



# **Cultural Policy Review of the Republic of North Macedonia**

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## **Towards a Strategy for Heritage and the Development of Culture and Creative Industries**

(Online Peer Review, December 2020)

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. General information related to the country's cultural policy

The Republic of North Macedonia (MK) became independent on 8 September 1991. The country became a member of the Council of Europe (CoE) in 1995 (In Annex 1 all MK undertakings related to the Council of Europe are listed).

It is candidate to accession to the European Union since 2005. On 26 March 2020, the European Council endorsed the decision to open accession negotiations with North Macedonia. The country joined NATO in March 2020. It has a population of 2.076.255 (2019). According to the latest census of population (2002), 64.17% of the population is Macedonian; 25.17% Albanian; 3.5% Turk; 2.66% Roma; 0.48% Vlach; 1.78% Serb; 0.84% Bosnian; 1.04% other.

The percentage of households with internet access at home has increased by 11 % between 2014 and 2018 (79.3%) and mobile broadband penetration covers 61% of population. Companies still face restrictions regarding fixed broadband access (19.4% in 2018 compared to 17.2% in 2014)<sup>1</sup>.

The Ministry of Culture (MoC) distributes public funds for culture on the basis of an annual plan. The allocation of the overall state budget to different sectors is prescribed by law (annual Law on the National Budget). The Budget of the Ministry of Culture of Republic of North Macedonia in year 2021 totals 3.276.430.000,00 MKD (53 million EUR). The budget for culture in relation to the entire budget of North Macedonia is 1.23 % percent, and compared to the budget for 2020 it has been reduced by 10.000.000 MKD (approximately 162.000 EUR).

The cultural budget finance projects of national interest and capital (infrastructural) investment projects. The funds allocated to financing projects of national interest in 2021 are 970,100,000.00 MKD (approximately 15.5 million EUR) and the funds intended for financing capital projects are 217,000,000 MKD (approximately 3.5 million EUR). The Ministry counts 144 employees<sup>2</sup>.

There is no data available on the local (municipal) expenditure on culture that complements state funding as 33 local authorities are being supported by the central government at the level of 324 million MKD. Following the process of decentralization in 2004, when a network of cultural institution was transferred from national to local level, the Government decided to continue the financial support for these institutions (49 of them).

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<sup>1</sup> Source European Commission – Accession Report , Staff working paper – October 2020

<sup>2</sup> Source: Ministry of Culture North Macedonia.

The MoC has also signed bilateral agreements for cultural cooperation with more than 50 countries.

General statistics available on North Macedonian culture and creative sector provide as follows:

- Cultural employment is 3.1% (23.000 people) of MK's total employment. 60% of cultural employees have a tertiary level of education, compared to 25% of the total (Eurostat 2018).
- Cultural enterprises comprise 3.8% of the non-financial business economy. Cultural enterprises' total value added at factor cost is €86 million, 2.3% of the total non-financial business economy. The turnover is €213 million, 1.2% of the total in non-financial business economy (Eurostat 2015).
- The largest percentage (70%) of CCI products is intended for foreign markets, while 29.4% products are aimed exclusively at the domestic market. Export is realized through institutions (25.9%), individually (20.7%) or through companies (19%)<sup>3</sup>.
- In 2015, 25% of MK citizens participated in cultural activity in the preceding 12 months (Eurostat).

The country produces around 10 feature films per year – the great majority (80%) are financed as international coproduction. The market share of MK's top 3 film distributors is over 60%<sup>4</sup>.

The country's cultural infrastructure in heritage includes 11 200 buildings registered as part of the immovable cultural heritage (4 421 archaeological sites; 1 726 churches and monasteries with over 150 000 square meters of mural fresco paintings; etc.) and 500 000 museum pieces<sup>5</sup>. The country counts 32 museums (21 national) (2018), 27 Theaters (2017) and 14 cinemas<sup>6</sup>.

#### 1.2. Relations with the Council of Europe and other international organisations

In 2003, the **Council of Europe (CoE)** in association with the EU proposed a Regional Programme on Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe. This included the **Ljubljana Process**<sup>7</sup>, that brought considerable socioeconomic, institutional and political benefits through actions on over 220 monuments and sites. Since 2011, the Regional Cooperation Council oversees the project (Ljubljana Process II).

