

Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions - Possible Statistical Implications?

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background

- sociologist, working in Statistics Finland since the end of 70s: culture and media statistics, leisure surveys etc
- national coordinator of cultural statistics since 1991
- Finnish researcher group of Council of Europe's project for Culture Policy Evaluation 1992-1995
- UNESCO working group on cultural participation 92-94
- Member of UNESCO expert group for evaluation of UNESCO World Reports and other publishing policy, 2000
- EU development of cultural statistics since 1995 (conferences, LEG, Task Forces, WG)
- speciality: leisure and cultural participation

The starting points of the paper

- The idea was
- to analyze the text of the convention and
 - to try to understand what was agreed in regard to statistics
 - the only other source used was the “Ten keys to the Convention...”, published on UNESCO website
 - on the basis of this to make some conclusions and offer some proposals

The style of the paper

- the paper raises ‘naive’ questions on the basis of the text of the convention
- the questions concern all aspects of the text
 - what was agreed?
 - what are the concepts?
 - what kind of hints of concrete measurable phenomena can be found from the text ?

The structure of the paper

- In the **first part** *the Convention* is reviewed to identify:
 - what is agreed about exchanging information, especially statistical information, in order to monitor the Convention
 - which parts of the Convention seem to need statistical monitoring, and where this is feasible
 - key definitions to examine their usability in statistics.
- The **second part** contains the conclusions and offers some proposals.

Articles 9 and 19

- all Parties should provide information to UNESCO every four years
- all Parties and UNESCO should share all information with each other
- the information should concern
 - the diversity of cultural expressions
 - measures taken to protect and promote them
 - the geographical scope: activities within Parties' own territory and their international activities

Articles 9 and 19

- These two Articles of the convention give only a very rough basis for the data collection
- No clear difference between the words information and statistics,
- Unclear what kind of information should be in statistical form, or at least in a form which could allow statistics compilation at UNESCO.
- The few concepts mentioned in these paragraphs offer only a very abstract basis for concrete statistical work.

Key definitions of the Convention

- cultural diversity
- culture expressions
- diversity of cultural expressions
 - cultural activities, goods, and services
 - cultural industries
 - cultural policies and measures
 - protection
 - interculturality
- **none of the definitions gives as such a basis for statistical work, but they give helpful hints**

Examples of necessary clarifications (other than 'diversity' or 'expressions')

- The scope of culture? The scope of cultural?
 - ⇒ Distinct but broad enough concept of culture
- Cultural activities, goods, services
 - What are cultural activities: professional theatre performance, amateur dance, everyday making and serving of food, attending a performance....
 - What are cultural goods: old hammer, television programme...?
 - What are cultural services: performances, television programmes, copyright expenses...?

Examples of necessary clarifications (other than ‘diversity’ or ‘expressions’)

- Cultural industries
 - commercial field of cultural production? What about public institutions – public theatres, libraries, museums...?
- Civil society:
 - a) the everyday social world of individual people or community groups, which does not include public institutions or commercial enterprise, or
 - b) “representative civil organizations“

Convention links Cultural diversity to

- A) Population structure and the cultures of different populations groups, civil society
 - it emphasises: linguistic and/or other ethnic minorities (their legislative status) , indigenous people, the position of women

- B) Diversity and types of **cultural expressions**

Future guidelines

- It is apparent that majority of the data exchange related to the realisation of the Convention will be other than statistical data:
 - ⇒ information on support activities
 - ⇒ collaborative relationships and best practices
- giving statistics production and statistical analysis a major role is unrealistic
- but to give them at least some role:
 - Parties must be committed to producing them
 - clear agreement is required

Possible guidelines for simultaneous development work

- 1) the suitability of **existing international, regional and national data sources** could be examined as sources
- 2) some **possible indicators**, which will be determined by negotiation between all Parties
- 3) special attention to **developing countries** and the improvement of the conditions of their cultural life, indicators should include:
 - protection and promotion of cultural diversity
 - their relationship to developed countries and global structures
 - *network model* of contact flows between different parties

Further questions

- The role and responsibilities of different bodies in following up the Convention
 - the role of the different international bodies
 - especially the role of UIS
 - the role of Parties of the convention
- The question of human resources
- How to promote dialogue between the scientific and political discussion on cultural diversity and the concrete statistical work – also in future