Possibilities of the ECoC Programme to strengthen European Identity – Istanbul’s ‘Civil Society Dialogue’ as Paradigm

5th Annual Conference, Antwerp, 27-28 October 2011
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2 (My) expectations of the ECoC (action) program

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1 Review of my *Istanbul 2010* presentation at Vilnius

Last sentence of the presentation at the *Vilnius Conference*, October 2009:

**Summing up:**
The task of innovation and creativity for Istanbul as a microcosmos of a globalised world is to become aware of the different cultures within, accept and integrate them to enrich the own world and build something new, for the benefit of all.
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

2 (My) Expectations of of the ECoC (action) program

Purpose

The European Capitals of Culture Initiative was set up to:

• highlight the richness and diversity of European cultures
• celebrate the cultural ties that link Europeans together
• bring people from different European countries into contact with each other's culture and promote mutual understanding
• foster a feeling of European citizenship.

(http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc413_en.htm)
Main Criticism

Last slide of my presentation at the Pécs Conference, October 2010:

*İstanbul 2010* focuses on culture from a touristic point of view:

- Marketing and renovation of İstanbul’s important historic buildings (Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, etc.)
- Make-up of already popular districts and places
- International (instead of Turkish) contemporary art

the „emphasis on capital city status […] appears to signal a longing to overcome a lost status of capital city“.

(Carola Hein, The European Capital of Culture Programme and Istanbul 2010, p. 262)
3 Main targets of *Istanbul 2010*
“we asked ourselves this question: What does this city has to offer to its residents, to its visitors and even to those, who have a desperate longing for it in distant places? What do the Istanbulites feel about Istanbul? How should they feel? The word we kept coming up with was “inspiration”. And after that, we finally formulized the slogan to promote Istanbul to the world through 2010:

“Istanbul: The most inspiring city of the world”.

Through history, Istanbul has always been the most inspiring city of the world.”
“Ottoman Empire kept Istanbul as its capital for a long while, although many great and important cities such as Jerusalem, Thessaloniki, Sarajevo, Skopje, Mostar and Plovdiv, were within the empire borders. Together with the proclamation of the republic, Istanbul had to hand this title over to the newly developing Ankara. Despite this change, the city continued to function as an eternal capital and always attracted intense attention. Istanbul is going to take the title of European Capital of Culture for 2010. With this wonderful occasion, the city once more will become a current issue on the global agenda.”

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“Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture process was initiated and developed under a completely civil participative structure. The project, which was **first launched as a civil society initiative in 2000** […] Thus, the Istanbul 2010 ECOC Agency, [was] founded […] With this governance model, employed for the first time in Turkey, an Executive Board, comprised of the delegates of non-governmental organizations, chambers of industry and commerce and public institutions, was formed. […] Each step of the project was made in compliance with EU standards. As Istanbul 2010 ECOC Agency, the basic mission we adopted is

**to protect the great cultural heritage of Istanbul** and

**to share this wealth with the entire world**, primarily with Europe.

The third strategic part of the project in conjunction with the culture-art and tourism-promotion activities is the

**work on cultural heritage.**
Being the most significant contribution to the process of being a European Capital of Culture these studies are expected to remain beyond 2010. We know that Istanbul has numerous eternal artworks and oeuvres, some of which are still waiting to be explored and unearthed. One should be confident that our Agency is extremely sensitive in these matters and is spending the utmost effort to restore them properly to re-offer them to the culture and art life of the city.”
„art and artists should be available everywhere in the city, including public spheres, hospitals, schools […] As a capital of empires, Istanbul is one of the unique cities of the world in terms of cultural wealth. This cultural richness is owed to the city’s location, forming a bridge between Asia and Europe. […] In today’s atmosphere of tension […] one should remember and highlight the knowledge and tradition of uniting different cultures under the same roof, inherited from the Ottoman era. […]
the city will set a model for Europe and for the entire world, through its new **intercultural communication** that benefits from [...] the revival of mutual enrichment and co-existence practices. [...] 

