



SHARED EUROPEAN FUTURE IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH SUSTAINABLE AND SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CULTURE

Culture Action Europe's position on the post-2020 MFF

"Education and culture are the key to the future – both for the individual as well as for our Union as a whole. It is how we turn circumstance into opportunity, how we turn mirrors into windows and how we give roots to what it means to be 'European', in all its diversity". President Juncker, 14 November 2017

Culture is the foundation of European unity; it binds us together when pursuing shared objectives and underpins Europeans' sense of belonging to a common project. According to European citizens, culture is the main driver of the sense of belonging to the European community¹, hence, it contributes European added value to the future of the European Union.

The 2017 European Commission Communication² on 'Strengthening European identity through Education and Culture' recognised culture³ as a vector to promote active citizenship, common values and European identity in all its diversity. The growing awareness by Member States of the substantial contribution of culture to the progress of the European Union has been reflected in the 2017 Rome Declaration and by the inclusion of culture in the Leaders' Agenda in the Gothenburg Summit, November 2017.

The European Council has reaffirmed its commitment by including culture in the Strategic Agenda 2019 – 2024. Investing in culture is listed as a priority for building a fairer and more inclusive future for Europe and for safeguarding our way of life, based on cultural diversity.

Creative Europe, the main EU programme dedicated to culture, represents 0.14% of the EU total budget (2014-2020), out of which only one third (31%) is earmarked for culture. These very limited resources have been reallocated towards a new and ever wider range of initiatives. As acknowledged by the European Parliament, 'Creative Europe is suffering because of its own success⁴' and merits a strengthened budget⁵. Despite its high implementation rates, the programme is hindered by low and decreasing application success rates, due to its significant popularity and insufficient finances. Thus, a great number of high-quality projects have been left without the deserved support. This is also recognised by the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament in its post-2020 MFF draft report, when asserting that the EU cultural programme has clearly demonstrated its European added value and enjoys lasting popularity amongst beneficiaries. This joint political and institutional support requires a proper financial foundation. Given the relevance and efficacy of the programme and the need for increasing its budget, Culture Action Europe

¹ Eurobarometer, May 2017

² European Commission Communication on 'Strengthening European identity through Education and Culture', 14 3 December 2017

³ Report on the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 6 December 2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2014 to 2020), 7 February 2017

⁴ European Parliament, Draft report on the next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020, 2017, p.18

⁵ European Parliament resolution of 2 March 2017 on the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 of the 7 European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2014 to 2020) and repealing Decisions No 1718/2006/EC, No 1855/2006/EC and No 1041/2009/EC;

calls to double the budget available for culture in absolute terms in the post-2020 MFF, and for it to be allocated to a specific cultural programme in the next programming period.

Robust evidence exists on the impact of culture across a range of EU policies, from health and well-being, to innovation, growth and jobs, external relations, cohesion and migration, education, and the promotion of democratic principles as shown by the Culture Action Europe impact review, 'The Value and Values of Culture'⁶.

This additional layer of EU added value demonstrates the unequivocal contribution of culture to the three strategic domains - Future, Innovation and Youth - identified by Commissioner Oettinger as vectors of future EU investment within the next MFF⁷.

In view of the polarising trends within Europe there is a need to strengthen structural and cohesion funds through a fresh approach to cultural development. Equally, growing polarisation at a global level⁸ calls for an urgent implementation of the 'Strategy for international cultural relations'⁹. Current and future challenges require investment in culture as an area of European Research and Innovation policy due to its contribution to tackle societal challenges and foster innovation, growth and jobs. The future of work, increasingly shaped by the digital shift, will require the decisive pursuit of synergies between culture and education, both in formal education and lifelong learning. Therefore, the European institutions and Member States should ensure that at least 1% of the next MFF is allocated to culture in each policy field and funding programmes, following the recognition by the Council of the European Union of the crossover impact of culture and its transversal contribution to other policy domains in its 2015 Conclusions¹⁰.

CULTURE ACTION EUROPE CALLS ON THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND MEMBER STATES TO:

Ensure that the growing political and institutional recognition of the contribution of culture to the European project is translated into significant and sustainable support in the post-2020 MFF by:

- **Doubling the budget** available for culture in absolute terms, given that the current EU programme dedicated to culture is over-subscribed and suffers from severe under-investment, despite its proven efficacy and relevance.
- **Committing 1%** across policy fields of EU action for culture, thus acknowledging the impact of the crossovers of culture with other programmes.

Ensure that the necessity to respond to unforeseen circumstances does not hinder the attainment of agreed objectives and policies. This is particularly relevant in the face of the current experience of the Creative Europe programme, whose very limited resources have been time and again re-allocated towards new and ever wider-ranging initiatives.

⁶ CAE, 2018, The Value and Values of Culture

⁷ EU Conference on MMF "Shaping Our Future", 8-9 January 2018

⁸ WEF, 2018, Global Risks Report; Joint declaration on a 'New European Consensus on development: Our world, our 10 dignity, our future' 30 June 2017.

⁹ Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council "Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations", June 201

¹⁰ Council conclusions on cultural and creative crossovers to stimulate innovation, economic sustainability and social inclusion, 27 May 201

Maintain a balance among funding mechanisms and adopt an equal and tailored approach to all cultural and creative sectors, considering that financial instruments such as guarantees, loans and equity, are only appropriate for profit-generating projects, while grants are vital to support the social function of culture, innovative artistic and cultural practices, transnational cultural cooperation and people-based investments.

ABOUT CULTURE ACTION EUROPE

Culture Action Europe is the major European network of cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics and policymakers. CAE is the first port of call for informed opinion and debate about arts and cultural policy in the EU. As the only intersectoral network, it brings together all practices in culture, from the performing arts to literature, the visual arts, design and cross-arts initiatives, to community centres and activist groups.

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

www.cultureactioneurope.org