



Culture Action Europe is launching a Call for contributions to reports in the framework of the project

**“Engaging with MENA artists, cultural workers and organisations in the
EU”**

6 participants per 3 panels on the following topics:

Working conditions, Mobility, Freedom of artistic expression

Background

Culture Action Europe (CAE) launched the “Engaging with MENA artists, cultural workers and organisations in the EU” project in February 2021. The overall objective of the project is to involve artists, cultural workers and organisations from the MENA countries residing in the EU in shaping European cultural policies and funding schemes that are more inclusive and better safeguard fundamental rights of these communities (including working conditions, mobility, freedom of artistic expression and gender equality). Following some meetings with the initial group, CAE has adapted the methodology for the subsequent project activities, namely the research and knowledge sharing strands.

At a second stage, the aim of the project is to enlarge and diversify CAE’s network, with the overall ambition to ensure that further advocacy work by CAE tackles the inequality in arts and culture in a broader perspective.

Call for contributions to reports

In the frame of the project “Engaging with MENA artists, cultural workers and organisations in the EU”, CAE launches this Call for contributions among the large group of cultural agents’ representatives from the MENA countries residing in the EU countries, identified and reached out in the preliminary phase of the project.

CAE proposed approach is inspired by the equality impact assessment¹ by giving the community the voice. In this regard, CAE is seeking for contributors to the research process: **6 participants** for each of the below-mentioned panels.

¹ Due to lack on data except for gender, equality impact assessment is generally conducted in relation to gender/sex. Before Brexit, the UK was the only Member state with legislation that regulates impact assessment in relation to all protected grounds. For a more general understanding of the concept in the UK see:
<https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/EDI-objectives-data-and-research/Equality-analysis-guidelines> or in Northern Ireland:
<https://www.equalityni.org/Employers-Service-Providers/Public-Authorities/Section75/Section-75/What-is-an-EQIA>

The participants will be working together with a main researcher and three experts on the topics in focus, who will be available for specialised inputs if needed.

The research aims at providing some answers to the following main question:

Which are the challenges that obstruct MENA artists and cultural workers residing in the EU fulfilling their professional life as well as cooperating with other EU peers in terms of:

- Working conditions?
- Mobility of artists and cultural professionals
- Freedom of artistic expression?

The analysis of the topics shall take into consideration the following factors: gender inequality and effects of COVID-19 crisis and the rescue packages available to target these effects.

The Research will be done through several blocks:

Block 1: Reading panels

Scrutiny of a number of reports by reading panels composed of 6 persons per panel . Methodology will include one joint briefing, a focus group (with block 2), one joint debriefing with the main researcher and specialist researcher and, individual work (reading material and report -max 3 pages).

Block 2: Overall target group comment

The overall target group will comment on the reports provided by Block 1 and, complement if needed.

Block 3: Overall target group scrutiny and validation

The overall target group will be presented the final draft report with conclusion and advocacy recommendations and validate if agreed.

To undertake the Research, CAE is launching a Call for participants to form **3 reading panels** around the 3 main topics:

- Working conditions?
- Mobility of artists and cultural professionals?
- Freedom of artistic expression?

Selection of the main contributors for the reading panels

CAE will select **6 participants for each** of the above-mentioned panels.

Responsibilities of the reading panel:

- Participating in 1 briefing (with the main researcher and the three experts on the topics in focus)
- Reading the material provided (see bibliography)
- Submitting an individual report including summary, answers to research question and commentary (max 3 pages) Participating to a focus group with all the target group to discuss and complement the reports (this focus group is chaired by the respective topic expert)
- Participating in 1 debriefing (with main researcher and specialist researcher)

Eligibility criteria:

- MENA country affiliation
- Residing in the EU
- Cultural agent (artist, cultural operator)
- Professional working English (reading and writing)
- Proven record and/or genuine interest of involvement with research, policy, advocacy is an advantage

Fees:

According to CAE usual standards for specialised work, we offer a 300 EUR/ full day fee. Estimation is 4 full days of work (a total of 32 hours)

How to apply to be part of the reading panel

Those cultural agents willing to participate in the reading panel should write an email to mamen@cultureactioneurope.org before **30/6/2021 @24h00**, with 1) a **brief motivation letter** explaining their **suitability for the activity** 2) **saying which reading panel they wish to apply for** and 3) **attaching their CV**. Candidates should fill in the following [form](#) (if not yet done when the project first outreached). Participants can apply to several panels (topics) proving relevant background. CAE will however try to ensure diversity of participants within and across the 3 reading panels.

When selecting participants, CAE will take into consideration the balance of gender, cultural sectors, EU countries and MENA affiliation.

The Selection Committee will be composed of the CAE General secretariat, the project coordinator, the main researcher and the three thematic experts.

Participating in the overall target group meetings

A larger group of participants having expressed interest in the project (through the [form](#)) will be invited to participate in a focus group in Block 2. Participating in the overall target group meetings is voluntary (i.e. is not financially compensated).

The aim of the focus groups discussions is to reshape the research outputs and consolidate the subsequent advocacy work.

Schedule

23/6/2021: Deadline for submission of applications

25/6/2021: Selection of contributors

30/6/2021: Public communication of the Reading panels

07/2021: Block 1, reading panels (briefing, individual work)

09/2021: Block 2, a focus group with larger “overall target” group

10/2021: Block 3 (debriefing, report submission)

Reports to analyse and comment

(partially or in full, depending on researchers recommendations)

Panel 1: Working conditions

Dâmaso, M., Badia, T., Rosana, G., Kiss, K., Bertagni, S. & Weisinger, M. (2021). The Situation of Artists and Cultural Workers and the post- COVID-19 Cultural Recovery in the European Union – Background Analysis. Available [here](#)

European Expert Network on Culture and Audiovisual (2020). The status and working conditions of artists and cultural and creative professionals. Available [here](#)

European Parliament (2007), Resolution of 7 June 2007 on the social status of artists (2006/2249(INI), P6_TA(2007)0236. Available [here](#)

UNESCO (1980). 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist. Available [here](#)

Panel 2: Mobility of artists and cultural professionals

On the Move: Baltà, J., Floch, Y., Fol, M., Sert, M., coordinated by Le Sourd, M., (2019). Operational study about a Mobility Scheme for artists and culture professionals. Available [here](#)

De Pauw, B., Debaere, A. (2021). The ultimate cookbook for cultural managers: social security in an international context update 2021. Available [here](#)

IAA Europe, IGBK, EVA (2018). Exhibition Remuneration Right in Europe 2018. Available [here](#)

Culture and education committee of the European Parliament, Draft report on the situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU (2021). Available [here](#)

KEA (2018). Research for Culture and Education Committee of the European Parliament: Mobility of artists and culture professionals: towards a European policy framework. Available [here](#)

Panel 3: Freedom of artistic expression

Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament (2021, forthcoming). Freedom of Artistic Expression in the European Union. An overview of the relevant normative and jurisprudential framework, Brussels (pp.24)

Andra Matei, Art on trial. Freedom of artistic expression and the European Court of Human Rights (pp. 10). Available [here](#)

Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed, A/HRC/23/34, pp. 25. Available [here](#) (in the 6 UN official languages).

Freemuse Report The State of Artistic Freedom 2021 (pp. 150). Available [here](#)