

EU-Turkey-Monitor

Vol. 6 No. 1

May 2010

Editorial

For the first time since the launch of the initiative "European Capital of Culture" back in 1985, a Turkish town has been awarded this year's title. Istanbul, at the meeting point of continents and cultures, shares this honour with the towns of Pécs in Hungary and Essen - for the entire Ruhr region - in Germany. The three selected cities do not only stand symbolically for the further unification of Europe with a founding member, a "new" member state and a candidate country being equally represented. They also share comparable threads of experience and history if one looks at their very specific experiences as meeting points of cultures and people.

This issue of the *ZEI EU-Turkey-Monitor* features articles about all three of this year's "European Capitals of Culture". The authors comment on the specific nature of the respective *capitals*, share the main features of the specific "European Capital of Culture" programmes and comment on the particular contribution of "their" *capitals* to intercultural dialogue and increased mutual understanding.

In addition to Istanbul holding the title of "European Capital of Culture" as first Turkish town ever, early 2010 also saw the election of the first Turkish President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. For this issue of the *ZEI EU-Turkey-Monitor* we have asked him about the specific aims of his presidency and about his opinion on the selection of Istanbul, Pécs and Essen - together with the Ruhr region - as "European Capitals of Culture".



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Editor, Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI)



Istanbul as seen from across the "Golden Horn".

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ISTANBUL

The 2010 European Capital of Culture

Bahar Paykoç

Istanbul, as Turkey's financial and cultural center with a population of more than 13 million and 39 districts, is one of the oldest cities in the world, with its thousands of years of history. As the capital of great empires and a gateway of different civilizations, Istanbul has a unique cultural heritage, and is certainly not similar to any previous European Capitals of Culture. Given the context of Turkey's EU membership process, Istanbul as the European Capital of Culture for 2010 has a particular significance for Turkey. For this reason, the Project has been valued highly and supported generously by the Turkish Government.

A European Capital of Culture (ECoC) is a city designated by the European Union for a period of one year during which it is given a chance to promote its cultural life and cultural development. The Project was launched in 1985 and the first city to carry this important title was Athens. In 1999, the Project was broadened to include cities of non-member

countries. The journey of Istanbul's candidacy for ECoC was started thanks to the efforts of a group of civil society volunteers in Turkey who established an "Enterprise Group" in 2000. On 11 April 2006, Istanbul was found ready to be the 2010 European Capital of Culture along with Pécs (Hungary) and Essen-Ruhr Metropolis (Germany). Conceding the view of the European Parliament and approval by the Council of Cultural Ministers of the European Union, Istanbul was finally announced on 13 November 2006 to be the 2010 European Capital of Culture.

One year later, on 2 November 2007, the Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency was founded for the purpose of planning and managing the activities for preparing Istanbul as the European Capital of Culture by 2010 and coordinating the joint efforts of public bodies and institutions in order to realize this goal. The Agency is a unique governance model combining NGOs/civil society, local/central government, professional organizations, business institutions and the academic environment.

▶ More than 500 projects selected by the Agency are being supported financially in the framework of the Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Process. The fields of the projects vary from visual arts, music, classical Turkish music, theatre and performing arts, urban culture, film, documentary and animation to traditional arts, education, literature, cultural heritage and museums, urban implementations, maritime and international relations.

With the opening activities on 16 January 2010, Istanbul's year of European Capital of Culture officially began. The Istanbul 2010 promotion campaign in Europe kicked off with the slogan "Istanbul, the most inspiring city in the world." One of the most important missions of the project is to promote the city's cultural heritage and increase the number of individuals exploring the city. Ten million international tourists and ten billion USD revenue are expected this year.

There are many projects in the Istanbul 2010 Program which include restorations, street and façade rehabilitations, maintenance and repair programs as part of the urban and cultural transformation of the city. For instance, rehabilitation of the Sultanahmet Square, restorations in Hagia Sophia, and some sections of the Topkapı Palace which is physically and symbolically the largest building of the Ottoman history, are among them. Other projects which are realized with the support of the Agency include: the preparation of a protection master plan for the Istanbul Land Walls, dating back to the 5th century Roman era and being included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List; a strategic site management plan pertaining to the utilization and conservation of the Historical Peninsula; the Sur-i Sultani Strategic Plan which is the first project ever aiming to develop a conservation strategy for the Topkapı Palace and its environs and creating a Museums Quartier meeting the standards of ICOMOS and UNESCO. The completion date for the Sur-i Sultani project is set as 2023. The Yenikapı Transfer Center Project, which is planned to become the largest transfer center of Istanbul with its subway connections, Marmaray central station and intercity main sea transportation terminal, is also funded by the Agency.

