The integration of refugees, conflict resolution, human rights, emancipation and the fight against racism – these are just some of the areas where sport can have a positive role to play. To what extent can global sport act as a strategic instrument of cultural diplomacy and a role model for civil society? Can it help to achieve development policy goals? Does it still make any sense to use mega sports events for the purposes of nation branding? And what can we as normal citizens learn from an extreme mountaineer? These and other questions are addressed in the Culture Report and EUNIC Yearbook 2016 by authors as diverse as Umberto Eco, Reinhold Messner, Dave Eggers, Serhij Zhadan, Beqë Cufaj and Claus Leggewie.
The rules of the global game When sport has been reduced to watching great guys doing great things on TV while we munch some goodies and have a beer, it is not only sport, but culture in its wider sense that has become a producer and consumer affair, rather than something that create ourselves. Meanwhile, the Olympics and MSN (Messi, Suarez, Neymar for the illiterate) will keep us busy on our couches. By Ladislau Dowbor

It is hard to refrain from thinking that we are living in a giant circus. As we sit on a couch after a bizarre day of working and hours of commuting, the surreal soap operas on TV bring us an overview of the global game: so many bombs over Syria, more refugees at the borders, the troubles with big finance, the latest goals from Lewandowski, the discussion over whether Russia should participate in the Olympics in Brazil, or whether Rio de Janeiro will get everything ready in time. Oh yes, and who, after Hungary, Greece, Poland and the UK is threatening to leave the EU, in the name of superior national ideals. It sure is some game. Reports by Crédit Suisse and Oxfam show us the huge divide between the owners of the game and the spectators: 62 billionaires own more wealth than the poorest 50 percent of the world’s population. Did they produce all this? Evidently, it all depends on what part you play in the game. In São Paulo the very rich who crowd into the Alphaville condominium are fenced and guarded, while the poor residents of the neighbourhood call themselves Alphavella. Someone has to cut the grass and deliver the groceries. According to the WWF’s global report on wildlife destruction, 52% disappeared during the 40 years from 1970 to 2010. Many water sources are contaminated or are drying up. The oceans are crying for help, air-conditioning is booming. Forests are being cut down in Indonesia, which has taken over from the Amazon region as the world’s number one region for deforestation. Europe has to have renewable energy, cheap meat and beautiful mahogany.

The Tax Justice Network has shown that some $30 trillion are held in tax havens, compared to a global GDP of $73 trillion in 2012. The Bank for International Settlements in Basel shows us that outstanding derivatives, the speculation system on basic commodities, reached $630 trillion, generating the yo-yo effect in the prices of basic economic staples. The biggest game on the planet involves grain, ferrous and non-ferrous minerals, and energy. These commodities are basically in the hands of 16 corporations, most of whom are formally headquartered in Geneva, as revealed by Jean Ziegler in ‘La Suisse Lave Plus Blanc’. There is no referee in this game, we are in a guarded environment. The French have an excellent description of our times: on vit une époque formidable!

We did a thorough job in 2015: a global assessment on how to finance development in Addis Ababa, the sustainable development goals for 2030 in New York, and the compact on climate change in Paris. The challenges, solutions and costs have been clearly set out. Our global equation is simple enough to formulate: the trillions in financial speculation have to be redirected to fund social inclusion, and to promote the technological paradigm change that will allow us to save the planet. And ourselves, of course.

But to stimulate the players, it is the wolves of Wall Street who have drawn up the moral code for this sport: Greed is Good!

Drowning in statistics

We are drowning in statistics. The World Bank suggests we should do something about the next four billion, meaning the number of human beings who have no access to the benefits of globalisation, a quite tactful reference to the poor. We also have the billions who live on less than two dollars a day, and even the billion living on less than $1.25 a day. FAO shows us in great detail where the world’s 800 million hungry people are located, Unicef counts the roughly 5 million children who die each year because of insufficient access to food or clean water. That’s about four New York towers a day, but they die in silence in poor places, and their parents are helpless.

Things are improving, certainly, but the trouble is we have 80 million more people every year – roughly the population of Egypt – and growing. A reminder will help, for no one really grasps what a billion is: when my father was born, in 1900, we were 1.5 billion, now we are 7.2 billion. I am not speaking of ancient history, this is my father. And since it is not in our everyday experience to grasp what a billionaire is, here’s another image: if you invest a billion dollars in some fund that pays a paltry 5 percent interest, you earn $37,000 dollars a day. There is no way you can spend that, so you feed more financial circuits, getting more fabulously rich and feeding more financial operators. Investing in financial products pays more than investing in the production of goods and services – like the good old useful capitalists did – so there is no way that access to money will stabilise, much less trickle down. Money has a natural attraction to where it will best multiply, it is part of its nature, and of bankers’ natures. Money in the hands of the bottom of the pyramid generates consumption, productive investment, products and jobs.

Money at the top generates fabulously rich degenerates who will buy football clubs, before finally thinking about the future in their old age and creating an NGO. Just in case.
Money at the top generates fabulously rich degenerates who will buy football clubs, before finally thinking about the future in their old age and creating an NGO. Just in case.

