

# GOVERNING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

COMMON GOODS, SHARED EXPERIENCES, SPACES FOR EXCHANGE

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## 1. Introduction

The declaration unanimously adopted by the ministers of culture of 180 countries during the International Conference of Culture Ministers of 31 July-4 August 2015 organised by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Activities and of Tourism at Expo in Milan states that «Cultural heritage is the mirror of history, civilization and of the society which is expected to protect it. Cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, is also the essence of identity, the memory of peoples and their past and present civilizations. It expresses, at the same time, universally recognized values of tolerance, dialogue and mutual understanding...the work of man and his extraordinary talent must be protected and preserved for the benefit of future generations» (MiBACT, 2015). In fact, knowledge conservation, protection and use trigger integration policies; they also promote cultural, economic and social growth. We are talking of areas such as (a) knowledge and in-situ protection of cultural contexts and artefacts; (b) post war archaeology; (c) virtual reality; (d) sustainable museography<sup>1</sup>, whose impact implies making cultural heritage instrumental for science and cultural diplomacy; protecting and promoting cultural diversity; and documenting, conserving, monitoring, using and protecting from environmental and anthropic threats of cultural heritage in the Middle East and in North Africa.

With migration flows in and alongside the Mediterranean among the key issues at the top of public and academic agendas worldwide, a reconsideration is urgent of the migrant practices of transfer of organizing principles and conditions for developing competences to act in multicultural settings, because ideas – wrote Arthur O. Lovejoy – «are the most migratory things in the world» (Lovejoy, 1990: 2).

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