POLICY GUIDELINES

Policy Projections from Workshops, Communities, and Stakeholders

1. Introduction

The Transmedia Stories of Insularity (TRAST) project aims to address the social, cultural, and economic challenges of insular communities by promoting social inclusion, identity affirmation, and sustainable cultural development. One of the key focuses of this project is the generation of policy projections through participatory co-creation and training activities. These projections will inform local, national, and European cultural policies, ensuring they are inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of insular communities.

This document provides a framework for organizing co-creation workshops and training activities to develop cultural outputs and generate meaningful policy insights.

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2. Objectives

- To ensure the active involvement of insular groups in co-creation processes that allow for self-expression and identity formation through transmedia storytelling and creative collaboration.
- To create inclusive, interdisciplinary, and participatory spaces where participants from local communities and insular groups contribute to shaping cultural and heritage narratives.
- To provide training for participants on the use of digital tools, cultural project management, and creative methodologies that enhance their skills in storytelling, cultural preservation, and policy advocacy.
- To elicit policy projections: establish methodologies for gathering participant insights to inform inclusive cultural and social policy-making at local, national, and European levels, and ensure that participant contributions lead to actionable policy insights that address cultural inclusion, sustainability, and identity preservation.

3. How Eliciting Policy Projections Supports Project Objectives

The process of eliciting policy projections during co-creation workshops and training activities is a core objective of the TRAST project. The workshops and training modules are designed to go beyond cultural output creation, such as exhibitions or digital stories, and aim to gather insights that will directly shape future policies on culture and social inclusion.

3.1. The eliciting of policy projections is tightly integrated with the other project objectives in the following ways:

1. **Empowerment and Participation:**
    - Eliciting policy projections enables marginalized communities to move beyond passive participation and become agents of change. By sharing their stories and insights, they help shape the very policies that will affect them. The co-creation process creates a platform for participants to voice their needs and expectations regarding cultural and social policy, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to the development of inclusive, sustainable policies.

2. Capacity Building:
Training activities will include modules on policy advocacy, equipping participants with the skills and knowledge to articulate their policy needs and understand how they can influence policy development. This capacity-building effort ensures that participants are not only creating cultural content but also advocating for policies that support their cultural and social inclusion.

3. Cultural Output and Policy Recommendations:
The creative outputs of the workshops–exhibitions, stories, and other transmedia content–serve as both cultural artifacts and tools for policy advocacy. These outputs will be used to demonstrate the cultural and social challenges faced by insular communities and present potential solutions, which will then be formulated as policy recommendations. By linking cultural output to policy projection, the project ensures that the creative process is both expressive and constructive, producing outcomes that inform future policy frameworks.

4. Workshop and Training Design to Elicit Policy Projections

4.1 Methodological Approach for Eliciting Policy Projections

- Integrated Discussions:
  During each phase of the workshops, facilitators will encourage discussions about how participants' cultural experiences and narratives reflect broader social issues. These discussions will be structured to elicit insights that can be translated into policy recommendations, focusing on areas such as cultural access, heritage preservation, and social inclusion.
- Actionable Insights:
  Facilitators will work with participants to translate their experiences and challenges into concrete policy projections. These will include ideas on how local, national, and EU-level cultural policies can be adapted to address the specific needs of insular and marginalized groups. Insights from participants will be collected and analyzed to form the basis of policy recommendations.

5. Guidelines for Eliciting Policy Projections

5.1 Objectives for Eliciting Policy Projections
The overarching aim of eliciting policy projections is to gather concrete, actionable insights that can inform cultural, social, and economic policies at multiple levels of governance. These insights will reflect the real needs of insular communities and will advocate for policies that foster inclusivity, cultural identity, and sustainable development.

5.2 Methods for Eliciting Policy Projections
Interactive Dialogue: During workshops, facilitators will guide discussions with targeted questions that focus on policy-related challenges, such as:

- "What changes in cultural policy would help your community access more cultural resources?"
- "How can local or national governments better support your cultural expression?"

Visioning Sessions:
Participants will be asked to envision future scenarios where their needs are met through policy changes. They will create visual or narrative representations of ideal policies that could foster inclusion, sustainability, and identity affirmation in their communities.

5.3 Stakeholder Consultations and Feedback

- Consultation with Local and Regional Authorities: Engage local governments, cultural institutions, and NGOs in regular consultations to incorporate their perspectives into the policy projection process. Ensure that their input aligns with the needs and insights generated by workshop participants.
- Feedback Loops: Establish feedback mechanisms that allow continuous input from participants and stakeholders. These loops will ensure that policy projections remain relevant and are continuously refined based on new insights.