A global fix

Many people understand that the rules of the game are rigged. It is time for a global fix when these same fabulously rich people donate to politicians and promote legislation to suit their growing needs, making speculation, tax evasion and overall instability a structural and legal process. Lester Brown did his environmental sums and wrote ’Plan B’, clearly showing that our present Plan A is dead. Gus Speth, Gar Alperovitz, Jeffrey Sachs and many others are working on ’The Next System’, implying and showing the present system has gone beyond its own limits.

Joseph Stiglitz and a score of economists launched ’An Agenda for Shared Prosperity’, rejecting the old economic models, according to their view, ’quality and economic performance constitute in reality complementary and not opposing forces’. France created its Alternatives Economiques movement; we have the New Economics Foundation in the UK; and students of traditional economics are boycotting their studies at Harvard and other top universities. Mehr licht!

And the poor, very clearly, are fed up with this game. There remain very few isolated and ignorant peasants ready to be satisfied with their lot, whatever that may be. Poor people around the world are increasingly aware that they could have a good school for their kids, and a decent hospital for them to be born in. And besides, they see this can work on TV: in Brazil 97% of households have TV sets, even if they have no decent sanitation.

How can we expect to have peace across the lake we call the Mediterranean if 70% of the jobs are informal, and youth unemployment is over 40%? And on TV they are watching the leisure and prosperity just across the sea in Nice?

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Cultural and conviviality

I have always taken a much wider view of culture than the ’Ach! said Bach!’ tradition. I think it includes having fun with others, whether building or writing something, or just fooling around. Conviviality, I recently spent some time in Warsaw. Summer weekends, the parks and squares full of people, and cultural activities everywhere. In the open air, with lots of people sitting on the ground or on simple plastic chairs, a theatre troupe was playing a parody of the way we treat old people. Little money, lots of fun. Just a little further on, in different parts of the Lazienki park, numerous groups were playing jazz or classical music, people were sitting on the grass or on improvised seats, and kids were running around.

In Brazil, with Gilberto Gil at the ministry of culture, a new Pontos de Cultura policy was created. This meant that any group of youngsters who wanted to form a band could ask for support, be given musical instruments or whatever they needed, and organise shows or produce online. Thousands of groups sprang up – stimulating creativity only requires a little scratch, it seems that the young have it under their skin.

The policy was strongly attacked by the music industry, saying we were taking the bread out of the mouths of professional artists. They don’t want culture, they want an entertainment industry, and business. Fortunately, this is breaking down. Or at least, cultural life is springing back. Business has an impressive capacity for being a killjoy.

The carnival in São Paulo, in 2016, was incredible. Coming full circle, street carnival and improvised, unleashed creativity is now back on the streets, after having been tampered and transformed into disciplined and expensive showbusiness by the Rede Globo communication mogul. People were out improvising hundreds of events throughout the city, once again it was a popular chaos, as it had never ceased to be in Salvador, Recife and other poorer regions of the country. The entertainment carnival is there, of course, and tourists pay to sit and watch the dazzling and rich show, but the real fun is elsewhere, where the right for everyone to dance and sing has been taken back.

A consumer affair

I used to play football pretty well, and I would go with my father to watch Corinthians play in the traditional Pacaembu stadium in São Paulo. Magic moments, life-long memories. But mostly we played among ourselves, wherever and whenever we could, with real or improvised balls. This is not nostalgia for the good old days, rather a confused feeling that when sport has been reduced to watching great guys doing great things on TV, while we munch some goodies and have a beer, it is not only sport, but culture in its wider sense that has become a producer and consumer affair, not something we create ourselves.

In Toronto, I was amazed to see lots of people playing in so many places, kids and old folks, because open public spaces can be found everywhere. Apparently, in sports anyway, they are surviving through having fun together. But this obviously is not the mainstream. The entertainment industry
force strong enough to support the necessary changes unless they are effectively informed on our structural challenges. Meanwhile, the Olympics and MSN (Messi, Suarez, Neymar for the illiterate) will keep us busy on our couches. As it will, quite frankly, the author of these lines. Sursum corda.

Ladislau Dowbor is an economist. He teaches at the Catholic University of São Paulo, works with numerous government and non-profit institutions, and with different agencies of the United Nations. He is the author of more than 40 books and of a number of technical studies in the area of development planning. His publications are posted in full on the http://dowbor.org website, free for non-commercial use (Creative Commons). For those with a sense of humour, an updated and revised edition of the Ten Commandments can be read at http://dowbor.org/2010/04/the-ten-commandments-apr.html/

The system works because we dutifully adopt obsessive consumer behaviours instead of playing music, painting a landscape, singing with a bunch of friends, playing football, or swimming in a public pool with our kids.

A bunch of consumer suckers

What a bunch of consumer suckers we are, with our two-or-three room apartment, sofa, TV, computer and cell phone, watching what other people do.

Who needs a family? In Brazil marriage lasts 14 years and going down, our average is 3.1 persons per household. Europe is ahead of us, 2.4 per household. In the US only 25% of households are made up of a couple with kids. Same in Sweden. Obesity is booming, thanks to the sofa, the fridge, the TV set and the goodies. Also booming is child obesity surgery, a tribute to consumerism. And you can buy a wrist-watch that will tell you how fast your heart is beating after you have walked two blocks. And a message has already been sent to your doctor.

