

CULTURE ACTION EUROPE CALLS FOR A FUTURE PROOF AGENDA FOR CULTURE

The European Commission Communication 'A New Agenda for Culture' of 22 May 2018 will establish the policy framework guiding European Cultural Action for the next decade. A future-proof Agenda for Culture must respond to a new cultural, economic and social landscape, while offering a flexible framework capable of adjusting to emerging trends.

KEY MESSAGES:

- Recognise creation, artistic expression and artistic research as the basis for social, economic and external impacts.
- Mainstream culture in a holistic way, including all cultural and creative sectors.
- Guarantee a fair and equal support across all cultural and artistic expressions as a mean to ensure European cultural diversity.
- Support cultural mobility, including mobility of works and mobility of cultural workers and organisations.

ABOUT CULTURE ACTION EUROPE:

Culture Action Europe (CAE) is the first port of call for informed opinion and debate about arts and cultural policy in Europe. CAE is the biggest umbrella organisation and the only network representing all cultural sub-sectors. CAE represents 80.000 voices of the cultural sector through its 145 members, including transnational networks, national networks, private and public organisations and individual members. www.cultureactioneurope.org

Culture Action Europe detailed the key guiding principles that can help to achieve a future oriented, balanced approach to cultural action in its [2 March 2018 position](#). In view of the European Commission's proposed New Agenda for Culture, Culture Action Europe calls on the European institutions and Member States to recognise:

1. **Creation, artistic expression and artistic research** as a pre-requisite for social, economic and external impacts, as well as cultural development and innovation;
2. The importance of **mainstreaming culture in a holistic and inclusive way** across EU policy fields, taking in consideration all cultural sectors;
3. The need for a **balanced approach between priorities and an open approach to culture**;
4. The increasing importance of **interactions, hybridisations and cross-sectoral approaches**, both within the cultural sector and with other sectors;
5. The obligation to provide **fair and equal treatment to all cultural sectors** in order to ensure European cultural diversity;
6. **Horizontal schemes** as the favoured approach to common challenges, such as lack of data, mobility or education and skills;
7. Sectoral approaches are only adequate for areas of high sectoral specificity. When its introduction is justified by a strong evidence-based analysis, a roll-out approach to all other sectors should be foreseen in the legal basis to give a **fair and equal treatment to all sectors**;
8. **A commitment to cultural mobility**; including mobility of works and mobility of cultural workers and organisations with a strong financial support;
9. The role that **education and culture plays in creating critical and creative citizens** open to the world, hence transcending the economic dimension and meriting a transversal strand;
10. The need to **strengthen synergies between education and culture, promoting artistic research and reinforcing the uptake of a STEAM** paradigm across policy fields to overcome unhelpful silos;
11. A new approach to heritage; explicitly **recognising living heritage, intangible heritage, the connection between past heritage and contemporary creation** and the central role of communities in cultural heritage interventions based on EU values;
12. An integrated approach to **cultural capabilities, social inclusion, participation and audience engagement** within the framework of professional artistic initiatives;
13. The **increasing challenges to freedom of expression and cultural rights in Europe**, leading to the need to monitor violations of freedom of artistic expression and provide training to the cultural sector to face such challenges. In addition, funding programmes should take in consideration the closing of artistic space, mainly in the field of contemporary arts;
14. The importance of **civil society and grass-roots cultural organisations in external relations**;

15. **Bi-directionality as a key principle** for cultural exchanges in external action;
16. The growing need for **adequate visa systems** for cultural operators in an increasing globalized world;
17. The recurrent **cross-sectoral call to improve data collection** for all sectors.;
18. **An integrated approach to research**, including the need for collective sense-making, knowledge transfer, qualitative data and better planned research strategies;
19. The new divide **between the public sector, increasingly poor in data and information, and the information-rich digital operators**. A new research approach to fit to the digital times should be developed within the framework of the new agenda for culture.

CAE wishes to thank its [members](#), who contributed to the formation of these points.