Istanbul’s selection as the European Capital of Culture is a unique opportunity [...] for gaining experience and know-how in **constructing the foundation of cultural peace.** [...] 

In short, Istanbul 2010 will start a dialogue within the city, to pave the way for initiatives **in hindering alienation and dissociation through art and culture.**"
Interim summary:

Istanbul is seen first of all as former capital – in *nüzün*
as described in Pamuk’s book on *İstanbul*…

*... living in the past.*
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

Implementation:

ISTANBUL 2010 PROJECTS
Urban Projects / 16
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Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROGRAM FOR WOODEN BUILDINGS

Pamuk’s Museum of Innocence
Çukurcuma

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Art holds potential for conflict

Gentrification posited as motive for attack on Tophane art galleries

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Though the motive behind Tuesday night’s attack on Istanbul art galleries remains unclear, a new theory that anger about gentrification fueled the incident has joined initial concerns about a clash between conservative and liberal factions. “People are worried that the price of the real estate will go up and they will lose their homes. The other, deeper reason is the rising conservatism,” Azra Tüzünoğlu, owner of the Outlet Gallery, told daily Milliyet on Wednesday. Culture and Tourism Minister Ertuğrul Günay visited the Tophane neighborhood around noon on Thursday […]

Expressing his hopes that the “social transformation” of the area can be carried out without disturbing anyone, the minister said: “Change always hurts. But let this be known, nobody can force their Anatolian lifestyle [upon others] in Istanbul, but nobody has the right to turn a blind eye to the [traditions] of the people here, either.”

http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=tophane-attack-on-art-galleries-more-than-meets-the-eye-2010-09-23
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

Gentrification as European/Global Problem

England riots: Before-and-after images of the devastation

expressed violently and/or…

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Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

...non-violently (in camping atmosphere)

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“It is known that historically the four most widely spoken mother-tongues in Istanbul are Turkish, Greek, Armenian and the Sephardim language. A series of concerts will be given by folk singers, native speakers of these four mother-tongues. The concerts, during which the songs written in these languages will be interpreted, are going to take place in very interesting spots. One of the concerts will be held in Kınalıada, rather known for its Armenian population. Likewise, Burgazada houses a higher percentage of citizens of Greek origin. While Heybeliada is known for its Turkish residents, Büyükağda mostly houses the Jewish citizens. Another concert will be given for Istanbul residents, who do not reside in the Prince Islands. This concert will take place elsewhere. […] Contemporary artists of Turkish, Greek, Armenian and Jewish origin will show the audience how art production can actually be realized in a common cultural platform.”
Example of: URBAN CULTURE PROJECTS:

CIVILIZATION PASSAGES – INNS AND ALLEYS
16 – 18 October 2009

“Civilization Passages – Inns and Alleys Carnival” is a project taking up inns and alleys as magnificence indications of Istanbul, the Capital of Empires […] Civilization Passages/Inns get to be the main artery of arguments like “alliance of civilizations”, “making of a common identity”, “establishing cultural bridges” and “richness stemming from diverse cultures” which have been mentioned quite often. They are the common culture melting pots of Istanbul, the heart of the world […]. Through this project, being historical and cultural values of Istanbul, inns will be re-introduced on national and international platforms with reference to their architectural, social and cultural aspects. Impeding the oblivion of the common cultural identity […] emphasis will be out on the sharing culture constituted by interactions and on the common European culture.“
4 The Civil Society Dialogue (as sub-program)

as part of:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROJECTS:
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE – ISTANBUL 2010 EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE GRANT SCHEME PROGRAM