Besides these "hard facts", ECoC also implies the promotion of important "soft skills". With regard to the European Union context, one of the major preoccupations is the enhancement and deepening of the dialogue between cultures. According to the EU, "*intercultural dialogue is*" defined as "*a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange or interaction between individuals, groups and organizations with different cultural backgrounds or world views. Among its aims are: to develop a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives and practices; to increase participation and the freedom and ability to make choices; to foster equality; and to enhance creative processes*" (see ERICarts Team, www.interculturaldialogue.eu). The contribution of the project to these aims needs to be analyzed.

Intercultural dialogue

With its unique location in the world, stretching on both sides of the Bosphorus on two continents - Europe and Asia, Istanbul has been the symbol of meeting and blending of different cultures. Serving as a bridge between Europe and Asia and the so-called "East" and "West", Istanbul has a unique cultural structure of its own in which both Europeans, Asians and peoples of the world can find similarities to their own cultures. Perhaps this is what makes Istanbul a magical city. In addition, there is always more to explore in Istanbul with its cultural diversity providing a stage for intercultural dialogue. Istanbul in the year 2010 has a global identity, with a constantly evolving population, a vibrant cultural life and diverse lifestyles. Istanbul gained the European Capital of Culture title in a context where it is getting more and more connected to the rest of the world and is being increasingly discovered. The society in Istanbul has been shaped by the different communities that have lived and produced in this city and this continues with the flow of different people, products and works of art.

The whole Istanbul 2010 process contributes highly to the flow of people, artists and artworks and hence to the key concept of "communication." The dialogue between Turkey and Europe is improved through many projects involving cooperation between artists, NGOs and institutions. Artists express knowledge, ideas, feelings and values in the most open and creative way. Through art and cultural events, communication is fostered between societies. By this way, Istanbul strengthens its function as a bridge and proves that its new – albeit temporary – title fits very well with the city's long and continuous existence through the past, present and future.

In the framework of Istanbul's Multicultural Heritage Program, cultural heritage buildings which belong to minorities are restored with the aim to celebrate and preserve Istanbul's multicultural heritage. Vortvots Vorodman Church which is in the Historical Peninsula, designed by famous late 18th and early 19th century Armenian-Ottoman palace architect Krikor Balyan, will be restored, renovated and presented in November 2010 as a cultural center. Similarly, a historical and cultural heritage of the Jewish community in Hasköy, Mayor Synagogue will be restored and reopened as an art and culture center.

The Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums realized the CAMOC (International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities) Istanbul Conference in September 2009 to exchange ideas and experiences, to develop partnerships between city museums of the world, other organizations and individuals who are involved in the city and its future. The Conference contributed to the development of CAMOC's Museum of the City, a Virtual Museum of Cities Website-Development Project to unify the specialists and city museums in the world in a common website.

The Kadırga Art Production Center was established to offer production space to artists producing contemporary artworks and to unite young artists with international masters. Historical Hasanpaşa Gashouse, which was kept idle for decades, will be converted into the most important cultural center in the Asian part of the city.

Exchange and interaction of individuals and cultures

For the purpose of improving intercultural dialogue, the exchange and interaction process focuses on building a bridge between Turkey and Europe through art and culture. There are many international Istanbul 2010 projects which bring Turkish and European youth and artists together. A good example is the "European Universities Theatre Festival," which is developed by the Theatre and Performing Arts Department of the Agency on May 2-16, in Istanbul. The aim of the project is to create a platform where European and Turkish university theatre groups meet in Istanbul, engage in artistic and cultural dialogue and develop partnerships for the future.

The "Europe on Water" project is developed by the International Relations Department of the Agency, to contribute to the improvement of cultural dialogue between Turkey and Europe during Turkey's EU membership process. Three large stages will be built on important squares of Istanbul for six weeks between mid-June and the end of July, where various European countries will introduce their cultures, presenting their music, theatre and dance performances.

"Dance Platform Istanbul" on September 15-22 is an international dance festival which will bring together choreographers, directors, performers, designers, cultural managers, academicians, researchers, instructors and students from Europe and Turkey working in the fields of contemporary dance and classical ballet. This multi-track festival is hosting individual events throughout the whole year, including performances, workshops, seminars and panel discussions. The II. Istanbul International Ballet Competition and I. Istanbul International Opera Festival realized by the Istanbul State Opera and Ballet to be held in July 2010 are also supported by the Agency.

