



There have been outstanding discussions about *culture as a vector for development* in 2009, both in an international framework, but also in a Swedish context. It is fascinating that it had to take so long, but now when the fact has arrived it is at last stated as a fact: culture is a powerful tool. And I say finally.

Culture Clinic has used arts and culture as a tool and method for development since we started our organisation in 2003. Our results have been well beyond expectation and given us a solid ground and strong partnerships to build our work on. Now, many countries, organisations and people have joined the movement, something that will lead to a lot of interesting collaborations and great impact in the future.

Logical Framework Approach, Cultural Planning and Mapping are methods that Culture Clinic has worked with for many years, but it is only in the last year that Sweden has shown an interest. This motivates our efforts to develop projects in Sweden in the coming years. In 2009 Culture Clinic has reclaimed space in Sweden by taking active part in various projects and in 2010 we will have even more activities there.

Sustainable development has been integrated in our work since many years, but in 2009 we finalised our Environmental Policy and joined the organisation CSR West Sweden where I am part of the Competence Development Committee. These are important steps to being a more conscious actor in a global context.

The *worldwide economic crisis* has affected our international work, mostly due to the decreased value of the euro, and we have taken measures for similar occurrences in the future. It is however important to look outside of our projects to see how the economic crises have affected our partner organisations beyond our specific collaboration, and also for the people on a personal basis, many of whom we consider extraordinary friends and sometimes even family. The effects have then been bad for some and disastrous for others. The economic crises had led to monetary problems, but also to decrease of trust and spirit, which is the foundation for a healthy collaboration and the foundation of all our work.

Now when the very important Climate Meeting is taking place in Copenhagen I shred to think of the consequences if the world leaders do not take control of our common future, especially for the areas that deserve it the least. I hope for a FAB decision: **Fair – Ambitious – Binding**

Now I will celebrate Christmas with my *family* – a group of people whom are wonderful company and who constantly provide me with new perspectives. This year, sadly, we are missing one person – we have lost our Simon only 17 years old, but with all the ways of communication I am certain he will let us know he's around and well.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Maria Svensson
 President, Culture Clinic



Maria Svensson, President of Culture Clinic at the conference "Culture and Creativity as Vector for Development" in Brussels.



Tova Eriksson at a supermarket.

REPORTS FROM LATVIA - TOVA

Culture Clinic board member Tova Eriksson took part in the "Making it Happen" seminar in Riga in September. The seminar was organised within the Youth in Action- program and organised by the Lithuanian organisation, European Movement. Ten EU-countries took part in the event. The purpose was contact making and establishment of fundamentals for future cooperation. Tova praised the arrangement and commented on the possibility of continue the cooperation. "There are several interesting organisation that I hope we can continue working with," she said.

2009 IN SHORT

Culture Clinic is as always moving in a broad field of activities ranging from project work, lobbying to consulting. The overall aim and fundament that keeps the agenda of the organisation together is the belief in culture as instrument for development and progress, regardless of context, level and target group.

OFFICE

2009 has been a busy year for Culture Clinic and its staff. The extra additions to the staff in form of Tomas Jönsson and Endang Madsen have proven a wonderful asset to the organization. Tomas Jönsson, who joined Culture Clinic last spring is writing his bachelor thesis for Culture Clinic as well as helping out on various computer related matters. Thanks to Tomas, Culture Clinics webpage has got a real facelift and is now even more worth a visit. Efforts have also been made in order to develop the consultant

ment" That will take place October 2010.

CULTURE CLINICS ACTIVITIES

Belarus remains in focus of the organisation in terms of project work. The Culture Clinic way of joining the concepts of cultural identity and process of democratisation has been in the forefront of project work together with the fundamentals of using culture and cultural expressions as methods. Essential is the idea of active citizenship and encouragement of a free and independent mindset. Impact and progress are visible in all areas and these projects will continue during the upcoming year. Culture Clinic is also working on broadening its geographical focus albeit staying within the former Soviet framework.

Culture Clinic has also been active in several start up projects and initiatives exploring ways of alternative financing in regards to culture relat-

Clinic hosted a variety of seminar and as well as exhibition drawing on the international experience of the organisation while firming its position on local and regional level.



Tasso Stafílidis and Erika Gustafsson of the LGBT Festival.

- Culture and Creativity as Vector for Development in Brussels April, 2009
- Social Capital and Urban Development, Lidköping September 2009
- European Development Days in Stockholm in relation to the Swedish EU-Presidency. Culture Clinic mingled with the rest of the over 5000 representatives from governments, development agencies, parliamentarians and NGOs.
- Re:designing Cultural Politics organized by Intercult in Stockholm, targeting the relation between different levels of cultural policies and how they interact.

