

# Observing Culture in Belgium, more particularly in the French-speaking Community Wallonia-Brussels

## Introduction

In Belgium, cultural matters have been entrusted to Communities since 1980. However, a number of competences and cultural institutions have been maintained at the federal level. To understand the observational systems this organisation entails, it is useful to recall briefly the organisational structure of the federal state. First of all, Belgium is divided into three Regions: the Flemish, Walloon and Brussels Regions, which have mainly self-governing economic competences and land management. It is further divided into three Communities: the Flemish, French-speaking and German-speaking ones.

Communities can be distinguished by their language and they foremost hold cultural and educational competences.

As for the Regions and the federal level, they are endowed with legislative powers, a Parliament and an executive body.

As a consequence, Communities define, at their level of government, cultural policies they implement in a specific way using traditional instruments of public policies such as a legislative framework, an administrative office (that manages the implementation of regulations), implementing policies, acknowledgment, financing and control systems of public and private culture operators.

Public schemes for observing culture differ from one community to another. In this article, we will sketch the competences and matters managed at these levels of power by the Federal Government and the Flemish Community, as well as the existing observation and research instruments. Then, we will analyse more thoroughly the observation instruments for cultural policies in the French-speaking Community and conclude by shedding light on some specific challenges facing our Observatory in an international context.

## 1. The Federal level

Although most cultural issues are managed by the Communities (French-speaking, Flemish and German-speaking Communities), the Federal State intervenes in cultural policies of creation,

dissemination and heritage through the so-called "bi-communal" institutions, ie a combination of the French-speaking and the Flemish Communities<sup>1</sup>.

Mainly established in the bilingual Brussels Region, these institutions are financed by the federal state. There are three such cultural institutions: the Palais des Beaux-Arts, the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie and the Orchestre National de Belgique <sup>2</sup>, and about fifteen federal scientific institutions.

Among these, we will focus essentially on museums and archives which have a cultural orientation <sup>3</sup> and on a number of organisations proposing musical, museum and exhibition activities <sup>4</sup>.

The federal government also plays an economic role in cultural policies. It is particularly involved in book pricing and in tax exemptions for liberalities or donations to cultural institutions. It is also a duty of the federal government to address issues relating to the Artist's status (social, fiscal and legal), as well as copyright and those relating to job opportunities in general, agreements between employers and workers, and specifically in cultural sectors.

As regards observation of these actions and policies, we will note, in addition to specific productions carried out by these institutions, the job performed by the Observatory of users of federal scientific institutions (established in 2003) which mission is to conduct surveys and analyses related, as said, to users. These surveys should allow institutions to set their objectives in relation to audiences, to measure results, to define strategies and to develop measures to improve the quality of services offered. Research programs are established annually to meet the specific and timely needs of institutions in terms of knowledge of audiences. Moreover, the Public Observatory is conducting a quality survey in five federal museums (annual surveys for 5 years) to update the profile of the visitors and to measure their level of satisfaction. The objective is to retain and expand the number of visitors through an evaluation of the museum offer and adapting it to their expectations and knowledge.

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<sup>1</sup> These artistic and scientific institutions, primarily located in Brussels, are still competences of the federal State which funds them:

<http://www.crisp.be/vocpol/vocpol.asp?terme=%C9tablissements%20scientifiques%20et%20culturels%20f%20E9d%E9raux>

<sup>2</sup> [http://kanselarij.belgium.be/fr/institutions\\_culturelles\\_federales/](http://kanselarij.belgium.be/fr/institutions_culturelles_federales/)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.belspo.be/belspo/act/institut/index\\_fr.stm](http://www.belspo.be/belspo/act/institut/index_fr.stm)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.belspo.be/belspo/res/coord/act\\_cult/patr/aacfr.stm](http://www.belspo.be/belspo/res/coord/act_cult/patr/aacfr.stm) and <http://www.belspo.be/belspo/res/institut/esfr.stm>

## 2. The Flemish Community

As concerns culture monitoring, the Flemish Community does not have any specific institution of the kind of "Observatory of cultural policies" as defined in this study, which would collect data, observations and analyses of the cultural area. There is, however, an important system for collecting and analysing data for the whole cultural field. On the one hand, the Ministry of Culture systematises the constant and accurate collection of data on the activity in the various sectors of culture<sup>5</sup> and, on the other hand, it organises a system of analysis and research in partnership with Flemish universities.