Another project, "European Writers' Parliament" which will be held in October 2010, aims to build a stronger dialogue between writers from Turkey and Europe, and make Istanbul a center of attraction for the international literature arena. The project will unite the chairpersons of literature organizations, representatives of Turkish literature associations and writers from Turkey and Europe.

The legendary rock band U2 with a global identity, will perform in Istanbul as part of their 360° 2010 Tour, in Istanbul Atatürk Olympic Stadium on September 6, with the support of the Agency. This will be the first time U2 performs in Turkey and the concert will ▶ be the largest stadium concert in the

▶ history of the city. This huge event is expected to unite worldwide U2 fans in Istanbul.

Within the scope of IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance), the European Commission supports Istanbul 2010 with its “Civil Society Dialogue – Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Grant Scheme Program.” Grants will be given to civil society organizations in Turkey focusing on art and culture in their projects in various fields with the collaboration of partners from EU members. The program will contribute to facilitate the cooperation and develop partnerships between civil society organizations in Turkey and EU.

In November 2010, the “News Agencies Meeting in the Culture Capital” Project will bring together about 170 executives and press members from approximately 80 news agencies from around the world, in a 5-day conference. Representatives of international news agencies and well-known journalists will meet in Istanbul in this event realized by the Turkish Anatolian News Agency. The project aims to increase the visibility of Istanbul in the international arena.

Invitations to European artists to Istanbul are essential for many projects in the Istanbul 2010 program. For example, in the framework of “Istanpoli” project, designed by garajistanbul and supported by the Agency, four internationally acclaimed performance artists from Germany, Belgium and the U.S. reside in Istanbul for a certain period of time to produce works, based on their experiences in the city. The project is designed in a way that the residents of the city, who may or may not be involved in arts, participate in the production process. Their works are first performed in Istanbul and later in various European locations.

Similarly, in “Lives and Works in Istanbul” de-

veloped by the Visual Arts Department, beginning from November 2008 until the end of 2010, five well-known artists from EU countries are invited to Istanbul and given the opportunity to live, work and produce artworks and organize workshops. The five artists and the young local artists participating in their workshops will each create an artwork, producing 77 artworks in total for Istanbul.

Another similar project realized by the Istanbul Goethe Institute as part of the Istanbul 2010 program, and funded by the Culture Bridges program of the EU, is “On the Road – European Literature Goes to Turkey/Turkish Literature Goes to Europe.” The project is realized since May 2009 and will end in June 2010. It includes a European writers, artists and musicians’ tour to 24 cities in Turkey, including the organization of European Cultural Weeks in these cities. The project will continue with the tour of writers, artists and musicians from Turkey to eight European countries.

Participation and decision making

The Istanbul 2010 promotion campaign in Turkey carries the slogan, “Now is the Time to Re-explore.” In line with this slogan, the main message in all of Istanbul 2010 promotion materials is “Our Energy is from Istanbul”. The residents of Istanbul are encouraged to re-discover the city they live in, to feel its energy, to actively participate, and to become creative themselves, inter alia to communicate the special features of Istanbul to non-Istanbulites.

One of the central missions of the Istanbul 2010 process is to include the people – children, youth, students, teachers, elderly, disabled, street sellers, etc., who make Istanbul what it is – in the cultural development, decision making and sharing process. Priority is given to the participation and contribution

of citizens with various cultural backgrounds. Not just the dialogue of the elite or well known artists, but of amateur inhabitants of Istanbul of different ages, education levels and backgrounds is aimed at. The quantity, quality and diversity of cultural events offered in 2010 to the residents of Istanbul are higher than ever. As an example, during the week of 5-12 April, in addition to the variety of other cultural events, those held with the support of the Agency include, David Helfgott and Jordi Savall concerts, a pantomime performance by the famous Swiss company “Mummenschanz” and concerts during the Istanbul 2010 Chopin Piano Weeks.

Residents of Istanbul are encouraged to take part in the Istanbul 2010 process by the Volunteer Program launched in August 2009 by the Urban Culture Department of the Agency. In line with the pluralistic nature of the Istanbul 2010 Project, the program is open to the entire population of Istanbul – of different ages and social backgrounds. The activities of the Program include Observational Studies consisting of following the ongoing activities of 2010 and reporting the observations, Neighborhood Activities and, Social Inclusion which includes helping relatively disadvantaged people or groups to have access to the 2010 activities. The Project’s target is to reach 300 active volunteers and 10.000 registered volunteers. The volunteers program is expected to create a model with respect to its scope and the number of volunteers.