What is this all about? I see culture as the way we organise our lives. Family, work, sports, music, dancing, everything that tells me whether my life is worth living. I read books, and have a siesta after lunch as any civilised human being should. All mammals sleep after eating, we are the only ridiculous biped who rushes off to work. Well, of course, there is this bloody GDP business. All the really pleasant things I mentioned do not raise GDP, much less my siesta hammock. They only raise our quality of life. And GDP is so important that the UK has included estimates of prostitution and drug sales so as to improve the rate of growth figures. Considering the kind of life we are building, maybe they are right.

We need a reality check. The wretched of the earth will not disappear, building walls and fences will not solve anything, the climate disaster will not go away unless we face our technological and energy mix, money will not flow where it should unless we regulate, people will not create a political
Who we are and what we do – An overview of EUNIC members

AUSTRIA

Building on these priorities, the three primary objectives of Austrian international cultural policy are as follows:

1. Presenting Austria on the international stage as an innovative and creative nation that is historically diverse and rich in culture and scientific know-how.
2. Contributing pro-actively to promoting the process of European integration (‘unity in diversity’).
3. Making a sustainable contribution to building trust and securing peace on a global level by launching initiatives in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

Measures designed to achieve the objectives of Austrian international cultural policy:

1. Maintaining and developing efficient networks of Austrian cultural institutions abroad.
2. Implementing and/or supporting young, creative and innovative cultural and scientific projects from Austria abroad.
3. Implementing and supporting projects to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue both at home and abroad, along with positioning Austria as a key player in this field and building confidence and peace at a global level.

4. Representing Austrian cultural interests in the decision-making processes of the EU and international organisations (particularly UNESCO), along with promoting cultural initiatives launched by the EU and international organisations (especially by UNESCO) in Austria.

BELGIUM

The WBI is a public body that is responsible for the international relations of Wallonia-Brussels. It is the instrument for implementing the international policy of the French Community of Belgium, the Walloon Region and the French Community Commission of the Brussels-Capital Region.

Bilateral relations
The WBI is responsible for implementing these international policies. Its activities are situated in the context of bilateral relations. The objectives of these bilateral relations are as follows:

- To support the creative resources (cultural and business) of Wallonia-Brussels and contribute to the development of our regions.
- To promote the constituent parts of Wallonia-Brussels as entities authorised to act in an international capacity.
- To defend the values and interests of each part and to promote their competencies by helping each other in a spirit of cooperation.

Sector activities also exist within the framework of development co-operation, human rights, health and social affairs, the environment, youth exchanges, education and training, higher education and scientific research, and culture.

Multilateral relations
The activities of WBI in the field of multilateral relations means the federated entities in question are represented in various bodies and they can participate in specific European, francophone or international projects and programmes.

These multilateral relations concern activities in the following 4 fields:
- European integration
- Cross-border and interregional aspects of Europe
- Francophonie
- Worldwide multilateral co-operation.

Global network/infrastructure
17 offices and 2 cultural centres (Paris and Kinshasa), but active in 70 countries through cooperation agreements and activities.

EUNIC Yearbook 2016

Flanders State of the Art

Name Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs

Head Koen Verlaeckt, Secretary General

Address Boudewijnlaan 30, P.O. box 80, B-1000 Brussels

Website http://www.vlaanderen.be/int

Mission/fields of activity
The Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs prepares the international policy of the Government of Flanders. According to the Belgian constitution, Flanders exerts a broad range of policy competences both domestically and internationally (including culture, education and media policy). This provides Flanders with a unique position in the world, entitling it to its own diplomatic representation abroad and the power to conclude international treaties and cooperation agreements.

More specifically, the Department’s activities focus on foreign policy, development cooperation (in southern Africa), international trade and tourism policy. Over recent years the Department has been paying more attention to economic, cultural and science diplomacy as powerful instruments for safeguarding and expanding our interests abroad and for our international branding as a state-of-the-art region in the heart of Europe.

Global network/infrastructure

The Government of Flanders also funds cultural institutes in The Netherlands (De Brakke Grond, Amsterdam) and Japan (Flanders Center, Osaka).
BULGARIA

Name Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria
Head Minister Vezhdi Rashidov
Address 17, Al. Stamboliiski Blvd., Sofia, Bulgaria

Mission/fields of activity
- To develop programmes and activities to promote an active European civil society.
- To promote international cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue.
- To expand the presence and influence of Bulgarian culture.
- To develop programmes and activities to promote an active European civil society.

Specific activities
- Programmes and events in the following areas:
  - Culture – theatre and musical performances, exhibitions, film screenings, literary readings, workshops.
  - Conferences and discussions – conferences, round tables, seminars, debates, artist talks.
  - Education and culture – courses in Bulgarian language and folklore, information on student exchanges, training for children in the arts.
  - Cultural tourism – organisation and participation in tourism fairs, distribution of promotion materials about cultural tourism in Bulgaria and the tourism sector in the country.
  - Cooperation and participation in the Network of European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC).
  - Implementation of bilateral cultural cooperation programmes.
  - Joint events with other countries that do not have cultural institutes in the respective country.