This system relies on "support centres for research" (Steunpunten beleidsrelevant onderzoek)<sup>6</sup>, to support political action by high-quality scientific research. These support centres were established in 2001 and consist of one or more research teams from one or more academic institutions that provide support to the Flemish government for its decisions over a long period of time. The main task of these centres is to conduct scientific research (short-term and basic research) on topics identified as priorities by the Flemish Government. These centres are involved in policy evaluation and they work in close interaction with government and ministerial offices. This mechanism allows the Flemish government to provide structural funding (contracts of 5 years) to university research teams. The research centres are selected on the basis of candidatures, and the Government appoints a research centre per theme. Fourteen research centres have been accepted for the period 2007-2011, working on the theme "Culture, Youth and Sports." Moreover, the conjoined activities of these research centres are structurally coordinated in order to foster synergies, to identify cross-cutting issues (cross-cutting social issues, sustainable development, ...) and to stimulate research. Working together in "consortium"<sup>7</sup> allows research institutions to benefit from

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www4.vlaanderen.be/dar/svr/Cijfers/Pages/Excel.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.belspo.be/belspo/home/publ/pub\\_ostc/BRISTI/Instell\\_fr.pdf](http://www.belspo.be/belspo/home/publ/pub_ostc/BRISTI/Instell_fr.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> The "Consortium" is made up of the following institutions:

· Ghent University - Department of Sociology – GSRM, Department of Movement and Sports sciences, Department of Social Welfare Studies

· Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Department of Sociology – TOR, SMIT, Movement and Sports Training, Sports Policy and Management, Human Physiology and Special Physiology of Physical Education, Biomechanics and Human Biometry

· K.U.Leuven - Research Group into Youth Criminology, Department of Biomedical Kinesiology: Research Centre for Exercise and Health, Department of Human Kinesiology: Research Centre for Sociocultural Kinesiology and Sport Management, Department of Human Kinesiology: Research Centre for Exercise & Sport Psychology, and Coaching, Department of Human Kinesiology: Research Centre for Movement Education and Sport Pedagogy, Department of Geography and Geology: Social and Economic Geography Section

· EHSAL - Centre for Modeling and Simulation

the accumulated knowledge and international networks kept by each of these universities. The developed expertise can then be exchanged and compared internationally.

The originality and interest of the process chosen are based on the close coordination between researchers and the various research projects undertaken, which will consolidate their results in a common evaluation.

For culture, the research is supported, on the one hand, by a transverse dimension which includes the study of Flemish citizens' behaviour, participation and expectations. Every 5 years<sup>8</sup> a general survey is conducted to update information and data, and to evaluate the balance between supply and demand. This research is aimed at understanding the relationship between citizen and culture in its broadest sense, also at analysing the type of culture management, by verifying the effectiveness and efficiency of the resources allocated to implementing these policies. The Flemish Government has a policy which encourages active participation in cultural life from a global perspective of development. These evaluation procedures are therefore based on the analysis of scientifically defensible indicators underpinned by a multidisciplinary approach to culture.

In direct connection with this transverse line of research (participation, practices and lifestyles), other investigations are conducted on four main themes<sup>9</sup>, namely:

- Arts and Heritage: Studies focusing on the analysis of participation, cultural competence, professionalism and the sense of responsibility.
- Socio-culture: studies on the socio-cultural work of cultural operators (cultural centres, libraries, associations, volunteering, training institutions, continued education, amateur artistic practice, movements. ...). This sector of cultural policies plays an important role in meeting the challenges of social cohesion, democratisation of culture and participation. The research is based on qualitative and quantitative analyses of a representative sample of the population of users and non-users of cultural institutions.
- E-culture and the digitisation : studies on the effects of new technologies on cultural offer and participation, on the shift of traditional borders between real and virtual culture, between sectors of culture, between organisers and participants ...

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<sup>8</sup> In 2008-2009, a large scale survey was organised using a representative sample of the Flemish population (3,000 Flemish people aged 14-85). This information on participation, behaviour and expectations provide useful data for basic research. The results of the surveys are interpreted according to the monitoring and compared evolution of previous surveys during these periods. People were questioned on subjects such as how many times they go to the cinema, their social life, music, sports, television, use of the Internet... The results provide a detailed image of Flemish people's leisure activities.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.vub.ac.be/SOCI/cjs/cultuur.html>

- The economics of culture: these investigations are directed in particular to measure the spending of the different sectors of culture, the impact of this spending on the economic and social development, particularly on job opportunities and the Horeca sector. They seek to measure the impact of Government funding on the expenditures of cities and municipalities, to measure the multiplier effect and to evaluate the effectiveness of such funding in meeting the objectives.