The CoE Ministerial conference "The Social Value of Cultural Heritage in Europe" was organized in 2010 when the Republic of Macedonia chaired the Committee of Ministers of the

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<sup>3</sup> British Council (2010). Creative Industries Mapping in the Republic of Macedonia, page 66.

<sup>4</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2017). <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/mk?theme=culture>.

<sup>5</sup> Compendium Cultural Policies and Trends (2020). Country Profile North Macedonia, page 30.

[https://www.culturalpolicies.net/wp-content/uploads/pdf\\_full/north\\_macedonia/macedonia\\_092018.pdf](https://www.culturalpolicies.net/wp-content/uploads/pdf_full/north_macedonia/macedonia_092018.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Ibidem, pages 29 and 31.

<sup>7</sup> Council of Europe. Ljubljana Process. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/ljubljana-process>.

Council of Europe. This conference was a strong impetus for cooperation among countries playing a leading role in the promotion of new and sustainable methods of preserving and using cultural heritage. The Skopje Agenda was adopted on the monitoring of the ongoing projects by the Council of Europe; The Republic of North Macedonia signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention of Faro<sup>8</sup>, and the principles of regional cooperation establishing the Council of Ministers of Culture of the Black Sea and the South Caucasus Region was promoted. The 3-year programme of the Skopje Agenda strongly encouraged the implementation of the Faro Convention through tangible, converging activities in developing regional projects in conformity. This group of projects included Ljubljana Process II: Rehabilitating Our Common Heritage, the Pilot Local Development Projects, and the Pilot Project on the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Historic Towns, carried out in the countries having signed the Kyiv Initiative.

North Macedonia has been a member of **UNESCO** since 28 June 1993. It ratified various conventions including the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2007) and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2006). Between 2016 and 2017, UNESCO's Participation Programme approved 5 projects that MK participated in, including 1 regional project. Lake Ohrid region is a World Heritage Site since 1979. Bitola became a UNESCO Creative City of Film in 2015 (part of UNESCO Creative Cities Network). The country is included in the UNESCO/EU action to Fight Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property.

**The European Union (EU)** supported so far with EUR 57.7 million the participation of the country in 12 EU programmes, including Erasmus+, Creative Europe, the programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME), Horizon 2020, Customs 2020, Fiscalis 2020 and Europe for Citizens.

North Macedonia is trying to make the most of EU funding to support its CCS: its cultural operators have been involved in 79 Creative Europe projects between 2014 and 2020 (as project coordinator for 45 of these projects)<sup>9</sup>.

Through EU's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), DG NEAR of the European Commission is funding the Creative Europe Culture Sub-programme – Western Balkans Cooperation Projects. The programme is managed by DG EAC with a total budget estimated at EUR5 million. Selection results on the first call were announced on 30 July 2020. The 13

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<sup>8</sup> The Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 13 October 2005, and opened for signature to member States in Faro (Portugal) on 27 October of the same year. It entered into force on 1 June 2011. To date, 19 member States of the Council of Europe have ratified the Convention and 6 have signed it. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/faro-convention>. North Macedonia ratified in 2011 the CoE Faro Convention). The Faro Convention emphasizes the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy. It promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society.

<sup>9</sup> Source: Ministry of Culture.

winning applications include 12 cultural organisations from North Macedonia<sup>10</sup> (out of a total of 77 beneficiary organisations).

Two projects are led by a North Macedonian organisation: “The Ways of the Heroes” (EUR 395 183) led by Macedonian National Theatre and “Immersive Storytelling Driven Cooperation for Cultural Heritage Dissemination in Western Balkans” (EUR 338 055) led by the Association Centre for Social Innovations Blink 42-21.

The EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) refers to the significance of the cultural dimension (especially in relations to other Balkan states and on local level). IPA II (2014-2020) reads that: “Cultural heritage remains largely underused while smart policy making could exploit the territorial cultural potential for the socio-economic benefit of the local communities, tourists and visitors thus contributing to socio-economic growth of the regions as well as to boosting the competition among cultural industries in the region.<sup>11</sup>”

The implementation of IPA II is underway. The programming of the IPA II funds was successfully completed bringing the IPA package for the country to EUR 633 million. Of this amount EUR 214 million has been already contracted by end 2019. The MoC has yet to make the most of this funding opportunity to support the development of the cultural and creative sectors notably to implement IPA’s priorities such as “encouraging tourism, culture and natural heritage” and cultural exchanges with neighboring countries (Interreg/IPA funding)<sup>12</sup>.