Global network/infrastructure
11 offices in 11 countries

CROATIA

Name Fondation Croatia House
Head Sandra Sekulic
Address Trg Nikole Subića Zrinskih 7–8, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

Mission/fields of activity
The Foundation Croatia House was established to promote Croatian culture, art, history, the Croatian language and cultural heritage abroad. It has been founded to coordinate all activities for the promotion of Croatian culture through diplomatic and consular offices and cultural centres. Since its establishment in 2014 the Foundation has carried out more than 200 projects in almost 50 countries. In order to achieve its aims, the Foundation funds a programmes and activities abroad to promote the wealth of Croatian culture, art and cultural heritage. The Foundation promotes the work of contemporary Croatian artists, contributes to learning about Croatia, promotes international cultural cooperation, and encourages the artistic creation and cultural activities of Croats outside Croatia.Beside its own programmes and activities, the Foundation cooperates at regional and international level and encourages other forms of action to achieve the aims of the Foundation.

Global network/infrastructure
1 office in Zagreb, Croatia (+ diplomatic and consular missions around the world)

CYPRESS

Name The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus
Address Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus
Staff 2

Mission/fields of activity
Cultural Services is the main exponent of the cultural policy of the state with regard to contemporary culture. The Department plays a vital role in shaping the cultural image of the country by being responsible for the development of arts and letters in Cyprus, informing the public about cultural events and its participation in them, and promoting the achievements of our cultural activities abroad. Fields of activity include the following:
- Letters
- European Affairs
- Council of Europe
- UNESCO
- Cinema
- Theatre
- Music
- Dance
- Visual Arts
- Popular Culture/Cultural Heritage
CZECH REPUBLIC

*ČESKÁ CENTRA*

Name: Czech Centres
Czech centra

Founded: The Czechoslovak Cultural Institute was created shortly after WW II, in 1949 (first centres were founded in Warsaw and Sofia). After Czechoslovakia’s split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Czech Centres were created in 1993 as a direct successor organisation, under the name ‘Administration of cultural facilities abroad’. Since this name was not very appealing, the organisation was renamed the ‘Administration of Czech Centres’ in 1999. In 2004, a new name was introduced: ‘Czech Centres’.

Head: Zdeněk Lyčka
Address: Václavské nám. 816/49
110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic
Staff: Permanent: 87
Temporary: 43
Website: http://www.czechcentres.cz/

Website/fields of activity

Czech Centres is an agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, established to promote the Czech Republic around the world. The network is an active public diplomacy instrument of the Czech Republic’s foreign policy.

We believe that the best promotion is successful cooperation; therefore our activities are based on partnerships. We mostly work through bilateral and multilateral projects. We prefer multilateral international cooperation whenever possible, and we always work with local partners and with reference to local ‘hot topics’. Every year we organise, co-organise or participate in more than two thousand projects. Our key activities deal with all fields of culture (arts in all forms), science, innovation, tourism, business, and language (including language courses). We collaborate with leading Czech and foreign experts, curators, shows and competitions, arts and cultural organisations, universities, non-governmental and expatriate organisations, galleries, theatres, festivals, music clubs, museums, and the media.

A few examples of our activities
- Film festivals
- Urban and architecture festivals
- Debates on the arts in politics and politics in the arts
- Dance theatre showcased in festivals
- Literature/translation competitions
- Language courses
- Art exhibitions
- Design fairs

Global network/infrastructure
22 offices in 20 countries

DENMARK

**DANISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE**

Name: The Danish Cultural Institute
Det Danske Kultuirinstitut

Founded: 1940
Head: Michael Metz March
Address: Vartov, Farvergade 27 L, 2. SAL
DK-1463 København K, Denmark
Staff: 45
Website: http://www.dankultur.dk

Mission/fields of activity

The Danish Cultural Institute promotes dialogue and understanding across cultural differences and national borders. Our work is founded on a broad conceptual platform that embraces art, culture and society; areas that unite people across cultures, promote international understanding and facilitate intercultural communication.

We focus on:
- Co-creation and innovation
- Children & young people
- Sustainability and welfare

The Danish Cultural Institute facilitates networks and strengthens collaboration between Danish and international artists, cultural institutions, education, research and the business community. Using culture as a common starting point, we create platforms for knowledge-sharing, exchanging ideas and experiences and lasting cultural relations.

Global network/infrastructure
3 offices in 3 countries

ESTONIA

**Eesti Instituut**

Name: Estonian Institute
Eesti Instituut

Founded: 1989
Head: Karlo Funk
Address: Estonian Institute, Suur-Karja 14
10140 Tallinn, Estonia
Staff: 14
Website: http://www.estinst.ee/

Mission/fields of activity

The Estonian Institute promotes Estonian culture, develops cultural relations and coordinates teaching of the Estonian language around the world.

Over the years the Institute has published dozens of information booklets and periodicals, established web platforms, organised festivals, exhibitions, conferences and seminars. With offices in Helsinki and Budapest, the Institute actively promotes cultural exchange in Europe. The Institute acts as a cultural gateway and cooperation partner in Estonia.

