L’Observatoire des politiques culturelles

Explorer of cultural policies
From local to international level
www.observatoire-culture.net
1 rue du Vieux-Temple 38000 GRENOBLE - F
• The particular context of the 1980s: the movement towards the decentralization of cultural policy

• New needs to be met: to ensure that action on the part of public partners at local and regional level be accompanied by reflection and assistance in decision-making, training, and support in matters of assessment

• 1989: the OPC was founded in Grenoble under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture and Communication and the University of Grenoble Pierre-Mendès France with the support of the Rhône-Alpes Region, the Department of l’Isère and the city of Grenoble
Grenoble
THE PARIS VORTEX...
Philosophy and positioning

- At the crossroads of cultural issues, societal issues, and public policy, from local to international levels
- A bridge between 4 worlds: the State, local powers, professionals in the world of art and culture, the University and research
- A pathfinder: to detect developments, go out to meet trends, put local areas in perspective in relation to one another
- A platform for encounters and debates
- A laboratory of ideas at local and regional level
Missions and expertise

A national tool for supporting local and regional cultural policies:
- To encourage and accompany reflection on the state/local collectivities partnership and cultural development on the ground
- To offer support to professionals in the fields of art and culture from the point of view of training and issues of public policy

Methods and expertise:
- To observe, analyse, forge links, put in perspective, broaden views
- To mobilize participants and contributors from all horizons in order to encourage consultation, dialogue, and cooperation

Methods and expertise:
- research studies and assessment
- seminars, consultation, conferences
- training programmes
- advice and assistance
- information
- publications
Case studies and assessments

• The fundamental aims of the OPC
• Pilot studies: organising the working framework, fine-tuning the issues concerned, contacting experts in the field, coordinating work in progress
• Set in place by l’Observatoire, sponsored by collectivities, the state, professional federations, institutional bodies…
• Specific interests: qualitative analysis, comparative studies, analysis in the field

- Quantitative surveys and qualitative research
- Joint studies with the Culture ministry’s research department
- Collaborations with regional Observatories
The in-between methodology

- Bridging research funders and researchers
- OPC is a mediator all along the research process
  - The heart of the process: the monitoring committee
  - Publish all works
- Journals and series
- Published books by major publishing houses
Evolution of cultural practices by DEPS
A POLARIZED MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

Cities

- NGOs
- State
- Région
- Dépt.
- Patrons Sponsors
- Agencies
- EU.
- Other cities
- Consor tiums
- Other cities
Public Cultural expenses

- Villes
- CR
- CD
- EPCI
- Etat
A MODEL OF POLICY-MAKING

INTERCULTURAL POLICY

INTER- TERRITORIALITY

PARTNERSHIP

TRANSVERSALITY
TENSIONS AND BALANCES

Cooperation axis

Global/local

Public/private

Negotiation

Government/governance

Management/Organization

Autonomy/héteronomy

Values

Political Economy
La ville créative
Creative City

La ville participative
Civic City

La ville interculturelle
Global City
Creativity
Liberalism
Tolerance/compétition

National cultures

Interculturality

Participation
Communities
Identity/Solidarity

multiculturalism

Interculturality
Hybridizations
Cosmopolitanism
Target groups

- **State services and local collectivities** (elected representatives, and those responsible for services and equipment)
- **Artistic and cultural participants and their networks**
- **Research laboratories and universities, researchers, students**
Every year for l’Observatoire means:

- **8 to 10 publications**
- **12 to 15** conferences, seminars, and future workshops at national and international levels
- **3 to 4** case studies
- **Over 70** training days
- **300** speakers involved
- **40** contributors to each issue of the review
- **80** partners, French, European, and international
- **2000** requests for information and advice responded to
- **Several thousand** participants in the public encounters that the OPC organizes with its multiple and various partners
Funding

- Ministry of Culture and Communication
- Rhône-Alpes Region
- City of Grenoble
- Isère General Council
- Self-generated revenue
Some central themes

• Regional governance from local to international level
• Cultural and artistic education
• Sustainable culture and development
• Digital culture and local and regional strategy
• Participation of local inhabitants in artistic and cultural activities
• Cultural diversity and local and regional strategy
• Artistic and cultural issues in tomorrow’s towns and cities
• Assessment of the effectiveness of public action in favour of culture
Forums

• Mediation forums bringing together participants in cultural activities and public decision makers around artistic and cultural issues as well as questions concerning society and public policies

• Organised in partnership with one or more local collectivities or with public or professional partners

• Different formulae: conferences, discussion groups and participant forums, series of conferences, reflection

• and research seminars, study trips, future workshops
Advisory activities

• Analysis of current cultural issues and the integration of these into public policies and the organization and governance of cultural action
• Reinforced by support on a daily basis (telephone, email, working session, documentary advice) or else more long-term commitments
• Aimed at various groups: elected representatives, administrative bodies, departments of public collectivities, artistic and cultural networks, national and international institutions, students...

A few examples:
• Defining a support platform for Brazilian local and regional cultural policy
• Setting in place a regional mission in the Brittany region for the observation of live performance arts
• International cooperation on strategies for cultural observation (Croatia, Chili, European organizations)
Training

• Continuing education
• Participants: professionals in the world of art and culture, elected representatives who coordinate and put into action local and regional policies and projects
• Content: theoretical and pragmatic tools, overall approach to the sector, keys to the understanding of artistic and cultural issues, institutional and societal issues
• Principles: mobility, transversality, exchange

Courses offered:
• Master’s Degree: Cultural Project Management
• National level diploma: Artistic and cultural project management and local and regional development
• Training programme World Trends (Courants du Monde)
• Short-term or à la carte training sessions
• Study trips
Learning resources centre

• A resource specializing in cultural policy matters
• Over 6000 documents: journals, publications, reports, dissertations...
• Supports the activities of other interested parties by appointment
• Responds by telephone or email to requests for information
• Underpins and nourishes the activities of l’Observatoire and its partners and trainees on the programs of the OPC in the course of their research
OPC networking
International activities

• Training programme **World Trends** (in partnership with the *Maison des Cultures du Monde*)
• Foundation and organization of **European networks**
• **Support with policies of decentralized cooperation** (Souss-Massa-Drâa region/Isère General Council)
• **European and international cooperation on the assessment and observation of cultural policies**
• Study mission with a view to creating a **platform for local and regional cultural policy in Brazil and Croatia**
• Forums and publications **on intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity**
Coopération internationale et diversité culturelle : quelle gouvernance culturelle pour la ville-monde ?

Pratiques et enjeux de la mobilité artistique : du local à l'international

Le dialogue interculturel en Europe : nouvelles perspectives
Keep up with the activities of the OPC

- Le site Internet de l’OPC et l’extranet des formations
The team

DIRECTEUR
DIRECTEUR ADJOINT ET RESPONSABLE DES FORMATIONS
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRALE
RESPONSABLE DU CENTRE DE DOCUMENTATION
CHARGÉE DE MISSION COMMUNICATION
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RESPONSABLE DES RENCONTRES PUBLIQUES ET SÉMINAIRES
Thank you for your attention