Some other international cultural initiatives include:

- South East European (SEE) Heritage<sup>13</sup>
- The Council of Ministers of Culture of South East Europe (CoMoCoSEE)<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Drustvo Za Izdavanje, Promet I Uslugi Goten Grup Dooel Skopje; Association for Development of Culture and Ecology Sensus – Skopje; Platform for Civic Engagement Through Artistic and Cultural Practices Sociopatch Skopje; Lokomotiva Centre for New Initiatives in Arts and Culture; Republika Makedonija Nacionalna Ustanova-Muzej Na Sovrementa Umetnost Skopje; Jadro – Association of the Independent Culture Scene Skopje; Publishing House Gavrosh Dooel Skopje; НАЦИОНАЛНА УСТАНОВА ЗА УПРАВУВАЊЕ СО АРХЕОЛОШКИОТ ЛОКАЛИТЕТ СТОБИ; Strip Centar Na Makedonija; Association Centre for Social Innovations Blink 42-21; Macedonian National Theatre.

<sup>11</sup> European Commission (2014). Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) 2014-2020, page 6.

[https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/annexes/2020\\_ad1\\_eu\\_for\\_municipalities.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/annexes/2020_ad1_eu_for_municipalities.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Source: European Commission Staff Working Document – North Macedonia 2020 Report – 6.10.2020 – Communication on EU Enlargement Policy (SWD 2020 – 351 Final).

<sup>13</sup> SEE Heritage is a network of non-governmental organizations from South East Europe established in 2006. Its mission is to work towards protecting and promoting the common cultural heritage with the aim of encouraging sustainable development of the region. Source: <http://www.seeheritage.net/index.php/about-see-heritage-network>.

<sup>14</sup> CoMoCoSEE is a unique cooperation platform created by the Ministers responsible for culture in South-East Europe (including North Macedonia). Its main purpose is to strengthen regional cooperation and boost cultural heritage and creativity as drivers for sustainable development and regional integration. The Ohrid Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe was approved in 2014. CoMoCoSEE’s commitment to its implementation is confirmed through the adoption of Istanbul (Turkey, 2016) and Tirana (Albania, 2017) declaration. Source: <https://comocosee.org/documents/declarations/>.

- The Berlin Process<sup>15</sup>

## 2. Aim of the Peer Review

The Peer Review exercise was implemented at the request of the MoC with a view to consider policy options for a better articulation between the MoC objectives of supporting the country's cultural heritage as well as its cultural and creative sector.

According to the current law on Cultural Heritage Protection (2004), the protection of cultural heritage is the responsibility of 9 national institutions:

- 1 institution is for cultural heritage management,
- 3 institutions are conservation centers and
- 5 institutions (Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments and Museum-Bitola, Institute for protection of the cultural monuments and Museum-Prilep, Institute for protection of the cultural monuments and Museum-Ohrid, Institute for protection of the cultural monuments and Museum-Stip and Institute for protection of the cultural monuments and Museum- Strumica). These institutions operate as hybrid institutions that simultaneously deal with immovable heritage protection and museum/ gallery activities.

The 2021 budget is establishing a new budget line "Cultural heritage in danger" with the intention of prioritizing the protection of important intangible cultural monuments. For this purpose, a fund of 12.000.000 MKD or almost 200.000 EUR is allocated. This fund supports urgent activities aimed at the protection, conservation, and repair of important monuments considered to be representative of intangible heritage. In 2021 six such monuments have been listed. A new Law on Cultural Heritage is being drafted,

The National Strategy for Cultural Development (2018-2022) envisages the drafting of new legislation as well as revision of the status and role of the Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage. At the same time the National Strategy for Cultural Development is still at an early stage of implementation and work needs to intensify notably to support the growth of the cultural and creative sector in the country.

