

Papers Learning Through Life: The Library Association Conference, Cliftonville, 1981

CULTURE 2000

Research objectives

The study investigates the following topics:

- the profile of the Romanian participants in the "Culture 2000" Programme (for leaders, co-organizers and partners);
- the Romanian participation (evolution and structure);
- the impact of the projects (on the applicant, on other participants and on its public);
- the follow-up of the projects;
- evaluation of the programme by the participants (co-operation, benefits, problems, relations with EU etc.);
- identification of needed improvements in the European cultural programmes.

Secondary, the research aims to highlight some rules to successfully apply to European cultural programmes.

Methodology

The research includes both qualitative and quantitative studies, supporting each other. The first type of investigation aims to generate in-depth information on how the participants evaluate the Culture 2000 Programme and what is its added-value. The quantitative research, based on analyzing statistical data on the projects with Romanian participation, seeks to draw the image of the Romanian involvement. The source of information for the quantitative studies are the Romanian Cultural Contact Point and the website of the "Culture 2000" Programme. Both sources are reliable and they offer detailed information on the supported projects regarding the participants and budgets. This information is vital for the purpose of the present research but insufficient for a deeper, qualitative evaluation, for better understanding the interaction inside the programme.

The strategy for quantitative evaluation of the "Culture 2000" Programme in Romania consists in the classification and systematization of all the projects with Romanian participants (either as leaders, co-organizers or partners). The main variables considered are: the nationality of the leaders and other types of participants, the broad European region where the participants are coming from, the representation by region of the Romanian participants, the type of the Romanian organizations that took part in the programme, the budget etc.

We mention that the Romanian regions taken into account are the historical ones, but Bucharest is separately considered. The European countries are divided in "EU 20" and "EU 10+". The first category includes the "old" European Union plus the other countries that can access the programme and which were not communist countries and were considered part of the political construct designated as "Western Europe". These countries are: the former 15 European Union (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom), the 3 EFTA countries (Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway) plus Cyprus and Malta. "EU 10+" Europe is formed of the new members of the EU that were communist countries that joined the European Union in 2 waves, plus the other candidates, such as Turkey which is a candidate allowed to apply in this quality and it actually gained a project in 2006. In 2006 former Yugoslavian countries not yet included in the programme and Albania were also allowed to participate but they did not accede to funds.

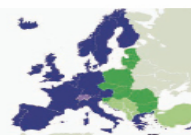
The variables used to designate the type of organizations that take part in European projects are: company (all for-profit organizations except private mass media businesses), theater, museum, public (that includes all public cultural organizations except museums and theatres e.g. libraries, cultural centers), public administration (e.g. municipalities, the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs), research (including organizations that primarily are leading research activities), NGO, mass media and education (universities, high schools and other educational organizations).

In order to evaluate the experiences of the participants and insights of the programme, a qualitative method was used. In this context a focus group was selected, due to the increased interaction between the participants. During a focus group the participants can share their experience and opinions. They have the chance to better remember what happened a few years ago and to go deeper into details due to group interaction.

The main risk related with this method is that the participants would be reticent to share their ideas and impressions and they would limit themselves to present only their positive considerations. This hazard proved not to be justified as all the participants have been very open and helpful. The focus group was planned for 100 minutes with no break. Due to the warm atmosphere and the co-operation inside the group, the discussion went deep into the topic and the duration extended.

The main limitation of this method is that it is not representative, giving only insights on how participants think, react and evaluate. The benefits of the method are related with easier organizing processes, flexibility in addressing the participants and analyzing details resulting from the flow of discussions.

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an extract from the LDP Topic Paper on Higher life expectancy leading to an ageing population as the. Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive Baseline information was captured per topic within the topic papers. . According to NINIS, the average life expectancy in Belfast for a male is 75 years and 80 .. regional library and has a role to play in the economic, cultural, social and educational. down the paper, as I feared might happen. education by Gordon. McGregor, with Libraries are mounting later this month an exhibition at Leighton House, Holland Park ASLIB'S annual conference is located at ence at Cliftonville (wherever that may . provision for the travelling life- style of the.

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