypepth.gr/frontoffice/portal.asp?cpage=NODEandnode=4andclang=1>

ones) have **mobile units**, in order to serve communities and schools that do not have direct access to a library.

NETWORKING LIBRARIES: National Library of Greece and “Future Library”

FUTURE LIBRARY³⁰: is a non-profit organization that aims to reinforce the significance of libraries as institutions that promote knowledge, creativity, and interactions³¹. It was established in the town of Veria in 2011 in response to a call from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation³² to contribute to the development of a sustainable network of public and municipal libraries across Greece. Future Library emerged as a living community and constantly embraces new libraries and new cities. It is a rapidly growing network, which at the present moment consists of 140 public and municipal libraries with approximately 7,000 members. During the last 4 years, the Future Library organization has redesigned and re-equipped 8 libraries for children’s activities, refurbished and re-equipped the libraries in 10 cities with Media Labs, organized workshops, and implemented a wide project of staff training for librarians across Greece.

In collaboration with the Future Library, **the National Library of Greece** is reclaiming its leading role within the library ecosystem and is building the **Greek Libraries Network (GLN)**³³, aiming to support libraries across the country to upgrade the services offered to Greek citizens. The GLN seeks to become a tool for the exchange of information, knowledge and professional communication between libraries, to coordinate training programs for librarians, to design and organize national and international programs such as reading campaigns and conferences, and to offer continuous support to its members. The GNL will offer library support for the creation of common catalogues and continuous advocacy for the political, financial and social demands of the libraries so that they can gradually acquire a central position in each local community. Last but not least, the GNL aims to design comprehensive proposals to absorb national and international funding programs for libraries. By boosting cooperation between libraries and adopting innovative methods for service provision and program development, the NLG seeks to radically change the libraries sector in Greece and citizens’ approach to reading. The first major program run by the National Library of Greece in the framework of the Greek Libraries Network is the “**Summer Reading Campaign**”, which focuses on children and young adults, aiming to promote reading and creativity across the country -*see more in Section 6 and Annex 3*).

Best Practice: The case of the Central Public Library in the town of Veria³⁴

Situated in northern Greece, Veria Central Public Library is a model library that serves 60% of the city’s population and has 800 visitors per day. Its members can borrow

³⁰ <http://www.futurelibrary.gr/en/>

³¹ Key sponsors of the future Library are: the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Welfare Foundation for Social and Cultural Affairs ³¹, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the European Union (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Program).

³² <http://www.snf.org/en/initiatives/other/future-library>

³³ network.nlg.gr

³⁴ <http://en.libver.gr/>

more than just books: audiovisual material, books in Braille, e-books reader, tablets, etc. It places a particular focus on young people, including highly popular programs such as “Magic Boxes”, which provides children with computers, music stations, indoor and outdoor play areas, and a full schedule of activities—from storytelling to arts and crafts. In 2010, Veria Central Public Library won the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s “2010 Access to Learning Award”³⁵ of \$1 million for Embracing Technology and Creating a Vibrant Community Asset. With this financial aid, the Library renovated its premises, upgraded its technological equipment, created a fully equipped media lab (video editing and post-production suite) and was able to offer more innovative services.

In the period 2012-2015, the Library lent 700,905 items³⁶ and ran 1589 creative workshops for children. The Library offers free English courses for adults, special courses for the unemployed and computer courses that teach real-world skills (such as how to use software, write a resume, share videos online, and participate in social networking). It teaches seniors how to perform online searches and use social networking sites, gives teenagers a safe after-school location to complete their homework and helps immigrants adjust to their new homes.

Veria Central Public Library helped more than 60 Greek public libraries develop their own websites and included them in the Veria Library’s public libraries portal. It also promotes cultural heritage and the identity of the region and enhances local identity by collecting, preserving and distributing collections of local interest through its digital repository, Medusa³⁷. Veria Library cooperates with the Future Library organization and participates in the INELI-Balkans network. Also, during the period 2011-2013 the Library participated in the EU project AccessITPlus³⁸. Veria Central Public Library operates a Mobile Library Program, which offers books, audiovisual material and free internet access to remote communities in the region (see more in Annex 3).

9. Research and Innovation Policy in the fields of culture, tourism and creative industries.

The General Secretariat for Research and Technology – GSRT (under the **Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs**) is responsible for setting research policy priorities – in, among others, the fields of culture, tourism and the cultural and creative industries. It supervises a number of research and technological centers, with distinguishable, innovative work within the country and abroad, in the area of CCS and cultural heritage, focusing on preservation, restoration of monuments, ICT applications and digital content, and cultural tourism.

Indicatively, we can mention the following:

³⁵ <http://en.libver.gr/?p=292>

³⁶ 2012 fact sheet: http://en.libver.gr/?page_id=471 and annual report 2014: <http://en.libver.gr/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/ar2014en.pdf>

³⁷ Created in the framework of the EdLocal program, funded by the EU.

³⁸ http://en.libver.gr/?page_id=3 and <http://pro.europeana.eu/blogpost/accelerating-digitisation-of-cultural-heritage-in-the-balkans>

The **Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH)**. Its Institute of Computer Science (ICS)³⁹ has a special Centre of Cultural Informatics (CCI)⁴⁰. The operation of the Centre brings together skills in knowledge representation, ontology engineering, knowledge organization systems, database technology and web technology with expertise in archaeology, museum documentation and management, sites and monuments management, art conservation, archives and libraries, thesaurus and dictionary management and other cultural disciplines. During the last 4 years, the CCI **has developed remarkable and innovative work on culture**⁴¹ (*see more in Annex 4a*).

The National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)⁴² consists, inter alia, of the following institutes and units: the Institute of Historical Research and the National Documentation Center: a) The objective of **the Institute of Historical Research (IHR/NHRF)**⁴³ is research into the political, economic, social and cultural history of the Hellenic area and the regions where Hellenism has been active, from prehistoric antiquity to the modern era. The Institute was formed in 2012 from the merger of the three former humanities institutes of the NHRF. Its research activities focus on the creation and dissemination of new knowledge as well as the training of younger researchers, thus contributing decisively to national self-awareness and international scientific collaboration in the scientific fields it serves. During the period 2012-2015, the Institute ran and participated in research projects in Greece⁴⁴ and abroad (European project “Studite”⁴⁵, 2011-2013) and organized educational events for the dissemination

³⁹ <https://www.ics.forth.gr/index.html>

⁴⁰ https://www.ics.forth.gr/isl/index_main.php?l=eandc=252

⁴¹ The CCI has: i) led and still leads the Special Interest Group (SIG) of CIDOC of ICOM⁴¹, which developed the international standard ISO 21127 and now operates as a competence center for the ISO 21127, by supporting the enhancement, the exchange of expertise in an advisory role to researchers and implementers, and the dissemination and maintenance of the model. The ISO 21127, along with FRBRoo, has been used in more than 500 European and national projects. Many organizations (30-35), such as national museums, galleries, libraries, national committees etc., spread all around the world (UK, USA, China, Malaysia, Australia, Iran, Russia, Netherlands, Finland, Thailand, Germany, Taiwan, Sweden, France, Italy, Poland, Ireland etc.) are using the ISO 21127 along with FRBRoo; ii) it developed “SYNTHESIS” an information system for the scientific and administrative documentation of monuments and museum exhibits, which also supports the dissemination of scientific knowledge. SYNTHESIS can be easily expanded and specialized for other types of cultural assets, such as archives, books, works of art, etc. SYNTHESIS can support a large number of languages, and so far supports Greek, Arabic, English, Italian, French, Dutch and Swedish; iii) it participated in the development of the Synergy Reference Model of Data Provision and Aggregation (SRM) - a new reference model for a better practice of data provisioning and aggregation processes, primarily in the cultural heritage sector, but also for e-science; iv) it has developed many other innovative interactive installations and systems for cultural use (such as: “Infocloud”, “Cryptolexon”, “Interactive Documents”, etc.).

⁴² <http://www.eie.gr/index-en.html>

⁴³ http://www.eie.gr/nhrf/institutes/ihr/index-en_IHR.html

⁴⁴ “Kyrtoú plegmata” project within GSRT’s “KRIPIS” action

⁴⁵ The STUDITE project involves six European countries and is concerned with the study of Byzantine and post-Byzantine bookbinding. It is hoped that this programme will contribute to the development of interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue. The STUDITE project, co-funded by the Culture programme of the European Commission, highlights the technical and artistic contributions of Greek and Byzantine manuscripts to the history of the book. Byzantine binding influenced the culture of the book in both the Orient and the West. STUDITE therefore aims to preserve and enhance this shared heritage to foster better historical understanding and intercultural dialogue through different actions. To achieve its objectives, the STUDITE project conducted various activities, such as organizing workshops and interdisciplinary missions as well as developing a common European protocol for the study and

of the research results to the public; b) **The National Documentation Center (NDC)**⁴⁶ is the national institution for scientific documentation, online information and support services on science, culture, research and technology issues. Its vision is to provide access to scientific knowledge for everyone, in order to promote research, innovation and competitiveness. In the last 4 years, NDC has developed infrastructures that support the digital cultural content of the country throughout its life cycle (creation, production, digitalization, protection, widespread distribution and use/reuse at a national and international level)⁴⁷. NDC collaborates with institutions and organizations and offers a wide range of supplementary services (such as technical support) for the storage, management and delivery of quality digital content (*see more in Annex 4b*).

The **Centre for Research and Technology-Hellas (CERTH)**⁴⁸. During the last 4 years, **CERTH** - usually in the framework of EU funding programs and in collaboration with respective partners from other countries – has developed many projects concerning digital infrastructures for culture⁴⁹, such as “**DigiArt**⁵⁰ - **The Internet of Historical Things and Building New 3D Cultural Worlds**”: Advanced 3D modeling for accessing and having a deeper understanding of European cultural assets. The major output of the project is the toolset that will be used by museums to create a revolutionary way of viewing and experiencing the artifacts (*see more in Annex 4c*).

10. Supporting youth in creating and participating in the field of culture

Greece, through the competent public bodies, arm’s-length organizations and private cultural entities, promotes cultural education of youth, with an emphasis on the use of new technologies. – *see more in Sections 4 and 6*.

description of Byzantine bindings. Alongside the NHRF, the project partners and associates are renowned institutions and organisations from France, Romania, Hungary, Italy, the United Kingdom and Turkey.