On the other hand, along with these research works, conducted by support centres, the sectorial<sup>10</sup> "steunpunten" (specific support points for the different sectors of culture) also produce quite a lot of data, analyses and research specific to their sectors.

### **3. Some remarks on the institutional division**

The fact that each community has the autonomy and control of cultural policies is interesting. Nevertheless, it raises some problems when it comes to obtaining statistical data from the federal level. Indeed, the method of data collection and processing only makes them available and usable at a regional level. However, the territorial area covered by the French Community, the area of deployment of its cultural policies, does not correspond to regional divisions. The French-speaking Community<sup>11</sup> is indeed composed of French-speaking inhabitants living in Brussels (a bilingual region in its own right, comprising 80% of French-speaking inhabitants and 20% of Flemish ones<sup>12</sup>) and French-speaking inhabitants living in Wallonia (another region in its own right). The German-speaking population, although belonging to a different Community but integrated in the Walloon Region for all policies with the exception of cultural and educational policies, should be subtracted. This complex institutional division (sometimes hard to understand even for Belgian citizens) makes it difficult (not to say impossible), at present, to obtain "simple" statistics that cover the reality of the "French-speaking Community".

This difficulty is among other things encountered in obtaining accurate data on cultural employment insofar as the information collected does not make distinctions between the languages of employers and workers. And even if we could get them, they would still be too general and they would not provide information on the various cultural fields. Similarly and for the same reasons, it is not possible to accurately estimate the cultural spending in each Community in

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.cjism.vlaanderen.be/cultuurbeleid/actoren/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> For a definition of the Communities, see CRISP's political vocabulary:  
<http://www.crisp.be/VocPol/vocpol.asp?terme=communauté>

<sup>12</sup> This distribution key is "political" and it does not correspond to the linguistic reality of the Brussels Capital region - The Flemish representation is less relevant (just under 10%) and the other 90% it is not only French-speaking. In Brussels the use of other languages [due to the location of the European Institutions and the population of immigrant origin (28% approx)] must be considered.

relation to its GDP.

#### 4. Monitoring culture in the French-speaking Community

Regarding the observation of cultural policies, the French-speaking Community established an "Observatory of Cultural Policies" in 2001. This initiative is part of a larger movement that in the same decade witnessed the emergence in Europe of similar institutions which primary function is to integrate more reflexivity into public action: to obtain a better knowledge of reality to intervene more pertinently, to evaluate results of the policies applied and to improve the use of public funds in times of financial restrictions.

The creation of the Observatory is also part of a more general evolution of public policy management (cultural management in particular), which in the same period saw the development and spreading of a "Contractual" relationship between public authorities and cultural operators (public and private) which had received grants. The contracts will assign to cultural operators tasks and objectives, to be achieved within defined timeframes and, to public authorities, to assess whether these objectives have been achieved. The need for a quantitative and qualitative data processing tool which would assess the implementation of policies is specifically bound to this development.

The governmental order of the French-speaking Community (April 26, 2001) concerning the establishment of the Observatory of Cultural Policies (OPC) identifies the tasks<sup>13</sup> as follows:

- Make a permanent inventory of:
  - Cultural policies
  - Operators, associations, institutions, professions and employment on the cultural issues that affect the French-speaking Community<sup>14</sup>.
  - The dissemination of cultural goods and services
  - Cultural practices, access modes and participation of French-speaking citizens in cultural life
- Compile and coordinate the results of studies and research, take the initiative to conduct studies, allocate studies.