Global network/infrastructure
3 offices in 3 countries

FINLAND

**Suomen kulttuuri- ja tiedeinstiutut ry**

Finlands kultur- och vetenskapsinstitut & The Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes

Name: The Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes

Suomen kulttuuri- ja tiedeinstiutut
Finlands kultur – och vetenskapsinstitut

Founded: 1954
Head: Tove Ekman
Address: Suomen Kulttuuri- ja Tiedeinstitution Ry
Kalliolinnantie 4 (1. KRS), 00140 Helsinki, Finland
Staff: 132
Website: http://instituutit.fi/

Mission/fields of activity

The Finnish cultural and academic institutes are:
- Non-governmental bodies promoting co-operation between Finnish and international cultural and academic organisations and professionals.
- Innovative and cost-effective expert organisations that boost Finland’s global visibility.
- Independent non-profit organisations, maintained by a private foundation or fund.

The mission of the institutes is to:
- Promote international mobility and co-operation in the arts, culture, science and research.
- Provide information on Finnish culture, arts, science and research.
- Organise seminars, exhibitions and other events.
- Run residency programmes for artists and researchers.
- Conduct academic research.
- Implement projects relating to cultural and education exports.
- Offer Finnish language courses.

Global network/infrastructure
17 offices in 16 countries

The institutes are independent non-profit organisations maintained by private foundations or funds. They receive basic funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland, each institute submitting their own application annually to the ministry. The institutes receive additional project funding from various sources such as private foundations and companies from other Finnish and foreign partners.
Mission/fields of activity
The Institut Français is the agency responsible for the conduct of France’s external cultural action. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its role is to help to promote French culture abroad through greater dialogue with foreign cultures, while responding to the needs of France via a policy of listening, partnership and openness to other cultures. The Institut Français replaces the Culturesfrance association with the legal status of a ‘public industrial and commercial undertaking’.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has transferred a number of new missions to the Institut Français in addition to those performed by Culturesfrance in the field of cultural exchanges and welcoming foreign cultures to France. Among these new activities are promoting the French language, thought and knowledge, as well as training the staff of the French cultural network. The Institut Français upholds freedom of expression and diversity in today’s globalised world, while at the same time asserting its capabilities and expertise in the promotion of French culture worldwide. It is instrumental in projecting France’s influence and cooperative activities, and as a centre of expertise and advice.

Furthermore, the Institut Français has a central role to play in addressing today’s digital challenges. The Internet and social networks are transforming the way in which culture is disseminated. The Institut Français will be adopting these technologies to turn them into a channel for advancing French influence.

Global network/infrastructure
800 associations in 133 countries.

FRANCE

Name Fondation Alliance française
Founded July 2007 in Paris
Head Jérôme Clément, President
Address 101 boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris, France
Staff 14 people in the HQ
Website http://www.fondation-alliancefr.org/

Mission/fields of activity
The Fondation Alliance Française is the hub of the Alliances Françaises around the world and serves the entire network of Alliances Françaises.

Alliance Française is the largest cultural network in the world with more than 800 associations in 133 countries. Every year more than 500,000 people French at the Alliance Française and more than 6 million people participate in its cultural activities.

The mission of the Alliance Française is to encourage and develop knowledge of the French language and French and Francophone cultures, to enhance cultural diversity and to foster cultural, intellectual and artistic exchanges between the country where it is implemented and France and the French-speaking countries. Each Alliance Française is governed locally and operated as an independent, non-profit, non-political, non-discriminatory organisation.

Global network/infrastructure
800 associations in 133 countries.

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS

Name Institut Français
Founded 2010
Head Bruno Foucher, Executive Chairman
Anne Tailleuen, Chief Executive Officer
Address Institut Français, 8 – 14 Rue du Capitaine Scott, 75015 Paris, France
Staff 140 people
Website www.institutfrancais.com

Mission/fields of activity
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Global network/infrastructure
1 office in Paris

GERMANY

Name Goethe-Institut
Founded 1917
Head Klaus-Dieter Lehmann (President)
Johannes Ebert (Secretary General)
Address Dachauer Str. 122, 80637 München, Germany
Staff 3,500 worldwide (2014)
Website https://www.goethe.de

Mission/fields of activity
The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. We promote knowledge of German abroad, encourage international cultural exchange and convey a comprehensive image of Germany.

For over sixty years we have provided access to the German language and culture and have worked towards mutual dialogue with the civil societies of our host countries, thus creating lasting trust in our nation. The work of the Goethe-Institut is supported by Germany’s Foreign Office and is carried out independently without any political party affiliations. The institute generates about one third of its budget on its own through language courses and examinations. At present, the Goethe-Institut operates 159 institutes in 98 countries, 12 of them in Germany. The Goethe-Institut’s ties with partner institutions in many other places give it about 1,000 points of contact around the world.

Global network/infrastructure
159 institutes in 98 countries, 12 of them in Germany.
Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy (FCEP) Library, KULTURAUSTAUSCH (the magazine for global perspectives), and the online portals are key forums for information on FCEP in Germany.

Current EUNIC activities
iifa is a member of EUNIC, and as part of its Culture and Foreign Policy research programme it organises an annual public conference for the network in Brussels. It publishes the Culture Report/EUNIC Yearbook in partnership with Steidl Verlag and is an active member of the EUNIC clusters in Stuttgart and Berlin.