A mapping of the economic and social significance of the Culture and Creative Sector remains to be done in North Macedonia. The development of the National Strategy for Cultural Development will lead to a process of consultation with the sector (enterprises, NGOs) eager to contribute in the implementation.

The 2021 budget has doubled its funds for culture and European integration, compared to the previous budget. The funds supports projects related to the administrative reorganization of

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<sup>15</sup> The Berlin Process aims to increase regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and aid the integration of these countries into the EU. In 2019, it published the Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans Policy Brief "Against Embellishments: for Long-term Mechanisms of Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe". The report identifies obstacles to regional cultural cooperation in the West Balkan region and make recommendations to foster dialogue and collaboration between cultural operators. Source: <https://berlinprocess.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CSF-PB-06-19-full-4.pdf>.

cultural institutions in accordance with the principles of public administration drawn up by the EU. It also supports co-financing of all local projects that received approval under the Creative Europe program, as well as in relation to the European agenda for the Western Balkans in the field of culture. The priority is to support integration of cultural actors and entrepreneurs in European networks.

Information used to draft this report was compiled through online meetings with different categories of stakeholders. It was compiled with a view to advise the Ministry of Culture on priorities for the development of heritage and the culture and creative sectors (CCS) that serves economic, and social development. Cultural and creative sectors can be defined according to the definition adopted by EU institutions. These include the cultural sector - heritage, performing art, museum, music, publishing, audiovisual, video games, events and creative industries – design, advertising, architecture and fashion.

The virtual visit took place on 9, 10 and 17 December 2020<sup>16</sup>. Several meetings with stakeholders enabled to identify challenges and opportunities used to formulate recommendations. The aim of the mission is to help planning and establishing a long-lasting strategic framework that survive political upheavals.

### **3. Main Challenges and Opportunities**

Challenges linked to the development of a coherent cultural policy are familiar to countries with limited budget resources and narrower understanding on the value and potential of cultural investment to generate economic and social development. North Macedonia is obviously facing many challenges the more so with the COVID-19 crisis that has left its mark on the economy and on public finances like in many countries.

At the outset experts would like to highlight that a coherent culture policy strategy would help address social cohesion in a multi-ethnic country and help in the formulation of a more inclusive societal approach triggering community engagement and citizens' empowerment capable of countering divisive political rhetoric and interference.

The following main challenges have been identified following consultation with stakeholders:

- The need to reform public administration to improve transparency on management and spending ,
- to improve data collection on the culture and creative sectors,
- to digitize procedure,
- to operationalize policy vision,
- to reward merit,
- to value professional expertise over political appointments.

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<sup>16</sup> Programme of the mission is in Annex 4.

We understand that a reform of the country's public administration is being implemented and that the reform strategy is leading to a functional review of the Ministry of Culture planned in the coming months in line with the adoption of the 2019-2021 Transparency Strategy and Public Administration Reform Strategy as well as the Public Financial Management Reform Programme.

- Numerous stakeholders are critical of funding allocation (transparency, delays, procedures, priorities) and lack of data and statistics to inform policy decisions. They are calling for a clear roadmap for cultural policy to serve social cohesion and economic development. Procurement policy would also need to be reviewed to accommodate cultural policy specificities.
- North Macedonia has to improve its standards in the protection of intellectual property and notably copyright. The European Commission's report on its Communication on Enlargement policy in October 2020 <sup>17</sup> noted some progress with raising awareness about the fight against counterfeiting, smuggling and import of counterfeit goods including an increase of seized goods. The copyright law is expected to be amended as a matter of priority to comply with EU legal standards. Some stakeholders wondered whether the Ministry had the capacity and expertise to conduct this important reform.
- The 2018-2022 national strategy for culture development is still at an early stage of implementation and work needs to intensify. The adoption of laws on culture and protection of cultural heritage, as well as the national strategy for protection of cultural heritage has been further delayed. Stakeholders complained on the lack of an operational plan aimed at implementing the national strategy. They also requested more actions with a view to implementing the law on decentralization so as to support local cultural actions beyond Skopje. The concern is that cultural offer and investment is collapsing in the regions.
- The inadequate use of the instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) resources to fund cultural and creative industry projects in the country in line with cultural policy objectives to support heritage and the development of the culture and creative sectors (CCS).
- Significant skills shortage reflecting shortcomings in the education system on preparing for the creative economy and the management of cultural resources (including heritage) are in evidence. Researchers and conservation experts are requesting better consideration and empowerment to carry out their work. Inspections and supervisions should be left to people with experience in heritage and conservation work.
- No specific policy exists to support the development of the local cultural and creative industries as agents of economic development, innovation, entrepreneurship and clustering to assist the emergence of a digital and creative economy. Policy has yet to

