

**CULTURAL POLICIES:
alternative proposals in view of the parliamentary elections 2004
October 27, 2004**

The questions below were addressed to all political parties invited to the debate organised on October 27 by the ECUMEST Association and by the Romanian Academic Society. They were aimed at summing up the political offer in the field of cultural policies in view of the 2004 parliamentary elections.

1. Please define the priority objectives you intend to promote for a cultural development on medium term.
2. In order to materialize the above mentioned objectives, what do you assess to be the real level of funding reserved to culture within the state budget for 2005? In case of an increase of its level compared to the current budget, which would be its sources?
3. How do you intend to ensure the consultation and participation of all cultural actors in the elaboration and implementation of a long term cultural policy? Also, which would be the role of the research in fundamenting and evaluating the cultural policies, and how do you intend to apply to and support the research activity in the field?
4. How do you see in the future the mechanisms of financing culture with public funds?

In many countries, the functions of regulation, control, and representation of the public authorities (the Ministry of Culture) are separated from the financing function, which is given to an independent public agency with legal personality and with decision-making power (such as the Arts' Council in Great Britain, the cultural foundations in Estonia or Latvia, the cultural funds in Bulgaria, Holland or Hungary). To what extent do you intend to develop similar mechanisms and to redefine the role and functions of the Ministry of Culture?

5. How do you intend to tackle the reform process of public cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, respectively:
 - 5.1 How do you intend to prepare and to implement the decentralisation process of public cultural institutions and on which criteria do you consider that the distinction between the national institutions (which are going to remain under the subordination and financing of the Ministry of Culture) and the ones of a local interest should be made? With what kind of measures do you intend to accompany this process (e.g. co-financing granted from the central level to the decentralised institutions, training of the local administration etc.)?
 - 5.2 Do you plan a set of measures intended towards a stimulation of the public-private and central-local partnerships, and if so, which would be these measures?

5.3 Do you intend to reform the public institutions and if so, what measures do you plan to adopt?

5.4 Do you intend to privatise certain fields of activity within the public institutions through the externalisation of several services?

- 6 How do you see the role of the non-governmental organisations in the cultural field and which measures and mechanisms do you intend to adopt with regard to their access to public funds?
- 7 What legislative measures you consider necessary in order to answer UNESCO's recommendations with regard to the status of the artist?
- 8 To what extent do you consider the development of cultural industries (the film and audio-visual industry, phonograms industry, book industry etc.) and of cultural tourism important for the Romanian economy and what legislative and financial-fiscal measures do you intend to adopt in order to stimulate their development? To what extent do you consider necessary the inter-sectorial strategies and how do you foresee their implementation?
- 9 How do you intend to promote the equal access and the participation of the citizens to cultural activities? Especially, how will you stimulate the development of cultural activities and the access to these in the rural environment?
- 10 Although the cultural field is to a very little extent the subject of the pre-adhesion to the European Union negotiations, how do you see the role of the cultural sector in view of the integration, and what measures (for the support of cultural cooperation, etc.) do you intend to take in this direction?