1959-2019, Paris-Cracow, 2009-2019

Contribution by Péter Inkei to the Forum celebrating the 60th anniversary of the French Cultural Ministry at the Sciences Po, Paris, 7th June, 2019

The Cracow Conference

Culture & Development 20 Years after the Fall of Communism in Europe, Cracow, 4 - 6 June 2009

A keystone of the Council of Europe mission addressing the cultural dimension of the post-1989 transition.

The 33-page background paper was edited by Péter Inkei, assisted by Milena Dragičević-Šešić, Mikhail Gnedovsky and Baiba Tjarve, helped also by Vesna Čopič, Cornelia Dümcke and Zsuzsa Hunyadi.

The paper was complemented with an annex of 26 statistical graphs.

2009-2019, changes in the general environment

Major current issues, unforeseen in 2009:

- Overwhelming impact of the **digital shift** on production, dissemination, but above all consumption and reception of cultural products
- Global **migration** dominates policy attitudes, distorts the notion of inclusion
- **Populism**, overwrites value hierarchies, leads to schisms in societies

The east-west gap remained or even increased

- National values, memory politics prevail (1, 2 ☺)

  „Cultural values are predominantly conservative. Policy priorities reflect this state by the strong emphasis on national heritage (including myths of limited authenticity).”

- Demographic crisis of rural areas (6 ☹ ☺)

  „The spectacular advances of telecommunication offer unprecedented access to information and culture… much of the traditional handicap in rural living conditions, also manifested in cultural demands, offer and habits, has decreased.”

  „Smaller settlements have lost many (often all) of their public institutions – especially cultural – and many of the young inhabitants.”

The east-west gap remained – contd.

- Civil society's role – mixed picture (11 ☺☹☺☹)

  „The third sector sprung up as if from zero and has become a decisive component of the cultural life…
  The emerging alternative art spaces and groups have been important sources of creativity and channels of innovative ideas…
  Third sector cultural organisations are too often considered as rivals and troublemakers…
  Lack of sustainability is a crucial problem."
  „True volunteering has begun to catch up in numbers...
  New professional networks and organisations act as vehicles of professional communication, promotion of best practice and facilitation of innovation and change….
  With the gradual increase of involvement of third sector agencies by the state, they have begun to lose the critical stance towards state and market."

The east-west gap remained – contd.

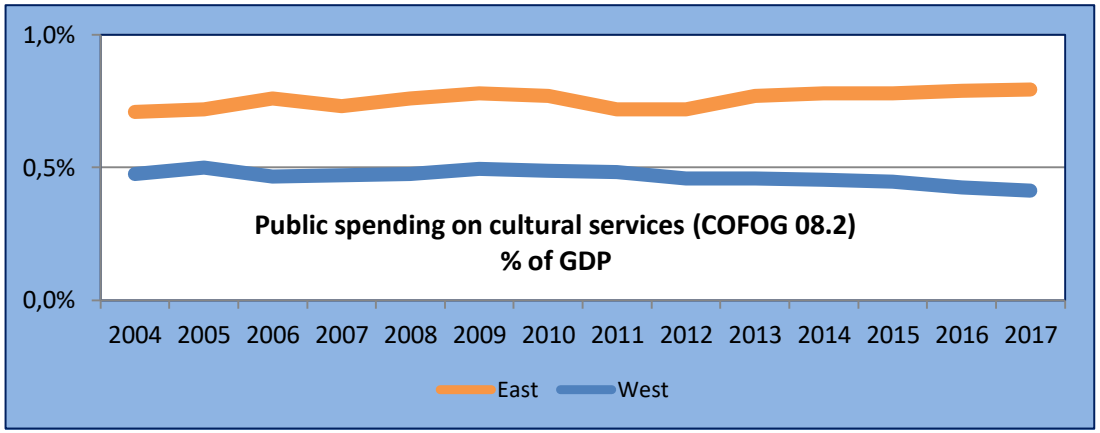
- No emphasis on social inclusion (migration interferes)

  (7 ☹ ☺)