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<sup>17</sup> Commission Staff Working Paper on EU enlargement policy – Report on North Macedonia 6 October 2020 [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/north\\_macedonia\\_report\\_2020.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/north_macedonia_report_2020.pdf)

include support to distribution of cultural products and market access/promotion of such production.

- Awareness-raising as well as regular and appropriate budget allocations are necessary to protect cultural heritage. Authorities must intensify inter-institutional cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage and prevent illegal constructions in places with a 'cultural heritage with particular importance' status, such as Ohrid and the Skopje Old Bazaar. Law on construction/building should be adapted to enable protection of cultural heritage (review conservation privilege granted to architects and builders) .

The following opportunities have been identified in the course of the policy review:

- A large pool of talent and strong distinctive cultural resources (heritage, institutions, ethnic diversity, crafts).
- The emergence of a vibrant CCS sector with the capacity to participate and contribute in policy consultation and in designing action plans (for instance UMPACI) .
- A clear policy will to initiate change and reform.
- The proven ability of operators to access Creative Europe funding and to generate regional cultural cooperation with neighbouring countries. Match fund projects that obtained Creative Europe funding are a good policy.
- Support from international donors (notably cultural institutes) and opportunities of EU funding (notably through IPA and recent policy initiatives for the West Balkans specifically targeting cultural cooperation).
- Citizens' thirst for local cultural content and cultural participation.
- The intrinsic importance of culture policy to unite the country and its citizens.
- The need to create an atmosphere for culture so that young people and talent stay on and do not leave the country.

#### **4. Policy Recommendations**

Experts' priority recommendations to the Ministry of Culture are listed herewith.

##### **4.1 Priority measures to support public administration of culture**

Implement the 2018-2022 Public Administration Reform Strategy and the 2018-2021 Public Financial Management Reform Programme. The Ministry of Culture should, in particular:

- put in place a framework that ensures full respect of merit-based recruitment for senior civil service and other positions in cultural institutions ;
- organise as a matter of priority the horizontal functional review and start implementing it to ensure clear accountability lines between services and institutions;
- ensure full implementation of the Law on General Administrative Procedures to ensure transparency and fairness.

As part of the functional review the Ministry should consider feasibility of delegating funding allocation/subsidies to an independent public agency reporting to the Ministry and managing applications for funding. The Ministry of Culture should reflect on granting more autonomy to public agencies to empower the latter. Public procurement policy should be reviewed to take into account specifics of CCS. Funding policy should also address distribution bottlenecks and support the digital transition.

As a matter of priority the Ministry should develop statistical capacity to map the economic and social importance of the culture and creative sectors with a view to understand the contribution of the CCS, identify sectors with growth potentials and requiring policy support. The mapping would also serve in the development of measurement tools and indicators capable of assessing the impact of policy measures. The mapping will also serve in raising awareness on the importance of the sector.

The Ministry of Culture should set a roadmap for the implementation of the national strategy for cultural development and associate CCS in development of such roadmap. It should establish clearly its role and ambition in working for social cohesion and mutual understanding to make cultural diversity the country's strength.

The Ministry of Culture should develop stronger links with other ministerial departments and initiate cross administrative collaboration notably in relation to the economy (entrepreneurship, innovation, incubation, investment), education (art education, cultural management and cultural participation), decentralization (cultural offering, participation and creative hubs) and European affairs (intercultural dialogue, regional market for cultural goods and services, funding, international networking).

The Ministry of Culture should develop or initiate large scale projects capable of IPA funding to address underfunding in heritage and CCS with a view to build scale and capacity to develop cultural services to cater for the national as well as the West Balkan market.

Mentoring and exchange programmes could be developed with willing countries ready to share training expertise for professionals in culture management, intellectual property enforcement, entrepreneurship, conservation and heritage protection. Mobility of artists and cultural operators/entrepreneurs should be encouraged.