“2010 in Schools,” developed by the Education Department of the Agency, covering the period of October 2009 to December 2010, is a project to ensure the involvement of music, stage and performing arts, visual arts and literature teachers and their students in the Istanbul 2010 process and to create culture consumers in a sustainable nature. The project includes seminars for the teachers in Istanbul and also lectures and competitions for the students. By the end of this project, an estimated three million students will have been reached.

Increasing dialogue leads to more understanding and creative products and less prejudice among people. This is why Istanbul 2010 has to be perceived from a communication perspective as a great opportunity to improve the dialogue between Turkey and Europe. The connections and partnerships developed during 2010 – with a great variety of selected projects carried out by different teams – will have a sustainable effect and bring positive changes. Working and learning together in projects are valuable experiences strengthening bilateral relations. Bridges are built by using arts and culture as the medium. The Istanbul 2010 process is very likely to have a domino effect, created by the people, artists, cultural institutions, media and the like, and then through them diffusing into the societies in Turkey and Europe.

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CHRONOLOGY

compiled by Volkan Altintas

21 December 2009: Chapter 27 on environment is opened for negotiations.

1 January 2010: Spain takes over the Council Presidency.

25 January 2010: Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, member of the Justice and Development Party (AKP), is elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

9 February 2010: The European Parliament – finally – approves the new Barroso Commission.

15/16 March 2010: EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Stefan Füle, visits Turkey.

18 April 2010: Derviş Eroğlu of the National Unity Party defeats Mehmet Ali Talat in presidential elections in Northern Cyprus.

Commentators see this as setback for the efforts to reunify the island.

22 April 2010: Armenia suspends the ratification process for the protocols signed with Turkey on 10 October 2009. Armenian president Sersch Sargsjan explained this by pointing to unacceptable pre-conditions formulated by Turkey.

10 May 2010: At the EU-Turkey Accession Council press conference, EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Stefan Füle, fuels hopes for the opening of more negotiation chapters in the course of the year.

Sources: www.euractiv.com; www.euobserver.com; www.mfa.gov.tr; www.n-tv.de; ec.europa.eu.

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Beáta Seres

Pécs is the seat and the largest city of the Transdanubian region in Western Hungary; a Catholic Episcopal seat and a university city that provides home to a large number of festivals year after year. Although it is at a distance of five hundred kilometres from the Adriatic Sea, numerous travel books describe Pécs as the Hungarian city with a touch of the Mediterranean. Pécs is home to approximately 160,000 people, a city of knowledge and history. The local city centre, with its ancient Christian remains from the Roman years, was made a World Heritage Site in 2000 by UNESCO.

The year 2010 is looked at as the starting point of a long-term cultural based regional economic development in the life of Pécs. The European Capital of Culture (ECoC) title gave the city a unique opportunity to reach international attention and to show its genuine treasures to the world: its cultural heritage as well as its creativity and openness. The programme is designed to enable the city to rediscover its urban character, the beauty of living in a city, reclaim public spaces for the benefit of its community, and make the whole environment more livable. The ECoC title provides development possibilities not only for the city itself but for the entire South Transdanubian region.



Aerial view of Pécs with the cathedral and the mosque of pasha Gasi Kassim at Széchenyi square. © Pécs2010.

In 2010, as European Capital of Culture, Pécs awaits visitors with hundreds of programmes. The colourful, exciting events and festivals are housed by the squares and buildings of enormous historical value of the two-thousand-year-old city, made unique by the contemporary works of art and performances that determine the current image of Pécs. In 2010, everyone who will visit one of the country's most significant university cities, proud to host 35-thousand Hungarian and foreign students, will be able to meet the most brilliant creations of Hungarian and European culture, learn about the arts of the neighbouring Balcanic people, and enjoy the unique atmosphere of the wonderful sub-Mediterranean, all at the same time.

Pécs Builds for the Long Term

In addition to the cultural programmes, Pécs is preparing with key investments worth HUF 35 billion, with Hungary's greatest ever culture-based urban development. Several of these developments are closely connected to this year's programme. The more than 70 city areas being refurbished, the central squares and parks being revived will not only make the city more liveable for its citizens, but will also allow the visitors to enjoy the cultural programmes in a unique setting. The Zsolnay Cultural Quarter, the Conference and Concert Centre, the Grand Exhibition Space and the "Museum Street" play a major role already in 2010, as venues for cultural programmes, whereas the South Transdanubian Regional Library and Knowledge Centre, even though it opens its gates in 2010, is definitely built for the future.

