

Dear Readers,

This Newsletter is to inform you about the programme **Culture and Development**, which is being carried out by CulturCooperation e.V. during the period from 2005 to 2008.

The Newsletter will be published three times a year to present our current activities and the events of the programme. It will also contain reports and information on projects, organisations and dates of events on the topic of Culture and Development.

We wish you enjoyable reading!

Anja Kuhr, Lena Blosat

CulturCooperation e.V.

Newsletter 1 – June/July 2006

Culture and Development

From 2005 to 2008 CulturCooperation e.V. is carrying out a three-year programme entitled **Culture and Development** with the support of the European Commission. Based on concrete examples, the programme will show how the work of individual artists, the establishment and extension of cultural institutions or the promotion of cultural industries can have direct positive effects on developments in the countries of the South.

Large sections of the public and multipliers from politics and society are to be made sensitive to recognise the significance of aspects of cultural politics for development strategies so that measures of cultural politics are more strongly promoted in future development cooperation projects. The programme will also draw attention to the difficulties which have often made cultural relations between North and South difficult in the past and make clear that fair political solutions must be found so that relations based on equality can be created.

A central aim of the programme is to integrate culture as a *sector-crossing factor* in the planning of development politics and project work and to reach agreement on international conventions specifically for the promotion of such measures. The current international conventions for the protection of cultural assets from theft and illegal trading have not yet been ratified by all European countries and implemented in national legislation. This programme is to make a direct contribution to furthering the recognition of these conventions.

The partner organizations are among associated institutions in Eastern Europe the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam (KIT), the Vienna Institute for Development and Cooperation (VIDC) and the African Council of Museums (AFRICOM).

Mode – Made in Africa

The programme began in September 2005 with the project **Mode - Made in Africa** presenting the Senegalese fashion designer, Oumou Sy. This internationally renowned top designer gave an exhibition with various collections and a fashion show in the Museum for Art and Trade in Hamburg in the venue *Fliegende Bauten*. The artist presented her new business idea "Made in Africa" at a business symposium at the Chamber of Commerce in Hamburg.

Newsletter

June/July 2006

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Culture and Development | 1 |
| Fashion – Made in Africa | 2 |
| International Symposium "Protection of Cultural Assets" | 2 |
| Programme 2006 – 2008 | 2 |
| Website www.culture-and-development.info | 3 |

Imprimatur

CulturCooperation e.V.

Nernstweg 32-34
22765 Hamburg

Tel. +49 (0)40 – 39 41 33
Fax +49 (0)40 – 39 80 53 69

info@culturcooperation.de
www.culturcooperation.de

If you wish to subscribe to the Newsletter or would like to cancel your subscription, please send a mail to info@culturcooperation.de.

International Symposium "Protection of Cultural Assets"

In the last few years more and more measures have been taken to prevent illegal digs at archaeological sites, the plundering of museums and the illegal export of significant cultural assets.

International conventions such as the UNESCO or UNIDROIT Convention signed by 109 states and integrated into national legislation (UNESCO) are intended to stop the illegal import and export of cultural assets. The efficiency of these conventions and laws, however, is questionable: In many cases there are loopholes in the regulations and liberal legislation can even contribute to the development of dubious trading in artwork.

This was the background to the symposium entitled "**The Protection of Cultural Assets – International Experience and Perspectives**" which took place at the Goethe Institute in Hamburg from May 22 to 24 this year.

The aim of the symposium was to facilitate the exchange between experts from various areas who are working for the protection of cultural assets. European and African institutions were represented with experts from museums and museum associations, from the art trade and from science and politics. They reported on their experience with the relevant legislation and also with various alternative protection programmes. At the end of the discussion, concrete political demands were formulated, calling for better protection of cultural assets in future – both in the countries affected by the losses and also in the European trading nations. The report of the results of the symposium can be found on the website. (www.cultur-and-development.info/project/expertm.htm)

Programme 2006 - 2008

In the coming years, further activities are planned on the following topics:

- Setting up of the network "Culture and Development"
- Conference "European Network – Culture and Development" in Vienna (January 2007)
- Film tour with the film "Cracks in the Mask" in ten German and Austrian towns (16 October to 26 November 2006)
- Campaign for the exchange of cultural assets (March 2007)
- Symposium "Cultural Tourism" in Hamburg (2007)
- Symposium "New Museum Movement" in Amsterdam (2008)
- Publications on the symposia

www.cultur-and-development.info

For those interested in working on the topic of Culture and Development, the website provides easy access to information and contact addresses. The web-portal is part of the **Culture and Development** programme documenting the main activities and the content of the project.

The website looks at the major cultural projects and institutions in the countries of the South and shows how they play a significant integral role in the development of economic activities. The work of the Senegalese fashion designer, Oumou Sy, is an illustration of how art can create openings for the sustainable development of a country. African fashion, in providing the impetus for revitalising the crafts trade and fashion production with innovative concepts and designs, becomes a motor for economic development. Others sectors such as craft work also show clearly that the involvement of artists can lead to fundamental changes in the life of a society.

It is necessary to create a network of many various actors in order to achieve a wide-ranging political discussion amongst the European public on this topic. This website is also a supportive medium for the planned establishment of a network on culture and development on the European level.

As certain topics are to be covered during the first three-year phase, the selection of topics will be limited to the four main subjects of the **Culture and Development**. These are craftwork and development, cultural heritage, cultural tourism and the New Museum Movement. The website, parts of which are still under construction, is to be understood as a kind of *work in progress*. Any institution or person interested in these topics is invited to join in the further design of the website.

The next Newsletter will be published in October 2006.



This Newsletter has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of CulturCooperation e.V. and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.