

## Alexandria 19-21 January 2008

### Workshop 2 Images and Writings

#### 1. Plan of Action: determining three work fields in five major topics:

- a. Theme of audio-visual and Media Resources

##### **Aid Fund**

- An aid fund for cinema productions
- Creation of the Audio-visual Mediterranean Centre (CMA) following the example of the CNC (Centre for the French National Cinema). Its role would be to support co-productions between the countries on both sides of the Mediterranean.
- The CMA would include famous Audio-visual professionals outside the framework of inflexible structures and para-statal organizations, and would be responsible for its own activities as a committee and deliver Mediterranean productions that, in turn, would be able to elicit financial aid from different parties.
- Structural aid fund for alternative and independent media  
Mea-med, structural aid fund for alternative and independent media (newspapers, magazines, and publications), as well as electronic media. This fund aims at strengthening independent initiatives that undertake tasks, today, under a state of instability.

##### **Focus on dissemination.**

- This area is concerned with a model for the project TERRAMED (copeam), which is considered a multi-cultural, multi-lingual gateway transmitted by means of a Mediterranean satellite, and aiming at creating new content that includes audio-visual productions of Mediterranean countries to be broadcast through regional televisions.

#### 2. Translation and Writings:

##### **A work path for developing a general system to support translation**

General Objective: Development of a program to support translation into Arabic, to enrich and renew it.

### Specific Objectives:

The creation of a center for translation and exchange with the following aims:

- Translation of contemporary and modern works into Arabic, as well as older texts which have not been translated to date.
- Lucid translation of works by contemporary writers from Arabic into other European and Mediterranean languages. This applies to modern texts as well as older ones which have never been translated before.
- Encouraging Arabic writings.
- Development of a translation movement between different languages of the region, not only from North to South and from South to North, but also from East to West and from West to East.

### **3. Cultural and Artistic Mobility:**

#### **A work path for developing a regional system to support artistic exchange**

General Objective: Creating an environment conducive of exchange in the Mediterranean by rendering pilot support systems available for artists and works of art; and facilitation of cultural exchange.

#### Specific Objectives:

- Developing a framework for observation and analysis of exchanges in the cultural sector in the Mediterranean region;
- Proposing new systems to promote artistic and cultural exchange in the Mediterranean;
- Promoting joint efforts of exchange funds in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

### **4. Cultural and Artistic Creativity:**

#### **A work path for developing a regional system to support contemporary artistic creativity**

General Objective: Creating an environment conducive of the production of contemporary artistic works in the Euro-Mediterranean region by setting mechanisms to support the cultural sector in the region.

#### Specific Objectives:

- Developing a program to support cultural structures and enterprises that represent independent areas of creation and structures associated with art projects;
- Creation of a mixed-finance fund for artistic production;

- Development of a regional training program that meets the specific needs of stakeholders in the region, fostering professionalism in the cultural sector and diversity of cultural materials.

## **5. The Need for the Re-evaluation of the Issue of Freedom of the Press**

The issue of the freedom of the press did not get the desired attention during the last meetings, therefore, during the next months, there is a necessity to develop means to support the freedom of press and the independence of the media.

### **II. Defense Mechanism: Actor for Change**

- Adopting an approach of Mediterranean culture based on the study and analysis of issues in a global context.
- Using and benefiting from surrounding circumstances and positive opportunities made available by the European Union, the Mediterranean Union, UNESCO etc.
- Political content: discussing structural issues on the economic and political levels. Questions should be raised on the economics of culture, rephrasing cultural policies in the Mediterranean countries on national, regional and international levels, and nurturing culture through innovative policies.
- Organizing the cultural sector and its institutions, which are capable of professionally influencing the political process under development.

### **III. Principles of Follow-up and the Thinking Process**

- Activation of the international network through meetings of the cultural workshop.
  - Ensuring the openness of the networks, which allows transparency of principles and content.
  - The work environment inside the network should not allow the domination of a specific group as was the case in Alexandria, where the French participants alone prepared for the meeting.
  - The necessity of completing the stages to advance the methods of thinking and the steps to be taken.
  - The network should be able to disseminate information within all concerned sectors and address the specific problems and needs of these sectors.
- Principles of representation that ensure the following
  - Exchange among sectors: the second workshop could build a bridge between audiovisual means, electronic media, writings, and noncommercial cultural productions.
  - Joint representation among institutional and of independent civil societies.
  - Joint representation among delegates of South and North.