Global network/infrastructure
iifa is based in Europe but is active around the world. It has a branch in Berlin (offices and iifa Gallery) and its headquarters are in Stuttgart (offices, German school, iifa Academy, iifa Gallery and iifa Library). It draws on a global network of experts, collaborators and alumni from politics, civil society, culture, the arts, media and academia. It focuses on developing countries and countries in transition, such as the Eastern Partnership countries, Muslim countries, Central Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Greece

Hellenic Foundation for Culture

Name Hellenic Foundation for Culture
Head Konstantinos Tsoukalas (President)
Address 50, Stratigou Kallari St., GR - 154 52 Athens, Greece
Staff Headquarters: 20 Branches (overall): 25
Website http://hfc-worldwide.org/

Mission/fields of activity
The aim of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture is to promote Hellenic culture and disseminate the Greek language all over the world, and also to encourage inter-cultural relations and bilateral cooperation in the field of culture. Since it was founded in 1992, the HFC has opened branches in Odessa, Alexandria and Berlin. It operates offices with representatives in London, Vienna, Brussels and Washington. During the period 2007-2009, the HFC founded Centres of Hellenic Culture in Trieste, Belgrade, Bucharest, Tirana, and Sofia and in 2015 established another in Nicosia. The Foundation offers Greek language courses, organises cultural events and movie screenings, lectures, exhibitions and concerts, publishes books and operates lending libraries in its branches, which are open to the public.

Global network/infrastructure
12 offices and centres in 12 countries (including the headquarters in Greece)

Hungary

Balassi Institute

Name Balassi Institute
Head Judit Hammerstein
Address Sömőlő út 51, 1016 Budapest, Hungary
Website http://www.balassintezet.hu/en/

Mission/fields of activity
The Institute plays a key role in developing and attaining Hungary’s objectives in the area of cultural diplomacy. As an organisational hub, it coordinates and directs all activities provided by Hungarian institutes abroad and supports the worldwide community of Hungarian education.

The Institute not only spreads and promotes Hungarian culture abroad, it also introduces the traditions and cultures preserved by Hungarians from outside our borders to those living in Hungary today. The Institute’s uniqueness therefore lies in the content and scope of its activities, as well as in the methodology used to reach its goals.

Global network/infrastructure
24 offices in 22 countries

Ireland

Culture Ireland

Name Culture Ireland
Head Christine Sisk
Address Culture Ireland, Third Floor, 23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 TD30, Ireland
Website http://www.cultureireland.ie/

Mission/fields of activity
Culture Ireland promotes Irish arts worldwide. It creates and supports opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present and promote their work at strategic international festivals and venues. Through showcases at key global arts events, including the Edinburgh Festivals and the Venice Biennales, Culture Ireland develops platforms to present Irish arts to international audiences. As part of its role in presenting special culture initiatives globally, Culture Ireland is presenting a year-long international culture programme to commemorate the Easter Rising in 1916.

Global network/infrastructure
1 office in 1 country
ITALY

Società Dante Alighieri was founded in 1889; the mission of SDA is to promote the Italian language and culture in Italy and abroad. SDA has a global network; the local offices deliver Italian language courses and organise cultural events. PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri), is one of the four Italian language certificates recognised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and assesses language competence across an ascending scale of difficulty of six levels, from A1 to C2 (corresponding to the levels of the Common European Framework). PLIDA B2 and PLIDA C1 are recognised by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research as valid qualifications for applying to Italian universities. SDA is part of CLIQ ( Certificazione Lingua Italiana Qualità), the Italian association of language testers, which guarantees quality in the process of language testing and provides general guidelines for language test design. ADA is the curricular plan of the Italian language courses of the SDA where guidelines for planning and training courses are offered along with reference levels for teachers and directors of studies. Every year SDA organises one-year training courses for Italian language teachers and training courses for PLIDA examiners.

Global network/infrastructure 423 offices in 60 countries

LITHUANIA

Our activities are as follows:

- Organising events with a focus on visual arts (painting, sculpture, photography, video art), music, cinema, literature, theatre, dance, fashion, design, and architecture.
- Organising courses in Italian language and culture in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- Promoting Italian scientific culture.
- Managing an efficient network of libraries.
- Establishing contacts between Italian and foreign cultural institutions and individuals.
- Facilitating an intercultural dialogue founded on democratic principles.

Global network/infrastructure 83 offices in 59 countries

LATVIA

Our activities are as follows:

- Organising and coordinating diverse representational Lithuanian cultural programmes abroad.
- Implementing cooperative bilateral and multilateral exchanges as well as cultural programmes in Lithuania and abroad.
- Working closely with and implementing projects of the cultural attaches of the Republic of Lithuania in foreign countries.
- Promoting Lithuanian literature abroad: consulting with and informing foreign publishers and translators on issues concerning Lithuanian literature; organising seminars for translators and publishers; organising presentations and creative sessions of Lithuanian writers abroad; and administering a translation promotion programme.
- Organising and administering the cultural events programme at the annual Vilnius Book Fair.
- Coordinating Lithuania's participation in the Creative Europe and Citizens for Europe programmes of the European Union.
- Preparing and disseminating information about Lithuanian culture, artists and creative works.
- Producing informational publications to promote Lithuania's art and culture.

Our vision is to be an instrument for international cooperation, and an active catalyst for cultural and social initiatives in Lithuania and abroad.

