



Vision for Culture

Questionnaire for DiEM25 Members

by DiEM Voice

Rationale

“There is no way out of the current systemic crisis without turning in the direction of culture”ⁱ[i].

We are at the end of a decade of unprecedented systemic crisis. Economic collapse revealed an essential political instability. “Real democracy now!” was people’s response to the financial breakdown. New social movements and progressive forces came into being. Despite the war that has been declared on the economic and political *status quo*, the crisis has still not been ultimately conquered. The refugee crisis is now also challenging the hopes for overcoming the plagues of Europe.

On top of this we are also facing a cultural crisis, ‘the disintegration, destruction or suspension of some basic elements of sociocultural life’ⁱⁱ[ii]

We must create conditions for all people in Europe to exercise their right to culture. We must create a ‘democratic culture’.

“Democratic culture” has two meanings. First – an area of culture ruled by democratic principles and second – the political culture of democracy. We have the task of reinventing political culture of democracy and we must begin with implementing democracy within an area of culture.

DiEM Voice, as the artistic platform of DiEM25 is working to develop a first proposal for a policy paper on democratic culture.

This first questionnaire serves to help us prepare a first draft to submit to all members for comment and amendment.

Proposed Questions

1. What is the relationship between culture and democracy now? Should something change?
2. What can be done to shift the power relations between sectors of culture production (social actors, public entities, private actors) in a way that empowers democracy?
3. What kind of legislation should be implemented in regards to cultural industries, copyright regimes, private art collections and the art auctions industry?
4. Institutions have failed to protect artists and culture workers' rights. Any ideas about how to ensure compensation, social insurances and pensions for artists and culture workers by using bottom up politics?
5. We stand for free access to culture through internet. But how can we make this economically sustainable for artists and culture makers?
6. Most cultural institutions are managed by a board of trustees. What steps could be taken to open up their governance?
7. In the perspective of a common European identity, is the notion of national cultural heritage relevant? Should local cultural heritage be restored? (For example the return of stolen antiquities.)
8. If there's such a thing as a common European culture, should the EU establish a network of public cultural institutions in each member state to promote and empower it? Should there be an autonomous Culture Department in the European Commission?
9. How do you perceive the relation between education and culture?
10. Which other topics should be addressed within the DiEM25 Vision 4 Culture Policy Paper?

i[i] Hausner, Jerzy, *Culture as a Way out of Crisis*, in: Dietachmair, Philipp, Milica Ilić (eds.), *Another Europe — 15 Years of Capacity Building with Cultural Initiatives in the EU Neighborhood* (Amsterdam: European Cultural Foundation, 2015).

ii[ii] Bidney, David, *The Concept of Cultural Crisis*, 'American Anthropologist', New Series, Vol. 48, No. 4, Part 1 (Oct. - Dec., 1946).