

NIGER

ACP Region:	West Africa
Population:	11 million
Official Language:	French
Capital:	Niamey

National authority responsible for culture: Ministère des Sports, de la Culture et des Jeux de la Francophonie.

Culture policy: Efforts aimed at drawing up a culture policy began in 1985 when a national seminar was held. In the last few years, the issue has resurfaced on the agenda with the organisation of a retreat to consider Nigerian cinema in 1999; a national seminar to define a book policy in 2001; a national seminar to define a policy on cultural heritage in 2002; a national seminar to define a national arts policy in 2003; and the *Etats Généraux de la Culture* in July 2004. The *Etats Généraux* turned on an outline of cultural policy and a national cultural development programme for the years 2004-2014.

Principal public cultural bodies:

- Bureau Nigérien du Droit d'Auteur (BNDA)
- Centre des Archives Culturelles
- Centre Culturel Oumarou Ganda (CCOG)
- Centre de Formation et de Promotion Musicale (CFPM)
- Arts centres (43)
- National Museum of Niger
- Regional museums of Zinder and Dosso
- Convention centre

Some professional organisations:

- Association des Artistes Traditionnels (ATN)
- Association des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Interprètes de Musique Moderne (ANACIMM)
- Association des Cinéastes Nigériens (ACN)
- Association des Ecrivains Nigériens (AEN)
- Association Nationale d'Information Documentaire (ASNID)
- Association des Peintres, Dessinateurs et Sculpteurs (APDS)
- Société des Gens des Lettres

Some events:

- Festival International du Conte et des Arts de l'Oralité Gatan Gatan
- Festival International de la Mode Africaine
- Festival de Musique Moderne Amateur
- Festival des Musiques Nomades
- Rencontres Internationales du Théâtre Itinérant du Niger

COOPERATION WITH THE EC

Cultural cooperation: The 7th EDF provided an opportunity for many small interventions (a film (€35,000), Niamey African cinema encounters (€19,000), a study on the protection of heritage (€60,000)) and strong support for CFPM through 2 successive programmes that lasted from 1992 to 1997 (€1,000,000 and €632,50). The 8th EDF only intervened in the making of one film (€45,800) and a theatre programme (Noces, €26,000). Culture is not included in the spheres of cooperation of the 9th EDF.

Other programmes that may interest cultural participants: A programme of support for civil society in Niger, with €5 million, is in the approval stage. It will consist of 2 parts: supporting SCO actions (mainly core organisations) in the field of promotion of fundamental human rights and of citizenship; and capacity building of actors in civil society. Cultural actors are not the target group for the programme but they may participate as partners/operators to guide public awareness operations. For example, forum theatre troupes could form partnerships with core organisations with a view to raising public awareness as regards the set of themes surrounding fundamental human rights (e.g., forced/early marriages, reproductive health/AIDS, children's rights, etc.)

Participation of actors in policy dialogue:

Some cultural organisations were invited to information activities for civil society carried out by the Delegation. They were also involved in the identification process of the civil society support programme. However, the

organisations that participate in the more operational processes of review or programming are platforms or networks that represent a large number of actors in civil society.

Regional cooperation: EC/West Africa Programme

Delegation: Immeuble BIA, rue du Commerce, Niamey. PO Box 10388, Niamey. Tel: +227 73 45 08. Fax: +227 73 23 22.

Website: www.delner.cec.eu.int