

FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL POLICY CONFERENCE
LUXEMBOURG, 16 OCTOBER 2025

CULTURAL POLICIES FOR DEMOCRACY

Cmpendium
cultural policies & trends



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Culture



Bibliothèque nationale du Luxembourg
Nationalbibliothék

Conference Programme

Forword

We hereby present the conference portfolio of the “**Watch it! – Freedom of Artistic Expression. Cultural Policies for Democracy**” conference in Luxembourg.

The Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends, together with the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg, invite you to participate in a day of dialogue, exchange, and debate around one of the most fundamental pillars of cultural policies and democracy: the freedom of artistic expression.

At a time when democratic values face challenges from political, social, and cultural pressures, it is essential to reflect on the role of cultural policies in safeguarding and promoting this freedom. Questions of legal protection, societal perceptions, and the resilience of artists and cultural actors are increasingly urgent.

This international cultural policy conference will focus on the role of cultural policies in safeguarding and enabling freedom of artistic expression as a pillar of democratic societies. It aims to refine how cultural policies can effectively monitor early warning signs – key markers that signal shifts in artistic freedom and, by extension, the health of democracy – before violations occur. The conference seeks to move beyond static understandings and develop dynamic tools to safeguard freedom of expression as a vital barometer of democracy.

Key discussions will explore good and bad practices of cultural policies regarding freedom of artistic expression, and provide a platform for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to explore these diverse viewpoints and engage in constructive dialogue.

This conference is both a platform for reflection and a call to action. Together, let us reaffirm the importance of cultural policies as a safeguard of democracy, and ensure that the voices of artists remain free, diverse, and vital for our societies.

Organized by

Hosted by

Co-hosted by

International Cultural Policy Conference

Thursday, 16th of October 2025

09h00 Registration & Coffee

09h30

Opening | Welcoming

- Speech by Eric THILL, Minister for Culture of Luxembourg
- Speech by Claude CONTER, Director of the National Library of Luxembourg
- Speech by Anna VILLARROYA, Chair of the Association of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends
- Barbara ZECHES, Presentation of the conference and of the day

Part I: Freedom of artistic expression: Must Have or Nice to Have?

10h00

Under the Lens:

Different Perspectives on Freedom of Artistic Expression 30min

Input by Andreas J WIESAND

(Co-Founder of the Compendium + Author on FoAE)

Input by Sanjay SETHI

(Co-director Artistic Freedom Initiative)

10h30

Under Pressure:

When Freedom of Artistic Expression Starts to Quiver 30min

Input by Robert SPOTAK

(Former Director of the Slovak Arts Council)

==> Legislation vs. Social Reality: Early Warnings

Input by Audronė RIMKUTĖ

(Associate professor of Cultural Policy and Philosophy, Vilnius University, Compendium expert, Lithuania)

==> Defending Artistic Judgment: What Arguments Work?

Time for questions and answers

10min

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11h10

Under Scrutiny:

Legal Protection of Freedom of Artistic Expression

20min

Input by Juris RUDEVSKIS

(Lawyer of the European Court of Human Rights)

==> Caselaw of the European Court of Human Rights

Input by Klara KOŠTAL

(Policy officer, Austrian Commission for UNESCO),

**==> Freedom of artistic expression in the context of
UNESCO's 2005 Convention**

11h30

Under Discussion:

When Should Political Alarm Bells Go Off ?

45min

Panel discussion moderated by Carmen Croitoru

**(Manager of the National Institute for Cultural Research,
Romania, and Chair of the Council of Europe's CDCPP)**

○ **Doire O CUINN**

(Policy Officer, DG EAC, European Commission)

○ **Daniil KHOCHABO**

(Directorate for Democracy, Council of Europe)

○ **Kimmo AULAKE**

**(Senior Ministerial Advisor, Finnish Ministry of Education
and Culture)**

12h15

Lunch at the Taberna Londrina

(35D Avenue John F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg)

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Part II: Supporting Freedom of artistic expression Before it Needs to be Defended

14h00

Monitoring / Mapping of Freedom in Other Fields and at National Level

45min

Input by **Ulrike BLUMENREICH**
(Compendium Coordinator)

==> Presentation of the Academic Freedom Index

Input by **Olivier GÖBEL**
(Compendium Coordinator)

==> Presentation of the Media Freedom Coalition

Input by **Jennifer LAOUROU**
(Researcher, Artistic Freedom Initiative)

==> Mapping of Freedom of artistic expression

Time for questions and answers

15min

15h00

Under Construction: Good Practices at the National Level of addressing Freedom of Artistic Expression

25min

Input by **Anna VILLARROYA**
(Professor, University of Barcelona)

==> Spain's Cultural Rights Plan 2025-2030

Input by **Jean-Cédric DELVAINQUIÈRE**
(Senior Researcher DEPS, Ministry of Culture of France)

==> France's Plan and Guide for Freedom of Creation

Time for questions and answers

5min

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15h30

Fishbowl

15min

Exchange on practices in relation to freedom of artistic expression at national levels

15h45

Coffee Break

16h00

Under Discussion:

Don't Touch my Freedom of Artistic Expression

45min

Policy Lab: Interactive exchange in small groups of participants on possible policy recommendations

16h45

Time for Action

20min

17h05

Closing remarks: where to go from here?

17h15

Guided Tour National Library (Optional) ca. 45 minutes