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.
We would like to thank our trainees:

Special thanks to:

Rosa Perez-Monclus  
*Policy Director from September 2016 until September 2019*

Sophie Dowden  
*Policy Officer from October 2018 until June 2019*

Trainees first semester 2019

Semeli Panagidou  
Martina Adinolfi  
Charlotte Saintonge  
Csilla Fábián-Hajek
In 2019, Culture Action Europe actively campaigned to bring culture at the centre of public-debate and decision-making. Two major campaigns were launched to support culture in Europe.

**BRING BACK CULTURE, MS. PRESIDENT!**

Following the announcement of the Commissioner-Designates and their portfolios by President Ursula von der Leyen (10.09.2019), Culture Action Europe launched a public campaign urging the President to #BringCultureBack in the Commissioner Gabriel’s title.

Gabriel was picked to become the next commissioner for innovation and youth, but the absence of a commissioner dedicated to culture sparked criticism among stakeholders and MEPs.

Culture Action Europe, together with members and partners call for changing Ms Gabriel’s title into “Innovation, Youth and Culture” and ask for a specific mandate to foster dialogue and synchronise actions among other commissioners and vice-presidents dealing with culture-related matters. Official letter signed over 50 major European cultural networks with these demands was sent to the president-elect and was widely distributed among the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).
An online petition to support this call was also launched by CAE, collecting over 2600 supporters (data of 27.09.2019), aiming to reach 10000 signatures.

Bring back culture, Ms. President! Bring culture back in the Commissioner Gabriel’s title

Importance of bringing culture back in the European project, as well as Commissioner-designates portfolios was passionately discussed by MEPs and cultural stakeholders during an evening reception “Act for Europe through Culture” co-organised by Culture Action Europe and European Cultural Foundation at Bozar in Brussels (23.09.2019).

This successful gathering highlighted the steadfast commitments of both cultural organizations and the CULT Committee to make culture central in European policies, as well as current and future challenges for culture in the European Union.
CULTURE-EUROPE WE WANT IS DEMOCRATIC, DIVERSE, FAIR, FREE, HUMAN, INCLUSIVE AND VITAL
CAE EP ELECTIONS 2019 CAMPAIGN

In the run-up of European Parliamentary Elections 2019, Culture Action Europe, strongly supported by members and partners, launched a public campaign to foster a stronger recognition of culture’s contribution to Europe as a necessary force for unity, equality and inclusive cooperation and to encourage citizens to vote.

Campaign appeal (translated in 13 EU languages) called the European Parliament’s political party groupings and candidates standing for election to explicitly recognise the cultural dimension of the European Union and to propose candidates with cultural awareness (10 point appeal available here).

What are the MEP candidates position on supporting cultural diversity, freedom of artistic expression, doubling the budget for culture, promote mobility and ensure better labour conditions for artists and cultural workers? These and other questions were asked to various politicians in the series of podcasts Salon Culture: EP Elections special and were the main focus of advocacy actions at the Member States level carried out by Culture Action Europe members #actforculture.

Culture Action Europe’s full day Live Online Dialogue (25.04.2019) was the only pan-European public debate, organised in the run-up to the EU elections, with a specific focus on culture and the arts. Audiences from the cultural, education, social (and beyond) fields participated in this live forum of exchange (6491 visitors from 44 countries). It aimed to foster awareness around vital issues for the future of culture and Europe among citizens and politicians and to empower voters to make informed decisions. Live Online Dialogue was an open fora for direct discussion among citizens, organised civil society groups and key EU policy makers. Spotlight sessions included live Q&A with Luca Jahier (President of the EESC) and MEP candidates from across different European political parties (S&D, ALDE, Greens, ECR, Volt).

A special EP Elections 2019 Campaign toolkit, including graphics, posters, stickers, banners and flyers were developed, translated and distributed during Culture Action Europe’s & members actions.

A big thank you to all CAE Members who have actively supported this campaign!
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we want is
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go vote!
#EUelections2019
#thistimeimvoting
#actforculture

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#klantenservice
#actforculture

culture europe
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CULTURE ACTION EUROPE’S STRATEGY 2019-2021

In August 2018, CAE office drafted a new Culture Action Europe strategy document, covering the period of 2019-2021. The document was consulted with members through an online exchange before discussing it further in more details during the Members Forum meeting in Timisoara (25.10.2018). Focusing on different aspects of the document, specific working group sessions were formed at the Members’ Forum to comment and rework the proposed text. After taking on board comments from members during the Timisoara meeting, final version of the strategy document was accepted during the Members Forum in March 2019 in Brussels.