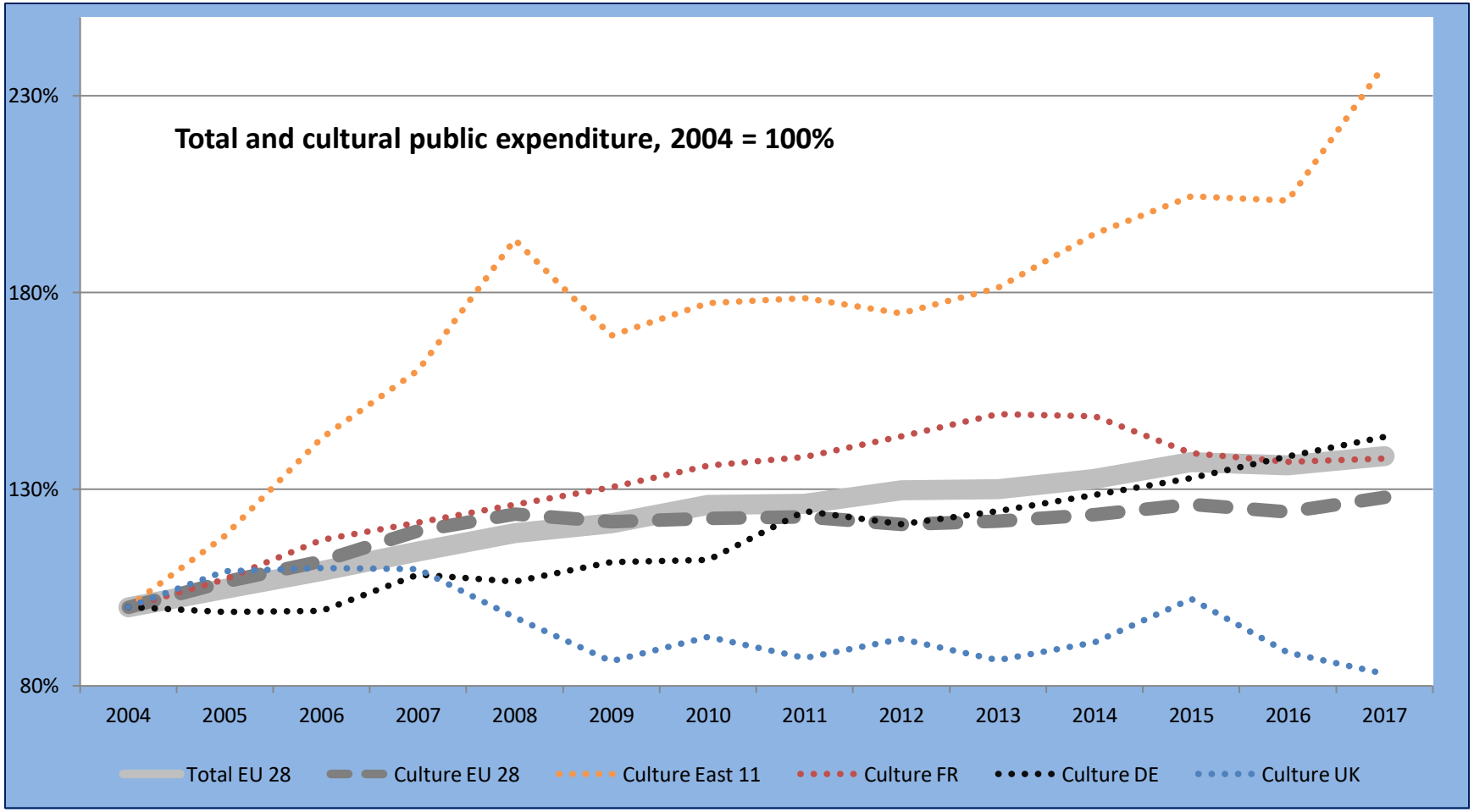
  „After (or to prevent) cataclysms of co-habiting cultures, tolerance and respect have become the official policies."

  „Public authorities tend to put the main emphasis on the dominant culture… The idea of intercultural dialogue has little influence on the political agenda."

