

# **CULTURE ACTION EUROPE ACTIVITY REPORT V2**



**2019 FULL YEAR**



**Culture Action Europe**  
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Version 2 : 2019 full year report

## 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 **WE** to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies.

# CULTURE ACTION EUROPE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Robert Manchin  
*Individual member*



Cristina Da Milano  
[ECCOM](#)



Alex Mezmerr  
[Visarte](#)



Antonio Gucciardo  
[Interarts](#)



Corinne Szteinsznider  
[Michael Culture](#)



Elena Polivtseva  
[IETM](#)



Lars Ebert  
[H401](#)



Noel Kelly  
[Visual Artists Ireland](#)



Niels Righolt  
[CKI- the Danish Centre  
for Arts & Interculture](#)



Simona Neumann  
[Timisoara 2021](#)



Yamam Al-Zubaidi  
[riksteatern.se](#)

**During the CAE Annual General Assembly 2019 in Konstanz-Kreuzlingen, new members joined the CAE Executive Committee:**



Stefan Gies  
[AEC](#)



Inês Câmara  
[Mapa das Ideias](#)



Burak Sayin  
[Trans Europe Halles](#)

Our special thanks go to Alex Meszmer, Noel Kelly and Yamam Al-Zubaidi, who terminated their mandates in 2019”.

# CULTURE ACTION EUROPE TEAM



Tere Badia  
*Secretary-General*



Kornelia Kiss  
*Operations Director*



Natalie Giorgadze  
*Communications & Community Director*

We would like  
to thank our  
trainees...



Elena Maggi



Anna Wangen



Mercè Aspa

Special  
thanks to:

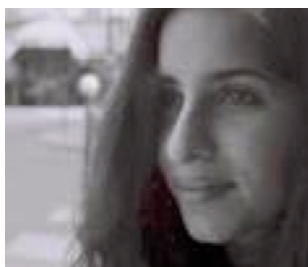


Rosa Perez-Monclus  
*Policy Director from September  
2016 until September 2019*

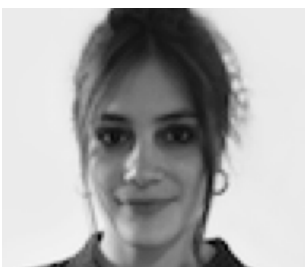


Sophie Dowden  
*Policy Officer from October 2018  
until June 2019*

Trainees  
first semester  
2019



Semeli Panagidou



Martina Adinolfi



Charlotte Saintonge



Csilla Fábíán-Hajek

## CULTURE ACTION EUROPE HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019

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 **called for changing Ms Gabriel's and asked 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).



# **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.

The campaign achieved its success, as part of the 27th of November European Parliament plenary session, and preceding the approval vote on the incoming College of Commissioners, European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen made a [statement](#) that the European cultural sector has been anxiously awaiting – the title of Commissioner-designate Mariya Gabriel has been changed to “Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Education, Culture and Youth”.

Culture Action Europe would like to extend an enthusiastic thank you to all who supported this appeal to Bring Back Culture in the European Commission. Our petition amassed thousands of signatures and we are grateful for the efforts of members, individuals and the entire Culture Action Europe network in participating in and sharing this advocacy effort.



## **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!***

cultureeurope  
we want is

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**d**ivers**e**  
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**v**ital

**go vote!**

#EUElections2019  
#thistimeimvoting  
#actforculture

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**гласувайте!**

#ЕСизбори2019  
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#actforculture

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European Cultural  
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cultureeurope  
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**go vote!**

#EUElections2019  
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European Cultural  
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**go vote!**

#EUElections2019  
#thistimeimvoting  
#actforculture

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European Cultural  
Foundation

## 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).



## NETWORK

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 were 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.

The UK Hub met in Brussels in October to discuss UK and European cultural sectors' future collaborations after Brexit takes place. During CAE's 2019 Annual Conference the German (speaking) Hub held a meeting to prepare for the upcoming German presidency of the Council and discuss the challenges to public funding access for non-profit cultural organisations.

## 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 November we jointly organised a “Brainstorming Session on the Freedom of Artistic Expression bringing together key experts from the field. The session aimed at reviewing the current opportunities and challenges, and identifying a common strategic path for civil society, artists, and cultural rights actors so that we can defend freedom of artistic and cultural expression in this context. We also discussed tactical interventions including engagement with the Commission, the current Council Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022 and the EC workshop that was planned on artistic freedom in spring 2020. In January.

## 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 to prepare the agenda for CAEs Working Group on Artistic Research.

A second meeting took place in Barcelona in December (19.12.2019) among Lars Ebert, Lucia Egaña and Tere Badia, where a first draft on artistic processes in the research ecosystem was prepared. This draft will be specifically discussed within a working group that will define CAEs position for Artistic and Cultural Research. The meeting will be held in Amsterdam during the Spring 2020. The objective of this position is broad. The academic institutions have been doing a considerable effort during the last years towards the recognition of artistic research as such. Though, there is a need for a few complementary actions for artistic researchers that work outside of academic contexts and practices. CAE wants to focus on those other contexts where artists are developing research. Firstly, the communities of peers, meaning other places like artists residencies, independent projects and programs, etc., where applied research takes place and it is recognised by other peers. Secondly, the interdisciplinary space, where artistic research must be recognised as a knowledge domain in dialogue with other disciplines.

Moreover, although there is an increasing interest in interdisciplinary research as a driver for critical thinking, creativity and open innovation, we can state the absence of the artistic sector in the research,

development and innovation approaches in the EU strategic actions and funding plans.

