Brussels, 8 December 2011

Enhancing the evidence base on the contribution of the cultural sector to economic growth, job creation and social development

debate of Ministers responsible for Culture, held at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting
29 November 2011

Summary by the Polish Presidency

The discussion held on the initiative of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU focused in particular on the need for reliable and comparable statistics on culture and the way how the results of the *ESSnet-Culture* project could be used for this purpose.

A majority of Ministers who took the floor underlined the important contribution made by the cultural sector to economic growth, job creation and social development. It was also mentioned that positive impacts of culture go beyond the purely economic dimension. Many speakers pointed out to the need for a common statistical methodological framework to be used at EU level as a tool for producing the data we need to substantiate our persuasion efforts with hard evidence when discussing with all relevant stakeholders.

Most interventions endorsed the outcomes of the *ESSnet-Culture* project and called for the implementation of its main recommendations. These outcomes were praised as pragmatic and allowing for the development of culture statistics on the basis of existing surveys.

A very substantial number of Member States acknowledged the need for a continuation of the work carried out by the *ESS-Net Culture* and declared their readiness to take an active part in it, including in pilot projects, experience sharing and networking. In this regard, some Member States also mentioned satellite accounts as a useful tool.

The Commission and Eurostat were frequently called to support the efforts aiming at implementing the *ESSnet-Culture* project recommendations and further developing the system.