Culture Action Europe’s strategy 2019-2021 is now available in digital and printed version (printed version will be distributed to members during the Beyond the Obvious Conference 2019).
Culture Action Europe is an important network driven by consideration of its members’ dynamics and aspirations. It is a horizontal nodal network which ensures equal relations, diversity, accessibility, transparency and participation.

CAE MEMBERS FORUM 2019, BRUSSELS

Culture Action Europe members met in Brussels during the Members Forum (MF) 2019 (21-22 March). This gathering focused on jointly developing mechanisms for more active engagement of members in the network’s actions and community building. Members were also informed about the political developments and where invited to work together for coordinated advocacy. Different working group sessions focusing on CAE Geographical Hubs, CAE Working Groups, CAE Campaigns, including CAE EP Elections 2019 Campaign - more on that below) were organised during this MF. The special policy dialogue between Culture Action Europe’s Rosa Perez Monclus and Barbara Gessler (Head of Unit, Creative Europe) gave insightful details on the position of culture in the recent policy debates. CAE Members also had an opportunity to share their projects to the rest of the community during the CAE project marketplace.

The outcome document of Members Forum meeting is available.
CAE GEOGRAPHICAL HUBS

During MF 2019, Culture Action Europe members proposed a protocol on set-up and functioning of CAE Geographical Hubs. According to the proposed document, CAE hub is a platform where CAE members, members of members and external invited participants from a specific geographical area come together. Any CAE member (regardless of the membership category) can start Geographical Hub, if they get at least one other member on board.

A CAE hub is planned in France for November 2019.

CAE WORKING GROUPS

Culture Action Europe Working Group is a space where CAE members form a working group around a specific topic for a maximum of 3 years, with a defined annual goal, purpose, focus, deliverables and budget (if applicable). These are revised annually. WG should be organised around diverse research areas or topics looking for commonalities among the members. WG are expert groups, but should act as well as a learning environment working in a divergence (through empathy) and convergence (narrowing its objectives) mechanics. The CAE working group protocol proposals and way of functioning has been jointly developed by members during the Members Forum 2019 and is available here.

According to the strategy, and until now, CAE working groups are being formed along the following topics included in the CAE Strategy 2019-2021: (1) Freedom of Artistic Expression and cultural rights, (2) Artistic and cultural research and STEAM practices, (3) Welfare and working conditions in the cultural field. In addition to and at the core of CAE’s work are advocacy actions upon the current and post 2020 European policies.

Freedom of Artistic Expression and cultural rights

On 12-13 June 2019, CAE ran a workshop in the European Economic and Social Committee Civil Society Days on freedom of artistic expression and academic freedom. Workshop contributed with three recommendations to a final position. This set of recommendations will form as an advocacy document of EESC in the coming years.

CAE continues working closely together with Freemuse and its Brussels office. In September 2019, CAE and Freemuse met DG EAC in order to align on the upcoming workshop on Freedom of Artistic Expression (planned June 2020). The workshop is part of the Work programme for Culture and involves Members States representatives, selected experts and the Commission services. CAE and Freemuse are also planning a joint launch of the Freemuse report on the state of Artistic Freedom in Europe in the European Parliament in November 2019.

Artistic and Cultural research and STEAM practices

CAE aims to mainstream the potential of artistic and cultural research and experimentation and fully integrate the cultural and creative sectors into R+D+i programmes.
Focused on this goal, Tere Badia (CAE) and Lars Ebert (H401) participated to Creators Doctors meeting in Athens 20-22 May. This meeting was followed by get together in Amsterdam where the first draft of the CAE position for Artistic Research was prepared.

CAE participated in an informal meeting on Artistic Research organised by CAE member AEC (Association Européenne des Conservatoires). The objective of the meeting was to discuss some key points of a European-level strategy for advocating for Artistic Research. CAE was also present at the Visual Artists Ireland’s annual Get Together in Dublin speaking on a panel on artistic research. CAE also build new alliances with the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) for the organisation of the International Symposium of Experimental Arts (ISEA) that will take place in Barcelona in 2021.

Welfare and work conditions in the cultural field

Welfare and work conditions in the cultural field and the status of artists is a topic of concern among the CAE membership in particular and the cultural sector in general. The cultural and artistic community also voices the need for a study on this topic. In line of this call, CAE works towards integrating networks vision and expertise in the upcoming DG EAC study on “Status and working conditions of artists”.