The Ministry of Culture should take the initiative of organizing a Culture and Creative Industry Summit to gather cultural and creative entrepreneurs from North Macedonia and the West Balkans to stimulate cross border collaboration as well as to raise political awareness on the potential of the sector. There is the potential for North Macedonia to become the region's creative hub in line with the outcome of the Zagreb Summit on 6 May 2020 where EU and Western Balkans leaders agreed that deepening regional economic integration has to be a prominent part of recovery efforts of the Western Balkans. North Macedonia could play a constructive role in building a common regional market in CCS services.

#### 4.2 Priority Measure to support the development of CCS and heritage

We understand from the Ministry of Culture that a National Strategy for the Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage is in a process of preparation, as well as a new Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage. The activity of preparing a list of cultural heritage of national importance has started. The new law envisages a reduction of administrative and bureaucratic procedures, harmonization of the protection of cultural heritage with the relevant international conventions. The emphasis will be on the protection of intangible heritage. To address skill shortages the opening of undergraduate studies in conservation is planned.

Experts recommend that institutions in charge of heritage work more closely with CCS in areas such as festival/performing art events, service and product design, digital engagement (Virtual and Augmented Reality), crafts and fashion. This will contribute to raise awareness on locally made products and services (contributing to the establishment of a market) as well as support attractiveness of sites for visitors, including tourists.

Policy supports (whether in the form of subsidies or regulation) should not only target creation and production but should also consider support to distribution and promotion notably for cultural products and services (books, music and films). Local media should be incentivized or required to showcase local cultural production.

With a view to encourage investment in intellectual property assets, to reward creators as well as to attract local and foreign investment North Macedonia needs to improve its legal framework on copyright and law enforcement. This requires an alignment with “the acquis” from the European Union in the field of copyright harmonization and IP rights management.

Efforts should be made to cluster CCS with other sectors such as IT/ digital and tourism to encourage development of new services reflecting new forms of cultural consumption via digital networks, social media and apps. In tourism this may include for example joining of the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes programme to help North Macedonia in fostering cultural tourism as engine of economic development, especially for local SMEs.

There is a need for the establishment of an agency with the ultimate mission to create a well-coordinated, consistent, enabling environment for the development and enhancement of cultural and creative industries in North Macedonia. This entity could also play the role of the national coordinating body of the EU Creative Europe / West Balkan/ IPA Programs in order to ensure more flexibility, transparency and help fund-raising.

## 5. Conclusions - Towards a Modern Cultural Policy

In post-industrial societies culture is everywhere. As a territorial resource stemming from language, history, talent, industries and heritage producing singularities, it reaches out well beyond museums, heritage sites or traditional cultural institutions. Because it nourishes innovation, social and creative entrepreneurship as well as new working practices, it inspires and drives technology hubs, creative clusters, popular festivals, digital networks, new manufacturing and services. Powerful social media channels use cultural goods as main resources to generate precious data exchanges (music, fashion, TV series, games, performing arts and sport). In addition to its economic significance, cultural activities support social interactions contributing to making places attractive, peaceful, and contributing to improve well-being (culture as the industry of happiness). The sanitary crisis serves to highlight the importance of culture in sustaining social interactions. Any lack of cultural offering has a negative impact on attractiveness of places (thus affecting real estate, the hospitality sector and the overall organization of society ranging from transport to policing).

This capacity to shape our daily lives requires a reassessment of cultural policy goals originally set for a different world; a world that was less globalized, flat and connected, more hierarchical and focused on managing flagship institutions.

Modern cultural policy should be designed to help culture work as a stimulant, an agent of change steering a new enlightenment and collective will. This means essentially that culture should be considered as a resource requiring:

- protection from standardization trends degrading cultural richness and diversity,
- promotion to enrich, to innovate, to challenge, to connect with a view to empower communities as well as individuals,
- elevation to nurture solidarities and empathies across cultures to develop a collective-will to confront local and global challenges<sup>18</sup>.