⁴⁶ <http://archive.ekt.gr/en/>

⁴⁷ These are: a) the “National Information System for Research and Technology” (NISRT - <http://www.epset.gr/en/>), which offers an integrated digital environment that provides access to rich resources of scientific content and a range of services in research, culture, and education. At NISRT advanced information systems and tools serve a main task: to aggregate, store, document, preserve digital content and distribute it openly to the public in a way that promotes research and innovation, b) also, through the “SaaS Repository Service” (http://www.epset.gr/en/SaaS_Services/), cultural organizations and institutions can create their own digital repository for the storage, management and online dissemination of their digital content. All procedures and technical specifications follow international standards, to ensure interoperability with international infrastructures

⁴⁸ <http://www.certh.gr/root.en.aspx> - founded in 2000, it is one of the leading research centers in Greece and is listed among the top 25 EU institutions with the highest participation in competitive research grants

⁴⁹ a) *Scan4Reco* (Multi-modal Scanning of Cultural Heritage Assets for their multi-layered digitization and preventive conservation via spatio-temporal 4D Reconstruction and 3D Printing); b) Certificate of Attainment in Greek, Learning Greek as a Second/Foreign Language, additional educational materials for the Greek Language, c) *i-Treasures-Intangible Treasures - Capturing the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Learning the Rare Know-How of Living Human Treasures*; d) *Transforming Intangible Folkloric Performing Arts into Tangible Choreographic Digital Objects*, e) “*PERICLES – Promoting and Enhancing the Reuse of Information throughout the Content Lifecycle, taking account of Evolving Semantics*” <http://www.pericles-project.eu/>

⁵⁰ <http://digiart-project.eu/> - DigiArt seeks to provide a new, cost efficient solution to the capturing, processing and displaying of cultural artefacts. It offers innovative 3D capture systems and methodologies, including aerial capture via drones, automatic registration and modelling techniques to speed up post-capture processing (which is a major bottleneck), semantic image analysis to extract features from digital 3D representations, a “story telling engine” offering a pathway to a deeper understanding of art, and also augmented/virtual reality technologies offering advanced abilities for viewing, or interacting with the 3D models.

2. International cultural cooperation

1. Bilateral Cooperation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its bilateral cooperation agreements continuously proposes the inclusion of a specific reference of the 2005 Convention.

Greece⁵¹ has concluded bilateral cultural agreements and cooperation programs with 85 countries: 43 bilateral agreements with developing economies⁵², and in particular 10 in Africa, 22 in Asia and 11 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 11 bilateral agreements with economies in transition⁵³, mainly in the Commonwealth of Independent States and South-East Europe; 31 bilateral agreements with developed economies, mainly in Europe and North America. These bilateral cultural agreements and programs are guided by the objectives of the Convention and some refer explicitly to them [e.g. bilateral agreements with Turkey (2013), Russia (2014) and Moldova (2014)]. The above cultural agreements and programs, the implementation of which falls under the responsibility of the competent services of the Ministry of Culture and Sports⁵⁴ and its arm's-length organizations, aim at the development of cultural relations between the countries, the exchange of experts in the fields of cultural heritage and contemporary artistic creation, and the exchange of artists and creators. They also provide for the exchange of information and cultural managers in order to strengthen management and strategic capacities in public sector cultural institutions. They further aim to promote specific cultural expressions, such as the film industry, books, music, etc., as well as developing a cooperation between relevant stakeholders such as publishers, authors' associations, theater companies, dance groups, film centers and archives, etc. Although recent developments, such as the wide-spread use of internet, facilitate direct communication between cultural actors, fiscal austerity has limited the significance of the above agreements and programs in relation to the previous period and their scope needs to be reviewed. Nevertheless, highly successful examples of their application can still be identified, such as the bilateral cultural cooperation with Russia, China, Turkey, Egypt, Armenia, Bulgaria, Iran, Canada and Israel.

Greece⁵⁵ has concluded agreements for film and audiovisual co-productions with France (2014), Israel (2013) and Canada (since 1997), while a Film Co-Production Agreement with China is currently being processed.

2. Regional Cooperation

Culture is a privileged area for cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation. Through membership in the competent bodies of international organizations as well as through regional cooperation, the Ministry of Culture and

⁵¹ www.mfa.gr

⁵² According to the UN Country Classification: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/2014wesp_country_classification.pdf

⁵³ According to the UN Country Classification: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/2014wesp_country_classification.pdf

⁵⁴ www.culture.gr

⁵⁵ <http://www.culture.gr/>

Sports participates in multilateral cultural programs and develops international and regional cooperation and dialogue, which reinforce exchanges in every cultural sector. Greece⁵⁶ actively participates in regional cultural co-operation programs in the EU, and also in Mediterranean, Adriatic, South-East European and Black Sea regions. Within the framework of the **Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)**⁵⁷, Greece has since **2007** participated in the Working Group for Culture, which aims at promoting cultural cooperation in the Black Sea region. In that framework, the **European Center of Byzantine and Post Byzantine Monuments**,⁵⁸ which is an arm's-length organization of the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports, developed (during 2012-2014 and in cooperation with other cultural organizations and universities of the region) the program "Olkas - From Aegean to the Black Sea. Medieval Ports in the Maritime Routes of the East"⁵⁹. The program had a total budget of €694,800 and was supported by the EU. It aimed at the creation and establishment of a viable network of inter-state cooperation and the development of synergies for the promotion of the medieval heritage of the 45 port-cities as a modern cultural route between the Aegean, the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Using local human resources and through activities such as the production of documentaries, the creation of special websites, educational programs, theatrical games in the port cities of different countries, mutual understanding and trust among the partners were promoted.

Furthermore, in 2013-2014 the BSEC developed a project called "Limen"⁶⁰: Cultural Ports from the Aegean to the Black Sea", funded by the Black Sea Cross Border Cooperation Program. The project built upon the success of the "Olkas" program and aimed at the establishment of a new institution, the "Cultural Port of the Black Sea", similar to the European Cultural Capital. During the two-year period of the program a plethora of cultural activities took place⁶¹.

Through the European Territorial Cooperation Programs, Greece has participated in joint projects in the museum sector and for the protection of monuments, the promotion of programs and exchange of expertise, thus contributing to the mobility of culture professionals, the strengthening of cultural exchanges and the creation of cross-border and interregional networks. Greece is participating in five bilateral programs (Cyprus, Bulgaria, Italy, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The bilateral European Territorial cooperation Programs are an important growth driver of the participating regions on both sides of the border. They create a common

⁵⁶ <http://www.culture.gr/>

⁵⁷ <http://www.bsec-organization.org/Pages/homepage.asp>

⁵⁸ <http://www.ekbmm.gr/>

⁵⁹ www.olkas.net

⁶⁰ <http://www.limenproject.net/>

⁶¹ Namely: a) Training courses or workshops on sustainable cultural tourism; b) production of information material for the cultural heritage of each port (in three languages: the local, English and Russian); c) Construction of a replica of a Byzantine ship based on a shipwreck found at Yenikapi, Turkey; d) Photography exhibitions; e) Documentary film: "Travel" to the city-ports; f) Information panels; access ramps for the disabled; benches, etc.; g) Creation of the "LIMEN" web portal (digital contents and media); h) Onboard Symposium focusing on the promotion of cultural tourism and cruise tourism to the main ports around the Black Sea.

European area of cooperation in the South East Europe region and the western and southern borders of the country.

“**Future Library**” (see more in Section 1) runs the **INELI-Balkans project** (International Network of Emerging Library Innovators in the Balkan region)⁶², which brings together library communities from 11 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Greece) to develop a sustainable network that will encourage collaborative innovation, e-learning and experimentation with new ideas. Harnessing the innovative potential available among library workers and capitalizing on the Future Library model, the INELI-Balkans will act as an “**incubator**” of the skills necessary to achieve library innovation and transformation in the Balkan region.

SEE Cinema Network⁶³ is an initiative of the Greek Film Center that aims at the artistic and cultural collaboration between the countries of southeastern Europe in the audiovisual field. The Network gathers 11 countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, FYROM, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey and Serbia. The Network draws its funding from the cinema organizations of its member nations. It provides funding for two main actions: making co-productions and short fiction films.

3. Cooperation with International Organizations, participation of public stakeholders in networks and international meetings and participation of the Ministry of Culture and Sports in international exhibitions - Participation of Research Institutes in International Programs

Greece participates actively in all of the European Union organs and institutions. Greece’s presence in international fora has a major historical dimension (founding member of the UN, longstanding member of the EU) and is of particular importance given that respect for international law and human rights – the foundations of the international community – are a fundamental component of Greek foreign policy. Greece actively participates in the institutional procedures. Our country attributes particular significance to the Council of Europe’s role, whose main objective is the protection of human rights, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law as the basis for international peace, democratic stability in Europe and cooperation among its peoples. Greece, also, participates in all groups of Open Method of Coordination meetings.

The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs coordinates the activities of the European **e-Twinning** program. Greece is among the top-ranking countries as regards the participation of schools, the teaching community and pupils in the program. Since its inception (2005) 9,470 Greek schools and 17,085 schoolteachers have joined the program, while there have already been 8,489 multilateral cooperation projects (see more in Annex 3).

⁶² <http://www.futurelibrary.gr/en/ineli-balkans/>

⁶³ Southeastern European Cinema Network : <http://seecinmagreece.blogspot.gr/>

For the purpose of promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, the public Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT SA) cooperates with the EBU⁶⁴ (of which it is a founding member), as well as with COPEAM⁶⁵, in the exchange of cultural programs. ERT SA also participates in the European program EUSCREEN⁶⁶ with documentaries from its archives (cultural and educational programs from 1980 to 2012). At the same time, the ERT archives are part of the Europeana collective database, offering access⁶⁷ to 21,000 records with educational, entertainment and information content. ERT SA also participates in the “Memory of the World” UNESCO Program for the preservation, protection and accessibility of the world's documentary heritage (*see more in Annex 3*).

A number of Greek Municipalities participate as active members in European and other international networks of cities, in order to exploit the potential for further development through peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of know-how and by enhancing their position in the area of cultural and creative industries and thematic tourism, among other areas. Indicatively, we can mention the example of three Greek cities that are members of the European Historic Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA⁶⁸), through which they promote their environmental and cultural identity.

