The implementation of cultural rights as a basic tool for developing coherent policies of cultural sustainability in Europe

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The paper aims at underlining the need of a method ‘human-rights-oriented’ to include cultural sustainability in European cultural policies, to maximize the effectiveness and the efficacy of human development through an holistic approach together with other dimensions.

Under the system of international protection of human rights, cultural rights constitute a specific category. The right to take part in cultural life; the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications; the right to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author are mentioned e.g. in Article 27 UDHR, Article 15 ICESCR, Article 27 ICCPR. On the EU level, the CFREU underlines the respect of the cultural diversity of the peoples.

States have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights. Moving to the development of culturally sustainable policies, the wording of the obligation relating to the right to take part in cultural life may have far-reaching consequences.

Cultural sustainability may be defined as a cultural dimension in sustainable development, that is the basic conditions, for state and civil society, for developing cultural processes and specific policies both locally and globally, as well as interaction and integration among different areas. The implementation of cultural rights may impact the basic conditions for developing European cultural processes, and for coherent policies on the matter.

Cultural sustainability should be considered a paradigm, a world-view, that has to act in a interdisciplinary context by creating new values, new ethics, new economics. It could be considered also as an autonomous dimension that can be assessed.

The paper will focus on policies through which cultural sustainability may be promoted by identifying, for example, targets that can be reached and in which differ-
ent stakeholders may intervene.

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