



# izmir '21

## UCLG Culture Summit

LAUNCH: 10 JUNE 2021

SUMMIT: 9-11 SEPTEMBER 2021

## CULTURE: SHAPING THE FUTURE







Culture:  
Shaping  
the Future

Digital



# THE SUMMIT

The fourth UCLG Culture Summit will be held in Izmir (Turkey) on 9-11 September 2021, hosted by the Metropolitan Municipality of Izmir.

The UCLG Culture Summit is **the main meeting point at global level** of cities, local governments and other stakeholders that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability. The Culture Summit of Izmir is based on the results of the previous Summits, held in Bilbao in 2015, in Jeju in 2017 and in Buenos Aires in 2019.

The Summit considers the impact of the covid-19 crisis, which have made evident the profound need for culture that cities and communities have: people have turned to culture to reinforce the sense of belonging in communities and cities, inventing new forms of participation, recognizing what brings us together and by creating meaning and solidarity; the pandemic has also shown that cultural actors need better working conditions, which were already precarious and difficult in the old normality. Life after pandemic will have to place cultural live at the centre of development.

The time is now to think beyond the present circumstances, to be brave enough to imagine different, better and more sustainable ways to live together. The place is Izmir, a Mediterranean metropolis that is a wonderful crossroad of peoples, knowledges and dreams.

The Summits show that cities are leading the way in recognizing the absolute necessity of cultural factors as a key dimension of sustainable development. This is why the fourth UCLG Culture Summit will be called "**Culture: Shaping the Future**".

The Summit has two main goals.

- First, the Summit will **reinforce the messages about the role that culture plays in sustainable development at the local level**, with concrete examples of policies, programmes and projects. In all cities, in the whole world, there are extraordinary initiatives that manage to expand freedoms and improve the lives of people through cultural processes, whether in the field of heritage, creativity or diversity. The COVID-19 pandemic has made more evident the role that culture plays in sustainable development, and reinforces the claims of our toolkit **Culture 21 Actions** (approved in 2015) to fully integrate cultural factors into local sustainable development.
- Second, the Summit will **give visibility to international debates on culture, cities and sustainable development**, which are shaped by the **UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs** (we are already in the Decade of Action), the **New Urban Agenda** (which celebrates its 5th anniversary in 2021) and the UCLG acquis on the place of culture in local development



(with the Bogotá Action Plan and the Durban Political Declaration), reinforced in 2020 by the Presidential Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath and the announcement of a new UCLG “**Pact for the Future of Humanity: For people, for the planet, for the government**”, to be shaped during 2021 and 2022, and to be powered by solidarity, equality, culture, and accountable institutions that leave no-one and no place behind.

The Summit is the place to share and discuss. We wish to bring all stakeholders in the room, not only those that have already worked together, but also new voices and champions to ensure a future for the younger generations. A world that leaves no one and no place behind is impossible without culture.

The Summit is a forum for knowledge-sharing, peer-learning and networking among cities and local governments. It expects to gather approximately 500 participants from all world regions. Over three days, the Summit will combine plenary sessions, smaller and thematic parallel sessions, project presentations and networking spaces. Additional information about the Summit themes and structure is presented in this document and is also available on the **Summit website**.



# THE MAIN THEMES

- **Culture, Environment and Health in the PostCovid19 Era.** Implications for communities, cultural actors, artists, mobility and creativity
- **The #Culture2030Goal Campaign: Towards a Culture Goal.** Entering the Decade of Action of the UN 2030 Agenda with clear proposals on culture.
- **Culture and the Climate Emergency.** Environment and Culture are intrinsically connected; this session is a preparation of COP 26 (Glasgow, November 2021).
- **Cultural Rights and Communities.** The pandemic has shown the importance for culture in our communities, and it has promoted the 2020 Rome Charter as a guiding document.
- **Culture and Gender.** A gender perspective in cultural policies. Gender is one of the key components of all approaches linked to sustainable development, but it is still too weak in cultural policies.
- **Creative Economy and Cultural Diversity.** In the frame of 2021, the International Year on Creative Economy (UNCTAD), cultural sectors explain their actions.
- **Cultural Heritage and Tourism.** Balancing the need to learn with cultural experiences abroad and the need to keep local identity and wellbeing.
- **Cultural Diplomacy.** The role of cities and local governments in the international cultural cooperation.
- **Accessibility and Culture.** Cultural events and infrastructure (including digital) to be available to all.
- **Five Years of the New Urban Agenda.** What does the NUA mean for the cultural actors of the cities? What are the challenges ahead?
- **Culture 21 Actions: results from Leading and Pilot Cities.** Cities in different world regions working to fully integrate culture in their sustainable development strategies, programmes and projects.
- **Culture, Obstacles and Inequalities.** The inequalities that prevent participation of all in cultural life are not analysed in depth: presentation of the GOLD-VI article on this issue.
- **Implementing the Seven Keys.** A new programme has been launched by UCLG to connect the SDGs and culture: meet the cities that have already experienced the Seven Keys.
- **The International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.** Meet the winning cities, the special mentions and the good practices.