One of the key elements of the city's winning application for the European Capital of Culture title entitled "Borderless City" is cultural innovation, which is expected to multiply Pécs's already existing touristic appeal. In all of this, 2010 is only the beginning. The Pécs2010 European Capital of Culture programme – as the authors of the application had originally hoped – in addition to its "own" key investments and to the construction of the M6 motorway, is triggering further developments in the city and in the region. Several hotel development plans are being realized, so that more four-star accommodations will await the visiting tourists. In the framework of the South Transdanubian Operational Programme there are other developments connected to the Pécs2010 European Capital of Culture Programme being realized in various towns in the region. Some of the key investments of the region are

the Renaissance Theme Park of Bikal which already opened to the public, the water theme park and sports centre being built in Orfű, or the development of the Harkány spa into a health resort complex.

Culture That Bonds

As the investments connected to this year are realized, the role played by Pécs within the region changes completely. However, here the region does not only mean Southern Transdanubia, but also the international cultural region called Southern Cultural Zone. Relying on its special geopolitical position, as well as on its cultural assets and experiences, Pécs is seeking to find its place and intermediary role in a system of interrelations that goes beyond the country's borders. It is a known fact that culture can bond people living on both sides of the borders. Thus, a different interpretation of the word borderless means a spiritual crossing of the border, as culture – using the common language of art – can generate a new relationship between countries and people.

The words cooperation and collaboration gain new meaning in Pécs via the European Capital of Culture programme. The strength of culture brings together and joins the players from all fields of life: culture and arts, civil organizations, the economic sector and the political elite alike. Cooperation is not merely realized on the city level, but also on county-, regional-, governmental- and naturally European Union-level as well. The extended network provides strong bases for the year of 2010 to become the most important milestone of sustainable, culture-based city development.

Besides the future potential, it is the cultural heritage of the city that made Pécs appropriate and worthy to bear the title of European Capital of Culture in 2010. The thousand-year-old bishopric, the early Christian burial chambers which were designated part of the UNESCO world heritage in 2000, the significant contemporary artists, the museums, or the Bauhaus heritage are just a few examples to name.

Along Pécs, Istanbul and Essen in the Ruhr Region also hold the title of European Capital of Culture in 2010. Because of the historical and cultural traditions it is important for each city to collaborate with its co-capitals. With the German partners, the basis for this cooperation rests on the existing excellent cultural relations, whereas with Istanbul, in addition to

▶ the common past, on openness, curiosity, and initiative.

The organizers feel that as a result of the European Capital of Culture programme, a real cultural leap will take place in Pécs, therefore it is the programme's mission to revive the joy of community life as opposed to a static event- and festival-focused culture, so that culture in Pécs may mean first of all a form of community life, a common experience for its citizens as well as for its visitors.

Programmes All Year Round

In 2010, a number of colourful, exciting events await visitors in Pécs. Among the 30 art festivals and major events, the numerous classical and contemporary music events, musical productions – pop, folk and world music alike –, the theatre and dance performances and screenings, the exhibitions of fine art and applied art, the scientific and literary programmes, the “cultural export” events organised together with the other capitals, and the count-

less programmes about the city and its residents, everyone can find an event that they are interested in. Great emphasis will also be placed on the programmes organized by the NGOs and on the programmes organized by Pécs's institutes and organizations, just as on the regional partner programmes, and the events of the other Hungarian cities that applied for the European Capital of Culture title.

Beáta Seres, International Press Relations, Pecs2010 Management Centre.

METROPOLIS IN THE MAKING: INNOVATIVE AND OFFBEAT

The European Capital of Culture RUHR.2010 “Essen for the Ruhr”

Katharina Jarzombek and Elmas Topcu

The Ruhr, representing 53 cities and 5.3 million inhabitants is the European Capital of Culture in 2010. Located in the heart of Europe, the region is the third largest urban agglomeration in Western Europe and is now proudly presenting its unique cultural heritage and the change it is undergoing to a larger international audience. The Ruhr was dominated by the coal and steel industry for more than a century, but has now successfully transformed itself into an attractive and dynamic polycentric metropolis, defined by the cultural diversity of residents from over 170 nations, its growing creative and service sectors, internationally renowned cultural facilities, spectacular industrial monuments and a huge variety of recreation areas. In 2006, the city of Essen was selected as the European Capital of Culture 2010 on behalf of the whole region. This was in

recognition of the Ruhr's cultural strength that has determined the region's unique change. The accolade now gives the region a matchless opportunity to present itself as a European role model of an innovative and offbeat metropolis. To do this, it will be staging more than 300 cultural projects and 2,500 events throughout the year 2010.