- Public financing – an inverse development (1, 8 ☹)



An inverse development



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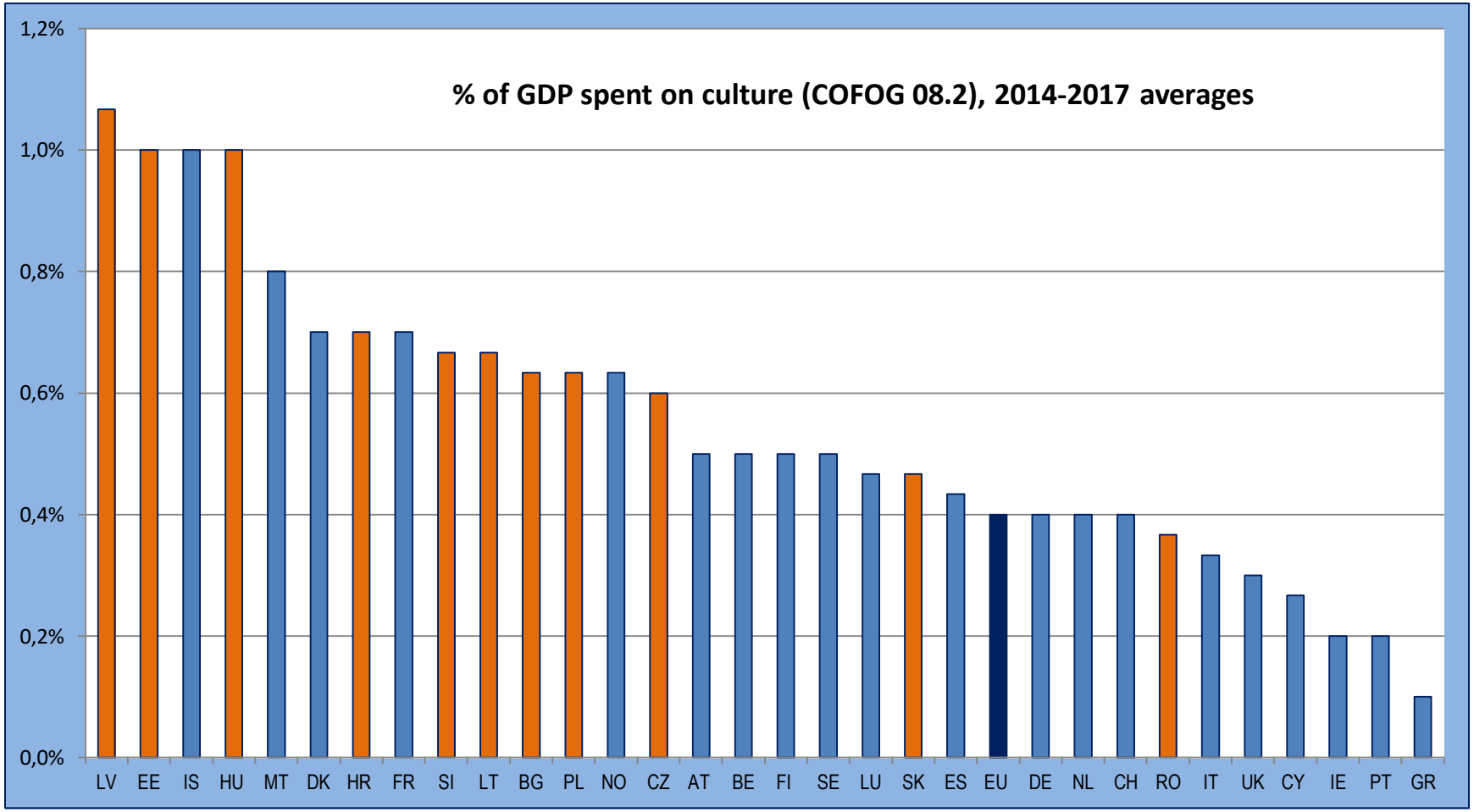