# SESSIONS

## A. PLENARIES

**Opening** will focus on how culture shapes the future of communities in the post Covid-19 Era.

**Plenaries** will focus on cross-cutting themes which will also inform the design of the overall programme.

**Closing** will be an explicit contribution to UCLG Pact for the Future, with the axes “People, Planet and Government” and the Mondiacult 2022 Conference. The time for culture is now!

## B. PARALLEL SESSIONS, EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

The Summit is also underpinned by an aim to foster in-depth learning on a wide range of issues related to culture and sustainable cities. The parallel sessions, events and workshops (approx. 30-50 people attending, approx. 60-90 minutes) will be designed to allow presentation of experiences, introduce on-going work and provide advice on needs and opportunities. The Summit is a real place for peer-learning and networking among cities, local governments and other stakeholders.

Some of these events may be only upon invitation.

## C. HUB PRESENTATIONS

The Summit aims at hosting new initiatives coming from all corners of the world. The Hub Presentations (approx. 15-20 people attending, approx. 15-20 minutes) introduce very concrete projects and/or proposals of future initiatives.

Should you be interested in organising a parallel event, a workshop or a Hub presentation, write to us before 21 May 2021.

# Culture: Shaping the Future

UNIVERSITY





# CULTURE IN UCLG: BACKGROUND

The mission of the world association of **United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG** is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through **cooperation between local governments**, and within the wider international community.

UCLG has played an important role since 2004 in promoting the role of culture in sustainable cities:



In 2004, UCLG adopted the **Agenda 21 for culture**, a declaration with 67 articles that describes the relationship between local cultural policies and human rights, governance, sustainable development, participatory democracy and peace. In 2015, UCLG approved **Culture 21 Actions**, a toolkit with 9 Commitments and 100 Actions: it is the most complete and practical document on the relation between culture and sustainable development in cities and allows self-evaluation, policy innovation and peer-learning.



In 2010, the Executive Bureau of UCLG approved the document **“Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development”** in its World Congress held in Mexico City. This document engages local governments to explicitly include culture in a development model that ‘meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.



Since March 2013, UCLG’s role as facilitator of the **Global Taskforce** has included Culture in local and regional governments’ inputs to the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. The **Statement of the 2nd World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** resulting from this work, adopted in Quito in October 2016, establishes a commitment to ‘Integrate culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and take action to foster heritage, creativity, diversity and peaceful co-existence’.



The document **“Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals. A Guide for Local Action”**, published by UCLG in 2018, presents information on each one of the 17 Goals, helps to understand why cultural issues are important and provides relevant examples.



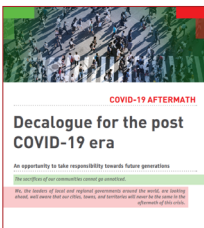
The **OBS**. The Committee has developed a database containing more than 200 good practices on culture and sustainable development. The tool allows searches according to 3 criteria: the SDG, the Commitments of Culture 21 Actions, and keywords.



The **#culture2030goal campaign** includes global cultural networks. It advocates for a stronger place for culture throughout the implementation of the current global development agenda (the UN 2030 Agenda), and for the adoption of culture as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 development agenda.



The 6th UCLG World Congress, held in Durban in November 2019, adopted the manifesto **“The Future of Culture”**. It defends a fair cultural globalization, based on the full exercise of cultural rights by peoples, communities, and individuals. It promotes cultural policies at a local, national and global scale to be explicit and operational.



The **UCLG Presidency Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath**, launched on 22 April 2020, identifies culture as one of the key priorities to guide the advocacy of UCLG in the coming years, as an “antidote for the secondary effects” of the crisis.