The Athens Concert Hall Organization (“Megaron”) is a member of the European Concert Hall Organization-ECHO⁶⁹. Eleven of the 21 member concert halls of ECHO joined together to submit a successful bid to the European Commission’s Culture Program. ECHO’s current Culture Program funding grant runs from 2010-2015 and supports the **Rising Stars series**, training seminars and ECHO working groups. Megaron, being one of the 11 participants, has actively contributed in all the activities, namely: participation in the working groups, commissions of musical works from selected composers, educational seminars and the Rising Stars series (*see more in Annex 3*).

For **the promotion of Greek books abroad**, in 2012-2015 Greece participated in the following Book Fairs:

2012: Frankfurt International Book Fair, Bologna Children's Book Fair

2013: Frankfurt International Book Fair, Bologna Children's Book Fair, London Book Fair, Book Expo America (New York)

⁶⁴ European Broadcasting Union

⁶⁵ Permanent Conference of the Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators

⁶⁶ <http://www.euscreen.eu/> - EUscreen is a dynamic and constantly expanding network, created in 2006. It now consists of 31 partners and 13 cooperating organizations from 21 European countries. Within this framework, radio, TV and audiovisual archives, supported by academic and technical partners, are invited to offer access to the public to thousands of films, TV programs and all the relevant information available. EUScreen also harmonises the diverse collections and combines them via their publication at the digital library portal “Europeana”, which contains millions of items of informative material from European museums, libraries and archives.

⁶⁷ www.ert-archives.gr

⁶⁸ <http://www.ehtta.eu/>

⁶⁹ <http://www.concerthallorganisation.eu/> - a platform for open exchange and for joint thinking on the opportunities, developments and shared challenges central to the lives of concert halls in the 21st century

2014: Frankfurt International Book Fair, Belgrade Book Fair, Istanbul Book Fair
2015: Frankfurt International Book Fair

The Department for Visual Arts, Architecture, Photography and Design is responsible for the organization of the **national participation of Greece at the Venice Biennale Art** Exhibition. The selected artists are fully funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports to present their work. In the last four years, two national participations have been organized.

The Chamber of Fine Arts of Greece is a public legal entity under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the National Committee of the International Association of Art/Association Internationale des Arts Plastiques (AIAP/UNESCO). In 2014, the Greek Chamber of Fine Arts, in collaboration with the Shanghai Artists Association, organized in Athens an exhibition of Chinese contemporary paintings from Shanghai. The event was supported by the Athens School of Fine Arts. In 2013 and 2015, the Greek Chamber of Fine Arts organized exhibitions of contemporary Greek art in Shanghai.

Greece participates in two International **Music Exhibitions: MIDEM⁷⁰ and WOMEX⁷¹**. At the Greek stands many musicians, producers, music production companies, managers etc. from Greece promote their work and have the chance to network. For those not able to be present at the exhibition, there is an alternative option of distributing their promotional material through the stand managers. In 2012, the WOMEX exhibition took place in Greece (host city: Thessaloniki).

Participation of Research Institutes in International Programs

Many of the country's research institutes collaborate with their counterparts worldwide and participate in international networks and programs on cultural issues.

For example, the Greek Department of the International Council of Museums implemented the program MEDNETA (2013- 2015) (a European program coordinated by the National Technical University of Athens). This is a **Mediterranean cultural network for promoting creativity in the areas of the arts, artistic crafts and design** in order to revitalize historic cities (scientific cooperation). The network's participants, in addition to Athens, were Florence, Valencia, Beirut, Tunis and Hebron.

4. Organization of International Festivals and promotion of artistic work at international events

In the framework of promoting the Country's cultural identity and cultural interaction, Greece constantly organizes international festivals and supports the extroversion of Greek cultural creation.

Indicatively mentioned:

⁷⁰ <http://www.midem.com/>

⁷¹ <https://www.womex.com/>

The “**Athens and Epidauros Festival**”⁷² is an important institution organized annually by the “Hellenic Festival” SA, supervised by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and subsidized by it. The Festival presents, inter alia, contemporary trends in dance, music and theatre through the invitations to and collaborations with groups and individual artists from Greece and abroad.

The International Dance Festival of the city of Kalamata⁷³ is the key event in the year at the city's International Dance Centre⁷⁴. In 2012-2015, the Festival continued⁷⁵ its annual active presence as a special place on the festival map of the Mediterranean, building bridges to international dance creativity.

The Thessaloniki International Book Fair (TBF) was previously organized by NBC (National Book Centre of Greece) and, since 2014, by the Hellenic Foundation for Culture. It was established in 2004 and funded by the NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework) during the period 2011-2014. Over 200 events, over 180 Greek and 30 foreign writers, 210 publishers, 21 foreign countries, thousands of titles, literary meetings, presentations, round tables, speeches, workshops, projections, artistic and theatrical events, activities for children, etc. create a panoramic program of events that constitute a platform for the circulation and exchange of ideas in the region of South-East Europe. The Thessaloniki Museum of Photography (TMP) organizes the **International Photo Festival “PhotoBiennale”**. Also, TMP in collaboration with Cedefop (the European Agency for the Development of Vocational Education and Training in the European Union), organizes the contest for the Thessaloniki Photomuseum CEDEFOP Award”, an international award, the central idea of which is the theme of “work” and which aims at collecting artworks with social content and interest from the international photographic community.

The Athens Francophone Film Festival⁷⁶ has been held annually since 2006. Also, since 2012 an Israeli Film Week is held annually in Athens, which screens significant, award-winning Israeli films. Furthermore, Greece participates in the “Take 'Another Look’’: Israeli-European film festival.

The National Theatre of Greece (NTG)⁷⁷ participated in many international festivals, where it presented its works over the last four years, and collaborated with artists from abroad for its productions, hosted performances from other countries and participated in international fora in all over the world. Also, the NTG, along with its drama school, organized and participated in international workshops and cooperated with the drama schools of other countries. The NTG is a member of the “Union of Theatres of Europe” (*see more in Annex 3*).

The **Greek Film Center** promotes Greek films at many international film festivals each year and distributes them through international channels (*see more in Section 1*).

⁷² <http://greekfestival.gr/en/home>

⁷³ <http://www.kalamatadancefestival.gr/index.php/en/>

⁷⁴ See also the quadrennial periodic report of 2012.

⁷⁵ With the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, of the Municipality of Kalamata (“Pharis” beneficiary organization) and EU programs.

⁷⁶ <http://festivalfilmfrancophone.gr/>

⁷⁷ <http://www.n-t.gr/en/>

The Onassis Cultural Centre (OCC)⁷⁸ runs an international program and aims to create synergies with other institutions in order to facilitate the circulation of creative works within and outside Greece. It has established a special collaboration with major cultural institutions abroad. As a result, more than 20 of the OCC's productions and co-productions have been presented in Europe, Latin America, North America, the Middle East and North Africa since 2010. The OCC also supports the tours and promotion of Greek troupes and artists abroad and is actively engaged in several networks and bilateral collaborations at an international level.

5. The activities of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture and of the European Cultural Centre of Delphi

The **Hellenic Foundation for Culture (HFC)**⁷⁹, operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Sports and aims at promoting Greek culture and disseminating the Greek language across the world. Since its establishment in 1992, the HFC has founded branches in Odessa, Alexandria and Berlin. It also operates offices or centers in London, Vienna, Brussels, Washington, Trieste, Belgrade, Bucharest, Tirana, Sofia and Melbourne. The Foundation is active in offering Greek language courses, organizing cultural events and producing publications aimed at promoting the Greek language, literature, arts and culture abroad. Furthermore, the HFC heads the Greek network of the Anna Lindh Foundation for Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and Dialogue between Cultures, and is a member of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC). In **2015**, the HFC participated in the Frankfurt Book Fair with the project "Narratives of Greece", which aimed at highlighting the work of 20 new talented writers and 33 young comics creators. Moreover, in order to inform and keep foreign publishers up to date, the HFC prepared three catalogues in English for the detailed presentation of the National Literary Awards 2014, Greek Books in Translation (2013-2015) and New Greek Writers, which sprang mostly from the 2nd Festival of New Writers at the Thessaloniki International Book Fair 2015. In **2015** the **Berlin** branch of the HFC organized a tour which included five studios of visual artists of Greek origin, living and working in Berlin. In **2014** the HFC office in **Trieste** organized an event dedicated to Greek women authors from ancient to contemporary times. In **2013** the Hellenic Foundation for Culture Translation Prize (which was awarded for the first time in 2002 and is presented triennially) was awarded to Avi Sharon for his translation of "Selected Poems by C. P. Cavafy", published by Penguin Books Ltd. In **2012** the HFC **Washington DC** office organized the exhibition "Odysseas Elytis: 100 years since his birth" as a tribute to the Greek Nobel laureate poet, and in the same year the **Alexandria** HFC branch co-organized a tribute to Greek short films. In **2015**, the Foundation's Annex in Odessa participated in the city's Jazz Festival with the Dimos Dimitriadis Quartet. The Foundation also took part in the EUNIC Athens Cluster project "Arts For Development", which presented a number of

⁷⁸<http://www.sgt.gr/eng/SPG1/> - funded by the Onassis Foundation; see <http://www.onassis.org/en/>

⁷⁹<http://www.hfc.gr/>

good practices relating to the role of the arts as a vehicle for social, human and economic development.

The European Cultural Centre of Delphi (ECCD)⁸⁰ was founded in 1977 as a "legal entity under private law", under the supervision of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports and the auspices of the Council of Europe. In 2007 the **European Cultural Centre of Delphi (ECCD)** established “**the Young Artists program**”, featuring a series of workshops, master classes, lectures and artistic presentations for students and new artists from all the fields of the performing arts, with the aim of encouraging young artists and art students from Greece and other European countries to enter into a creative dialogue, to become acquainted with each other’s artistic proposals and to work together to produce the final result. In this framework, the ECCD, in cooperation with the network “L’Union des Théâtres de l’Europe” (UTE)⁸¹ and the National Theatre of Greece⁸², organized, in 2014, the Delphic Academy of Theatres Union of Europe, with the participation of 20 young student actors from Greece, Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and Germany. The end product of the above program was a 90-minute performance. In the year 2013, a two-day master class was given by the L’Arpeggiata music ensemble⁸³ under the direction of Cristina Pluhar in the premises of the Athens Concert Hall⁸⁴. The program aimed at young musicians and was open to the public.

