

The logo for the Izmir'21 summit, featuring the text 'izmir'21' in a stylized font with a red dot over the 'i'.

UCLG Kùltür Zirvesi  
UCLG Culture Summit  
Sommet culture de CGLU  
Cumbre de cultura de CGLU

## UCLG Culture Summit 2021 in Izmir

Barcelona, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir: Culture Shaping the Future

From 9 to 11 September 2021, the City of Izmir, Turkey will host the UCLG Culture Summit. Mayors and local leaders, academics, activists, civil society organizations, cultural networks and key stakeholders involved in the global debate on culture and development will gather in Izmir to discuss the place of cultural policies for sustainable development.

The covid-19 crisis has made evident the profound need for culture that cities and communities have. People have turned to culture to reinforce the sense of belonging in communities and cities, inventing new forms of participation, recognizing what brings us together and by creating meaning and solidarity. The pandemic has also shown that cultural actors need better working conditions, which were already precarious and difficult in the old normality. Life after pandemic will have to place cultural **life** at the centre of development. The cultural policies of cities and local governments will be more central than ever. This is why the title of the Summit is: **Culture: Shaping the Future**.

The Summit is a global event that contributes to the Pact for the Future of Humanity that UCLG launched in November 2020, to be approved in November 2022. The Summit is also framed by the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN's New Urban Agenda (2021) and the future organisation of the UNESCO Conference "Mondiacult+40" (2022). Previous editions of the UCLG Culture Summit were organized in Bilbao (2015), Jeju (2017) and Buenos Aires (2019). Summits witnessed the approval of the [Culture 21 Actions](#) toolkit and debates of the advocacy campaign [#culture2030goal](#) on the role of culture in the achievement of the SDGs.

Mr Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Izmir, has declared: "Izmir and Izmirians have the honor of hosting the UCLG Culture Summit. The Summit will create possibilities to embrace culture in every corner of the city. It offers a very important opportunity to show the world that another culture is possible. We, the people of Izmir, will make the most of this opportunity to turn culture into a catalyst of trans-border collaboration among the cities. Culture enables the cities to be more resilient by making our lives more meaningful and creating solidarity."

Ms Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General, has declared: "The pandemic has confirmed that culture needs to be consolidated as a dimension of sustainable development and as an antidote for the secondary effects of the crisis. The Summit is the perfect opportunity to show the leadership of cities and local governments in these issues".

The Summit will devote sessions to issues such as "Culture, Environment and Health in the PostCovid19 Era", "Culture and the Climate Emergency", "Cultural Rights and Communities" with the 2020 Rome Charter, "Cultural Policies and Gender", the "Creative Economy and Cultural Diversity", "Cultural Heritage and Tourism", "Cultural diplomacy" or "Culture: obstacles and inequalities".

The Summit will be officially launched online on 10 June 2021. Afterwards, a series of local activities will be held in Izmir. The Summit will take place in Izmir on 9-11 September 2021.

The logo for Izmir'21 features the text 'izmir'21' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The 'i' is lowercase, while 'zmir' is lowercase and '21' is a larger, bold, white number. The background of the logo is a vibrant, abstract pattern of overlapping, wavy lines in shades of blue, red, orange, and white.

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For more information, please visit <http://uclg-culturesummit2021.org>.

#IzmirCultureSummit #UCLGmeets #UCLGculture #Culture21Actions #Listen2Cities

#### **UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG)**

UCLG is the world organization of local and regional governments and their associations, representing and defending their interests on the world stage. UCLG's network of members represents 70% of the world's total population and is present in all world regions; representing more than 250,000 human settlements. Among its key areas of political interest are: local democracy, culture, climate change and environment, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, local finance, urban development and city diplomacy in peace building.

#### **UCLG COMMITTEE ON CULTURE**

The Committee on Culture of UCLG – also known as the Agenda 21 for culture network – is a unique global platform of more than 800 cities, local governments and organizations which cooperate on “culture in sustainable development” through peer-learning activities, tailored monitoring programmes, global advocacy campaigns, publications and biennial events. The Committee on Culture works with actors in all the continents to “promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development” and to operationalise this narrative with practical tools.

#### **IZMIR**

Izmir is a city of 4.5 million inhabitants with 8500 years of history. Being one of the largest port cities in the Mediterranean, Izmir has historically been one of the key locations at the centre of flow of people, goods, capital, and ideas in global supply chains. For hundreds of years, the port of Izmir has facilitated not only the trading of goods but also flow of ideas, arts and culture within the Mediterranean basin. The city has become a nexus, where diverse cultures interact and co-habitate paving the way for a tolerant society. The city's geographical location, history, and demography have enriched the city with fruitful economic, social and trans-cultural interactions. Today, Izmir remains an important, prosperous city with a vivid cultural life and a major logistic hub. A pioneering city, it connects Turkey to the global value chain with its thirteen industrial zones, two free zones, four technology development zones, and four main commercial ports. The city supports its developing culture and economy by accommodating 180 thousand students in 9 universities.

#### **CONTACT**

UCLG Culture Committee: [culture@uclg.org](mailto:culture@uclg.org)