



## Plenary meeting of Committee 2

Barcelona, Catalunya-E, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010

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Document **for information**

### Cooperation between AER Committees 2 and 3 - An Invitation

At its plenary meeting in Sarajevo on the 29th September 2009, AER Committee 3 agreed to invite Committee 2 to jointly arrange a major international conference in 2011 focusing on culture and its impact on health. It is suggested that plenary sessions of both Committees are linked and take place at the same time as the conference. This would enable interested members from both Committees to participate in the conference and reduce travel costs. It would also encourage the widest possible attendance. We believe this is a great opportunity for the Committees, with their respective political responsibilities within health and culture, to join forces and find out more about how they go hand in hand!

The Culture and Health Working Group of Committee 3 therefore cordially invites Committee 2 members to participate in the planning and preparation of this event.

The conference objective is to exchange knowledge, experience and best practice on the health and wellbeing benefits of participation in cultural activities. As well as AER members, it would also be open to practitioners and researchers working with health issues, healthcare, and/or culture. We believe that the conference would also be of interest to national governments and relevant EU institutions.

The focus of the conference would be on evidence-based programmes and projects that demonstrate how culture can be used as a tool for improving health care, for instance by helping people recover more quickly after an operation. It would also look at the use of cultural activities in preventive health strategies and as a means of inclusion aimed at different groups with particular needs, for instance young offenders, people with eating disorders, or older people with dementia. All of these are very relevant issues in our regions. The Committee 3 Culture and Health Working Group has already identified many interesting projects that are achieving positive results for health and wellbeing. These deserve to be made known to a wider audience and we would hope to present a broad range of examples at the conference.

The health benefits of cultural activities are, of course, primarily important on a personal and a human level, but their use in a preventive context can also deliver economic benefits at the national, regional and local levels.

We warmly welcome interested regions that are active in Committee 2 to become members of the Culture and Health Working Group and share their experience and networks with us. We do hope that you will join forces with us!

#### **Appendix:**

Culture for Health AER working group, Contact list

**CULTURE FOR HEALTH  
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