6. Activities in the framework of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union

During the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union (first semester of 2014) special events relating to the objectives of the 2005 Convention took place.

An international conference on “Financing Creativity”, organized by the Ministry of Culture and Sports was held in Athens in February 2014. The Conference was addressed to central and local government agencies, banks, chambers of commerce and professional organizations, universities, venture capital companies and creative industries, artists and culture professionals, cultural institutions, NGOs etc. The goal set by the Ministry was the promotion of and support for the cultural and creative industries as agents of economic and social development. There were 45 speakers, delegates from 26 European Member-States and 713 attendees in total. The topics of the conference were representative of current European concerns regarding the issue of financing the cultural and creative sector, in particular in a period of economic crisis, the total globalization of markets, of digitization and of the abundant new tools offered by the new information and communication technologies. Two important studies for the cultural and creative sector were also presented at the conference: i) a study by the Bank of Greece entitled “The smart economy: the cultural and creative industries in Greece. Can they be a way out of the crisis?”; and ii) the “Survey on access to finance for cultural and creative sectors” by the European Commission.

⁸⁰ <http://www.eccd.gr/en/>

⁸¹ <http://www.union-theatres-europe.eu/>

⁸² www.n-t.g

⁸³ <http://www.arpeggiata.com/>

⁸⁴ <http://www.megaron.gr/>

The Hellenic Copyright Organization (OPI) organized an international conference on "Copyright and the Digital Agenda for Europe: Current Regulations and Challenges for the Future", Athens, 6 June 2014). The speakers at the conference were prominent academics, and representatives of international organizations and stakeholders' associations. The conference was considered a great success and there were a large number of participants⁸⁵

In the framework of synergies between contemporary culture and the cultural heritage, the Ministry of Culture and Sports organized an exhibition in Brussels (January-April 2014), as part of Greece's EU Presidency, entitled "**Nautilus: Navigating Greece**"⁸⁶, where ancient artifacts and contemporary Greek art were brought together in a creative dialogue.

Also during the Greek presidency of the Council of the European Union, the **Greek Film Archive Foundation** in close collaboration of CINEMATEK Belgium and the Greek Film Centre, and with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized in Brussels a four-month panoramic festival of Greek film production. A total of 86 feature films and documentaries, produced between 1927 and 2013, were shown.

⁸⁵ http://www.opi.gr/images/draseis/2014_en.pdf

⁸⁶ <http://www.bozar.be/en/activities/5102-nautilus>

3. Preferential treatment

1. Total contribution of Greece to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD): US \$47,969.80⁸⁷.

2. **Bursaries to students from developing countries**

The **Ministry of Culture and Sports** offers bursaries to foreign students for the **International Summer School for Greek Language, History and Culture** which is run by the **Institute for Balkan Studies**⁸⁸ based in Thessaloniki, in order for the students to improve their knowledge of Greek history, culture and language. During the period 2012-2014, the Ministry bursaries to, among others, 30 students from countries with developing economies (Egypt, China, Republic of Korea, Israel, Turkey, Mexico and Argentina).

3. **Film Promotion of productions from developing countries**

During the period 2012-2015, the **Greek Film Archive Foundation (GFAF)** organized special seasons featuring films from countries with developing economies⁸⁹. Also, within the framework of the 7th and 8th Festival of Avant-Garde Cinema in Athens (2013 and 2014), among the 80 films shown several were made in developing countries.

4. **Residencies for writers and translators at the International Writers' and Translators' Center of Rhodes**

The International Writers and Translators' Center of Rhodes⁹⁰ (IWTCR) was established in 1996 by the Municipality of Rhodes with the aim of creating a forum for intellectuals, writers and translators. Since its foundation, the Center has run a program of **residencies** for writers and translators and, since 2008, for researchers and artists from all over the world. The Center provides accommodation free of charge for a period of two or six weeks. The guest is obliged to acknowledge that part of his or her work, when it is published, was written during their stay at the Center and also send a copy of it to the Center. Furthermore, during their stay guests must actively participate in events that either they or the Center proposes, for example: lectures on literature, book presentations, readings of excerpts of works, translation / creative writing / awareness workshops on contemporary issues (environment, economy, etc.), lectures at schools or open lectures, translations of works or extracts, and artistic interventions in the city of Rhodes. In 2012-2015, the Center offered residence to 7 writers and translators from countries with developing economies (South Africa, Turkey, Pakistan and India) and to 19 writers and translators from

⁸⁷ <http://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd/support-fund/who-supports-ifcd>

⁸⁸ <http://www.imxa.gr/>

⁸⁹ Brazilian, African, Chinese and Turkish cinema.

⁹⁰ <http://www.writerscenter.gr/>

countries with economies in transition⁹¹ (Russia, Belarus, Serbia, Ukraine and Georgia).

5. **Exhibitions and promotion of artists' work from third countries** (and especially the Mediterranean countries and Iran)⁹².

⁹¹See n. 3.

⁹² For example “The House of Sleep” is an exhibition of works by the contemporary artists Katayoun Karami and Neda Razavipour of Tehran. Its opening was in the Municipal Gallery of "Lefas" Psychiko. The works of Katayoun Karami and Neda Razavipour present social issues that were formed around their experiences in today's world, using simple everyday language and familiar symbols.

1. Cultural participation of vulnerable groups and awareness-raising activities on issues of cultural diversity and social cohesion

In recent years, Greece has implemented many awareness- raising activities addressed to the broader public in order to promote social inclusion and to combat racism. Some of these activities had been primarily adopted by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Ministry of Education Research and Religious Affairs, as well as museums, other ministries, municipalities, cultural institutions, schools, and the press and media. Nationally, most museums and institutions constantly implement **educational** and other **awareness- raising activities** on issues of social cohesion and tolerance, or activities addressed to vulnerable groups. All these activities, programs and initiatives concern awareness raising and the integration of **vulnerable groups**, especially refugees/migrants, Roma, former addicts, the disabled, the unemployed and incarcerated persons.

In addition to the activities carried out by the various cultural bodies and institutions in the public and private sectors, it is worth mentioning that there have also been grassroots initiatives (festivals, magazines, self-managed cultural centers) carried out by social organizations, solidarity groups and citizens, which aimed at the social integration of socially excluded people and their equal participation in cultural life.

There is, also, a continuous cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Sports and other Ministries concerning the development of specific programs for vulnerable groups.

For example under the instructions of the *Inter-ministerial Commission for Combating Substance Dependence*, the Directorate of Modern Cultural Assets and Intangible Cultural Heritage (Ministry of Culture and Sports) implements on an annual basis programs for both prevention and the social rehabilitation and integration of former addicts. The programs take place in collaboration with KETHEA⁹³ (an organization supervised by the State) and other cultural organizations (museums, etc.). It is worth mentioning that the KETHEA Mosaic Artistic Educational and Support Programs for migrant addicts – called "**The T. Traveling with ART and L. The Word that sparkles**" – offers Greek language classes to migrant and refugee drug users with the help of arts and technology at the KETHEA Mosaic.

Indicatively, we can mention the following:

a. Schools and Universities

All major educational institutions in higher education run intercultural programs, or incorporate intercultural courses into their curriculum. They also organize national and international fora, workshops and lectures on “otherness” and the acceptance of the different or unfamiliar “other”.

⁹³ <http://www.kethea.gr/>

The **Forum on Intercultural Dialogue and Learning**⁹⁴ (University of Patras) has created a network of university departments, schools, academics, researchers, teachers, technocrats and state agents who discuss social inclusion, learning and citizenship education through intercultural dialogue circles and collaborative action.

The program DIAPOLIS⁹⁵ “**Education for foreigners and repatriated students**” aims at creating an intercultural dialogue and respecting and communicating with each other at the school level through the promotion of diversity as a major component in the education of all pupils (natives, migrants and the repatriated), and the cultivation of intercultural communication skills. For this reason it will develop activities within or outside the curriculum and the school unit (such as visits to museum and other cultural organizations, excursions, creation of artistic groups, etc.).

The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs has promoted many awareness-raising activities in secondary schools on a nationwide level. One of them is the project “**With poetry we fight racism**” – an action for the International Day of Poetry. The activities included reading and analyzing works of Greek and world poetry and highlighting the values of equality and solidarity among all peoples. The project, also, involved writing poems and creating posters, compositions, illustrations, etc.

The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs also promoted an awareness- raising activity **on the refugee issue**, with the participation of almost all primary and secondary schools. At the end of the school year, good practices were rewarded.

The Ministry of Education Research and Religious Affairs, at the end of the school year, conducted a **survey on the educational activities that took place in 40 refugee hosting centers**. The results were posted⁹⁶ on the official website of the Ministry.

Under the 2013 Program of the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country⁹⁷Nationals, the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the University of Ioannina, held a program based on experiential educational interventions based on theatrical plays and artistic expression, for the simultaneous development of empathy and the general development of students’ feelings. This was used to create intercultural communication.

Video life stories of migrants⁹⁸: 20 multilingual short films, focusing on four fundamental aspects of daily life (family, work, art and the idea of “here and there”) were created collectively by participants of 5 different groups of migrants who live in Greece, and who have trained together with Greeks in the techniques of documentary

⁹⁴ <http://intercultural.upatras.gr/en/>

⁹⁵ <http://www.diapolis.auth.gr/>

⁹⁶ <https://www.minedu.gov.gr/grafeio-typoy-kai-dimosion-sxeseon/deltia-typoy/21471-08-06-16-i-katagrafi-ton-ekpaideftikon-draseon-se-40-kentra-domes-filoksenias->

⁹⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/integration-fund/index_en.htm

⁹⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/intpract/video-life-stories-of-migrants?pdf=1>

and participatory video. The project was run in 2012- 2013 by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Ethnomusicology and Cultural Anthropology Laboratory).

b. Municipalities

Most municipalities in the country have programs to integrate migrants and generally vulnerable groups and to improve local and regional cultural initiatives. In the last 4 years many festivals have taken place on a local, regional or international level. A series of municipalities participated in bilateral, regional or international meetings and events and implemented programs and activities promoting cultural diversity, as well as specific activities, events and projects for vulnerable groups.

