



EUROPEAN CITIZENS AND CULTURAL ACTORS SAY: “SUPPORTING CULTURE IS SUPPORTING EUROPE!”

Dear XXX,

Culture is the foundation of European unity, underpinning our sense of belonging to a common project. It constitutes an enormous economic asset, enhances community cohesion, intercultural understanding and solidarity. Culture promotes democratic participation; in times of growing polarisation and challenges to freedom of expression, safeguarding artistic freedom and diversity is crucial. Therefore, culture needs a proper financial commitment to ensure the sustainability of the European project.

Strong evidence exists on the impacts of culture across EU 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. The multifaceted nature of EU cultural action requires a robust stand-alone cultural programme and an acknowledgement of cultural cross-overs 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 to recognise the EU added value of cultural investment, 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.
- **Ensuring that 1% of the budget of each EU policy field is allocated to culture** given its positive impact on health and well-being, social cohesion and equality, education, promotion of democratic principles, external relations, alongside with growth and jobs, research and innovation.

The European Commission proposed a [new Agenda for Culture](#) on 22 May and a [new Creative Europe programme for the 2021-2027](#) cycle on 30 May. They set ambitious objectives for culture in the social domain, as well as in the area of external relations and the economy. 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 funding is required to fund this new approach. In addition, current priorities are chronically underfunded, as shown in [mid-term evaluation of the Creative Europe programme \(2014-2020\)](#) published on 30 April. Thus, a double increase of the next Creative Europe programme is necessary to achieve EU added value and the desired impact in both current and future areas of EU action.

Building on Culture Action Europe [MFF position](#), we strongly support sectoral initiatives, such as the [open letter](#) signed by 70 organisations from across Europe’s cultural and creative sectors sent to President Juncker and the [position](#) put forward by IETM calling for an EU programme for culture in the post-2020 cycle with strengthened financial allocation and, at least, a double budget increase.

Yours sincerely,
XXX



CULTURE ACTION EUROPE (CAE)

Culture Action Europe (CAE) is the major European network of cultural 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 Europe.

As the only cross-sectoral network, we represent all sub-sectors in culture: from performing arts, literature, visual arts, design and cross-arts initiatives to community centres and activist groups.

Culture Action Europe aims to put culture at the heart of public debate and decision-making by raising awareness of the contribution of culture to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies.

To achieve this aim, Culture Action Europe organises cross-sectoral conferences and workshops, online debates and offline high level panels. We explore, aggregate and disseminate cross-sectoral knowledge, build the capacity of cultural operators and advocate for a better cultural policy for EU citizens and the cultural sector.

www.cultureactioneurope.org