The paper aims to describe the ecosystem of artistic research to try to raise awareness towards artistic research among policymakers, artists, independent researchers, funders, academics, the cultural sector and finally, the society in general. Based on this paper, CAE will develop an advocacy strategy to:

- To create an alternative narrative that legitimizes artistic research practices including those taking place outside institutional contexts;
- To give voice to those processes and methodologies for knowledge production left aside in the classical organization of traditional sciences and other consolidated forms of knowledge production;
- To raise the topic on the sustainability of artistic researchers, including their material conditions;
- To state the needs of independent researchers and informal communities of artistic researchers, both in the cultural sector and in the cross-disciplinary contexts;
- To include an ethical dimension of artistic research in relation to their impact in other fields and its potential and unexpected beneficiaries.

Once the draft is finished, it will be debated among the members of the working group.

Tere Badia was also present at the Visual Artists Ireland's annual Get Together during June 2019 in Dublin presenting findings on artistic research and cross-disciplinary practices.

CAE participated in an informal meeting on Artistic Research organised in Vienna in August 2019 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 built during 2019 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, the cultural and artistic community and the cultural sector in general. CAE members have been consulted on the main issues to be included in the study and several meetings took place with representatives of European Trade Union (ETUC) in order to find common positions on this topic (regular wages, better working conditions, social security, contracts, etc).

Welfare and work conditions in the cultural field was also a topic in Culture Action Europe's Live Online Dialogue CAE also actively supported 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), however this did not materialise.

CAE was called by the Policy Unit of DG EAC to contribute to the study on the Working Conditions of Artists commissioned in December 2019 to Panteia, providing Panteia with experts to work on the topic and to bring in all of CAE's expertise and networks on this subject.

## 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.

In the Members' Forum preceding the Beyond the Obvious conference in October 2019, a special session was dedicated to CAE joint advocacy actions for 2020 and several online consultations took place throughout the year.

## 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)

[Liv.in.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)

[Orfeo](#) (BE)

[Câmara Municipal de Coimbra](#) (PT)

[Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture](#) (LV)

### **Individual members:**

Lina B. Frank (SE)

Luca Di Bernardo (LU)

James E Doyle (BE)

Heikedine Günther (CH)

Olivia Punnett (UK)

## BEYOND THE OBVIOUS 2019

**Culture Crops:** cultural practices in non-urban territories was the theme of the Beyond the Obvious 2019 conference. Held in the border cities of Konstanz, Germany and Kreuzlingen, Switzerland on 23-26 October, the conference aimed to spark debate about culture and cultural practices in peripheral territories and to jointly develop advocacy approaches to arts and culture in and non-urban and peripheral areas. Practically, this included walking the territories, visiting local initiatives and engaging in dialogue with cultural actors from other projects, but with similar challenges from across Europe.

In an attempt to grasp cultural practices in these territories and understand their needs, Culture Crops created a common ground for fostering debates around three main concepts and the outcomes were summarised in a conference report. Alongside the conference, CAE's Annual General Assembly and Members Forum also took place with special sessions on networking and joint advocacy actions and numerous side meetings on top of the statutory requirements.

The conference was co-organised by CAE together with Visarte Berufsverband visuelle Kunst, the European Secretariat of German Culture NGOs, Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK), ITI Zentrum Bundesrepublik Deutschland, and LAKS Baden-Württemberg e.V. We would hereby like to hugely thank them for their hard work in fundraising, preparation and making the event happen -and all this in an excellent spirit.

## 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 Leyen 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 was of considerable concern.

**In addition to the open letter to Ms. Von der Leyen, several informal meetings took place with key decision makers and the online petition to support this call collected over 3100 supporters (data of 11.05.2020). As a result of these joint initiatives the title of Commissioner-designate Mariya Gabriel has been changed to “Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Education, Culture and Youth”.**

### Multiannual Financial Framework

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) negotiations seem to be dragging along, and the Finnish presidency finalised the text of Creative Europe and Erasmus + during the trialogues, however, not the corresponding funding allocation.

CAE continues lobbying the MEPs, the Council and the leaders of the Member States highlighting the EU added value of culture. With the MFF discussions still open in the current context 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 your Head of State, 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 Brexit

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 was maintaining constant conversations with UK MEPs and the Brussels Office of the British Council to exchange and align strategies to support the cooperations between UK cultural actors and the European cultural sector after Brexit.

## 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 Commission Expert Group on Cultural Heritage. The group's first meeting was held 15-16 October in Brussels its tasks are to exchange information between the Commission, Member States and stakeholders on questions relating to

the development of legislations, programmes and policies in the field of Europe's cultural heritage; to provide the Commission with experts reports, opinions and analysis; to monitor and provide recommendations regarding the implementation of the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage, and to bring about an exchange of experience and good practice.

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.

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### **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.

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**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.

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**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.

CAE also received funding from the French Ministry of Culture enabling French members participation in CAE activities and translation of key documents to French. A big thanks to our French members who supported us in this.

# CULTURE ACTION EUROPE COOPERATION PROJECTS

**2019-2022**

**Capacity building  
for European Capitals  
of Culture**

**2018-2020**

**Heritage Contact Zone**  
Contested heritage in Europe

**MAST: Module in Art,  
Science and Technology**  
Developing a masters module for  
Arts and Science

**2017-2020**

**Fabulamundi:  
Playwriting Europe  
Beyond Borders?**

Supporting contemporary  
playwriting in Europe

**Act for Culture  
in Europe**

Strengthening the network  
and advocating for the  
cultural sector in Europe

**2016-2020**

**Mu.SA  
Museum Sector  
Alliance**

Enhancing digital skills  
of museum professionals

**2015-2020**

**Pilot Cities**  
Cultural policies  
and local sustainable  
development

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