



## EUROPEAN CITIZENS AND CULTURAL ACTORS SAY: "SUPPORTING CULTURE IS SUPPORTING EUROPE!"

11 December 2019

Dear XXX,

Culture is the foundation of European societies and European unity, underpinning our sense of belonging and fostering democratic participation, providing an enormous economic asset, as well as enhancing community cohesion, intercultural understanding and solidarity. Strong evidence exists of the impacts of culture across policy fields. [The Value and Values of Culture](#) impact review has substantiated [20 reasons why](#) culture merits financial support in the next 2020 EU budget.

EU cultural action, particularly under the Creative Europe programme, has been an essential source of exchange, capacity-building, and cross-border cooperation for the European cultural sector. In addition, the multifaceted nature of EU cultural action therefore requires both a proper financial commitment to Creative Europe, and an acknowledgement of cultural crossovers with other fields of EU action.

Concerned European citizens, cultural operators, artists, policy-makers, researchers and students have already supported Culture Action Europe's campaign calling on the European Commission and Council to recognise the EU added value of cultural investment, by:

- **Doubling the overall budget available for culture** from €1.4bn to €2.8bn, given that the current cultural sub-programme of Creative Europe is heavily over-subscribed and under-funded, despite proven efficacy and relevance.
- **Ensuring that 1% of the budget of each EU policy field is allocated to culture**, given its positive impact on domains as varied as health and well-being, social cohesion and equality, education, promotion of democratic principles, external relations, growth and jobs, research and innovation.

The European Parliament had stood firm with the cultural and creative sectors, upholding their November 2018 [proposal](#) to double the current budget available for culture from €1.4bn to €2.8bn.

The proposals of the European Commission in the New European Agenda for Culture and for the next cycle of Creative Europe set ambitious objectives for culture in social, economic and external domains. These agendas tackle key challenges for the future, such as the digital transition, the need to build synergies between culture, education and R+D+i, all crucial areas to ensure the common European assets of tomorrow. Proper financing is required to fund this new approach.

However, the future of Creative Europe 2021-27's culture sub-programme is in the hands of the European Council where ongoing negotiations are displaying worrisome tendencies. As the overall figure for the EU budget proposed by the Finnish presidency is lower than the Commission's proposal, allocations to each respective heading will also be smaller. Funding for Heading 2 "Cohesion and Values", which includes the Creative Europe programme, is proposed to be cut by 4,6%. This may have serious implications for Creative Europe's culture sub-

programme, hindering the impact of an already deeply underfunded programme both at the grassroots and EU levels.

**We now ask you to lend your support to these proposals** to allow the cultural sector to prosper through a reinforced Creative Europe budget and recognition of culture's wide impact.

Yours sincerely,  
XXX

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### **CULTURE ACTION EUROPE (CAE)**

Culture Action Europe aisbl (CAE) is the major European network of cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics and policy-makers. CAE is the first port of call for informed opinion and debate about arts and cultural policy in the EU. As the major inter-sectoral network, we bring together all practices in culture: from performing arts, literature, visual arts, design and cross-arts initiatives to community centres and activist groups.

Culture Action Europe believes in the value and values of culture and its contribution to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies.

Culture Action Europe envisions culture as central to inclusive, plural, open and sharing societies.

[www.cultureactioneurope.org](http://www.cultureactioneurope.org)