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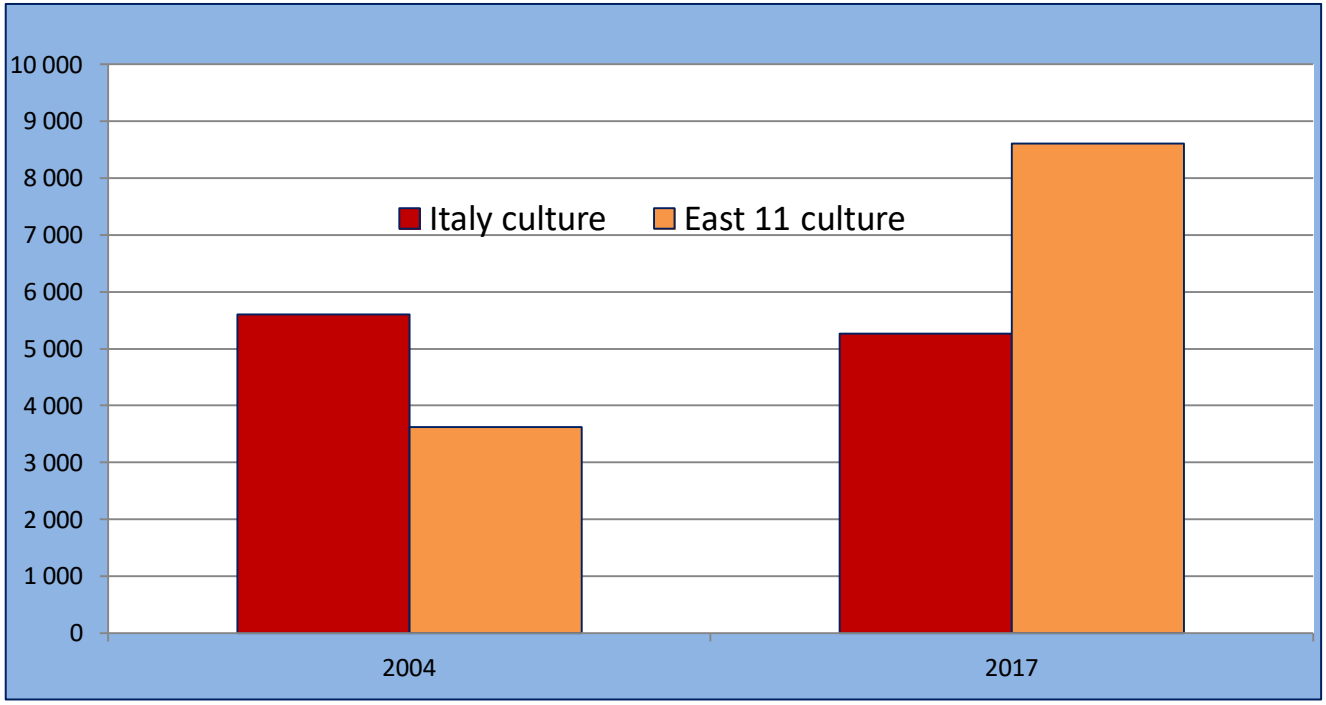
