

Culture: a pillar for smart, sustainable and inclusive local and regional development

The EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 should support the role that cultures and arts play in local and regional development, in particular through their impact on social inclusion, education, creativity and on the individual and collective capacity to adapt to change and innovate. Furthermore, culture is a key asset for promoting competitiveness, new quality jobs as well as innovative entrepreneurial models and products.¹

Culture Action Europe, in the framework of the *we are more – act for culture in Europe* campaign:

With regard to the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020:

- Welcomes the European Commission's proposals for the next Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 and calls on the Member States and the European Parliament to **support its overall envelope** and to reinforce their commitment to economic, social and territorial cohesion.

With regard to the Common Strategic Framework 2014-2020 and all funds regulations:

- Calls on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States to **include explicit references to culture in the thematic objectives and key actions** of the Common Strategic Framework in order to deliver the EU2020 strategy objectives² on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Calls on the European Parliament and the Member States to explicitly **recognise the major role that culture and art play in relation to education, skills development and training³ and to social inclusion and combating poverty**, in particular with reference to the European Social Fund.⁴

In specific with regard to the European Commission's proposal for the regulation on the European Regional Development Fund:

- Welcomes the EC's recognition of the contribution of culture to the thematic objective 'protecting environment and promoting resource efficiency' by promoting and developing the **cultural heritage** and **calls** on the European Parliament and the Member States **to support it**.
- Calls on the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States and regional authorities to **better recognise the contribution of culture⁵ to other thematic objectives of the European Regional Development Fund**, such as research, innovation, integrated sustainable urban development, information technologies, SMEs competitiveness and entrepreneurship, cultural infrastructure, tourism and raising attractiveness of territories.
- Calls on the Member States and regional authorities to **integrate culture-based initiatives as priorities in the cross-border, interregional and transnational co-operation** in the framework of the territorial co-operation objective.

With regard to the negotiations and implementation of the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 at regional and national level:

- Welcomes the EC's recognition of the role that non-governmental bodies and other social partners play in the preparation and delivery of the National Partnerships Contracts and Regional Operational Programmes and calls on the Member States and regional authorities to proactively **involve cultural operators in the preparation and implementation of the Partnership Contracts and Operational Programmes**.⁶
- Calls on the Member States and regional authorities to **include culture-based initiatives in smart specialisation strategies** and in **social innovation themes** as well as to **engage cultural stakeholders in integrated approaches to territorial development**.

With regard to national, regional and local development strategies:

- Calls on the Member States and regional authorities to **include explicit references to culture in the Partnership Contracts and Operational Programmes** and to reinforce their commitment to culture in their own national, regional and local development strategies.

¹ Council Conclusions on the contribution of culture to local and regional development, 10 May 2010

² Council conclusions on the contribution of culture to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, 19-20 May 2011, p.3

³ Council Conclusions on cultural and creative competences and their role in building intellectual capital of Europe, 28-29 November 2011, p.5

⁴ Council Conclusions on the role of culture in combating poverty and social exclusion, 18-19 November 2010, p.4

⁵ Council Conclusions on culture as a catalyst for creativity and innovation, 12 May 2009, p.4

⁶ Article.5 EC proposal for the Common Provisions for 5 Cohesion Policy funds 2014-2020, 6 October 2011, p.33