

Voice of the People

Manuscript
EU and culture
BRT, Germany

Crew:

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Translation

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0'02

Presenter:

Cultural capital of Europe – is a title that is annually awarded and very popular because it means more cultural activities but also more money for that city. This year there are even two cultural capitals: Lille and Genoa. Initially, the project was supposed to end in 2004, but it was extended for another 15 years. This shows how important cultural projects are in the EU. But, how can this be conveyed to the citizens?

0'28

1. Question: What does the cultural capital of Europe has to offer to the individual?

0'33

Answer, Christina Weiss, independent, state secretary for culture and media:

As an individual who lives in a city or a region, every cultural offer is valuable and a possibility to enlarge one's horizon by going to the theatre and theatre. The "cultural capital of Europe" is like a big political initiative enhancing culture in that city.

2. Question: I think that certain dialects are vanishing. What does cultural policy against that?

1'06

Answer, Christina Weiss, independent, state secretary for culture and media:

You have to distinguish between languages of minorities and dialects. Language of minorities, such as Low German and Sorbish, are well protected. A lot of effort is put into that. Dialects have to survive without our support. There are cultural establishments where certain dialects are maintained. That is something that has increased and that has to develop even more. That is to say, every individual has to do something in order to avoid that his specific dialect will vanish. In the EU, German is one of the working languages, and we do everything for that it remains that way. We do not want first and second class languages. We have to live with the fact that on an international stage, everybody more or less has agreed to speak English. However, we should never say that we do not need German any more. That would be wrong.

3.Question: We are often abroad and it is great that you can find such a lot information there. Should it not be more like that here in Germany as well?

2'19

Answer, Christina Weiss, independent, state secretary for culture and media:

We have a cultural forum in Europe with countless links. You can virtually get any information from the internet.

4. Question: What priorities do cultural activities have in Europe?

2'35

Answer, Christina Weiss, independent, state secretary for culture and media:

Cultural activities in Europe are defined by their extraordinary diversity. Every region focuses on different activities, and it goes without saying that we welcome that. If the European Union reduced or the diversity of cultural activities in Europe as part of globalization something would certainly be wrong. Cultural activities should protect diversity and at the same time focus on their common European grounds.

5.Question: How could more touring exhibitions be organized?

3'20

Answer, Christina Weiss, independent, state secretary for culture and media:

We already have some, but we will increase the number. Exhibitions touring through Europe are commonplace. We now produce more theatre festivals and theatre plays that can be presented everywhere and thus exchanged. This is already normal at music festivals.