



CULTURAL POLICY PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES FOR ELECTION MANIFESTOS

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1. Citizens' right to participate or take part in cultural life and freedom of expression constitute the fundamental basis for the establishment and sustainability of state support mechanisms. **Artists' freedom of expression and citizens' right to access and participate in culture must be safeguarded by the constitution.**¹
2. The cultural heritage of Turkey is the common accumulation of all the cultures of these lands. Tangible and intangible **cultural heritage**, which is a great asset for tourism, development and overcoming regional disparities, **should be recognized and promoted as a resource to preserve cultural diversity and facilitate intercultural dialogue.** UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by UNESCO in 2005 for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, **should be ratified by Turkey and put into effect.**²
3. The role of the state in cultural life should be that of a promoter and infrastructure provider. The state does not partake as an actor in the production of cultural-artistic activities; it. As an initial step toward providing the infrastructure and opportunities for universal access to culture on the national level, **the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's share in the general budget should be increased from 0.4% to 1%.**
4. **Cultural policies should be designed in the framework of a sustainable development strategy, and the state should provide constant support for the field of culture and arts to transform cultural wealth into economic value.** For this purpose, as initial steps, the following measures are recommended:
 - a. **The expansion and amendment of the scope of the sponsorship law** so that foundations working in the fields of culture, arts and education can receive sponsorship support and the provided amount is fully income and corporate tax deductible at 100% for the supporting institutions.
 - b. **The annulment of taxes or tax reduction to a symbolic rate of 1-2% in delivery and service payments** of foundations working in the

¹ İKSV carried out an initiative in parallel to the constitution making process and proposed a new draft article to be included in the constitution to safeguard participation, access and contribution to cultural life. The proposed article titled "The Right to Take Part in, Access and Contribute to Cultural Life" was submitted to the Parliamentary Constitutional Reconciliation Commission and can be accessed from the İKSV website at: http://www.iksv.org/en/aboutus/cultural_policy#4

² For a list of state parties signatory to the Convention see: <http://portal.unesco.org/la/convention.asp?KO=31038&language=E&order=alpha>

fields of culture and arts that have been granted tax-exempt status by the Cabinet.

- c. **The allocation of a certain percentage of the revenue from the National Lottery to support the field of culture and arts.**
5. **Funding mechanisms and incentives should be devised** to support the participation of artists, musicians and producers in international events, exhibitions, festivals and biennials **in order to increase the diversity of artistic production** in Turkey. To this end, public funding should be generated to meet the production, transportation and travel costs of artists and increase their opportunities for participation in such activities. The criteria, application processes, allocated amounts and procedures of the funds should be reassessed **to develop a system that is accessible and transparent and meets international standards.**
6. **Cultural policies should be developed and implemented by local actors** in accordance with the potential, priorities and needs of provinces and regions. In order for the localization process to work effectively, it is necessary to take the measures summarized below:
 - a. **The duties and responsibilities of the local units of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, special provincial administrations and municipalities should be defined individually** and the necessary delegation of authority and legislative regulations should be made for these institutions to work in coordination.
 - b. **Local governments should allocate resources to the field of culture and arts**, and these resources should be disseminated to not-for-profit culture and arts groups, artists or artist initiatives through a transparent mechanism that can be monitored.
 - c. **For the development of cultural spaces and infrastructure**, instead of the cultural centers often built by municipalities without envisioning program content, cultural spaces which are designed for arts and culture events with their acoustics, seating area, stage and technical infrastructure should be created.
 - d. City councils, artists' organizations, civil society organizations working in the field of culture and culture professionals should be included in decision making mechanisms in order for existing **cultural centers to attain a management model that can respond to needs.**
 - e. **The tender process**, which obstructs NGO participation, **should be revoked** through an amendment to the Public Procurement Law in line with EU standards.

7. **Creative industries should assume a central position in cultural policy**, as they generate employment and contribute to economic development. In line with the needs of these industries and for progress in this field, first of all, **the social rights of artists and individuals working in the cultural industry and creative sectors should be safeguarded**, and then all necessary legal and administrative measures should be completed.
8. There is need for reliable statistics for any planning in the cultural sphere. Cultural statistics should ensure the generation of data and appropriate use of existent resources based on data. It is necessary to define and collect data that will allow for the monitoring and evaluation of issues such as cultural consumption; employment in the cultural sector; contribution of culture to local and national economy. **A national culture and arts databank should be created via Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) and investment should be made for the accumulation of information in this field.**
9. Culture and arts are indispensable components of a comprehensive education program that will ensure the intellectual, academic, cultural, social and personal development of the individual. **Arts education policy should become a priority issue of national culture and education policies** for the advancement of democracy and human rights and the creation of economic welfare and social harmony in Turkey.
10. In order to transmit the accumulation in the field of culture and arts to the international fora, developing comprehensive programs that will reflect the cultural wealth and diversity of **Turkey and underscoring the potential contribution of Turkey to future global culture in cultural diplomacy** should be defined as objectives. To this end, in order to facilitate the evaluation processes of international cultural collaboration projects, the bureaucratic structure of the Promotion Fund should be restructured and independent experts should be included in its decision making processes.³

³ The Promotion Fund is distributed in the framework of the recommendation reports presented by the embassies to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which are referred to the Promotion Fund and the bilateral relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There is no timetable of the evaluation process that is announced to the public or shared with the applicants, and the length of the evaluation process and the bureaucratic structure of the fund call for a restructuring.