9 February 2021

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<sup>18</sup> As examples of principles for culture to work as a strategic agent of transformation. <https://keanet.eu/manifesto-for-a-modern-cultural-policy/>

## Annex 1

RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE	
Date of application	13 May 1993: Special Guest Status with the Assembly 25 June 1993: Date of candidature for accession
Accession	9 November 1995 <a href="#">Opinion 191 (1995)</a> Application by “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”* for membership of the Council of Europe
Ratification ECHR	10 April 1997
Relations with the Court	Judge to the <a href="#">European Court of Human Rights</a> : Jovan Ilievski (since February 2017).  The Court dealt with 257 applications concerning "The republic of North Macedonia" in <b>2019</b> , of which 246 were declared inadmissible or struck out. It delivered 12 judgments (concerning 11 applications), 9 of which found at least one violation of the ECHR.  <a href="#">ECtHR/Country Profile</a> (last updated: July 2020)
Execution of Judgments of the ECHR	<a href="#">Country Factsheet – North Macedonia</a> (updated: October 2020)
Signature/Ratification CoE Conventions	To date, North Macedonia has signed and ratified the following (95) <a href="#">conventions</a> .  To date, North Macedonia has signed but not ratified the following (9) <a href="#">conventions</a> .  To date, North Macedonia has neither signed nor ratified the following (104) <a href="#">conventions</a> .
<b>Ratification of major CoE Conventions</b>	

N°	Title	Signed	Ratified
	<i>ECHR protocols:</i>		
214	Protocol 16 ECHR		
213	Protocol 15 ECHR	21/11/2013	16/06/2016
1 187	Protocol 13 ECHR	3/5/2002	13/7/2004
1 177	Protocol 12 ECHR	4/11/2000	13/7/2004
1 114	Protocol 6 ECHR	14/6/1996	10/4/1997
	<i>Warsaw Conventions:</i>		

1	198	On Laundering, Search Seizure and confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism	17/11/2005	27/5/2009	
11	197	On Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	17/11/2005	27/5/2009	
	196	Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism	21/11/2006	23/03/2010	
21	217	Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism	18/01/2017		
		<i>Minorities:</i>			
1	157	Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities	25/7/1996	10/4/1997	
1	148	European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages	25/7/1996		
		<i>Social Charter:</i>			
1	163	European Social Charter (Revised)	27/5/2009	06/01/2012	
0	035	European Social Charter	5/5/1998	31/3/2005	
		<i>Others:</i>			
2	216	Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs			
2	210	Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence	08/07/2011	23/03/2018	
2	201	Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	25/10/2007	11/6/2012	
2	200	On the Avoidance of Statelessness in relation to State Succession			
1	185	On Cybercrime	23/11/2001	15/9/2004	
1	174	Civil Law Convention on Corruption	8/6/2000	29/11/2002	
1	173	Criminal Law Convention on Corruption	28/7/1999	28/7/1999	
1	166	On Nationality	6/11/1997	3/6/2003	
1	132	On Transfrontier Television	30/5/2001	18/11/2003	
1	122	European Charter of Local Self-Government	14/6/1996	6/6/1997	

1	108	For the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic processing of Personal Data	24/3/2006	24/3/2006	
1	106	European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities			

## **Annex 2 – Legal Framework**

The legal framework in the Republic of North Macedonia that regulates the cultural processes and work of its institutions consists in a set of laws, by-laws, strategies and yearly strategic operating plans of the Ministry of Culture.

A total of 16 laws are operational in the field of culture:

1. Law on Culture, with seven (7) active by-laws within this Law,
2. Law on Libraries, with five (5) active by-laws within this Law ,
3. Law on Museums, with eight (8) active by-laws within this Law,
4. Law on Audiovisual Goods, with six (6) active by-laws within this Law,
5. Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, with thirty (30) active by-laws,
6. Law on Copyright and Related Rights, with two (2) active by-laws
7. Law on Publishing, with five (5) active by-laws,
8. Law on Cinematography, with three (3) active by-laws within this Law,
9. Law on Memorials and Memorial Monuments, with two (2) active by-laws,
10. Law on the use of Macedonian Language, with seven (7) active by-laws ,
11. Law on the proclamation of the Old Skopje Bazaar for cultural heritage of special importance,
12. Law on the proclamation of the Old City Core of Ohrid for cultural heritage of special importance,
13. Law on the management of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage Site of the Ohrid Region, with one active by-law within this Law: A plan for the management of the world natural and cultural heritage site of the Ohrid region with an action plan (2020-2029),
14. Law on the proclamation of the Monumental whole Krushevo for cultural heritage of special importance,
15. Law on the proclamation of the Old City Core of Kratovo for cultural heritage of special importance,
16. Law on the proclamation of the Old City Core of Bitola for cultural heritage of special importance,