A Metropolis in the Making

For more than a century the Ruhr was dominated by the coal and steel industries. Its residents laboured under harsh conditions and transformed a formerly insignificant strip of land into the powerhouse of German industry. Despite language barriers and cultural differences the workers in the pits and blast furnaces had to rely on each other blindly. This sense of togetherness has left a strong mark on the region's identity – the basis for today's Ruhr mythology.

The decline of the coal and steel industries after World War II was another challenge for the inhabitants of the Ruhr. They have met this challenge in a typically courageous and pragmatic manner. While the former industrial icons – pitheads, coal mines, gasometers, blast furnaces, and even breweries – have been gradually turned into stunning industrial monuments along what is now called the Ruhr's “Industrial Heritage Trail”, the Ruhr area has become the home of 19 universities, 100 concert houses, 120 theatres and over 200 museums and festivals.

Today the area consists of 53 cities, of which Dortmund (587,000 inhabitants), Essen (583,000 inhabitants), Duisburg (497,000 inhabitants) and Bochum (382,000 inhabitants) are the largest. All of them are lined up along the Ruhr's main traffic artery, the A40 motorway, without any visible city limits or a single city centre. The south of the region is traversed by the river Ruhr, a long-time symbol of the Ruhr's coal and steel industries. Nowadays the Ruhr Valley together with Emscher and Lippe, two rivers further to the north of the region, have regained their natural beauty. They now provide Ruhr residents and a steadily growing number of visitors with green landscapes and a large variety of open-air recreation. The Emscher Landscape Park represents the green heart of the Ruhr Metropolis during and after RUHR.2010. It offers a combination of untamed natural beauty and new gardens, sports and other outdoor activities as well as an open-air art exhibition on Emscher island (EMSCHERKUNST.2010) that will feature internationally known artists. The exhibition is giving visitors a sharper impression of the transformation taking place throughout the region.

Projects for a better Mutual Understanding

The Capital of Culture's programme “Moving Europe” explicitly addresses ▶



UNESCO World Heritage Site, Zeche Zollverein.

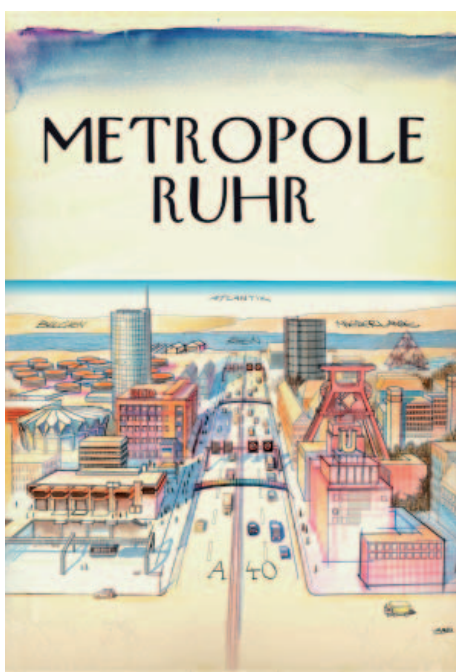
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▶ questions of migration and identity, culture and science. Within the programme's four sub-areas, namely TWINS, MELEZ, Science and RUHR.2030, the Capital of Culture is spearheading collaborative projects designed to facilitate meaningful dialogue among Europe's citizens, strengthen creative exchange between artists and promote international academic discourse.

The projects TWINS and MELEZ are all about a vibrant Europe of interaction and co-operation – beyond bureaucratic regulation. These initiatives confront the experience of 150 years of migration and are particularly interested in the every-day-lives of people from over 170 different nations.

Science and RUHR.2030 seek to address local as well as global issues of current but also of future interest: What role for the European city in a Europe of regions? How is the Ruhr Metropolis developing? What are the consequences of an ageing society? What role will renewable energies and climate change play in a global and local context? How can we introduce children and young people to cultural education?

Practical co-operation with European partners is mainly realised by TWINS. The 53



Metropole Ruhr © Jamiri/UNICUM.

towns and cities of the Ruhr region entertain relations to more than 200 twin towns and cities throughout Europe and beyond. The towns were asked to put forward enthralling and forward-looking ideas and projects for Europe. Already in spring 2008 and 2009, an international jury nominated the 100 best TWINS ideas from just under 500 project applications. Especially

young people are being offered a variety of possibilities to actively contribute to the European Capital of Culture and to realise own, unconventional project ideas within TWINS. As a consequence, over the past years TWINS has already developed itself to become an impressive engine of creativity for a superlative Europe of cultures.