The **2020 Rome Charter** was adopted by the UCLG World Council in November 2020 as a contribution to the global conversation on culture and development. The Charter describes the right to participate “fully and freely” in cultural life as vital to cities and communities, and promotes the cultural capabilities: Discover, Create, Share, Enjoy and Protect.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a unique platform, which gathers cities, associations and networks that foster the relationship between local cultural policies, and sustainable development. The Committee is co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and is vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome. It has members and partners across all continents.



# PEER-LEARNING PROGRAMMES ON “CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES”

Following the adoption of **Culture 21 Actions** in 2015, the UCLG Committee on Culture has established a set of capacity-building and peer-learning programmes. In particular, a wide range of cities in different world regions are currently participating in the following programmes:

- **Pilot Cities** is a learning programme based on the 9 commitments and 100 actions included in Culture 21 Actions. Lasting for approximately 30 months, it includes local awareness-raising, international peer-review, capacity-building, pilot local projects, public seminars and elaboration of good practices. As of December 2020, the Pilot Cities programme includes Baie Mahault, Chignahuapan, Concepción, Córdoba, Cuenca, Elefsina, Escazú, Esch-sur-Alzette, Gabrovo, Galway, Jinju, Konya, La Paz, Leeds, Mérida, Muriaé, Namur, Nova Gorica, Santa Fe, Sinaloa, Swansea, the island of Tenerife, Terrassa and Timisoara.
- The **Leading Cities** programme gives support to cities that have experience in the implementation of culture and sustainability, through measures in the areas of Cooperation and Learning (technical assistance, capacity-building, good practices), Leadership and Advocacy (participation in international events and processes) and Communication (website, social media). As of December 2020, the Leading Cities programme includes Abitibi-Temiscaminge, Barcelona, Bilbao, Belo Horizonte, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Izmir, Jeju, Lisbon, Malmö, Mexico City, Porto Alegre, Rome, Vaudreuil-Dorion and Washington DC.
- **Culture 21 Lab** is a short workshop on “Culture in Sustainable Cities”. It enables cities to self-evaluate their work in this field. It provides key basic information on the place of culture in sustainable development, and it is a useful way to raise awareness of this field among local stakeholders. As of December 2020, the programme has been completed in Greater Dandenong, Kaunas, Makati and Sant Cugat del Vallès.
- The **Seven Keys** is a workshop to integrate the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs. Participants learn the cultural relevance of the SDGs, share knowledge and agree on a concrete list of achievable actions, the local “Seven Keys”, that will contribute significantly to the localization of the SDGs through culture policymaking. As of March 2021, the programme is being developed in Bulawayo, Izmir, Lisbon, Mexico City, el Puerto de la Cruz and Xi’an.

The Committee on Culture of UCLG also works with other cities, local and regional governments and the UCLG regional sections in order to tailor specific capacity-building and peer-learning programmes to their needs.

# THE CITY OF IZMIR

## Izmir, the City of Culture and Nature

Located on the west coast of Turkey by the Aegean Sea, Izmir belongs to the broader region of Southeast Europe, and is one of the major port cities in the Mediterranean. Izmir province stretches over an area of 12.000 km<sup>2</sup> and comprises 30 districts, 11 of which are situated in the metropolitan area.

Historically, the port has been at the core of Izmir's identity and the city has long been a hub of dense networks of maritime connections. Through these connections people, goods, ideas and thoughts have flowed into the city. The port has long facilitated cultural exchanges and served as a nexus where people from different parts of the Mediterranean and Asia met, mixed and inspired each other. Thanks to its favorable geographical location, climate, water resources and fertile lands, the 8500-year-old city has been the home of many civilizations and cultures. Homer, the author of the legendary Iliad and Odyssey, whose works have had an enormous effect on Western culture, was born and lived in Izmir. The city was one of the prominent cities of the Hellenistic period and the Roman Empire. In the modern era, during the 17th century, Izmir became an important port attracting notable overseas trade owing to the Silk Road. With its well-protected bay, Izmir was closer to the Italian ports than the city of Istanbul. Venetian, Dutch, English and French merchants settled in Izmir, opening export factories and consulates. Dutch, English, French, Venetian and Ottoman subjects socialized with each other. Calvinists, Catholics, Sephardic Jews, Muslim Turks, Orthodox Greeks and Armenians worshipped almost shoulder to shoulder.