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<sup>13</sup> To learn more about the legal dispositions concerning the OPC, see: <http://www.opc.cfwb.be/index.php?id=3586>

<sup>14</sup> Cultural matters are the following: language, books, Human Sciences and libraries, performing arts, permanent education and Youth, plastic arts, museums and heritage, cultural animation (Cultural centres), audiovisuals, multimedia, cultural industries, culture related training of staff members, press support, cultural infrastructures and equipment, training in culture related jobs, particularly on artistic teaching, international relations and the cultural aspects of tourism politics. Regarding youth, OPC has a privileged collaboration within the CFWB with the Observatory of the Childhood, Youth, and Youth Support. <http://www.oejaj.cfwb.be/>

- Perform analysis on any matter relating to cultural policies at the request of the Government of the French-speaking Community, the Secretary-General, or on its own initiative
- Offer their knowledge of the cultural and political fields in Belgium and abroad to the consultative bodies and the competent authorities.
- Provide supervision of the cultural policies and decisions, support evaluating tools developed in the French-speaking Community, in the rest of the country and abroad.
- Promote and disseminate the contents and history of cultural policies developed in the French-speaking Community and the results of related studies and research among cultural operators and the general public.
- At the request of a cultural operator, public or private, and under the authority and control of the Government, provide information on the socio-economic and cultural environment projects that the operator wishes to develop.
- \* Ensure the secretariat of the General Council of Cultural Policies.

The General Council of Cultural Policies (which is not operational today) is responsible for the following tasks:

- Performing analyses and making proposals and recommendations regarding:
  - Prospecting cultural policies and cultural dimensions of the public policies at all levels of government (federal, community, regional, provincial and municipal)
  - consistency and relevance of the cultural policies within the overall policy of the French-speaking Community
  - consistency and relevance of the cultural dimensions of the public policies applied in the Walloon and Brussels-Capital Regions.
  - cultural cooperation with other communities and with the Federal authority
- Providing analysis on the systems used by other levels of government and which have a direct or indirect impact on the cultural policy of the French-speaking Community.

In other words, by undertaking these tasks, the Observatory's mission is to prospect and evaluate, as well as to coordinate cultural policies between federal entities (for cultural matters relating to other levels of government as we have mentioned in point 1).

The OCP's work is guided by a steering committee composed of the secretary general of the French-speaking Community, representatives of the advisory council for sector cultural policies, senior civil servants dealing with cultural matters, representatives of political institutions (French-speaking Community and the Walloon and Brussels-Capital Regions), and academic experts. Every two years, the Observatory files a report on its activities and research perspectives to the French-speaking Community Parliament. The order also stipulates that the Observatory develops and conducts its missions with total intellectual, methodological and scientific independence.

#### **4.1 Availability of data, dissemination and research organisation**

OPC's early work focused on the analysis of the information systems existing in the Ministry of Culture. Following the recommendations of the LeG<sup>15</sup> which advocated the collection of data on financial flows (resources / jobs), on the supply of goods and services (activities), on attendance / participation and on employment and occupations, we found that a good amount of data already existed, but in the state it was, it was unusable because it was discordant, not processed, not aggregated and not comparable from one sector of culture to another. A substantial work on harmonisation of accounting and financial data was initiated and it is expected to be finalised next month.

Since 2001, a significant part of the Observatory's work has been devoted to the analysis of information systems that will eventually collect relevant data directly from the cultural operators in order to ultimately observe and analyse data. This work is carried out in collaboration with ETNIC (Entreprise des Technologies Nouvelles publication de l'Information et de la Communication), a public interest organisation which mission is to develop databases, publish statistics and provide services to the French-speaking Community. Therefore, the Observatory's mission is not to build cultural statistics.

Moreover, each functional department of culture can also produce analysis and research on its own activities. For example, the service of public reading<sup>16</sup> regularly publishes its own studies or studies carried out by other universities or research organisations on topics related to its specific challenges and issues. All of this research and publications are available on the Internet<sup>17</sup>.

Regarding the dissemination of information, in recent years a concern about transparency has emerged within the Ministry of the French-speaking Community. All budgets and expenditures of the Ministry as well as agreements, contracts and grant programs between the Ministry and cultural operators<sup>18</sup> can now be consulted online.

Finally, the Ministry of the French-speaking Community has recently set up a research and studies coordination program with the aim to provide the Government with scientific information for the proper implementation of its policies. The main goal is therefore to share resources, to share

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<sup>15</sup> Cultural statistics in the EU – LeG final report, Luxembourg, 2000, European Commission.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.bibliotheques.be/fr/publications/publications/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www2.cfwb.be/cofraref/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www2.cfwb.be/cofraref/>

research results thereby favouring transversality and to create synergies which will be part of a common dynamic, both internal and external (with organisations outside the Ministry). This coordination is ensured by the "Research Service" which mission is to take any initiative that will perform, assess, coordinate and promote sector and intersector studies and research within the competences of the French-speaking Community<sup>19</sup>.

