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AMPLIFY

Haz tuyo el futuro de Europa

Spain

Contribution
to the Conference on the
Future of Europe

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October 2021

AMPLIFY

Make the future of
Europe yours

Amplify is a project working across 12 European countries that brings underrepresented voices in the cultural sector to the Conference on the Future of Europe. During the project, project members work together to write a set of recommendations to EU decision-makers, focusing on ideas, hopes, and demands for the vision of the Future of Europe. Then, after the Conference ends, there will be an opportunity to respond to and publicly advocate for these ideas.

What is the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#)?

The Conference on the Future of Europe is the first initiative coordinated by the European Institutions to offer an open, inclusive, and democratic forum for pan-European, citizen-led series of debates about crucial issues that shape Europe's future. Such issues include Europe's economic and social system, culture, education, climate protection, and the EU core values. The conference will also explore the lessons that Europe can learn from the pandemic. The goal is to receive proposals from people across Europe in order to collectively imagine our shared future.

How are voices being heard?

Through local working sessions, participants will collaborate in a group to write a set of recommendations. These will be submitted on the Conference of Future of Europe platform for the public to see and interact with. Culture Action Europe put forward a recommendation in combination with those of all 12 countries directly to EU decision-makers.

How can cultural communities get involved in Amplify?

Amplify's main goal is to gather ideas, proposals, recommendations, and concerns about the vision of culture in the future of Europe. There are four main parts of the project that rely on collaboration and energy at the community level.

Connect

Identify organisations, projects, and/or individuals in the cultural sector who are working to create access and inclusion within underrepresented and/or marginalised communities across Europe

Plan

Meet in groups to collaboratively write recommendations to be submitted on the Conference on the Future of Europe platform

Mobilise

Start sharing and customising the campaign locally for the Future of Europe and get people interested in sharing their ideas for the Conference

Amplify

In Spring 2022, meet for a live Hackathon event that reacts to the conclusions of the Conference and advocate for key focuses for the future of Europe

Find more information about Amplify [here](#).

Introduction

The Amplify project, coordinated by Culture Action Europe in 12 European countries, aims to bring the underrepresented voices of culture in Europe to the Conference on the Future of Europe through the elaboration of a series of recommendations. To this end, Interarts has carried out a mapping of initiatives and cultural agents throughout Spain and has partnered with REACC (Network Community Culture Spaces and Agents) composed of more than 200 agents and entities working in community culture throughout Spain.

Interarts, together with REACC, organized 2 working sessions on **4 and 5 October 2021** with members of REACC as well as other cultural initiatives, educational and heritage mediators, researchers/sociologists and artists. From these sessions, with the experience and praxis of the participants, a series of issues have been highlighted that need urgent attention from Europe.

The point 3 of this document contains the recommendations elaborated in the working sessions with the participation of about 30 participants, who signed this document. Some of these people represented more than one organization and even other cultural networks. Interarts has facilitated and coordinated the organization of the working sessions together with REACC without interfering in the content (topics discussed) of the document nor in the recommendations.

Main topics discussed by the cultural agents and entities during the working sessions of October 4 and 5, 2021

i. **Lack of recognition of the transformative potential of Community Culture**, its practices and knowledge in national and European public policies. Community Culture offers tools and strategies for the strengthening and materialization of fundamental values such as the defense of human and cultural rights, the fight against social inequalities, the promotion of more democratic, diverse, resilient and sustainable territories. The existence of cultural agents and entities working in this sector of social inclusion is essential, moreover, for all that they contribute/can contribute in current contexts of humanitarian, economic, political, ecological and, more recently, health crises. We are witnessing a disarticulation of community/social projects and that must be urgently placed on the European agenda, complementing existing tools, instruments and debates (such as [Voices of culture](#), [Europa nostra](#), [CoE White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue](#), [Faro convention](#), [Rome Charter](#), [UCLG's Agenda 21 for culture](#)).

ii. **The lack of a cross-cutting vision and the limitations of the sectoral approach, in general, from local, regional, national and European administrations.** This approach overshadows the interconnections between culture and the real and material problems related to the living conditions, representation, education and health of cultural agents, as well as those of the groups with which we work and of all citizens. Making these connections visible would contribute to a more precise identification of structural problems and would also allow a dialogue between different knowledge and fields in order to propose comprehensive

responses to poverty, lack of social cohesion, unequal access to material and cultural resources, housing, among others.

iii. **The underestimation of community culture agents and workers and of the communities with which we work. The reproductive work of community culture is undervalued as well**, as well as the cultural workers (agents, artists, mediators, researchers) who make culture possible and energize the social fabric. This work contributes in a unique and genuine way to the habitability and social cohesion of both urban and rural environments, generating synergies and correspondences between territories and populations. In short, community culture enhances the value of knowledge and practices rooted in territories with communal territorial management models and processes that have an impact on the health and well-being of citizens. The **invisibility of certain groups**, such as migrant populations, racialized communities, people at risk of poverty or undocumented migrants, LGBTIQ+ community among others, is another of the challenges we face.