In 2006, Istanbul was declared one of the three European Capitals of Culture for 2010, along with Eisen, Germany, and Pécs, Hungary. Within the scope of IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance), European Commission supports this initiative with its “Civil Society Dialogue – Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Grant Scheme Program”. The target of the program is to support Istanbul in its efforts to bring its cultural capacity and legacy into light. With this purpose, a total of 1,578,900 EUR will be granted to civil society organizations focusing on art and culture. The amounts to be granted will vary between 50,000 EUR – 150,000 EUR. The supported projects will last for 9-12 months. The project activities will be realized in Istanbul or EU-member or membership candidate countries. With the program, projects on the following fields will be supported: visual arts, music/opera, theatre and performing arts, literature, urban culture, traditional arts, film/documentary/animation, architectural planning and attendance to new urban experiences and common cultural heritage. In compliance with the spirit of Civil Society Dialogue, all the projects will be realized in collaboration with partners from EU-members. Program will facilitate the project owners’ cooperation with their counterparts in the EU. With this aspect, the program will contribute to the development of multilateral partnerships.

“NEW APPROACHES IN CULTURE GOVERNANCE” SYMPOSIUM

19 – 21 NOVEMBER 2009 | NOVEMBER 2010

In 2008, a symposium series was initiated by Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency. The first symposium of the series titled “What is European Culture?” was held on 13-15 November 2008. The second symposium was held under the title “Culture Policies in Turkey and Europe” on 19-21 November 2009. The third and last symposium of the series titled “New Approaches in Culture Governance” is going to take place in November 2010. In this symposium, “Culture Governance”, one of the most important topics of culture policies, will be discussed by renowned experts from Europe and Turkey. Furthermore, the papers presented and the speeches given during the symposium will be gathered in a collective book to be published in English and Turkish.

EUROPE ON WATER | JUNE – JULY 2010

With “Europe on Water” project developed by Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency, in 2010 three large stages to be built on important squares of the city will be opened to different European countries for 6 weeks. From mid-June until the end of July, various cultures of Europe are going to embrace Istanbulites in a festive atmosphere. European countries will introduce their cultures on a wide range of fields varying from pop to jazz, from theatre to modern or folk dance. The project, planned to contribute to the improvement of cultural dialogue during Turkey’s EU-membership process, is going to provide a platform for the introduction of Turkish culture to the European countries. Similarly, Istanbulites will find a chance to get to know the European culture. Attendance by many European countries is expected.
CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE – ISTANBUL 2010
EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE GRANT SCHEME PROGRAM

In 2006 Istanbul was declared […ECoC]. Within the scope of IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance), European Commission supports this initiative with its “Civil Society Dialogue – Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Grant Scheme Program”. The target of the program is to support Istanbul in her efforts to bring its cultural capacity and legacy into light. With this purpose, a total of 1,578,900 EUR will be granted to civil society organizations focusing on art and culture. […] The supported projects will last for 9-12 months. The project activities will be realized in Istanbul or EU-member or membership candidate countries. […] In compliance with the spirit of Civil Society Dialogue, all the projects will be realized in collaboration with partners from EU-members.”
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

Enlargement, however, is not an automatic process. One of the lessons that can be drawn from previous enlargements is that citizens need to be better informed and prepared. It is necessary to involve citizens to bring them closer to each other and help them learn about different cultures, political and economic systems. In this way, the opportunities and the challenges of enlargement can be more fully understood.

Involving civil society
The idea of a ‘civil society dialogue’ was first proposed by the European Commission in October 2004 and endorsed by the European Council on 17 December 2004:

Deadline: 2 Dec 2009
Kick-off Meeting, 14 June 2010
Overall objective:
As the two dimensions of widening and deepening cannot be separated they have to be addressed combined.

It is not possible to simply add cultural facets of a candidate country without integrating these elements into a concise concept.