#### **4.2 Other data suppliers in the French-speaking Community**

In addition to the academic institutions of the French-speaking Community<sup>20</sup> which develop studies and research in specialised areas of culture depending on the subjects taught (theatre, books and literature, performing arts, music, etc.), regarding specific "cultural" information or more general information, there are obviously a large number of 'professional' data producers that we regularly call upon. To mention only the most important, the Institut National des Statistiques (INS) which conducts surveys on the use of time and leisure (the survey on family budget and household spending) in collaboration with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (TOR)<sup>21</sup>. In the audiovisual field, the Service Général de l'Audiovisuel et des Multimédias, which is part of the Ministry of the French-speaking Community, regularly compiles an audiovisual yearbook<sup>22</sup> which addresses a variety of topics ranging from private audiovisual consumption, television and radio supply and type of public, publishers of audiovisual media services in radio and television, distribution of audiovisual services via cable networks, telephone networks, mobile and satellite, film production activity, the video market, digital arts and multimedia, advertising, digital technologies and the Internet. Much of this data stems from the Centre d'Information sur les Médias (CIM)<sup>23</sup>, which continuously collects data on all media and conducts strategic multi-media studies. Surveys conducted by consumer associations that conduct regular studies on leisure activities and consumption practices<sup>24</sup> can be added to these data producers. Regarding tourism (and in particular museum activities), we will mention the Walloon and Brussels Tourism Observatories<sup>25</sup>.

#### **4.3 Main orientations in studies and research of the OPC**

The main mission of the Observatory relates to tasks such as those described in Section 4. To

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.servicerecherche.cfwb.be/>

<sup>20</sup> There are 7 institutions. See: <http://www.ciuf.be/cms/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.vub.ac.be/TOR/intro/intro.phtml>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.audiovisuel.cfwb.be/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.cim.be/fr>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.crioc.be/> et <http://www.test-achats.be/>

<sup>25</sup> [://observatoire.tourisme.wallonie.be/apps/spip/](http://observatoire.tourisme.wallonie.be/apps/spip/) et <http://www.obs.irisnet.be/default2.htm>

reorganise them in categories <sup>26</sup>, the Observatory performs the following tasks:

- "Background" work by performing and coordinating a number of studies and projects aimed at building databases for all cultural sectors. These data relate to cultural activity, public attendance and participation, financial flows and cultural employment <sup>27</sup>.
- At the cultural economy level <sup>28</sup>, the Observatory carries out tasks aimed at establishing "socioeconomic profiles" of the different cultural areas (museums, local television, French language book publishing in Belgium, Theatre, Dance, daily press, etc.). It also helps implementing the "Bilan Culture" by establishing a chronological series on the cultural expenditure of the French-speaking Community. In parallel, it geographically maps cultural operators in terms of socioeconomic indicators (population, income, unemployment rate, etc.).
- In terms of cultural policy analysis, it conducts evaluations of programs, cultural industries or cultural policy, either at the request of the Minister in charge of cultural affairs, or because the evaluation procedure is explicitly provided in the legislation.
- Quantitative and qualitative studies on the public of culture and on the consumption and cultural practices of the population within the French-speaking Community. These surveys go beyond the observation of the public visits to cultural institutions, and they encompass the overall "part time", activities which cover all practices and cultural consumption (leisure) outside working hours.
- Finally, as part of its mission to disseminate the history and content of cultural policy, the Observatory has undertaken the important task of gathering, collecting and producing relevant documentation on the historical understanding of cultural policies. In order to make this information available to the public, the OPC manages a documentation centre accessible to students and researchers. A documentary database is also available online on the website of the documentation centre (<http://www.opc.cfwb.be/index.php?id=3402>).

#### **4.4 Partnerships and European Projects**

To carry out this work, OPC establishes partnerships with private study and research bodies, with other Observatories and with universities in the French-speaking Community. A good part of the studies which need an important research system are conducted by tender (public procurement). Besides the fact that this practice allows studies to ensure a scientific level, it can progressively structure around OPC a network of resource persons and academic researchers to stimulate research on cultural policies.