For instance, the main objective of the **Feast of Multilingualism** was to promote tolerance and pluralism, solidarity and **social interaction between people of different linguistic backgrounds**. The Multilingualism Feasts included: round tables, theatrical performances, music and dance performances, screenings, multilingual workshops, research projects, the Multilingualism Cafe, memory and photography exhibitions, lectures, thematic cycles of research and of academic interest, seminars workshop style, language stands, tributes to writers focusing on pluralism, interchangeability, networking and interaction. They promoted open knowledge workshops addressed to citizens, parents, teachers and students, multilingual literacy and calligraphy, and the emergence of transnationalism. They were held in Thessaloniki (2013-2016), Kozani (2015-2016), and Larissa (2016).

Each year, the Municipality of Icaria organizes the **“Ikaros” InterCultural Dialogue Festival**, a unique festival featuring Greek and European artists working in the visual arts and music. The festival uses **various forms of cooperation among artists of different cultures and cultural areas, different art forms**, etc. The festival aims to highlight the interaction and unity of European cultures, as well as to demonstrate the potential impact of the arts on collaboration between the peoples, peace and creativity, and transnational cooperation.

The Municipality of Chaidari held workshops under the program **“Hope”**, aiming at the **integration and interaction with people of developing countries**. For the sixth year running, all student bands performed at a municipal event.

The Municipality of Glyfada supported cultural **events organized by disabled people** in the municipality. It organized solidarity concerts, a lending library service, lessons and book presentations.

The Municipality of Thessaloniki organized the 5th Biennale of Contemporary Art, entitled **“Between the Pessimism of the Intellect and the Optimism of the Will”**. The work of 44 artists and one artists’ collective group from 25 countries around the world in was exhibited, showing Stories of Immigration in the Mediterranean Sea.

(see more in Annex 6)

c. Museums and other cultural institutions

Greece participates in the program of the European Heritage Days (Council of Europe), which is coordinated by the Directorate of Museums. Each year on a weekend in

September, museums, monuments and archaeological sites throughout the country open their doors to the public so that everyone can discover the monuments in more pleasing and entertaining ways (film screenings, exhibitions, guided tours, educational programs, concerts, etc.). For the last two years the theme of the celebration in Greece was "Violence and Tolerance".

The Directorate of Modern Cultural Assets and Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports translated and publicized **the summary of the 2013 OMC group report** for Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue, recommending to cultural actors that they include intercultural issues in their work. Museums and Associations that are involved in cultural heritage issues acknowledge the importance of embracing other fields in their regular activities.

The Directorate of Modern Cultural Assets and Intangible Cultural Heritage, also, in collaboration with the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM (International Council of Museums) organizes on an annual basis a workshop, where educational activities in state and private museums (with specific reference to programs targeting vulnerable groups) are presented and discussed.

Most of the country's museums and other cultural institutions (as mentioned above) have awareness-raising and educational activities and events on a regular basis, focusing on issues of social cohesion and tolerance. In addition, almost all such events in recent years have established accessible infrastructures for disabled people, while some have also enhanced access to experiencing cultural goods.

Many cultural institutions have already broadened their activities and are working with different kinds of artists, historical periods and cultural paradigms. The result is encouraging; despite the difficulties, the lack of funds and the reduction in personnel, many cultural institutes manage to create an environment for an interesting mingling of different cultural issues. According to the available data, cultural institutes have developed new practices that indicate new ways of perceiving their role and function in cultural life. More specifically, cultural institutions are now more open to larger and more diverse audiences than in the past, while most educational programs and other actions (events, lectures, etc.) bring together different activities, periods, cultural expressions and issues (see Annex).

For example, the Rethymno Ephorate⁹⁹ of Antiquities collaborated with for contemporary art institutions to organize events. It also collaborated with the Museum of Contemporary Art in Crete for exhibitions on the work of Korean artists, and the architectural diversity of the region. It has also showcased places worship in the Old Town of Rethymno, expressions of Greek, Ottoman and Western culture.

The Euboea Ephorate of Antiquities has implemented educational activities for Roma and other social groups. Through these activities, they attempt to ensure the preservation and **promotion of the diversity of the cultural monuments from different periods** in the region.

⁹⁹ A regional body of the Ministry of Culture and Sports working on cultural heritage.

The “**Filio Haidemenou Museum of Asia Minor Hellenism - World Cultural Foundation of Hellenes Abroad**” held an educational program for young people to raise awareness and reflect on the concepts of **Refugee, Migrant and Racist**.

The **Benaki Museum** has extensive collections that cover several different cultural fields and a wide variety of activities. The Benaki Museum collection of Islamic art, which includes examples of all its local variations from as far as India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, the Middle East, Arabia, Egypt, North Africa, Sicily and Spain, ranks among the most important in the world. There is also an important Chinese collection as well as a collection of Coptic art, which includes a rich and unique group of textiles. In the main building intercultural activities and exhibitions for **disabled, migrant and refugee** groups are regularly held.

The annual program of the **Progressive Union of Xanthi** includes musical events and various art forms, film festivals with international partnerships with universities and consulates, and shows films from various countries. It also organizes other sorts of events, such as lectures, etc.

The **Progressive Club of Vrontados** has held cultural activities, with subjects covering different periods, cultural expressions, ages and social groups.

In 2013-14¹⁰⁰, the Byzantine and Christian Museum coordinated and implemented, in collaboration with the Greek Film Centre, the action “**At the Museum with the Roma**”¹⁰¹.

The aim was to promote the Roma populations’ social access to cultural heritage, to stimulate their historical self-awareness, and to introduce society to certain characteristics of the Greek Roma community that can overturn stereotypical perceptions.

The Byzantine and Christian Museum therefore:

- designed and implemented customized museum educational activities for school groups with a significant presence of Roma pupils,
- organized open events (discussions, film screenings, musical events) to promote aspects of the Greek Roma identity,
- trained young Roma in cultural mediation and organizing, with their participation, activities to approach the community,
- published a book with chapters that highlight aspects of the history of the Roma in Greece and promote various actions related to the current problems in education and access to cultural heritage issues.

Additionally, in collaboration with 7 regional services of the Ministry of Culture and Sports and representatives of the Roma communities, they organized educational activities in order to familiarize the Roma communities with local museums and monuments.

¹⁰⁰ The action was supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (2007-2013).

¹⁰¹ http://www.byzantinemuseum.gr/en/museum/EU_projects/?nid=1872

For its part, the **Greek Film Centre** produced four short films¹⁰² that aimed to change the stereotypes and promote awareness of the issues of the Roma populations.

The success of the "At the Museum with the Roma" project, which was largely due to the close cooperation with the Roma populations, highlights the multiple role of museums and cultural services and how they can positively engage on a social level through their institutional role and reputation.

(see more in Annex 4 and 5)

In the last four years, the National Museum of Contemporary Art (EMST)¹⁰³ - an arm's length organization of the Ministry of Culture and Sports - has organized guided tours for specific audiences and developed many educational programs for intercultural orientation. In 2009, EMST – as part of its social orientation efforts - launched an innovative educational Program called "Without Borders". This includes synergies with social partners and vulnerable groups¹⁰⁴, exhibitions and specialized educational projects. The objective of the program is to alleviate social exclusion, eliminate prejudice, and advance integration and equal access to art. In 2012, the program was honoured by CECA (the Committee for Education and Cultural Action of ICOM International) **as one of the 10 Best Practices** and included in the volume "Best Practice I, A tool to improve museum education internationally".

In 2012 and 2013, **the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art¹⁰⁵** organized a number of intensive education art workshops for the unemployed¹⁰⁶. The main aims of the applied program were to involve young unemployed people in art sectors, promote the process of the art collective and to gain new skills. Another objective of the program was to creation work opportunities for educational professionals who would be employed as part of this program. Free classes in painting, photography, engraving, design and video art/computer art for unemployed people over the age of 20 were held. A bilingual volume with the results and the evaluation of the program has been published.

The **Greek Film Archive Foundation** has taken specific measures to eliminate discrimination against disadvantaged groups: infrastructures in its that facilitate the access of people with reduced mobility, there is a reduced ticket price for people with disabilities and their companion, film screenings with subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, workshops with simultaneous translation in Greek Sign Language, programs with **information in Braille** for blind people or in large letters font for people with visual problems, etc.

The **Onassis Cultural Centre (OCC)** has a particular focus on vulnerable groups, including various communities of disabled people for whom the OCC has regularly presented bespoke programs and workshops. These have included: integrated dance workshops; workshops for deaf or blind children and adults, often integrated;

¹⁰² The films are: *Rainbow St.* (50') by Myrna Tsapa, *Short Roma stories* (67') by Stavros Psyllaki, *Roma tribes* (44') by Nikos Anagnostopoulos, *Sam Roma* (40') by Marina Danezis

¹⁰³ <http://www.emst.gr/EN/museum/Pages/preface.aspx>

¹⁰⁴ Such as the "18 Ano" Rehabilitation Center, Detention Units, the Academic Support and Accessibility Unit for Students with Disabilities, Intercultural Schools, immigrant groups etc.

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.mmca.org.gr/mmst/en/home.htm>

¹⁰⁶ Sponsored by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation

workshops for children with various forms of autism; workshops for children with cerebral palsy using innovative sound generation software; and more. Furthermore, the Centre has regularly presented world-class work by disabled theatre and dance groups as part of its program. Also, since 2015, the Onassis Cultural Centre has collaborated with the **AMAKA NGO** to organize a photo therapy workshop for adolescents (the project “I communicate therefore I am free”). The workshop creates an interactive visual dialogue on the issue of Human Rights between public schools in Athens and the Youth Delinquents Center of Piraeus. Art therapists, artists, human rights specialists and photographers design several activities to be implemented among three different groups of adolescents, using video and photography techniques as the main tools. Through photo walks, open conversations, group meetings and various activities, the participants can enhance their self-esteem and express their thoughts in an innovative way.

d. Media

The Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT SA, literally "Greek Radio-Television") is the public radio and television broadcaster in Greece. During 2015, ERT developed a wide range of activities aimed at the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. The following examples are by way of illustration:

The promotion of programs on the purpose of social and cultural awareness in the activities of ERT SA. Numerous artists participated in the cultural and artistic programs, while festivals and other cultural events from every corner of Greece, or the work of Greek artists abroad and of young, emerging artists were widely reported as well.