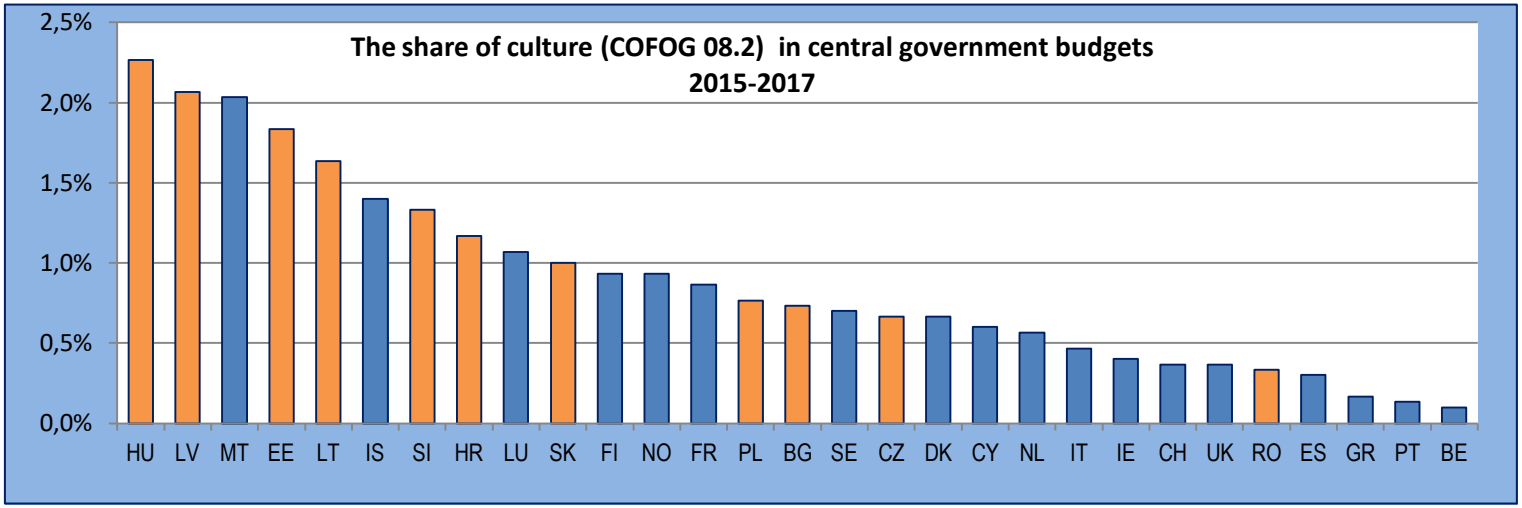
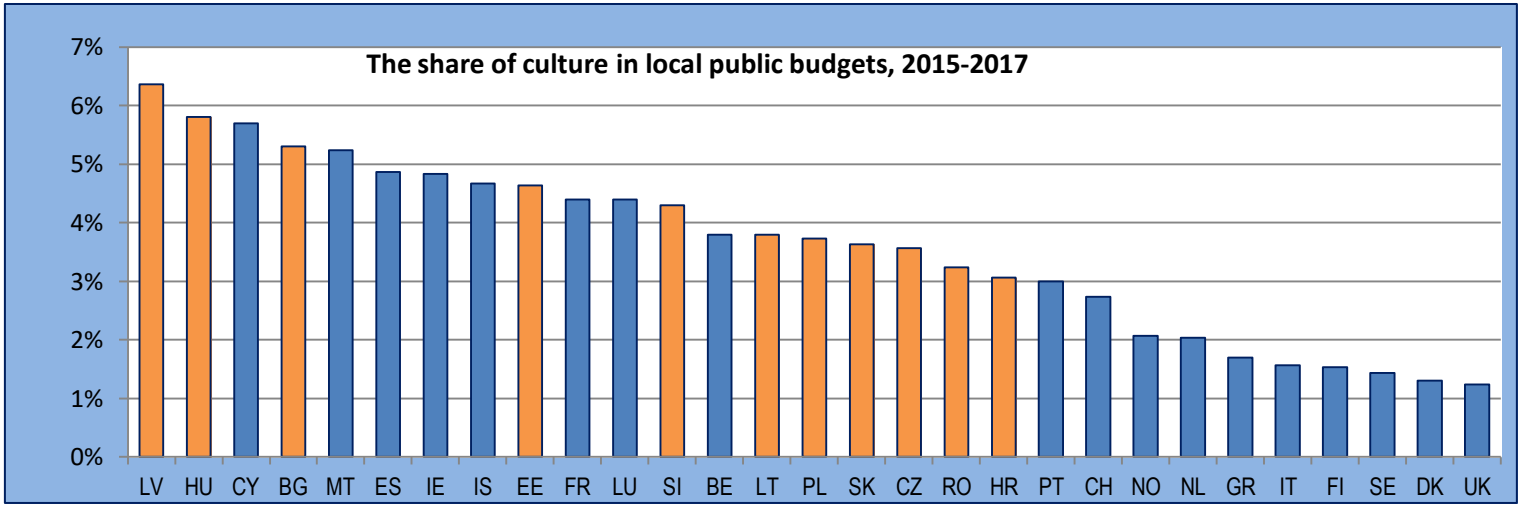
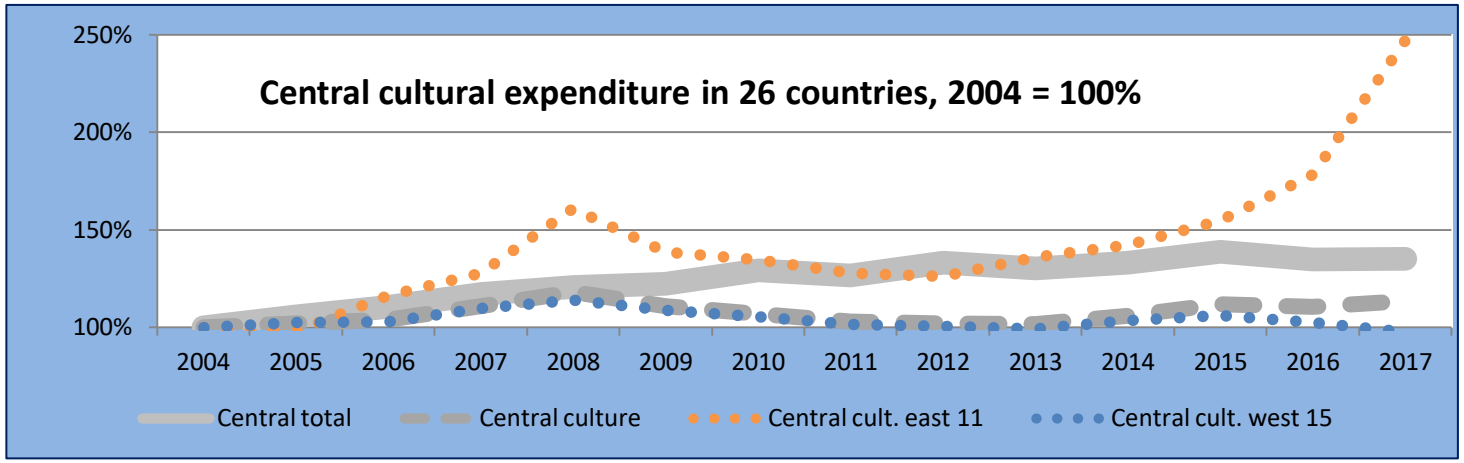