Commercial relations developed thanks to the port and this further led to deeper cultural ties. In the course of the eighteenth century, Izmir became the leading Mediterranean port. The







town's cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, its openness, and its growing international trade constituted an open society. The city did not only connect Mediterranean ports, but also acted as a strong bridge between the Orient and the Western world. Izmir long served as the gateway to the Orient, to China, for the traders, entrepreneurs, scientists and artists of Europe, through the paths of the ancient Silk Road. Izmir blossomed during the late nineteenth century when free trade increased the significance of Mediterranean ports. Therefore, for a long time, Izmir was described as the capital of the Near East in western literature.

Alongside its cultural diversity, the city has impressively high biodiversity. Coupled with terrestrial biological diversity, Izmir embraces rich wetlands. 10% of the world's flamingo population lives in Izmir's largest wetland, the Gediz Delta. Izmir's rural communities preserve crucial ecological knowledge. Izmir is the heir to ancient indigenous production landscapes where local agricultural practices protect rare biological diversity. Rural Izmir shelters unique anthropogenic landscapes that reflect a singular harmony between culture and nature. This precious cultural knowledge protects and helps manage lands, water and other natural resources. Traditional practices, techniques and ways of living in harmony with nature are vital at a time when biodiversity and cultural diversity are globally threatened.

There are many ancient settlements within the boundaries of present-day Izmir such as Smyrna, Klazomenai, Ephesus and Pergamon. Pergamon and its multi-layered cultural landscape (2014) and Ephesus (2015) are catalogued in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Historic Port City of Izmir, Historic Town of Birgi; Foça, Çandarlı and Çeşme Castles are currently on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

Today, the city celebrates its unique culture, which stems from its heritages, cuisine and cosmopolitan lifestyle where the sea and the agriculture play an influential role. 4.500.000 residents of Izmir enjoy many festivals dedicated to arts, culture, ecology and gastronomy, numerous museums, art centers, and independent cultural activities. The crystal-clear Aegean Sea, accompanied by sun and golden sandy beaches are a major part of Izmir's cultural life. The city is also known for its international fair and Kültürpark, which is a landmark dating back to the early years of the Republic of Turkey. Kültürpark is a vast green public space in the city center which has played an important role in connecting Turkey to the world, in the economic and cultural domains, since the 1930s.

Izmir's cultural vision is to evolve into a city of arts, design and innovation, ensuring biodiversity, and eco-friendly production and distribution models. Another aspect of this vision involves developing trans-border relations and making Izmir a node in major city networks by promoting interactions and diversity. The municipality aims at making Izmir more prosperous, democratic, inclusive, just, equal, safe and sustainable with its cultural policies.

The Izmir Metropolitan Municipality implemented the pilot city program of the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Upon the UCLG's invitation, Izmir embarked on the "**Leading City**" program in 2020. Through these programs, the city has participated in a process of learning, capacity building and connectivity based on the principles and values of UCLG's guide, Culture 21 Actions.

Much more, here: [www.visitizmir.org/en/Home](http://www.visitizmir.org/en/Home).





# ATTENDING THE SUMMIT IS ESSENTIAL TO...

- Shape the future of your city with a complete cultural perspective.
- Find out how to implement cultural rights at the local level.
- Discover and learn from Izmir, one of the world's strongest cultural cities.
- Integrate a gender perspective in your city's cultural policies.
- Learn how to identify the inequalities in cultural participation.
- Make an explicit connection between cultural policies and the climate emergency.
- Promote cultural diplomacy in your city.
- Balance the challenges of heritage, identity and wellbeing in sustainable tourism.
- Know all about the "localisation" of the SDGs with a cultural perspective, including the discovery of the "Seven Keys".
- Understand what the cultural sectors are preparing in the frame of the International Year on Creative Economy.
- Obtain all information on the 2020 Rome Charter and its 5 cultural capabilities.
- Connect with the global cultural networks fostering the campaign #culture2030goal.
- Learn what a Voluntary Local Review is, and promote their cultural contents.
- Shape the future global development agendas and UCLG's Pact for the Future with a full cultural perspective.

## **BUT ALSO IF...**

You don't know enough about the issues listed above, and you are ready to learn!







#IzmirCultureSummit

#UCLGmeets

#UCLGculture

#Culture21Actions

#Listen2Cities

[www.uclg-culturesummit2021.org](http://www.uclg-culturesummit2021.org)

**UCLG Culture Summit 2021**

**Programme**

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