ERT SA, during the daily news and current affairs programs, **promotes human rights** in Greek society in general and **the rights of persons with disabilities and sensitive groups** (refugees, drug addicts, prisoners, homeless, etc.) in particular, as well as the idea of cultural diversity against any form of racism, through special thematic zones in its national radio and TV programs and in its regional radio programs. ERT SA broadcasts a television program with Arabic-language news containing useful information for refugees and immigrants in Greece. It also broadcasts the program "The voice of Greece"¹⁰⁷ for all the Greeks around the world, with news, information and entertainment programs and any other issue concerning Greece. The station is also broadcast in 12 other languages (English, German, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Albanian, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian, Turkish and Arabic).

The Ministry of Interior Affairs and Administrative Reconstruction in collaboration with NGOs and the private sector has initiated a program of 140 broadcasts with the radio station 105.5 In Red, which last thirty (30) minutes in the afternoon as part of a European project (1.4B/13)¹⁰⁸. **The 84 broadcasts have featured representatives of the migrant communities, lawyers working on migration issues, civil society**

¹⁰⁷ <http://webradio.ert.gr/i-foni-tis-elladas/>

¹⁰⁸ http://ete.ypes.gr/?page_id=28

activists, and people offering professional services (e.g. doctors, academics, researchers, artists, teachers from the field of intercultural education).

There were also programs on various television channels and radio stations, as well as special editions of magazines and newspapers that aimed at the inclusion of otherness.

e. Grassroots initiatives (festivals, magazines, self-managed cultural centers)

In addition to the activities carried out by the various cultural bodies (in the public and private sector), there are specific activities and initiatives that are carried out by social organizations, solidarity groups or citizens, which aim at the social integration of migrants and their equal participation in the cultural life of the country. The largest of these initiatives is the *Anti-racist Festival of Athens*, which has been running for 19 years. Similar festivals have taken place at the regional and local level throughout the country, as well as other similar festivals in Athens (Antiracist Festival of Performing Arts, Antiracist Feast in the Faculty of Agriculture, etc.). Concerts, debates, playground, screenings, exhibitions, food and much more aim to promote the coexistence, through a common struggle, of locals and refugees and migrants, and to promote solidarity and support for migrants, refugees and other vulnerable groups.

Another initiative is the **Synergeio theater group**, in which the actors are migrants and refugees. It joined the theatre workshop Station Athens with the NGO Amaka. The Station Athens began as **art therapy workshop for migrants and refugees**. It trained a group of students and was able to put on very good performances.

Metikos Magazine¹⁰⁹ is a magazine produced by the *Greek Migrants Forum* and was first published in 2003-2005, under the EU Equal program. **Migrants speak with their own voice on the issues and problems that concern them**. It was republished in 2011 (described as a good practice at the European level).

Solomon Magazine¹¹⁰ and blog is an initiative by local Greeks to support the integration of refugees and migrants. It promotes **public debate on the issue of integration, the entrepreneurship of refugees and migrants, and the artistic expression of locals, refugees and migrants**.

The Greek Forum of Migrants¹¹¹ is a **forum through which to coordinate and rally organizations and migrant communities** (over 40) in Greece. It aims to set a benchmark for the self-organization of migrants and their forms of collective public expression and representation.

Specifically, the Forum aims at:

- the self-organization of migrants and their mobilization, with the goal of their inclusion and participation in Greek society,

¹⁰⁹ http://metoikosmagazine.blogspot.gr/p/blog-page_23.html

¹¹⁰ <http://www.solomon.gr/>

¹¹¹ <http://www.migrant.gr/cgi-bin/pages/indexv2.pl?arlang=Englishandarcod=130826191939andargenkat=Who%20we%20areandtype=article>

The Greek Forum of Migrants (GFM) is a network of immigrant organizations and communities. Founded in September 2002, its members now number around 40 organizations. It is a form of migrant self-organization based on a collective action plan, formed through ongoing consultation, with the objective of representing and strengthening the voice of immigrants and their organizations and communities in Greece, and the aim of equal inclusion and participation in Greek society.

- the development of cooperation and solidarity relationships between migrant collectivities, organizations and communities working in Greece, to contribute to confronting the problems of migrants individually and collectively
- advocating for the rights of migrants and advancing their proposals and demands in the public debate to the representatives of the State and its institutions, and political and social committees,
- contributing to the improvement of policies concerning migrants and in their claim to participate in the dialogue and decision-making on issues that affect them
- cooperating with NGOs, trade unions and social organizations
- developing actions to combat racism and xenophobia and promote the values of multiculturalism, democratic coexistence, social justice and equal participation
- designing and elaborating proposals and participating in actions for research into, information on, education, support, and against the social exclusion of migrants, either as a representative collective body, or jointly with the organizations that constitute it, or with other stakeholder bodies both in Greece and in other host countries and countries of origin.

2. Ticket policy for young people and vulnerable groups

In 2105, a ministerial decree¹¹² reformed the previous law, and instituted the free entry for beneficiaries to museums. **Entrance to museums, monuments and archaeological sites is free** for everyone on the first Sunday of each month from 1 November to 31 March each year, as well as on certain national days and commemorations. Certain categories of vulnerable groups are exempt from paying an entry fee (such as students, persons with disabilities, teachers, young people under 18, single parents with young children, holders of an unemployment or solidarity card, official guests of the Greek State, etc.). Many private cultural organizations also have a ticket policy that favors vulnerable groups.

3. Green Routes

The Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports participates in the National Action Plan for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Within this framework, the Directorate of Museums, Exhibitions and Educational Programs implements the action “**Green Cultural Routes**” which aims to promote **sustainable growth via the tripartite scheme of Education – Culture – Tourism**.

In 2012, the Green Cultural Routes were run on a pilot basis in the prefectures of Attica, Rethymno and Lesvos with the collaboration of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs, local authorities, environmental organizations and local community organizations.

Walks in nature, themed guided tours to archaeological sites, natural sites and museums, educational programs for school groups and families, lectures and short

¹¹² Government Gazette 2916 / B / 31.12.2015

presentations are the focus of a ten-day period (1-10 June) closely associated with World Environment Day on the 5th of June.

The Green Cultural Routes have been designed by the Museum Directorate in the framework of the National Action Plan for Education on Sustainable Development. The action is to promote sustainable development by training citizens to protect and promote aspects of the country's cultural heritage and natural environment. The action was implemented in 2012, 2013 and 2014 in 3, 12 and 29 districts respectively, while this year involved more than 150 organizations in 31 counties of Greece.

In 2015, 34 archaeological sites and museums of the Ministry of Culture and Sports planned numerous events throughout Greece, in collaboration with 21 municipalities, 17 primary and secondary education schools, 5 centers for environmental education, 4 universities, schools, cultural associations, environmental organizations, unions and civil associations, and many volunteers.

4. Development of new cultural infrastructures in cooperation with the private sector

A recent public-private partnership (PPP) project is the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center** (SNFCC) in Faliron, Athens. Bearing in mind the needs of the National Library of Greece and the Greek National Opera for new premises, the Greek state provided the land and the Foundation undertook the complete cost of the design and construction of the SNFCC (over €565 million). On completion of the project, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation will hand the SNFCC to the Greek State, which will be responsible for its operation. In 2017, the **National Library of Greece** (NLG) will be relocated to its new building at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre. The new premises, which cover 22,000 square meters, will enable the NLG to ensure the correct preservation of its treasures, expand its research activities, upgrade its digital services and reclaim its position as an international center of Hellenic Studies. During this transition process, the NLG is developing projects in five directions: collections processing and development; upgrading the digital services; design of the new public library section; audience development; and staff training. At the same time, a new Public Library Department with diverse collections and digital media will offer open access to information, education and knowledge to the public. From its new position, the NLG will serve citizens of all ages and backgrounds, from academic researchers to small children, in an effort to create and educate a new generation of users. **The Greek National Opera** (GNO)¹¹³, the only opera house in Greece, has, since 1940, offered audience high-caliber productions, staging operas, ballets, operettas, operas for children and musical recitals, among other events. The relocation of the GNO in the near future, to its new facilities at the SNFCC is an event of great importance. It will boost its artistic activities, as well as its international collaborations. The new 28,000 square meters (301,000 square feet) auditorium is designed to enhance the opera experience for patrons and artists alike. Its world-class acoustics, mechanical capabilities, flexible staging, and innate beauty will position it for immediate entry into

¹¹³ <http://www.nationalopera.gr/en/>

the world opera circuit, ready to play host to the most technically demanding operas, international multimedia art productions, and formidable solo vocalists.

5. Cultural and Creative Industries

The cultural and creative industries (CCIs) - including the visual and performing arts, ICT apps, gaming, publishing, fashion, the music and film industries and various youth subcultures - are increasingly recognized as underpinning local, national and regional economies and societies.

Approximately over 71,000 businesses active are in the cultural and creative sector, which corresponds at least to 3% of Greek GDP. Furthermore, the total number of employees in these sectors is 110,000, accounting for 3% of total employment in Greece. The vast majority of these businesses (80%) are very small or “micro-enterprises”, almost 60% of are very small, while the percentage of large-scale enterprises is marginal, at less than 1%.¹¹⁴

The results of a study carried out by Deloitte in 2014 are extremely noteworthy. The study examined and quantified the economic impact of cultural projects on local communities, on the basis of an “input-output model”, with a special emphasis on the tourism sector. The study measured the interconnected categories of economic impact and their spillover effects (direct, indirect and multiplying). It concluded that the total economic impact of the implementation of cultural projects produces a multiplying effect of 3.44 for the Greek economy.

In the last few years, an ecosystem of various public and private entities, including a number of co-working spaces and clusters (*see Annex 8*) has been operating in the area of CCIs.

The cultural and creative sector in Greece is facing numerous challenges, namely the rapid change caused by the digital shift and globalization, market fragmentation relating to linguistic diversity, difficulties in accessing finance, complex administrative procedures and a shortage of comparable data.