Global network/infrastructure 1 office in 1 country

LUXEMBOURG

The Department of Legal and Cultural (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs) works closely with the Ministry of Culture for the promotion of Luxembourg culture abroad by the diplomatic network of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

Mission/fields of activity

Our mission is to support the formulating and conducting of a cultural climate by implementing cultural projects; and to represent Luxembourg professional art abroad effectively and constructively.

Global network/infrastructure 31 embassies 135 consulates

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Global network/infrastructure 31 embassies 135 consulates
MALTA

Arts Council Malta is Malta’s national agency for cultural organisation, which was founded on 15 August 2002. It operates through three specific directorates. The cre - sec tors.

Arts Council Malta (ACM) is Malta’s national agency for Mission/fields of activity

Website

http://www.artscouncilmalta.org/

Polish Institutes are centres for the advancement of knowledge about Poland through promotional and educa tional activities, ensuring the participation of Poland in local cultural life. The main task of the Polish Institutes is to introduce Polish culture to key actors in the countries in which they operate, ensure significant Polish involve ment in international events, and establish long-lasting relations between Polish and foreign partners who are actively committed to international cultural exchange.

Global network/infrastructure

1 office in the Netherlands. Cultural representation of the Netherlands mainly goes through the network of diplo matic representations.

THE NETHERLANDS

DutchCulture

DutchCulture promotes international cultural coopera tion. We advise, coordinate and produce programmes worldwide. With information and expertise DutchCulture supports international cooperation of the cultural sector and the Dutch diplomatic representations abroad. Every day we work to increase the visibility of the cultural capita l of the Netherlands. The successful international cul tural cooperation of our primary target groups and our partners is the critical success factor of DutchCulture.

DutchCulture is convinced that cultural cooperation will contribute to more equal and just international relations and, ultimately, a better world. In a complex world in which we are increasingly dependent on each other it is necessary to meet, share knowledge and collaborate with reciprocity as a starting point. Arts and culture can increase our curiosity about one another, inspire and challenge us to look across borders.

Artists and creatives know where to find each other worldwide. Yet successful international cultural coopera tion is not always, nor everywhere, a given. DutchCulture has specific knowledge about countries, regions, themes and skills to help professionals in the Dutch cultural and diplomatic field on their way to realising their internatio nal ambitions. We provide access to a large international network, reliable information and expertise on certain regions and knowledge of global trends.

As a platform for sharing information and knowledge, DutchCulture contributes to the high visibility of inter national activities to culture professionals, international networks and the wider audience in the Netherlands. In addition, DutchCulture helps international partners connect with the right organisations and interesting partners in the Netherlands, and in that way we provide opportunities for international activities.

Global network/infrastructure

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POLAND

Polish Institutes

The Polish Institutes exist to ensure that Polish culture has a presence and is appreciated around the world. They achieve this through public cultural events, pinpointing the most effective spheres, formats and topics for pro moting Poland, giving it international recognition and a competitive advantage. By making successful use of these opportunities, they enhance Poland’s political, economic and cultural position, building a positive image of Poland worldwide through their day-to-day work.

The Polish Institutes are run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their primary task is to promote Polish culture and foster better knowledge and understanding of Polish history and national heritage, as well as to support international cooperation in culture, education, science and social life. In many places, the Polish Institutes also act as the cultural and scientific affairs sections of Polish Embassies.

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Global network/infrastructure

24 offices in 21 countries

PORTUGAL

Camões Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua

The main mission of Camões – Institute for Cooperation and Language, I.P., in short Camões, I.P., is to coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement foreign policy mandates such as cooperation or humanitarian assistance, and the expansion and promotion of the Portuguese language and culture abroad.

The mission of Camões, I.P. is to propose and implement
Portuguese cooperation policy, coordinate activities undertaken by other public entities involved in implementing that policy, propose and implement the educational policy, disseminate Portuguese language and promoting that policy, propose and implement the educational policy, disseminate Portuguese language and supporting authors financially through open competitions, with independent panels of judges making their decisions based on the value of the projects submitted.

In order to allow the Romanian Cultural Institute to fulfill its role as a global player in increasing the visibility, prestige and knowledge of national culture and civilization, we have created several subsidiaries in major cities around the world (Paris, New York, Vienna, London, etc.), leading to its gradual transformation into an international player.

**Global network/infrastructure**

The Romanian Cultural Institute has their headquarters in Bucharest and have another 19 branches worldwide (in 18 countries, including the United States and China), it is represented by its branches in 22 EUNIC clusters and by Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomatic missions in another 16 EUNIC clusters.

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

**Name** Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

**Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a evropských záležitostí slovenskej republiky**

**Founded** 1993

**Head** Director, Department of Cultural Diplomacy

**Address** Hlbočká cesta 2, 33 36 Bratislava

**Website** https://www.mzv.sk

**Mission/fields of activity**

The Department of Cultural Diplomacy is part of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Slovakia emphasises the importance of cultural diplomacy as a tool for building international relations.