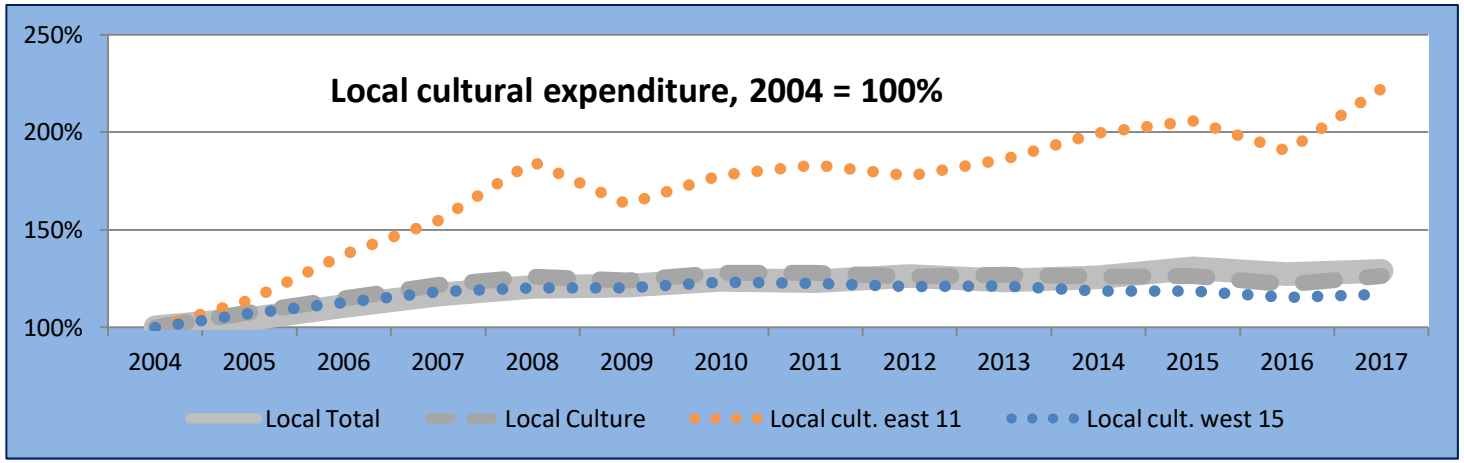
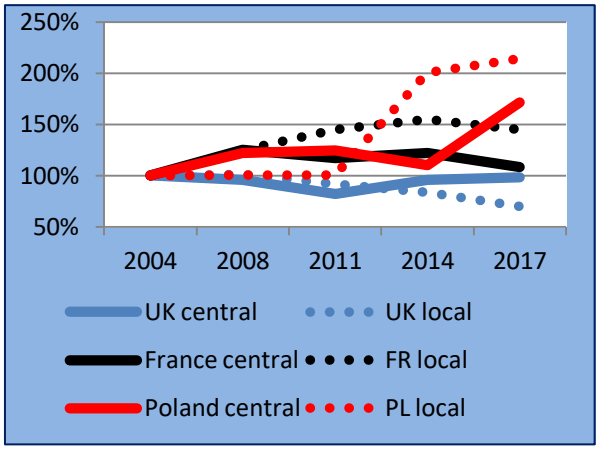