Following Culture Action Europe’s Live Online Dialogue and the debate on working conditions in the cultural field, CAE met representatives of European Trade Union (ETUC) in order to find common positions on this topic. CAE is also actively supporting the negotiations for the creation of a specific Creators Intergroup in the European Parliament including aspects related to artists and creators work to overcome their precarious situation (regular wages, better working conditions, social security, contracts, etc).

CAE advocacy working group

On the 17th of June 2019, CAE “network members” met in Brussels. The main topics discussed were post-elections strategy and joint initiatives as well as future challenges of Creative Europe funding. More specifically, we discussed the Multiannual Financial Framework, networks joint post-election actions, transparency, access of small organisations to Creative Europe and financial issues regarding Creative Europe 2021.
**NEW CULTURE ACTION EUROPE MEMBERS IN 2019**

We would like to welcome our new CAE members that joined in 2019.

**Organisational members:**
- National Institute for Cultural Research and Training (RO)
- Livin.g (IT)
- Union of Employers’ Associations of the Czech Republic (CZ)
- Mapa das Ideias (PT)
- EDN - European Dancehouse Network (BE)
- Ci.CLO Plataforma de Fotografia (PT)

**Individual members:**
- Lina B. Frank (SE)
- Luca Di Bernardo (LU)
- James E Doyle (BE)
- Heikedine Günther (CH)
- Olivia Punnett (UK)

**BEYOND THE OBVIOUS 2018 and 2019**

**BEYOND THE OBVIOUS 2018: CTRL+SHIFT HUMAN REPORT IS OUT!**

The 2018 edition of Culture Action Europe’s Beyond the Obvious conference was hosted in Timisoara, European Capital of Culture 2021. Entitled “ctrl+shift HUMAN” the gathering took place on October 25 to 27. Over 160 guests attended the conference. CAE member Ramon Sanguesa compiled the outputs “ctrl+shift HUMAN” in a conference report.

**BTO 2019 | CULTURE CROPS: CULTURAL PRACTICES IN RURAL TERRITORIES**

The 2019 edition of Culture Action Europe’s Beyond the Obvious Annual Conference, Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Members Forum will take place 23-26 October in Konstanz-Kreuzlingen.

The theme Culture Crops: cultural practices in non-urban territories sparks the debate on peripheral territories. Where does their territory begin and where does it end? How do they see themselves and how are they seen by others? What are they and how do they work? The conference includes high-level keynote speeches and panel discussions, capacity building workshops and a project agora, as well as the chance to meet and collaborate with other members and cultural sector stakeholders from across Europe.
ADVOCACY

As well-positioned observers of EU policies, CAE proactively engages in a bottom-up and top-down dialogue between European institutions and the cultural and creative sectors. CAE influences political decisions affecting the cultural and creative sectors, participates in the agenda setting of cultural issues, elaborates and proposes policy papers and policy solutions, and creates open spaces for public debate.

EP Elections / New Commission

The negotiations for the EU budget 2021-2027 started in 2018 and connected to it, EU policies and programmes were re-thought and negotiated between the European Institutions. CAE worked ahead of these processes, consulted the wider cultural sector and produced common positions in the form of position papers.

A major focus on our agenda in 2019 was European Parliamentary elections campaign and thereafter the forming of contact with the new European Parliament. An evening debate and reception was organised on the 23 of September 2019 (more above and here).

Following the announcement of the new composition and structure of the next European College of Commissioners by the president-elect Ursula von der Leyen, the question “Where is culture in the Von der Leven Commission?” was widely discussed. Culture has been placed in the portfolio of former Commissioner for Digital Economy Mariya Gabriel, under the title of “Innovation and Youth”, grouped together with youth, research, innovation, sport and education.

While it is welcome to see culture as part of the portfolio of a Commission Vice-President responsible for the transversal interaction of culture with other policy areas (in line with calls in CAE’s letter to Ms von der Leyen of July 2019) the absence of “culture” in the Commissioner-designate’s title is of considerable concern. CAE’s latest open letter to Von der Leyen raises this point: “Now, with culture missing from the official title of the designated commissioner, we have serious doubts as to whether it will remain at the appropriate level of recognition”.

Join us if you haven’t already in calling to change Ms Gabriel’s title to “Innovation, Youth and Culture”, sign Culture Action Europe’s online petition to “Bring Culture Back!”

Multiannual Financial Framework

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) negotiations are evolving, and the Finnish presidency expects to finalise the text of Creative Europe and Erasmus + during the trialogues, however, it won’t finalise the corresponding funding allocation. CAE continues lobbying new MEPs, the Council and the leaders of the Members States highlighting the EU added value of culture. We call our members to be vocal at the Member States level on the continuous underfinancing of the cultural sector to make sure that culture and the arts are put at the core of the European project, matched with the appropriate accompanying budget.