**SLOVENIA**

**REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**Name** Republika Slovenija Ministrstvo za Kulturo

**Republic of Slovenia Ministry of Culture**

**Founded** 1993

**Head** Katarina Cullberg (Head of the Office of European Affairs and International Cooperation)

**Address** Maistrová 10, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Website** http://www.arhiv.mk.gov.si/

**Mission/fields of activity**

The Office for European Affairs and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture fosters and facilitates international cooperation in the field of culture with the aim of promoting Slovene culture at bilateral, multilateral and regional levels.

The Office cooperates in the preparation of international framework agreements and programmes, preparing inter-ministerial bilateral cooperation programmes and strategies and supervising and monitoring their execution. It directs Slovene international cooperation in multilateral international organisations, other multilateral connections (UNESCO) and regional initiatives.

The Office advances and prepares promotional strategy for Slovene culture in cooperation with other ministries, diplomatic/consular representatives, cultural institutions and other organisations. It cooperates on a regular basis with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the SPIRIT Slovenia Public Agency on cultural tourism issues.

There are annual open calls for Slovenian artists, translators, critics, curators and researchers in the field of arts and culture to compete for a one-month residency in the New York, Berlin, London and Vienna apartments offered by the Ministry of Culture. A special committee of experts from various disciplines evaluates the applications and proposes the final selection to the Minister. The European Affairs and International Cooperation Service also monitors the programme of the Slovenian Culture and Information Centre, Vienna.

Since 2011 special funding can be acquired from the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for selected cultural events organised by the Slovene embassies and consulates around the world. The embassies propose the projects they would like to support, and the final selection is made by the Ministries Commission.
Spain

Name: AECID-Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
Founded: 1988
Head: Jesús Manuel Gracia Aldaz, President
Address: Avenida de los Reyes Católicos, 4
28040 Madrid, Spain
Staff: 1,073
Website: http://www.aecid.es

Mission/fields of activity
The mission of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation is to foster, manage and implement Spain's development cooperation policies, aimed at the fight against poverty and sustainable development of developing countries. It also coordinates the promotion and development of Spain's cultural and scientific relations and cooperation.

Fields of activity
International Development Cooperation
Cultural and Scientific Relations
Cultural and Scientific Cooperation

Global network/infrastructure
32 Technical Cooperation Offices in 32 countries, 13 Cultural Centres and 6 Associate Cultural Centres in 16 countries
4 Training Centres in 4 countries

Secretariat General (CEO)
Address: Calle de Alcalá, 49, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Staff: 1,000 on its payroll and as many contract workers.
Website: http://www.cervantes.es

Mission/fields of activity
Spain's public institution for the international advancement, alongside all Spanish-speaking countries, of the language and culture they all share. It has a worldwide network of centres – self or jointly managed and collaborative – that allows it to effectively operate on all five continents. The Instituto Cervantes Institute also caters for the global community of professionals linked to Spain by means of an online resource centre, the Cervantes Virtual Centre.

In its efforts to promote international cultural relations, the Instituto Cervantes partners with countless public and private entities, both Spanish and foreign. Attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Instituto Cervantes is an instrument of cultural diplomacy. It contributes to building relations of trust and understanding with civil society in all the countries where it operates.

In pursuance of its main objectives, it performs a wide variety of activities: public events, seminars and international conferences that advocate for culture; participation in educational and cultural international networks; creation of both traditional and online libraries; and the definition and establishment of standards in all fields related to learning Spanish: curriculum, content, teacher training, certification of proficiency and quality control and accreditation of teaching entities, be they private or public, Spanish or foreign.

Global network/infrastructure
76 centres that Instituto Cervantes operates itself, 15 centres jointly managed with a partner organisation and 1000-odd collaborative centres.

Sweden

Name: Swedish Institute
Svenska institutet
Founded: 1945
Head: Annika Rembe
Address: Slottsbacken 10, Box 7434, 103 91 Stockholm
Staff: 140
Website: https://si.se/

Mission/fields of activity
The Swedish Institute (SI) promotes interest and confidence in Sweden around the world. The SI seeks to establish cooperation and lasting relations with other countries through strategic communication and exchange in different fields. Our activities span fields such as culture, society, research, higher education, business, innovation, democracy and global development.

Our work with Sweden’s image abroad and our activities in international development cooperation go hand in hand. The overarching objective is to create mutual relationships with other countries around the world. Our support for Swedish language instruction at foreign universities also fits into this common agenda.

Global network/infrastructure
3 offices in 2 countries

United Kingdom

Name: British Council
Founded: 1934
Head: Sir Ciarán Devane
Address: British Council
10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN, United Kingdom
Staff: 8,500+
Website: https://www.britishcouncil.org/

Mission/fields of activity
Founded in 1934 under the name ‘British Committee for Relations with Other Countries’, the British Council is now headed by Chief Executive Sir Ciarán Devane, appointed by the Board of Trustees with prior approval of the Foreign Secretary.

The founding purpose of the British Council was to create a friendly understanding and knowledge between the people of the UK and other countries; this remains its mission to this day.

Intercultural dialogue is embedded in the British Council’s mandate. Through its work on English language teaching, Arts, and Education and Society, the British Council builds links between UK people and institutions and those around the world. It makes a positive contribution to the countries it works with and helps to create trust, foster social change, and lay foundations for prosperity and security around the world.

Global network/infrastructure
191 offices in 110 countries