

CAE in Italy Manifesto

Three objectives for culture

We are a group of organisations, with long-standing commitment for the arts and culture to be recognised as essential dimensions of wellbeing, development and social cohesion, for our generation and those to come, in our Country, in the European and Mediterranean Space, looking at the future from a global perspective.

We are members of the European Network **Culture Action Europe**, with over 150 other organisations in Europe, because:

We believe that culture must be put at the heart of the public debate and decision-making.

We believe that Europe can be the cradle of a new sustainable and democratic society.

We strive to be where decisions are taken in the EU, member states, local and regional governments, and international institutions.

Because we want to make our voices heard whenever decisions that shape our lives are taken.

In the occasion of the Italian political elections 2018, we ask candidates of all parties and coalitions to subscribe this statement and commit themselves to support, in the forthcoming legislature, an increase of the share of the national public budget allocated for Culture, from the present 0.3%, up to 0.6% in 2018-2020.

Our aim is the full implementation of the Italian Constitution and the Article 27.1 of the **Universal Declaration of human rights**:

“Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.”

To this aim, it is indispensable to approve, at the early stage of the new parliamentary works, the law that will enact also in Italy the **Faro Convention**, signed back in 2013: a key element for strengthening the link between civic participation and cultural heritage.

The increased resources must be addressed to three priority macro-objectives, to be attained, where necessary, through the creation of targeted funds:

1. Foster the access to material, intangible, digital cultural resources

a) Cultural accessibility

- Support and promotion of book reading, scientific culture and participation in performing and visual arts;
- Increased cultural subjects in school programmes at all levels;
- Support of widespread learning and participation in local material and intangible cultural heritage;
- Encouraging intercultural dialogue and increased cultural participation for all;
- Measures aimed at reaching a full digital citizenship, bridging the digital divide.

b) Economic and social access

- Actions to remove economic barriers to culture and the arts for low-income and socially disadvantaged citizens;
- Tax benefits for the purchase of products, instruments and services for cultural and artistic education;
- Inclusion of the indicator of cultural participation, produced each year by the National Statistical Institute with regional detail, among the wellbeing measures that accompany, since 2016, the Italian Budget Law.

c) Physical, sensorial and cognitive accessibility

- Elimination of barriers to cultural spaces and resources;
- Promotion of independent accessibility for disabled people;
- Sustained mobility measures for scarcely populated territories, areas and neighbourhoods and people with reduced mobility.

2. Promote actions and opportunities aimed at developing cultural competences, professional potential and entrepreneurship, such as:

- Create a dedicated fund to support projects of cultural enterprise, including networks; and to help operators, cultural enterprises and Third Sector cultural organisations to acquire professional and possibly innovative skills;
- Support cultural organisations and institutions, also through tax benefits, mobility and international residence programmes, long-term concessions for cultural use of public spaces and programmes of professional development aimed at increasing their management capacity;
- Include the indicator of cultural occupation, produced each year by the National Statistical Institute with regional detail, among the wellbeing measures that accompany, since 2016, the Italian Budget Law.

3. Guarantee, in the centres up to 10,000 inhabitants (85% of the Italian centres, with over 18 million people), the creation and operation of at least one “cultural station”, open 5/7, no less than 25 hours per week, and, with reference to the National Strategy of the Internal Areas, setting a network of “cultural stations” in all the centres involved.

Such stations could be funded through a special fund, possibly managed by associated municipalities in collaboration with the National Association of the Italian Municipalities, and provide the following services:

- Basic access to cultural resources: library loans and access to book reading, book crossing, broadband/WiFi, at least two pcs for free public use;
- Tourist information for non-residents;
- And adequate space for the above mentioned functions, as well as formal and informal meetings, co-working, performances, and, where possible, other public services.

To carry out the whole set of actions, it is necessary to strengthen central and local public institutions and offices, facilitating forms of public-private partnership, as ruled by the relevant Italian regulations, with special attention to the protection and valorisation of our widespread cultural heritage.

We ask the candidates of all the political organisations and parties to sign our manifesto and, once elected, to support the measures it proposes in all the instances of their parliamentary activity.

We commit ourselves to monitor the attainment of the objectives and to report it in full, with the widest visibility and all the instruments at our disposal.

PROMOTED BY

- Acume
- Arci
- Coop Culture
- Eccom
- Fabbrica Europa
- Federculture
- Fondazione Fitzcarraldo
- Melting Pro
- Pav
- Teatro Dell'Argine