

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

## CAE position on the post-2020 MFF

"We want a Union where citizens have new opportunities for cultural and social development and economic growth. [...] [We] pledge to work towards [...] a Union which preserves our cultural heritage and promotes cultural diversity." Rome Declaration, 25 March 2017

"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 community**<sup>1</sup>, hence, it contributes **European added value** to the future of the European Union.

Ever since 2002, EU cultural action has been built upon the longstanding recognition of its European added value, as identified in the European Council resolution of the same year<sup>2</sup>. The 2017 European Commission Communication on 'Strengthening European identity through Education and Culture'<sup>3</sup> recognised culture 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 recently 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 'the importance of the social, educational and cultural dimension of our policies in bringing Europeans together and building our common future' in its conclusions of 14 December 2017<sup>4</sup>. In addition, the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament in its post-2020 MFF draft report asserted that the EU cultural programme clearly demonstrates its European added value and enjoys lasting popularity amongst beneficiaries<sup>5</sup>.

This joint political and institutional support requires a proper financial foundation. Yet, 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. Furthermore, these very limited resources have been re-allocated towards a new and ever wider range of initiatives. As acknowledged by the European Parliament, 'Creative Europe is suffering because of its own success'<sup>6</sup> and merits a strengthened budget<sup>7</sup>. 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. Given the relevance and efficacy of the programme and the need for increasing its budget<sup>8</sup>, Culture Action Europe **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<sup>8</sup>. 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 MFF<sup>9</sup>.

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 level<sup>10</sup> calls for an urgent implementation of the 'Strategy for international cultural relations'<sup>11</sup>. 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 across policy fields 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 Conclusions<sup>12</sup>.

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

**Recognise the EU added value of cultural investment with a specific cultural programme. The EU added value of culture lies mainly in two domains:**

- Culture is the main driver of the sense of belonging to the European community; it contributes to the sustainability of the European project, playing a crucial role in upholding common European values, nourishing mutual understanding among the peoples of Europe and fostering diverse and inclusive societies.
- Culture brings gains in efficiency through crossovers with other areas of EU action, such as cohesion policy, social inclusion, external relations, education, research and innovation, growth and jobs.

**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. New resources should be provided independently of possible mergers with other programmes.
- **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.**

**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.**

## REFERENCES:

<sup>1</sup> Eurobarometer, May 2017

<sup>2</sup> Council Resolution of 19 December 2002 implementing the work plan on European cooperation in the field of culture: European added value and mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector

<sup>3</sup> European Commission Communication on 'Strengthening European identity through Education and Culture', 14 December 2017

<sup>4</sup> European Council meeting, 14 December 2017, Conclusions

<sup>5</sup> European Parliament, Draft report on the next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020, 2017, p.18.

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

<sup>7</sup> European Parliament resolution of 2 March 2017 on the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 of the 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;

OPINION of the Committee on Budgets on the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 of the 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 (2015/2328(INI))

<sup>8</sup> CAE, 2018, The Value and Values of Culture

<sup>9</sup> EU Conference on MMF "Shaping Our Future", 8-9 January 2018

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

<sup>11</sup> Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council "Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations", June 2016.

<sup>12</sup> Council conclusions on cultural and creative crossovers to stimulate innovation, economic sustainability and social inclusion, 27 May 2015