



PUBLIC EVENT, GALWAY

5 APRIL 2016





In the context of the Pilot Cities Europe programme in Galway, an enjoyable public event to present this programme was held in the Harbour Hotel in Galway on 5th April 2016. The event was attended by over eighty people – including our Stakeholder Group of approximately twenty-five people, and our Programme Team of eight (which included the 4 speakers).

The evening kicked off with a drinks and finger food reception at 5pm and this was followed at 6pm by an introduction to the evening by Gary McMahon from Galway City Council. The audience then heard four very interesting twenty minute presentations from our EU advisors and colleagues. The order was as follows:

Jordi Pascual – Culture 21 - What is it?

Jordi is the coordinator of the UCLG Committee on Culture, and he introduced the Agenda 21 for culture and Culture 21: Actions. These documents are meant to help cities in developing policies that integrate culture and sustainable development, assuming that culture is the fourth pillar of sustainable development. Jordi insisted that “fourth” does not involve any hierarchy, but the equal consideration of culture to the other components of development.

Clymene Christoforou – Culture Action Europe

Clymene is the director and founder member of ISIS Arts, a visual and media arts organisation with an international programme of commissions, residencies and events. ISIS is based in Newcastle, UK and recent projects include collaborations with artists from India, China, the USA and Europe. Clymene is a board member of Culture Action Europe, the most important European cultural network. An important component of CAE’s programme is to consolidate culture as a key element to sustainable and territorial development. Clymene explained with examples that this mission requires the “cultural sector” to build alliances beyond itself.

Catherine Cullen, Lille – Putting culture to the fore in a city - Lille’s experience

Catherine is now a special adviser on culture in sustainable cities for the UCLG Committee on Culture. She was president of the Committee in 2012-2015. She was also the Councillor for culture of Lille in the period 2002-2014. The presentation of Catherine emphasised that cultural policies can truly transform the lives of the communities if they are people-centred. She illustrated this with the experience of Lille 2004 as European Capital of Culture and the local programmes based on Agenda 21 for culture.

Beatriz Garcia, Liverpool – How culture works in cities / Liverpool 2008 Impacts and Legacy

- Dr Beatriz Garcia discussed the importance for a city to create a holistic cultural framework. She offered an overview of Liverpool’s experience in the lead up to and during its year as European Capital of Culture (ECoC). Liverpool departed from a very limited base in the early 2000s, without much experience engaging in cultural strategy nor documenting and monitoring its cultural assets. The ECoC provided the impetus needed to reflect on the importance of culture for sustainable city regeneration. Liverpool engaged key stakeholders across all sectors (connecting culture with education, business, health as well as tourism and transport) and invested on the largest research and evaluation programme to date, Impacts 08.

The presentations were very well received and a number of audience members spoke afterwards about the value of understanding the European experience and learning from other cities.