The ability of culture and art to connect people across languages and borders is also shown by our common projects with Istanbul and Pécs. Over 20 projects alone are realised with Istanbul, another 20 are implemented with Turkish colleagues, 12 additional ones link RUHR.2010 and Pécs – this also includes some trilateral programmes such as “Temporary Town”, “Promethiade”, “Europe on Water” and “Caravan2010 Ruhr/Pécs/Istanbul”.

Have a look yourself, what has become of the traditional mining area (“Kohlenpott”). You will be astonished. During the European Capital of Culture year 2010, the Ruhr metropolis merits a visit on each of its 365 days!

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NEW ZEI PUBLICATION

The Global Proliferation of Regional Integration



Ludger Kühnhardt, Vol. I:
The Global Proliferation of Regional Integration

Oxford / New York: Berghahn Books, 2010, 491 pages with bibliography and index, ISBN 978-1-84545-654-2



Ludger Kühnhardt, Vol. II:
Regional Integration in the World: Documents

Oxford / New York: Berghahn Books, 2010, 503 pages, ISBN 978-84545-1-655-9

After two centuries of nation-building, the world has entered an era of region-building in search of political stability, cultural cohesion, and socio-economic development. The regional structures and integration schemes emerging in most regions of the world are deepening their ambitions, with Europe's integration experience often used as an experimental template or theoretical model. These are the main theses of the comprehensive analysis published by ZEI director Prof. Dr. Ludger Kühnhardt, based on several years of field research and studies.

Volume I provides a political-analytical framework for recognizing the central role of the European Union not only as a conceptual model but also a normative engine in the global proliferation of regional integration. It also gives a comprehensive treatment of the focus, motives, and objectives of non-European integration efforts. Volume II offers a unique collection of documents that gives the best available overview of the legal and political evolution of region-building based on official documents and stated objectives of the relevant regional groupings across all continents since the mid-20th century until today.

THREE QUESTIONS

to Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

You are the first Turkish President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. What are the defining aspects of Europe you and the Council are representing?

Let me start by the Council of Europe's main features as it is one of the oldest international organisations working towards European integration:

The Council of Europe has a particular emphasis on legal standards, human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It has 47 member states with some 800 million citizens to promote the awareness of, and respect for human rights. The Council of Europe's most famous achievement is the European Convention on Human Rights, adopted in 1950 following a report by the

Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly. The Convention created the European Court of Human Rights.

Article 1(a) of the Statute states that the "aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress."

Therefore, membership is open to all European states which seek European integration, accept the principle of the rule of law, and are able and willing to guarantee democracy, fundamental human rights and freedoms. While the member states of the European Union transfer national legislative and executive powers to the European

Commission and the European Parliament in specific areas under European Community Law, Council of Europe member states maintain their sovereignty, but commit themselves through conventions and co-operate on the basis of common values and common political decisions. Therefore I and the Council are actually representing the universal values of humanity for all countries.

The Council of Europe is playing a major role in promoting democracy, good governance, the rule of law and human rights throughout Europe and beyond by various means. What are the main aims of your presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe?

First of all, I cannot but state that it



CURRENT NEGOTIATING STATUS

No. Title of Chapter

1	Free movement of goods	(●)
2	Freedom of movement for workers	(●)
3	Right of establishment and freedom to provide services	(●)
4	Free movement of capital	(●)
5	Public procurement	(●)
6	Company law	(●)
7	Intellectual property law	(●)
8	Competition policy	(●)
9	Financial services	(●)
10	Information society and media	(●)
11	Agriculture and rural development	(●)
12	Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy	(●)
13	Fisheries	(●)
14	Transport policy	(●)
15	Energy	(●)
16	Taxation	(●)
17	Economic and monetary policy	(●)
18	Statistics	(●)
19	Social policy and employment	(●)
20	Enterprise and industrial policy	(●)
21	Trans-European networks	(●)
22	Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments	(●)
23	Judiciary and fundamental rights	(●)
24	Justice, freedom and security	(●)
25	Science and research	(●)
26	Education and culture	(●)
27	Environment	(●)
28	Consumer and health protection	(●)
29	Customs union	(●)
30	External relations	(●)
31	Foreign, security and defence policy	(●)
32	Financial control	(●)
33	Financial and budgetary provisions	(●)
34	Institutions	(●)
35	Other issues	(●)

Legend: ● not yet opened (●) suspended
 ● opened
 ● provisionally closed

Data as of May 2010

ZEI PAPERS

Klaus Hänsch: Europäische Integration aus historischer Erfahrung. Ein Zeitzeugengespräch mit Michael Gehler, ZEI Discussion Paper, C 197/2010.