Relevance:
Nevertheless, as a common, sustainable concept is not worked out in the EU yet the EU-Turkey dialogue could help to raise the awareness for the importance and necessity of its creation.
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary: Name &amp; Address</th>
<th>Action title</th>
<th>Action location</th>
<th>Action duration (Months)</th>
<th>Grant amount (EUR)</th>
<th>Percentage of total eligible action costs (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genç Gönüllüler Derneği</td>
<td>Child-Friendly, Istanbul: Children and Youth Participation in Discovering</td>
<td>Istanbul</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>134,644,00</td>
<td>90,00</td>
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<td>Ayazağa Mah. Dereboyu Cad.</td>
<td>Communicating Children's Geographies for Planning and Designing a Child-</td>
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<td>No:13/2</td>
<td>Friendly City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Şişli Belediyesi Ayazağa Kültür Merkezi</td>
<td>Istanbul Express: Exploring Multilingualism Across Europe</td>
<td>Istanbul/Paris</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>145,056,05</td>
<td>67,93</td>
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<td>34396/Şişli/Istanbul</td>
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<td>Nisi Masa</td>
<td>Human-Cities: Brussels-Istanbul, 2010</td>
<td>Istanbul/Brussel</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>143,739,02</td>
<td>88,00</td>
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<td>99, rue du faubourg-Saint-Denis</td>
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<td>Theatre Organization</td>
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<td>Avenue de l'Hippodrome 72</td>
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<td>1050/Brussels Region/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

1. Child-Friendly Istanbul: Children and Youth Participation in Discovering, Communicating Children's Geographies for Planning and Designing a Child-Friendly City
2. Istanbul Express: Exploring Multilingualism Across Europe
3. Human Cities: Brussels-Istanbul, 2010
4. Istanbul-Pori Music Networking
5. Istanbul-Marseille: The Industrial Architectural Heritage Developing Awareness and Visibility
6. Participatory Protection of Cultural Heritage as a Model
7. Istanbul - Europe Express 2010
8. Global Gateway
9. Medin Music: Identities in Music Through Marche and Turkey
10. Sound_Shift: Marseilles-Istanbul, Culture on the Edge
11. Creative Streets for Dialogue - from Pecs to Istanbul Connecting Two Cultural Capitals

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6 Recommendations for the ECoC development

Using the Logical Framework Matrix in order to develop a concise program and intervention logic:

ec.europa.eu/europeaid/tender/.../AOF81280.xls
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interventions logic</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement</th>
<th>Sources and means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall objectives</strong></td>
<td>What are the overall broader objectives to which the action will contribute?</td>
<td>What are the key indicators related to the overall objectives?</td>
<td>What are the sources of information for these indicators?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specific objective</strong></td>
<td>What specific objective is the action intended to achieve to contribute to the overall objectives?</td>
<td>Which indicators clearly show that the objective of the action has been achieved?</td>
<td>What are the sources of information that exist or can be collected? What are the methods required to get this information?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expected results</strong></td>
<td>The results are the outputs envisaged to achieve the specific objective. What are the expected results? (enumerate them)</td>
<td>What are the indicators to measure whether and to what extent the action achieves the expected results?</td>
<td>What are the sources of information for these indicators?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td>What are the key activities to be carried out and in what sequence in order to produce the expected results? (group the activities by result)</td>
<td><strong>Means:</strong> What are the means required to implement these activities, e.g. personnel, equipment, training, studies, supplies, operational facilities, etc.</td>
<td>What are the sources of information about action progress? <strong>Costs</strong> What are the action costs? How are they classified? (breakdown in the Budget for the Action)</td>
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<td>What pre-conditions are required before the action starts?</td>
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<td>What conditions outside the Beneficiary’s direct control have to be met for the implementation of the planned activities?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Possibilities for strengthening European identity by the ECoC program

Instead of categorizing actions and activities according to
- project groups (e.g. Urban Projects, International Relations Projects) and
- disciplines of arts (e.g. Literature, Music and Opera)

development of long-term (up to 12 months) lasting program specific pillars and a program related communication concept for the benefit of the ECoC and beyond

Output and outcome have to be clear and transparent and communicated to the public respectively

The public must be involved, invited to engage and participate

Possible cultural tensions have to be reflected and considered; actions have to be taken pro-actively
Thank you
for your kind attention