- The Hellenic Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, has included the cultural and creative sector as one of the eight (8) priority sectors of the new Operational Program Competitiveness-Entrepreneurship-Innovation (OPCEI) 2014-2020. Also, the above Ministries cooperate with each other for the enhancement of SMEs.
- The General Secretariat for Research and Technology (under the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs) has funded a substantial number of Research and Development projects (R&D projects) for the period 2007-2013 in the area of cultural heritage, focusing on preservation, restoration of monuments, ICT applications and digital content, and cultural tourism.
- **Agora, Thessaloniki’s Film Market** was created in 2005 as part of the **Thessaloniki International Film Festival (TIFF)**¹¹⁵, and - with a constant presence through all

¹¹⁴ See Vasilis Avdikos “*Cultural and Creative Industries in Greece*”, Thessaloniki, 2014 and <https://creativegreece.net/english/>, plus a 2015 survey on Design in Greece https://creativegreece.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/creative_survey_2015_version_en_pdf.pdf

¹¹⁵ See more in Section 1.

these years - established a productive and unique form of helping and introducing professionals from South-East and Central Europe, the Balkan region, the Mediterranean as well as the rest of the world to invited industry professionals, consultants, tutors and potential collaborators¹¹⁶. The Thessaloniki Agora-Market includes: i) the **Film Market**, which promotes the majority of the feature films participating in the official sections of the TIFF. The Film Market also includes the previous films made by the Crossroads participants and a selection of Greek films produced within the past two years. ii) **Crossroads**: the Co-Production Forum, organized by the Thessaloniki International Film Festival. Crossroads chooses projects based on the quality of the scenario, the creative team and the likelihood of it being produced. Crossroad's goal is to support the producers of feature-length film projects that are linked to the Mediterranean and Balkan regions. iii) **Agora Works in Progress**: This industry activity gives the opportunity to selected sales agents, distributors and festival programmers from all over the globe, to be the first to discover feature films from the Mediterranean and Balkan region, in the stage just before completion (*see more in the Annex 3*)

The Special Service for Culture in the NSRF 2007-2013 has acted as the intermediate management body for the Operational Program Human Resources Development. A community service program in the cultural sector has been included in the Action Plan to encourage the participation of civil society in targeted interventions to enhance employment and youth entrepreneurship. The implementation of these actions promoted the idea of volunteerism and community service in the field of culture and enabled the wider exploitation and promotion of cultural sites, with the active participation of local stakeholders. In this way, creative connections were made between non-profit organizations, social agencies and departments of the General Secretariat of Culture. More than 1200 beneficiaries participated in the program.

Greece has long recognized the potential of culture and cultural heritage as a strategic resource for developing a society based on values that promote the protection of the environment and resources efficiently.

In the 2007-2013 NSRF a large number of culture-related projects were implemented under the priority axis **Sustainable Development and Improvement of the Quality of Life**, which was included in all Regional Operational Programs.

The protection and enhancement of monuments and archaeological sites is in direct relation and interaction with the natural environment. Interventions in historic city centers have impacted in a positive way upon the modern urban landscape. The Unification of the Archaeological Sites of Athens exemplifies heritage-led urban regeneration, a "model" which has started to be replicated in other urban centers across the country (e.g. Thessaloniki, Patras, Larissa, etc.). These interventions have created open areas in the perimeter of archaeological sites accessible to all, thus creating a unique environment for leisure activities and interaction among city residents.

¹¹⁶ Countries that are eligible to participate are: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, FYROM, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

Simultaneously, the archaeological sites themselves function as public gardens, relieving the densely built urban environment.

Another important intervention has taken place in the medieval town of Rhodes. Its medieval core forms an appropriate urban and aesthetic framework for the promotion of its particular identity, for improving the residents' quality of life, and for developing sustainable tourism investments. In the current programming period of 2014-2020 Rhodes' successful example may be replicated in other cities in Greece with a long and diverse historic urban fabric (e.g. Thessaloniki, Corfu, Heraklion, etc.). In addition, the opening of new contemporary culture institutions (e.g. the National Museum of Contemporary Art) offers new tools for urban regeneration.

Regarding the rural environment, large areas of the country have remained practically intact, because of the strict legal protection of monuments and archaeological sites. The environment of these protected zones can be upgraded and allow their use for recreational activities and to support traditional crafts and knowledge, like beekeeping. The long-term objective is to combine the protection and enhancement of the natural environment with the sustainable development of archaeological sites for the public.

A private sector example that is worth mentioning is the case of **Corallia**. As part of the private Corallia organization¹¹⁷, **gi-Cluster**¹¹⁸ - the first Creative Industries cluster established in Greece – has a strong focus on **video games** (including audio-visual and multimedia, software and applications) and the **visual arts**, while expanding to the recently emerging concept of experience industries as a separate market, with a strategic focus on tourism and cultural heritage.

Since its initiation in 2011, gi-Cluster has systematically established a value-chain of 60 members, being comprised of small and large companies, academic and research institutions and other innovation actors that are delivering to global markets a wide range of games, applications, technology solutions, services and tools, such as Casual and Hard-core Games, Serious Games, iGaming technologies, gamification solutions, content designed for multiple channels (e.g. Console, PC, Mobile/Tablet, Social, Web, Retail) and interfaces (e.g. 2D, 3D, VR/AR, Haptic), and serving entertainment, tourism and culture, education, health, advertising and other market segments. “gi-Cluster” has been recently accredited with ESCA’s Gold Label certification for Cluster Management Excellence (*see full description of gi-cluster in the Annex 3*).

Startup Greece¹¹⁹ Startup Greece is an information, networking and collaboration space, aimed at creating a new generation of entrepreneurs in Greece. It is supported by the Ministry for Development and the Greek Government, in collaboration with communities of young entrepreneurs. Startup Greece provides entrepreneurs with the information necessary to start their own business (motivation, funding, legal framework, research material) and utilizes social media to bring together people, ideas,

¹¹⁷ <http://www.corallia.org/en/>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.gi-cluster.gr/en/> -

¹¹⁹ <http://startupgreece.gov.gr/>

corporations, universities, organizations, and to create creative partnerships and investment opportunities.

5. Awareness raising and participation of civil society

1. Awareness raising by civil society organizations on the objectives of the Convention

- The Ministry of Culture and Sports, specifically the Department for Regional Cultural Policy and Festivals, runs a **digital platform**¹²⁰, where the cultural activity of municipal and other cultural agencies across the country is promoted, articles and studies concerning cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are posted, and a database of the festivals (cultural, scientific and more) taking place per year in Greece is available. Future plans for the above platform, include making it available in more languages.
- The Ministry of Culture and Sports corresponded with other Ministries and also with a large number of cultural entities (such as public libraries, all the municipal authorities, private cultural organizations) all over the country, further disseminating all the important information about the 2005 Convention and asking them (either through questionnaires or open-ended questions) to contribute on a voluntary basis to the research on the implementation of the Convention during the past four years. A full list of the cultural bodies that have responded to the research on the implementation of the Convention is available in the Annex. It is worth mentioning that almost all of the above cultural bodies organize activities that are of relevance to the objectives of the Convention.
- In 2014 the Directorate of Modern Cultural Assets and Intangible Cultural Heritage competently communicated the report of the OMC European working group of experts on “the role of public arts and cultural institutions in the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue”.

2. Contribution of civil society

Civil society variously contributed to the preparation of the report, by implementing actions and providing information on their activities. Some examples include:

The Onassis Cultural Centre (OCC)¹²¹, based in Athens, is a cultural space hosting events and actions across the whole spectrum of the arts from theatre, dance, music and the visual arts to the written word, with an emphasis on contemporary cultural expression, supporting Greek artists, cultivating international collaborations and educating children and people of all ages through life-long learning. Special emphasis has been given to audience development and activities for all categories of the population, through performances, educational programs and workshops, with a particular focus on special groups (*see more in the Annex 3*).

ALTCINE–ALTCINE ACTION: The *altcine*¹²² initiative emerged in 2011 from the need to create a platform through which to familiarize people and mostly young

¹²⁰ festival.culture.gr

¹²¹ <http://www.sgt.gr/eng/SPG1/> funded by the Onassis Foundation,
<http://www.onassis.org/en/>

¹²² www.altcine.com

internet users with the special and multicultural cinema of the South East Europe Region. The *altcine* network promotes Balkan cinema and multiculturalism through its joint initiatives and, at the same time, respects and encourages the individuality and richness of the national cinemas of the South East Europe Region. As of now, in its fifth year, the *altcine* platform covers 2000 Balkan films, 1200 organizations and more than 12,000 professionals. Wishing to support young filmmakers and creative crews from the region, in 2012 *altcine* launched the Online Short Film Festival for Balkan Filmmakers, *altcineAction!*¹²³. The activities of ALTCINE place diverse members of the audience – students, cinephiles, professionals, stakeholders, academics, local moviegoers – in a multicultural environment so as to create a brand name for Balkan cinema, start an open dialogue regarding culture, create a sustainable network ready to contribute to cultural policy-making practices, and ensure cultural diversity and mutual respect (*see more in the Annex 3*).

Multitrab Productions¹²⁴ is an urban non-profit company based in Athens, aiming to promote the work of Greek and international artists as well as to organize and implement actions related to the digital arts and digital culture. In the years 2012-2015, Multitrab Productions organized, produced and coordinated a variety of European projects. **Athens Digital Arts Festival**¹²⁵, an annual festival that takes place every May in Athens, is its main field of action, which undertakes a series of parallel actions accomplished during the year that aim to strengthen the audience's contact and familiarization with new media and digital culture. In the years 2012-2015 and before, Multitrab Productions organized, produced and coordinated a variety of projects and workshops promoting digital culture, education, the involvement of emerging artists in every art form as well as the wide distribution of their works and ideas. It also exchanges know-how with corresponding institutions in Greece and abroad (*see full description in the Annex 3*).

Glossopolis¹²⁶ is a Greek language e-learning platform. Launched in 2013, it promotes the Greek language and culture to travelers (Linguistic Tourism). Its motto is that language connects people and the Internet offers a great opportunity to share our cultures and interact, as language is the key player of people's interaction and facilitates intercultural dialogue. Glossopolis offers special courses that help tourists to communicate in all the possible situations they may need to speak Greek in Greece. All the content on the platform is built by considering the practical needs of the persons visiting Greece and it offers a unique travel experience through language learning. As a reward for their efforts, tourists get a reduction of 15-30% for the services of the businesses they visit. In this way, they save money during their holidays and they feel the place as locals do.