### **Annex 3 – UN Conventions**

The Republic of North Macedonia has ratified the following UN conventions which are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture:

1. Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention.
2. Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Properties.
3. Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
4. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
5. Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
6. Universal Copyright Convention, with Appendix Declaration relating to Articles XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI and Universal Copyright Convention as revised in Paris on July 24, 1971, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and the Resolution concerning Article XI.
7. Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms.
8. Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Source: Ministry of Culture

## Annex 4 – Programme

Preparation in Autumn 2019 with contacts with the Ministry of Culture in view of running a Cultural Policy Peer Review in early 2020. Plans had to be postponed due to the Covid 19 crisis.

<i>Date and time</i>	
<b>9 December 2020</b>	Initial contact with the MoC to explain the policy review and prepare stakeholders consultation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dafina Dzeperoska</li> <li>- Nada Peseva</li> <li>- Elena Bodajiva</li> <li>- Biljana Pentoska</li> </ul>
<b>10 December 2020</b>	
10:00 –11:30	<p><b>Meeting with representatives of the Cultural and Creative Industries (NGO, Private Sector)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elena Bojadjieva – President of UMPACI (Union of Macedonian professional associations in the creative industries)</li> <li>- Petar Kotevski – MAGDA (Association for game development)</li> <li>- Nika Gavrovska – „Gavroche Books” (independent publishing house)</li> <li>- Sonja Stavrova – BULB (Association for professional photographers)</li> <li>- Irina Tosheva – Independent fashion designer</li> <li>- Aleksandar Risteovski – Association of Performers, Producers and Authors ZIPA</li> <li>- Krste Gospodinovski – Animation, Flipbook Film Festival</li> <li>- Sasha Stanisic – „AFIDI” – Association of film professionals</li> <li>- Zoja Tarevska – UMPACI Project coordinator</li> <li>- Zharko Ivanov – Animation, Flipbook Film Festival</li> <li>- Risima Risimkin – Skopje Dance Theater</li> <li>- Biljana Tanurovska – Lokomotiva – NGO – performing art</li> <li>- Jana Kocevska – Tiiit!Inc. – NGO</li> <li>- Biljana Crvenkovska – Book Publisher Association ’</li> <li>- Jasna Shoptrajanova – independent cultural producer</li> <li>- Apostolova Baskar – ITI – Center of International Theatre Culture</li> <li>- Filip Jovanovski – Akto Festival – contemporary art</li> <li>- Simona Gajdoska – Art Festival – Producer</li> <li>- Galaxy J6 na Iva .</li> </ul> <p><i>Issues discussed: Policies related to creative industries. Creative industries in the National Strategies. Challenges and future prospects.</i></p>

<b>17 December 2020</b>	
9:45 – 11:15	<p><b>Meeting with National Cultural Insitutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meri Stojanova – National Institute Cultural Heritage – Bitola</li> <li>- Jehona Spahiu – National Conservation Center – Skopje</li> <li>- Maja – National Center – Skopje</li> </ul> <p><i>Issues discussed: Policies on cultural institutions. Cultural institutios in the national strategy. Challenges and future prospects.</i></p>
11:30 – 1 pm	<p><b>Meeting with international development partners:</b></p> <p>Mrs Tanja Kruger, Director, Goethe Institute Skopje</p> <p>Mrs. Eleonora Zaprova, Director, British Council, Skopje</p> <p>Mrs. Sanja Frokvic Gelevska, Programme Manager Freedom of Media, Information Society and Culture, EU Delegation</p> <p>Mrs. Borka Taneska, Cultural Affairs Assistant, USA Embassy, Skopje</p> <p>Mr. Brank Cobanov, Attaché for Culture, French Institute, Skopje</p> <p><i>Issues discussed: Cultural policy in North Macedonia. Foreign support in developing local cultural industries. Challenges and future prospects.</i></p>