

COUNTRY PROFILES

Portugal

The research into literature on Portugal's approach to international cultural policy suggests a positive attitude towards cooperation with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world. In fact, the website of the Office of International Cultural Relations (GRCI) refers to the wealth of contacts that each EU partner brings to the Union and states that: "this path of intercultural cooperation and dialogue constitutes a privileged terrain that facilitates and accompanies political and economic relations and exchanges between countries".

It is worth noting that, including immigrants in other countries, Portuguese is spoken by some 220 million people. Brazil represents almost 80% of this total (170 million inhabitants, according to year 2000 Census). Brazil, Portugal and the five Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa formed, in 1996, the Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa, known as CPLP), and admitted East Timor as an observer. According to UNESCO, Portuguese is the 3rd most spoken European language outside of Europe.

T h e O f f i c e o f I n t e r n a t i o n a l C u l t u r a l r e l a t i o n s

The Office of International Cultural Relations (GRCI) has administrative autonomy and works under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture. Its mission is to contribute towards promoting and disseminating Portuguese culture abroad, advising the Ministry in all areas of foreign cultural policy and representing the Ministry in all inter-governmental and international organisations. It also prepares international bilateral and multilateral meetings of culture ministers, held within the framework of annual summits. When negotiating international agreements of cultural cooperation (sixty agreements so far), it is guided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s - I n s t i t u t o C a m o e s

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the Instituto Camões (IC), the Portuguese agency responsible for implementing external cultural policy. Its purpose is to promote Portuguese culture and language abroad. Its main areas of work are: the promotion of Portuguese culture and teaching of Portuguese culture and language at University level and the negotiation of Cultural Agreements with third countries in the areas of education, science, culture, sports youth and mass media, in coordination with the competent Ministries. Its main objectives are therefore to: promote the integration of the artists' programmes in the international art scene; use Universities as a cultural stage; create cultural products for itineration; and support the edition of translation of Portuguese books or didactic and pedagogic instruments and tools.

P o l i c y f o c u s

The principal objective is the promotion of Portuguese culture and language abroad and a strong linkage with Portuguese-speaking countries. There are strong cultural agreements with the Official Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOP). These also play an important role in safeguarding material and non-material heritage, in particular the common language. The agreements specify support initiatives from the PALOP countries within the framework of built heritage, the Portuguese language, books, libraries, and safeguarding joint archives and intellectual property, where one of the most important aspects is training for local technical experts in these areas.

In relation to non-material heritage, various artistic training projects have been developed with the PALOP countries, particularly in the area of theatre and dance, through workshops and residencies for Portuguese companies. As a result, projects such as Cena Lusófona (Portuguese Stage) e Dançar o que é Nosso (Dance our own dances), which have been organised with support from GRCI, have helped recreate and integrate traditional forms of artistic expression.

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

Portugal is an international cultural player and brings with it, to the EU, its own special relationship with seven independent countries that use Portuguese as their official language: Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde Islands, Sao Tome and Principe Islands, Guinea-Bissau and East Timor (Timor Lorosae). In all these countries the Instituto Camoes is represented and cultural agreements are at work and there are regular summits between these eight “friendly” countries. There are no further Instituto Camoes in African countries but some additional cultural agreements²².

Portugal also demonstrates a strong commitment to EU Member States and non-EU neighbouring countries. For example:

- the Instituto Camões has a network of cultural centres located in France and Luxembourg, as well as delegations in Germany, Belgium and Spain. And in non-EU neighbouring countries, centres are located in Morocco;
- cultural agreements have been signed with Algeria, Armenia, Croatia, Egypt, Holy Sea, Israel, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Tunisia, Turkey and the Ukraine;
- the International Relations department of the government claimed that Portugal has programmes of training in the various cultural areas that pay special attention to reinforcing cultural relations with countries with whom they have special historical links, and this includes Morocco;
- Portugal is involved in the Mediterranean partnership developed under the umbrella of the EU.

Portugal is a member of the Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura -OEI) and the Community of Portuguese Speaking countries (Comunidad de Países de Lengua Portuguesa - CPLP), and through both these organisations demonstrates its willingness to work with other EU members²³.

In Asia, the Instituto Camões has a network of cultural centres located in China, India, Japan, Thailand and East Timor. Cultural agreements have also been signed with China, East Timor, India, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Macao, Malaysia, Oman, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In addition, the International relations department of the government claims that Portugal pays special attention to further countries with which it has special historical links. These include Japan and China – in both countries Institutos Camoes are located.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g

Ministry of Culture, (2005) Office of International Cultural Relations (GRCI),
E-Doc Link: <http://www.grci.pt/english/gri.asp?zona=gri>
Official website of the institution administering the external policy for culture of the Ministry of Culture for Portugal. Provides information on all Portuguese foreign cultural relations, bilateral and multilateral agreements and explains Portuguese relations with the EU.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, (2005) Instituto Camões Portugal,
E-Doc Link: <http://www.instituto-camoes.pt/>

Official website of the institution responsible for the external cultural policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Portugal. The Instituto Camões has a network of cultural centres located in Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, China, France, Guinea Bissau, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Thailand, East Timor (as well as delegation in Germany, Belgium and Spain).

□ Serrano, J.B., (2003) Aims and strategy of Portuguese foreign cultural policy, E-Doc Link: http://www.ifa.de/europa-akp/konferenz/download/eu_serrano.pdf
Portuguese contribution to the conference "Europe-a Union of Culture?" of the German Institut fuer Auslandsbeziehungen, Berlin, October 2003.

G e n e r a l / b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g

Lima dos Santos, Maria de Lourdes, (2005) Compendium of cultural policies - Portugal 2.4 International cultural cooperation,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.culturalpolicies.net/>

International cultural cooperation has been focused mainly on the promotion of the Portuguese language and culture via: - cooperation with communities and countries whose official language is Portuguese via national institutes (e.g. the Camões Institute - IC), international bodies (e.g. the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries - CPLP); - ongoing cooperation with African countries where the official language is Portuguese (PALOP); dissemination of the Portuguese language and culture via the establishment of cultural centres abroad and the transmission of programmes via a network of radio and television broadcasters as well as multimedia organisations; - dissemination of Portuguese works of creative art abroad and organisation of major cultural events such as Europalia 1991, Lisbon 1994 – European Culture Capital, the World Exhibition "The Oceans, a heritage for the future" – Expo 98. Support is provided for the circulation of foreign works (within Portugal); and - support for the participation of Portugal in international forums (UNESCO, Council of Europe and European Union) and programmes.

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports - Portugal,

E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1national_reports3.pdf

Background to structures, competencies and institutes in the field of cultural cooperation.

UNESCO, (2005) Portuguese National Commission to UNESCO,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.unesco.web.pt/>

Official website of the National Commission for Portugal to UNESCO.