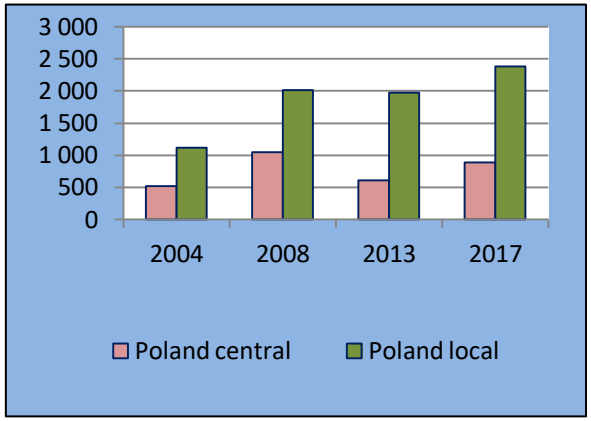

The share of culture (COFOG 08.2) in central government budgets
2015-2017
2,5%
2,0%
1,5%
1,0%
0,5%
0,0%
HU LV MT EE LT IS SI HR LU SK FI NO FR PL BG SE CZ DK CY NL IT IE CH UK RO ES GR PT BE

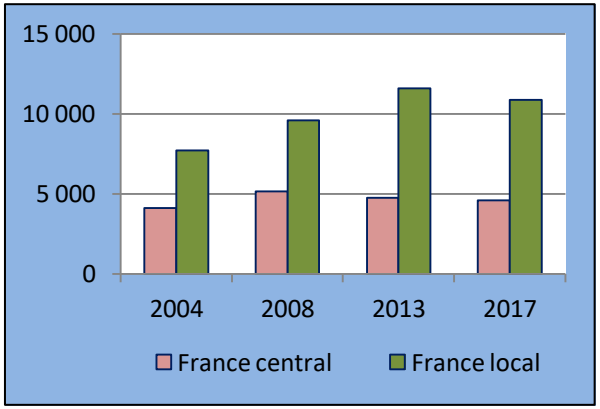

The share of culture in local public budgets, 2015-2017
7%
6%
5%
4%
3%
2%
1%
0%
LV HU CY BG MT ES IE IS EE FR LU SI BE LT PL SK CZ RO HR PT CH NO NL GR IT FI SE DK UK

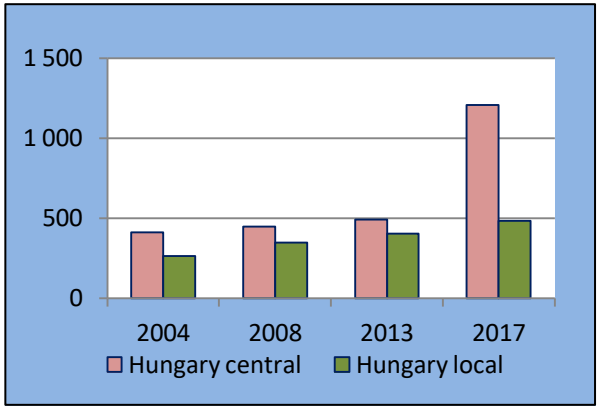

Central cultural expenditure in 26 countries, 2004 = 100%
250%
200%
150%
100%
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Central total
Central culture
Central cult. east 11
Central cult. west 15


