

THE INDICATOR FRAMEWORK ON CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY

AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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1. Introduction

How does culture influence democracies? Is there a link between a strong, well-functioning democracy and an abundance of cultural opportunities for citizens? In 2013, the Council of Europe's Conference of Ministers of Culture requested the development of an indicator framework on culture's contribution to democracy and on the economic efficiency of financing culture. The work carried out in 2014/2015 in partnership with the member States and the Hertie School of Governance (HSG) led to the Indicator Framework on Culture and Democracy (IFCD). Built with an innovative analytical approach, the framework is populated with data from 37 countries and includes 40 indicators grouping 177 variables for a selection of policy fields (e.g. cultural finance, production, consumption, participation, education, heritage) and dimensions (political, legal, economic, civic aspects). These data are available in various formats (Excel, Stata, etc.) and may eventually be accessible via a user interface (IFCD online tool)¹.

At the end of 2015, the HSG delivered a first thematic report on culture and democracy with special reference to the findings on participation in culture and trusting society. According to this report, countries with high cultural participation rates also show high levels of interpersonal trust among their people. The complete report will be available in September 2016. Meanwhile, in June 2016 the HSG published a Guidebook that introduces policymakers to the IFCD and offers ideas on how they can use the Indicator Framework to examine their countries' situation and potential, both within the country and in comparison with other countries. The launch of the IFCD will be on October 2016.

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