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Title:

PARTICIPATORY PRACTICES IN LOCAL CULTURAL POLICY. Maastricht and its cultural heritage scene.

Abstract:

In Spring 2016 the Municipality of Maastricht adopted a new cultural policy document called *Innovatieagenda Cultuur*. During its draft, the intention was to promote more inclusive practices, organising meetings with local stakeholders in the cultural field, called *Dialogen*, one for each of the cultural identified subfields: *cultuurproductie en talentontwikkeling*, *jongerencultuur en crowdsourced projecten*, *creatieve industrie*, *erfgoed en identiteit* and *cultuurparticipatie en jongerencultuur*. The dialogues aimed at understanding problems and needs of THE local cultural scene, in order to create a new policy document based on the shared objectives of the private and public sphere.

The dialogue organised with the representatives of the local cultural heritage field did not have the hoped outcome, and a general discontent was detected between the stakeholders. For this reason, a further research aimed at understanding the dynamics and the reasons behind this outcome has been commissioned.

The research followed two directions:

- on one hand, it focused on local heritage stakeholders' past and present needs, problems and objectives;
- on the other hand, it focused on best practices of community engagement undertaken by public and private organisations and institutions in the Rhijn-Maas Euregion.

In occasion of this conference, the outcome of this research will be presented, in order to give an insight into the cultural heritage field in Maastricht, giving the opportunity to discuss its issues with specialised international professionals, with the hope to take cue from this discussion for the elaboration of innovative solutions for the development of more inclusive practices.

The presentation will include an analysis of the identified issues, and of needs and objectives of both stakeholders and of local government. An example of best practice will be provided to stimulate the debate, and recommendations for future implementation will be provided together with the critical analysis of the obstacle that such a process entails.