Local cultural expenditure, 2004 = 100%
250%
200%
150%
100%
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
Local Total
Local Culture
Local cult. east 11
Local cult. west 15


250%
200%
150%
100%
50%
2004
2008
2011
2014
2017
UK central
UK local
France central
FR local
Poland central
PL local

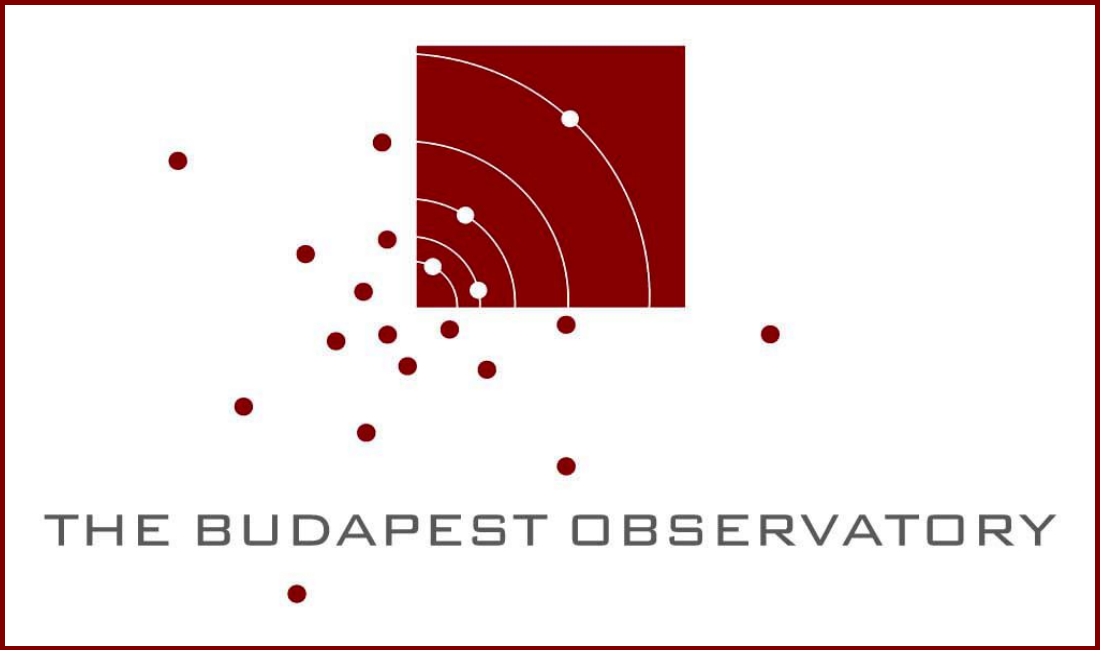

3 000
2 500
2 000
1 500
1 000
500
0
2004
2008
2013
2017
Poland central
Poland local


15 000
10 000
5 000
0
2004
2008
2013
2017
France central
France local


1 500
1 000
500
0
2004
2008
2013
2017
Hungary central
Hungary local

A time-proven analysis (☺ ☺)

- „The **Baltic** and **Visegrad** countries plus **Slovenia** have completed the processes of transition, complemented with **Croatia** whose cultural system and policy is the closest to the accomplishments of the Central European countries.
- Policy goals and measures are less clear and coherent in **Ukraine**, **Russia**, **Belarus** and **Moldova**, representing a conglomerate of socialist and capitalist tendencies taking both good and bad sides of both systems, including corruption, with strong tendencies of introvert self-sufficiency.
- **Bulgaria**, **Romania**, **Serbia** and **Montenegro** demonstrate declarative approaches towards European standards in policy making, still with many inherited elements from the previous system (like state publishing companies, for example, or largely dysfunctional network of cultural institutions).
- In **Georgia** and **Armenia** cultural policy making is mainly inward looking and dominated by nationalism; and similar tendencies prevent **Macedonia** to be treated along the previous group.
- **Bosnia**, **Kosovo**, **Albania** do not have sufficiently coherent cultural policies and are little integrated into European schemes.
- Finally **Azerbaijan** claims to follow European principles but the actual performance, with patronising dictatorial features, is more similar to that of Russia or Belarus."



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