Use this template to send letters to Ministers of Culture, Finance & Foreign Affairs.
Education and Culture

Education and culture are strongly linked and greater synergies still need to be exploited. CAE attended the Finish Presidency conference in Helsinki. The conference was focused on the synergies between education and culture, an upcoming topic on the policy agenda. CAE continued with the current policy work of strengthening relations with member states.

Implementing Culture across the SDGs: CAE report launch

The full capacity of culture to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is not explicit within the Goals. Building upon Culture Action Europe’s previous impact review The Value and Values of Culture and member inputs, CAE is renewing its call to integrate culture transversally within the SDGs through the publication of a new report titled “Implementing Culture within the Sustainable Development Goals: The role of culture in Agenda 2030”. The report stresses the need for culture mainstreaming within current and future European action for sustainable development and calls for the creation of a fourth pillar for culture as well as a European Cultural Fund for Sustainability. Special thanks to CAE members who contributed to this study.

Culture and the Brexit story

In preparation for the next legislative cycle, and in the sight of Brexit, CAE called UK members to prepare for the next steps. CAE followed up developments by gathering information regarding different initiatives of the EP and the British Council. Two topical meetings were organised with the CAE UK members (online and offline - 15 October in Brussels). The topic addressed is the participation of third countries in the Creative Europe programme. CAE has successfully introduced amendments in the Silvia Costa report, facilitating the participation of UK in the Creative Europe Programme (Amendment 85: Third countries may participate in the Programmes’ governance structures and stakeholder forums for the purpose of facilitating information exchange).

CAE advocacy steps are planned with the Creative Europe negotiator in the EP (Massimiliano Smeriglio) to ensure a smooth transition and a greater voice for third countries in the programme. Further conversations and meetings with our UK members are planned to strategise future advocacy actions.

Cultural Heritage

We would like to thank our members who contributed to the redrafting of Culture Action Europe’s position on the legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH).

CAE was selected to be a member of the informal commission expert group “Cultural Heritage Forum”. Similarly to the EYCH Stakeholder committee, the “Cultural Heritage Forum” will provide advice and
expertise, as well as serve as a platform for consultation and exchange of information on cultural heritage policies to support the implementation of the European Framework for Action for Cultural Heritage. The first meeting will be held between 15-26 October in Brussels.

CAE also participated in the Alliance for Heritage meeting to explore possible synergies for the period ahead.

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

CAE undertakes intensive research into specific topics to provide information, ideas and advice to policy and decision-makers, to its members and to other intrasectoral and cross-sectoral actors.

PROJECTS PRESENTED IN 2019

In 2019, CAE presented a series of H2020 projects and a research proposal, in which CAE’s role was connected to research content. Although none of the below projects were accepted, we believe we can capitalise on these applications in the future.

PROJECT TITLE 1 Cultural Tourism Impact for Innovative European Strategies.

CAE’S ROLE Analysis of multilevel strategies and policies. Cultural Tourism Europeanisation policy processes and planning models and general policy recommendations.

PROJECT TITLE 2 Storytelling ART to foster social justice, interculturality and gender equality.

CAE’S ROLE Analysis of current EU policies of mainstreaming art,
Development of a comprehensive methodology for the social impact of arts, Development of EU policy proposals on the impacts of the arts in the fields of social justice, tackling hate speech and gender inequalities as well as fostering the understanding of inter/multicultural diversities.

PROJECT TITLE 3  European Cultural heritage in Action to Reduce Exclusion Research and Innovation actions.

CAE’S ROLE  Identify existing actions and related frames and tools that make use of cultural heritage for strengthening social cohesion.

PROJECT TITLE 4  Research for CULT Committee - Culture and creative sectors in the European Union - key future developments, challenges and opportunities.

CAE’S ROLE  Full concept was developed on the methodology of the study.

Projects awarded in 2019

As part of a consortium, CAE was awarded the contract for the Capacity building for European Capitals of Culture. The Consortium consists of AEIDL - European Association for Local Development, Culture Action Europe, Interarts and ENCATC with United Cities and Local Governments also associated to the project. The project will be developed in the next 30 months but CAE’s main work- which is about exploring the capacity building needs of ECOC teams will happen from September 2019 until March 2020.
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<td>Supporting contemporary playwriting in Europe</td>
<td>Enhancing digital skills of museum professionals</td>
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