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<sup>26</sup> For more information on the research and the ongoing Studies visit OPS's "research and investigation" on its website <http://www.opc.cfwb.be/>

<sup>27</sup> OPC's mission is not to produce cultural statistics but to contribute to a general reflection in order to build databases.

<sup>28</sup> The Community Policy Declaration (2009 -2014) entrusts OPC the development of prospective studies aimed at analysing impact of financial support on cultural development. <http://www.cfwb.be/index.php?id=1774>

In addition to these institutions, we can include (as a guideline) the gradual partnerships established between the OPC and other scientific bodies such as scientific institutions for federal science policy<sup>29</sup> services, the Institut Wallon de l'Evaluation, de la Prospective et de la Statistique<sup>30</sup> and private and research study Centres which work on objectives related to those of OPC such as the Socio-political Research and Information Centre<sup>31</sup>.

At a European and international level, OPC has relationships with a number of Observatories (Quebec, Grenoble, Nancy, Budapest, Turin, ..) and universities (Barcelona, Bilbao, Montpellier, Grenoble, Quebec ...). It is currently involved in two research projects (festivals in Europe and the observation of culture in Europe) which network it with different partners.

### **5. Some challenges and prospects for observing culture in the French-speaking Community Wallonia-Brussels<sup>32</sup>.**

This succinct presentation somehow shows the relative fragility of the systems for culture observation in so far as they appear scattered and uncoordinated with each other. To this is added the fact that in the French-speaking Community a genuine cultural research policy does not exist. It is not linked to a more comprehensive research as the one that would have been developed in other areas, like Flanders.

Yet, the challenges facing the cultural sector are important. And they are not specific to the French-speaking Community: they are common to a large part of European societies, thereby inviting to increase analytical and prospective thinking of culture development in coordination with other policies.

In this sense, the relationship between culture and economy evolves from being a sector largely subsidised to become an industry associated with the economy and a producer of goods and services. There are now debates on cultural capitalism insofar as it focuses primarily on intangible goods and where the traditional industrial sector is gradually being supplanted by a post-industrial sector in which these properties become major sources of profit. The concepts of management, marketing, e-culture and "events" emerge in new private cultural venues. The issue of government

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<sup>29</sup> [http://www.belspo.be/belspo/pubobs/index\\_fr.stm](http://www.belspo.be/belspo/pubobs/index_fr.stm)

<sup>30</sup> <http://statistiques.wallonie.be/default.shtml>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.crisp.be/>

<sup>32</sup> OPC and the General Directorate for Culture of the Ministry of the French-speaking Community have discussed the challenges presented in this conclusion. They have been summed up in an article presented by Jean-Louis Genard on the occasion of a colloquium at Québec in 2008. "The Cultural Policies of the French-speaking Community of Belgium: grounds and challenges". September 2010 will see the publication of the article "Trends and Challenges of Cultural Policies – National cases in perspective" Saint-Pierre, Diane (dir.) and Claudine Audet (dir.) Presse de l'université Laval, Québec : <http://www.pulaval.com/aparaitre.html>

intervention must evolve towards a regulatory function.

The relationship between culture and democracy must also be reconsidered. It is not enough to guarantee formal equality of access to goods necessary for human dignity, but we must also ensure that the actors have the capacities to enjoy those goods and access to real freedoms. The State has the responsibility of implementing policies of cultural democracy which promote active citizen participation, enabling them to exercise their citizenship.

From this point of view, the relationship between culture and education is essential, on the one hand, because school is a major cultural operator in our societies and, on the other hand, because it has an important mission to fulfil in terms of social, cultural and artistic formation of youth. Because it particularly faces young people of immigrant origin, it has a fundamental role to play in multiculturalism. No doubt that Culture and Education have to develop and anchor common approaches to face the challenge of cultural diversity.

Faced with the challenges illustrated by some examples of coordination to renew or to establish, the quantified observation of attendance to cultural institutions, establishment of socio-economic portraits or the weight of culture in the GDP, although useful to grasp the reality of the areas, it is not the essence of the observation work. In fact, in the future it will have to develop a conjoint reflection at the European level with methods and tools which will allow us to assess the relevance of cultural policies regarding more fundamental objectives, such as the contribution of culture to "improve living together", citizen participation and the happiness of individuals and groups, as well as its contribution to the democratic development of our societies.

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Bilbao, September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2010