

# EUROPE OF CULTURE:

co-creating a cultural scenario



## Culture Action Europe:

Reflection exercise on the future of Europe

On 1 March, the European Commission's President Juncker presented [White Paper on the future of Europe](#). In this document, he presents 5 possible scenarios for the EU's future.

### **Scenario #1: Carrying on:**

continuing as the EU is functioning now

### **Scenario #2: Nothing but the single market:**

downscaling the European project (back) to an economic union

### **Scenario #3: Those who want more do more:**

focusing only on what seems to 'work'

### **Scenario #4: Doing less more efficiently:**

A multi-speed Europe

### **Scenario #5: Doing much more together:**

EU decides to do much more together across all policy areas

We greatly regret that culture is mentioned in none. Yet Culture Action Europe welcomes the fact that Mr Juncker takes initiative in times when decision makers seem paralysed and reactive at most. These scenarios, the reaction of policy makers at all levels and public opinion will be determining for the future of our continent.

**We as the culture sector and as European citizens must lead a discussion that can support work on a scenario that can guide us into a sustainable future of the European project.** It is this project which has brought us the longest period of peace and prosperity in the history of our otherwise war-stricken continent. It will also help to position Europe in the global arena- as distinctly European and yet conscious of our role in the world.

**But what can the culture sector's position be? Is a joint position possible?**

In the current context, we strongly feel that it is not the time to issue a general, however well crafted statement on the importance and contribution of culture and the arts to our societies. That would be too easy.

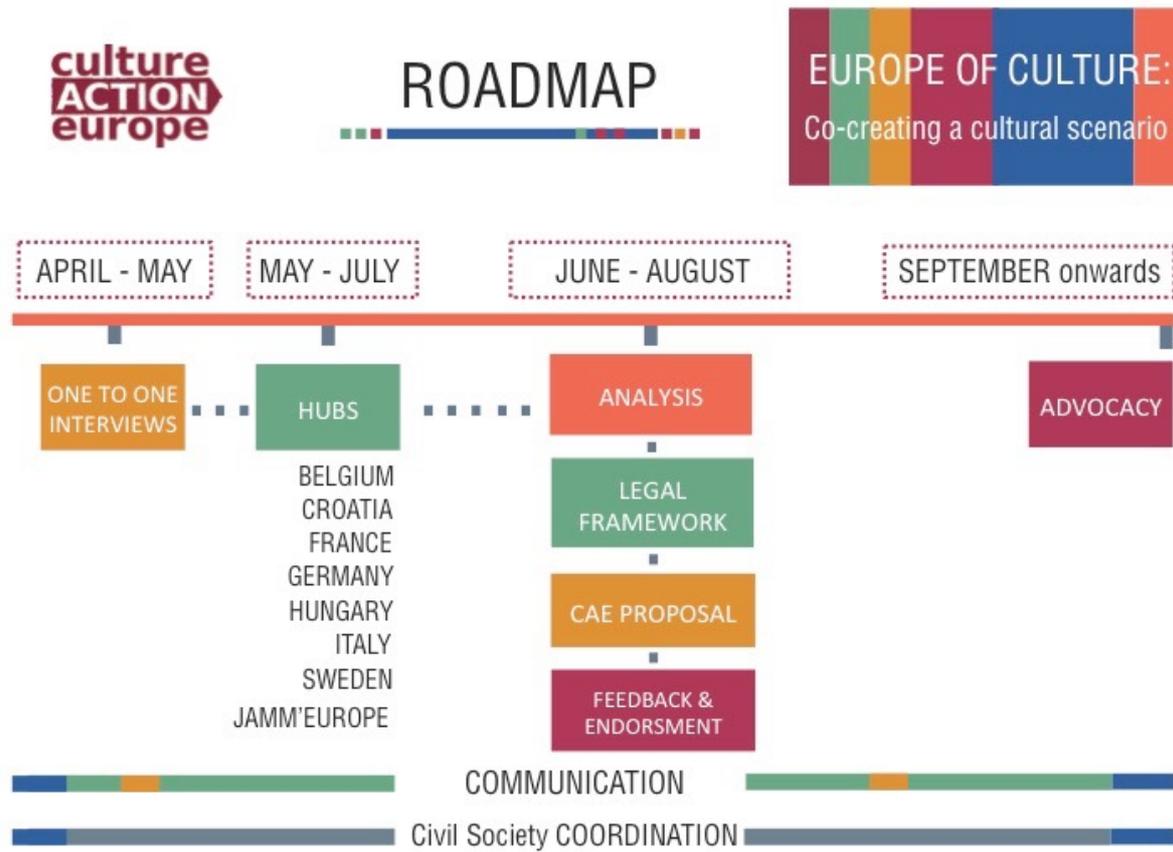
**What do we mean when we say we want arts, culture and education at the heart of the European Union? And how exactly could this be implemented?**

Culture Action Europe therefore calls on its members and friends, convinced of the key role arts and culture can and should play in Europe, to join us in developing our Europe of Culture. Artists, networkers, cultural players, researchers, policy makers alike will come together to create a possible alternative. We wish to concretely devise a viable new scenario.

With these series of meetings and discussions we aim to develop a body of arguments that will help policy makers to make a wise choice and support a strong role for culture (arts and education) in it.

The process has been designed to be inclusive and open to all through different mediums. Based on the critical mass of responses, we have identified national hubs where we will be organising joint discussions. All members are welcome to attend but if travel is

complex for you, we will contact you for an individual in depth conversation. Based on these contributions we will host an online discussion open to all. We are convinced that this collective exercise will provide a strong basis to propose a sound alternative for a European future that includes culture and the arts.



[http://cultureactioneurope.org/files/2017/05/EuropeofCulture\\_Timeline\\_updated.pdf](http://cultureactioneurope.org/files/2017/05/EuropeofCulture_Timeline_updated.pdf)

By this exercise we hope to mobilise the cultural sector in this important moment for Europe.