¹²³ <http://www.altcineaction.com>

¹²⁴ <http://www.adaf.gr/multitrab-productions-2/>

¹²⁵ <http://www.adaf.gr/about/>

¹²⁶ <http://glossopolis.com/>

1. Promotion of Policies for Gender Equality in the field of culture

The General Secretariat for Gender Equality – GSGE¹²⁷ (within the structure of the Greek Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction) is the governmental agency responsible for planning, implementing, and monitoring the implementation of policies on equality between women and men in all sectors. The GSGE drafted the 2010-2013 National Program for Substantive Gender Equality, which was a program of national scope. Its actions covered all the country's regions, addressing a wide range of regional as well as national public policies. The GSGE is now updating the 2016-2020 National Action Plan for Gender Equality, to which the theme “Gender and Culture” is being included, indicating the significant role of culture in the process of securing gender parity. In 2012-2015, the GSGE continuously acted in concert with cultural institutions and other agencies to promote gender equality through a coherent set of cultural activities. Furthermore, **the GSGE monitors the signing of the “European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life”. To date, the Charter has been signed and accepted by all (13) the Regional Authorities of Greece, as well as by 163 (out of 325) Municipal ones.**

Also, a new initiative, the **Greek part of the International Poetesses Movement (MPI)** organizes the Woman Scream Festival in Greece every year (for the last four years) with the support and participation of many Greek artists (mainly women). The Woman Scream International Poetry and Arts Festival started in the Dominican Republic in 2011, fighting violence against women. The focus of the three festivals was on women's rights and opposing violence against women in third countries.

2. Support of youth participation in culture and in the use of new technologies

In addition to ticket policies and educational programs, there are certain specific activities that concern youth participation in cultural life.

"In the traces of writing: the history of writing and language in Greece" is a versatile educational tool with an interdisciplinary character for pupils in primary and secondary education. It offers diversity in the use of educational tools and the interpretative instruments used to meet various needs (educational, pedagogical, cognitive, learning), and has physical and conceptual accessibility features. For the purposes of using this multi-educational tool, the following training material was produced: a) in paper form (with further information, and suggestions for activities that offer alternative and active forms of learning); b) multimedia (interactive games, animated film); c) experiential (mobile educational exhibition, museum educational tool kit, and a version for visually impaired people); and d) an online interactive virtual exhibition.

- The enhancement and promotion of youth entrepreneurship is a policy objective for the Greek public radio and television company (ERT SA) and this objective has

¹²⁷ www.isotita.gr

hence been included in its regulatory framework for donors and sponsors. Through the public radio stations “Second program” and “Kosmos” and the television culture programs, the work of young artists is continuously promoted.

- **Broadening the readership: *the Summer Reading Campaign***

The first major program run by the NLG in the framework of the Greek Libraries Network is the **Summer Reading Campaign**, which focuses on children and young adults, aiming to promote reading and creativity across the country. Building on previous work by the Greek NGO *Future Library* (see section 4) and thanks to a donation by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, in 2015 the National Library took over the Summer Reading Campaign and in 2016 it significantly upgraded it through a novel methodology¹²⁸. This year, under the theme “become an explorer of the world”, the NLG is coordinating 3500 workshops in 140 libraries across Greece, engaging over 80,000 children aged 6-12 to explore the fascinating world of books. The NLG suggests a common bibliography, a series of educational programs for librarians and offers daily “missions” for children to complete using music, theatre, crafts, gardening, cooking and sowing.

- **Many municipal cultural organizations organize specific activities for young people**

For example:

- The Municipality of Serres organized for the second time the international World Music festival with performances by musicians from all around the world. It also organizes, for the 14th year, the cultural event “**The laugh of children – the future of the world**” which is especially for children and young people. Greek and foreign artists participate in the festival.
- The **Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni** organizes a festival for children, including theatrical performance, workshops on theatre improvisation, and interactive games, aiming to support new artists.
- The **Greek National Opera's**¹²⁹ education program “Interactive Opera for Primary Schools” began in May 2012 and was completed successfully in October 2015, with the participation of over 170 primary schools in different parts of Greece. Pupils from the schools participating in the program had the opportunity to learn about the world of opera from an insider's perspective by taking part in all the different steps of producing an opera.
- **The Athens Concert Hall** (Megaron) organizes the “**Sunday Morning Events**” that are designed to introduce young people to popular works in the symphonic repertoire, with appealing commentary and presentations by experienced musical experts. The intention of the Sunday Mornings is to offer knowledge and

¹²⁸ The programme's objectives are to: a) cultivate the next generation of readers while at the same time engaging their parents and teachers; b) train library staff in innovative methods for creative programming that interests and attracts children and young adults; c) enrich library collections with quality books from Greece and the world for children and young adults; and d) raise awareness about the role of libraries as public spaces of discovery, learning and interaction and build cross-sector partnerships at the local level that put libraries at the heart of community life.

¹²⁹ <http://www.nationalopera.gr/en/>

entertainment, also allowing young people to familiarize themselves with music through play, often taking an active role in performance. These events, which have proved enormously popular, have covered all the different facets of musical activity and given young people the opportunity – at very low cost – to make their first acquaintance with the world of music and the joy of musical knowledge. **Tickets** for the Sunday Mornings are very reasonably priced, and priority is given to children, young people and their accompanying adults. The Megaron offers 100 free tickets per Sunday for pupils from schools located outside Athens and a special discount for the accompanying adults.

- **Educational programs for young people with a special focus on the audiovisual sector, organized by public and civil society organizations.**

The educational programs of the **Thessaloniki International Film Festival** organization have introduced its many students to the art of cinema and have contributed to their awareness of and emotional involvement with social and cultural issues related to the aims of the UNESCO Convention.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports subsidizes on a regular basis part of the activities of the **Youth Plan**¹³⁰. This is a private non-profit organization (created in 1998), a creative group for the development of the communication and expression of young people through audiovisual means. Its main activities, implemented on an annual basis in the period 2012-2015, are: i) the important **Olympia International Film Festival for Children and Young People**¹³¹; ii) the European Meeting of Young People’s Audiovisual Creation “CAMERA ZIZANIO”¹³² (both events take place at Pyrgos, Peloponnese, Greece); iii) the “Lessons in the Dark” program, for primary and secondary education schools and which involves a set of actions with film screenings and analyses, film workshops and seminars¹³³; iv) the Mythos Project,¹³⁴ which offers young people from different countries the opportunity to create their own audiovisual works through multinational groups. In the five years during which the program has been operating, people from 14 countries have worked together (Netherlands, Spain, Croatia, Israel, Ireland, Slovenia, Austria, Lithuania, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Russia, Turkey); and v) the Cinema in the Squares program¹³⁵.

The **Multitrab Productions** organization develops and implements the **Animating the Image** educational program, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. Animating the Image is an educational and creative workshop for kids that provides

¹³⁰ See full description in the Annex 3.

¹³¹ <https://olympiafestival.gr/>

¹³² <https://camerazizanio.net/>

¹³³ Youth Plan owns the Children and Youth Film Archive, unique in Greece with film masterpieces for young ages, organized a plethora of events (the peak being 2013 when 200 events were held) reaching the most inaccessible regions of the country and the most remote small islands.

¹³⁴ <https://themythosproject.wordpress.com/>

¹³⁵ This program aims to revive the mobile cinema of the 1950s and 1960s, when each summer films for the whole family – although with a focus on children and young people – are screened in most of the squares of villages and small towns in the Region of Western Greece.

them with the opportunity of “travelling” with skilled animators from the essential start of the design creation process to motion synthesis, when they compose their first animation creations. The program aims to help pupils familiarize themselves with and research digital culture, in direct contact with the digital art forms, such as animation.

The **Greek Film Archive Foundation** organizes, during the last years, film screenings and interactive workshops especially addressed to youth.

The Hellenic Broadcasting (ERT SA) organizes regular educational tours for pupils with the aim of familiarizing young people with the use of traditional and new media in audiovisual production.

6. Achievements, challenges, solutions and next steps

Despite the financial difficulties and lack of personnel, most cultural bodies and institutions in the public and private sectors have expanded their activities and achieved their audience development (including vulnerable groups, different social and age groups) by using a variety of means (digital or traditional), issues (different cultural and historical periods) and ways to communicate and interact to their audience. They have also developed a wide range of collaborations both within Greece and abroad.

The activities to disseminate the 2005 Convention and its objectives, through a structured approach, is necessary to be continued. Therefore, there will be a further collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and Sports and other Ministries, as well as between the municipal authorities from all over the country, universities and civil society organizations.

Regarding Book Policy, consultations will take place in view of reintroducing the Fixed Book Price, which seems to strengthen the diversity of cultural expressions, especially by promoting the sustainability of “brick and mortar” bookstores and the promotion of lesser known or upcoming authors.

In terms of promoting accessibility to cultural goods/products for all, without discrimination, in 2016 the Ministry of Culture and Sports launched an initiative to allocate copies of the awarded literary books each year to detention units all over the country and to the public and municipal libraries of the Greek islands (with a priority for those on the border and to the islands of front line in the refugee crisis).

Recently, UNESCO announced Athens as the 2018 World Book Capital City. Due to this significant fact, during the next period, and with the coordination of the Municipality of Athens, many public and private organizations will cooperate on planning and implementing a wide range of activities on book policies.

Panteion University in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports has undertaken the complete mapping of the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) in Greece, in order to measure their economic and societal impact and to collect reliable statistical data. This work shall facilitate the development of an evidence-based policy for the cultural and creative sector.

In the current 2014-2020 Programming Period, the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs) shall further cooperate with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, to support programs on cultural heritage research and innovation and initiatives linking culture to tourism, with the participation of the cultural and creative industries (CCIs).

For the enhancement of **artists' mobility**, the Ministry of Culture and Sports is working on developing a digital platform (on its website) where (in collaboration with the competent ministries and other bodies) all the relevant information will be available (taxation, social security and visa issues, residencies etc.).

**General Secretary of the Hellenic Ministry
of Culture and Sports**

Maria Andreadaki - Vlazaki