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Auréliette Cassette/Etienne Farvaque/Jérôme Héricourt/Nicolas Jean: Budget structure and reelection prospects: empirical evidence from French local elections, ZEI Working Paper, B 02/2009.

Martin Seidel: Der Euro - Schutzschild oder Falle?, ZEI Working Paper, B 01/2010.

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▶ is such a great pride and honour to be the first Turkish citizen to hold the Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where my country has been a member since its inception. The values upon which this Organisation is founded will be my guidelines.

I have taken this important responsibility at a time when there is a need to reform the Council of Europe. Reforms are needed to make the Council of Europe better centred on its added value. The Parliamentary Assembly on its own part also needs to discuss reforms regarding the working methods, procedures and structures, which I give priority to.

Tolerance remains an important European goal. We must stand up against new fault lines with the false image of the other and the disrespect towards differences. I will therefore endeavour to prioritise efforts for enhancing the Alliance of Civilizations, inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and respect for diversity.

Everyone has the right to live in dignity and security. Terrorism is one of the main threats against these values. Fighting terrorism in full cooperation is our main responsibility. Today, we are rightly proud that the Council of Europe is the only pan-European organisation bringing together all European countries – with the exception of Belarus – under the same roof. We will work to make sure that Belarus is to be able to join us soon. However, we are not in a position to say that all the critical situations in Europe are solved. In the Balkans, some of the issues created by the dissolution of former Yugoslavia are still pending. The recent war between Russia and Georgia is still fresh in our minds, and the “frozen” conflicts in the Caucasus as well as Cyprus are well known.

The Council of Europe and its Assembly have long proven that reconciliation is the only way for ensuring peace and stability on our Continent. The Assembly’s success has gone beyond Europe in this regard. For instance, the Assembly has been trying for many years to contribute to creating appropriate conditions for a just and lasting solution of the Middle East conflict. In addition to the numerous resolutions the Assembly has adopted, we have established a structured mechanism for dialogue, called the

Tripartite Forum, which brings together parliamentarians from Europe, from the Knesset and from the Palestinian Legislative Council. During my presidency I shall do my best to reinvigorate the Tripartite Forum and seek any other ideas that can bring more peace and stability to the people in the region.

Furthermore, the Assembly is actively involved in Cyprus. We are the only European Assembly in which Turkish colleagues from the North of Cyprus participate on a regular basis.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, we encourage the authorities to make constitutional changes to ensure better political rights for all.



Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Parliamentary cooperation is for me an essential element to promote democracy and human rights world-wide. I therefore highly value the Assembly’s ongoing co-operation with the parliaments of non-member countries in the neighbouring regions – the southern Mediterranean, the Middle East and central Asia. Assembly’s Resolution on the establishment of a “Partner for Democracy” status with the Parliamentary As-

sembly bears a special importance in this regard. This program will make possible for the parliaments of non-member states in neighbouring regions to benefit from the Assembly’s experience in democracy building and to participate in the political debate on common challenges which transcend European boundaries.

I truly believe in investing in youth. The Council of Europe has set an important example in this regard. A network of 16 Schools of Political Studies was created by this Organisation in Eastern, South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, to train future generations. Once a year, they meet in Strasbourg for the “Summer University for Democracy”. Such efforts, I believe, best serve to reinforce mutual understanding.

This year, Istanbul, Pecs and Essen are European Capitals of Culture. What can be the contribution of these three cities to intercultural dialogue?

The European Capitals of Culture Initiative as the European Union’s most visible cultural project, makes great contributions to promote mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue through celebrating Europe’s rich cultural diversity. Istanbul, Pecs and Essen are indeed cities that are most fitting to this aim.

Take Istanbul as an example. It is a legendary city that not only unites Asia and Europe, but ancient and modern, grandeur and modesty, local and universal. With its unique geographical location straddling two continents and a rich cultural heritage, it is a gateway through which Eastern and Western influences have reached each other, creating a unique cultural harmony.

The European Capitals of Culture provide opportunities for people to meet each other through various programs. Such interaction contributes not only to the development of a long term cooperation and understanding, but also to intercultural dialogue by cementing bridges between peoples.

The interview was conducted by Dr. Andreas Marchetti, Research Fellow at ZEI and Dr. M. Murat Erdogan, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Department of Political Science and Public Administration.



Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung
Center for European Integration Studies

IMPRINT

ISSN 1817-1729
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The ZEI *EU-Turkey-Monitor* is published three times a year.
Authors are responsible for the views expressed in their contributions.