



SECOND WORLD CULTURELINK CONFERENCE
Dynamics of Communication: New Ways and New Actors
Zagreb, Croatia, 9-12 June 2005, Mimara Museum

Organized by:

CULTURELINK, the Network of Networks for Research and Cooperation in Cultural Development – focal point at the Institute for International Relations (IMO), Croatia

Supported by:

UNESCO; Council of Europe; Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia; Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Croatia; City of Zagreb

In partnership with:

- CIRCLE – Cultural Information and Research Centres Liaison in Europe, The Netherlands and
- Centro de Estudios Europeos, Universidad de Navarra, Spain
- CICIBA – Centre International des Civilisations Bantu, Gabon
- OCPA – Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa, Mozambique
- Cátedra UNESCO de Derechos Culturales y Intelectuales, Argentina
- Fundación Libre, Paraguay
- APRCCN – Asia-Pacific Regional Centre of Culturelink, Korea

Background

The First World Culturelink Conference on **Dynamics of Communication and Cultural Change: The Role of Networks** was held in Zagreb, Croatia, on 8-11 June 1995. Over one hundred cultural researchers and professionals and fifteen international organizations from all continents gathered for the conference, in spite of the wartime conditions in Croatia at the time. Since the First World Conference, the Culturelink Network has grown substantially, having developed further research activities, data bases and publishing activities, and having held a number of significant conferences (on e-culture, transitional processes, Mediterranean cooperation, etc.).

Ten years later, the Second World Culturelink Conference is organized with the aim to examine different aspects of new ways and actors of global communication and dialogue among cultures in the 21st century.

Ours is a time of ever faster changes, and we live in societies which are, or are increasingly becoming, multicultural and ready to participate in open and dynamic intercultural communication. The recognition of differences between cultures as the key constituent of their identity stimulates dialogue and cooperation. In a globalized world the full affirmation of multiculturalism/interculturalism is a challenge that requires new efforts in international cultural cooperation and intercultural competence. The benefits of globalization must be shared more equitably by people and by cultures, and must have an inclusive/networking effect. Innovative ways to promote intercultural dialogue and communication need to be examined.

The Second World Culturelink Conference is part of Culturelink Network's efforts to promote cooperation and dialogue among cultures, in line with the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations adopted by the United Nations in 2001.

Objectives

The Second World Culturelink Conference is organized with the principal objective to search for and analyse new ways, new instruments and new actors in cultural communication, and research the role of networks in creating and strengthening a global context for sustainable development and dialogue among cultures.

The second objective is to discuss the new public cultural policies, and particularly their role in creating partnerships among public sectors and civil society. Public policy, developed in partnership with civil society and the private sector, is of vital importance to ensuring democratic access to the means of cultural communication. Investing in public cultural policy research is becoming a *sine qua non* of global cultural development.

The conference also aims to examine aspects of international mobility, primarily based on networking and information exchange. New actors (e.g. regions, local communities) have appeared in this area. The networking of heterogeneous actors offers a multiplicity of new types and areas of cooperation and initiatives in the globalized world.

Within such a framework, it is central to redefine the role of all actors, including states and national cultures, as well as local communities, civil society, professional organisations and individuals participating in the processes of globalization. The transformation processes initiated by globalization have brought to the fore the establishment of new cultural identities, particularly presented through virtual communication technologies. Cultures appear to be both actors and mediators of these changes.

The conference is expected to bring to Zagreb cultural researchers and professionals dealing with processes of cultural communication, with cultural policy and cultural development. As they will be coming from different continents and many different cultural backgrounds, this diversity of views on issues related to the dynamics of communication will give the participants a broader perspective on cultural trends and changes under way throughout the world, and provide ample opportunity for the establishment of collaboration and new projects.

The official languages of the conference are English, French, Spanish and Croatian.

The conference venue is the Mimara Museum.

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