Culture Clinics eminent president, Maria Svensson was engaged in the project Step to the Future where she held lectures on project management during seven days in Algeria. The assignment came from Akito Company in collaboration with the Swedish Institute. The enthusiastic audience consisted of cultural workers and students of art from eight Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa.



Step to the Future, Algeria.



Culture Clinic's office at Järntorget, Gothenburg, Sweden.

image of the organisation. In other words, **visit www.cultureclinic.org now!!**

A second addition to the office staff has been Endang Madsen, originally from Indonesia. She has previously worked in the HR Department of the Central Bank of Indonesia. Given her very impressive past she has been responsible for the planning of the conference "Sweden Conference: Third Sector & Sustainable Develop-

ed project i.e. moving from grants to generating own capital. Culture Clinic has also been involved in initiative exploring the meaning of social entrepreneurship and importance of social capital.

Culture Clinic has been a frequent organiser and participator as well as speaker in a number of conferences, seminars and focus groups. A few highlights:

- LGBT-Festival in May where Culture

CULTURE CLINIC & 2010

Culture Clinic will continue to explore and develop its many-headed organisation during 2010. The main event is already under planning and coming up in October; "Swedish Conference: Third Sector and Sustainable Development". The conference will embrace many of the important issues of today's politics and societal challenges. The second event already in place for the 2010 is the annual Arts and Culture LGBT-Festival where Culture Clinic will continue to focus on the situation for LGBT-persons around the world as well as invite artists from Eastern Europe to perform during the festival. Culture Clinic will also launch a series of informal round table discussions in order to contribute to heighten the temperature of the Gothenburg debate climate. Culture Clinic is also looking forward to devoting more attention to a cultural system that includes the quadruple helix during the spring of 2010, as well as continued work with social capital.



To the right: Monument in the City of Vank, Nagorno Karabach.
To the left: Idrissa Seck, former President of Senegal and Maria Svensson, President of Culture Clinic in Dakar.

LOOKING TO THE SOUTH EAST: Armenia - a forgotten country on the verge of Europe?

One of Culture Clinic's employees, Maria Nilsson, challenged the common idea of vacationing - she went to Armenia and Nagorno Karabach for her holiday. This is her reflection.

Travelling in Armenia means travelling in the borderland between Europe and Middle East. On your way to the Nagorno Karabach region as we were, you are only a few miles from the Iranian border and visiting one of the most famous sights of Armenia you are literally a few steps away from the Turkish border. Culture Clinic has experience of working in both Georgia and Azerbaijan and the trip to Armenia added the missing part to the South Caucasian puzzle as well as established a desire of further collaboration. A key to the future of the region is a cooperation containing all three of the countries of the region; Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan which will be one of the objectives for our work in 2010.

Armenia has in close correspondence to other post communist countries been faced with a society in ruins and a governing structure equally unstable. Seldom reaching Western European media, the turbulent domestic politics have contained shot outs in parliament building and killings of high level officials. Given this, and the lack of rule of law, the democratization process is far from entrenched on all levels of the society. Being surrounded by enemy countries in the form of Turkey and Azerbaijan has contributed to the harsh economical situation. Described by many as the key to the future of Armenia is the Nagorno Karabach question and until a solution is reached Armenia will have great difficulty in reaching a stable economy and societal structure.

South Caucasus has since the fall of the Soviet Union 18 years ago been one of the most complicated and bloody areas of the post Soviet area. The Armenia and Azerbaijan relations have been at a dead end since before the fall of the Soviet Union primarily due to both countries claim of the Nagorno Karabach area and the conflict taken place. Parts of the South Caucasus are inaccessible and the war that was fought in guerilla style contained large casualties on both sides. Nagorno Karabach became an ethnically cleansed region where the Azerbaijanis were driven away and in the limited territories lost to the Azerbaijan side the opposite occurred. In the village of Vank this is presented in a rather gruesome way by displaying a wall of license plates of abandoned Azerbaijani cars. 1994 Nagorno Karabach declared its own independence and shortly afterwards a cease fire was negotiated. Today no one recognizes the territory, although it continues to keep its own parliament, president, currency, flag etc. However, the area could not survive without the financial and military support from the Armenien side. The future of Nagorno Karabach is still uncertain but heavily depending on the development of the South Caucasus in general.