Recommendations for the future of Europe, for a more inclusive and diverse Europe that supports all people and communities.

i. It would be essential for the EU to develop and promote **public policies focused on people** and with a **human rights approach**, from the transversality of culture, in a more sustainable and firm way, thus taking a step further in the already existing tools ([Asylum migration and integration fund](#), [Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme](#)) and European regulatory frameworks ([New Agenda for Culture](#), [European Work plan for culture 2019-2022](#), [European Green Deal](#)).

Likewise, we feel the urgency of improvement and adaptation in the implementation of mechanisms aimed at projects that introduce collective practices and ensure real, active and direct participation, facilitating citizen governance to meet the real needs of diverse populations and make visible other knowledge and practices rooted in the territories, other models of management.

ii. It is urgent to redesign and rethink other ways of acting and working, as well as **policies that comprehensively support the development of ecosystems of community culture to develop cross-cutting projects**, in the field, with marginalized and vulnerable communities. In a better Europe, we consider it a priority to design public policies that link, for example, the social economy, or other areas of social intervention, with consistent budget allocations for community culture projects. From the "know-how" in the field of community culture-based agents, it would be very positive to promote spaces at European and national level for training (for example, with mediators and cultural institutions) and dialogue in which we, agents, could dialogue as active agents, with political decision-makers, public administration and European institutions in a more direct and horizontal way. In this sense, we hope that initiatives such as the CoFoE will have a continuity and real impact for citizens and that the debate will remain alive and active over time.

iii. It would also be essential to **adapt the modalities of European calls for proposals and grants** ([Creative Europe programme](#), [Erasmus + programme](#), [Horizon Europe](#), [CERV](#), [INTERREG](#)) in order to move from models that promote short-term results (favoring a final product that reduces culture to a commoditized consumer culture whose resources are distributed among large cultural

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companies) towards more long-term visions reinforcing cultural sovereignty, insisting on processes of collective creation, based on the needs of the communities in order to generate projects with real and lasting impacts, facilitating the formation of networks and the structuring of a diversity of agents. In addition, it is difficult for many entities to meet the financial requirements, as well as language barriers in the formulation and execution of EU projects.

iv. Europe must contribute to ensuring the **dignity and well-being of people and agents in the community-driven culture ecosystem, placing people's lives and health conditions at the center**. In practical terms, a basic income could be proposed at the European level to guarantee a minimum of living conditions. This would allow cultural agents to develop projects connecting territories and cultures, to respond to the challenge of the "emptied Spain", to the gap with the rural areas, implementing a pedagogy of the common with collaborative practices, facilitating and sharing learning and also opening paths of experimentation in local communities to promote a break with logics of exploitation, precariousness and marginalization.

Appeal to EU citizens and policy makers

From our point of view (undersigned) these issues are key to promote cultural rights, fight against social inequalities and promote more democratic and sustainable environments from the place where we work. We hope that these initial themes and recommendations will encourage the participation and mobilization of European citizens, as well as EU institutions, understanding people as active subjects: cooperation and collaboration as the basis for social exchange and a culture of citizenship.

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Firmantes:

Andalucía

- [AMASCE/Espacioplástico](#), Córdoba

Aragón

- [Colectivo Llámalo H](#), Harinera Zaragoza
- [TEAdir Aragón](#), Zaragoza
- [ZerclO](#) Patrimonio Cultural y Desarrollo Sostenible (Huesca), Aragón.

Cantabria

- [La Ortiga Colectiva](#), Cantabria

Castilla la Mancha

- [El Dorado Asociación Cultural](#), Toledo

Cataluña

- [ACEP](#) (Associació Catalana d'Educació Patrimonial),
- [AMAD](#) (Asociación de Musicoterapeutas, Arteterapeutas y Danzaterapeutas de Europa)
- [Artemisabcn](#), Barcelona
- [Artticco](#), Barcelona
- [ComuArt](#), Barcelona
- El Cogul (Les Garrigues), Cataluña.
- [Sindihogar](#) (Sindicado de mujeres migrantes trabajadoras del hogar de y los cuidados), Barcelona
- [Teleduca](#), Barcelona
- [Xarxa Artibarri](#) (Barcelona y Cataluña)

Galicia

- [Agrocuir da Ulloa](#) (Comarca de la Ulloa, municipios de Monterroso, Palas de Rei y Antas de Ulla. Provincia de Lugo)

Extremadura

- [Imago Bubo](#) · Rural Colectivo (Plasencia, Extremadura)

Madrid

- [Akantaros](#), Madrid
- [Cía. Payasa Pa Viajera](#), Madrid
- [El Taller](#), Madrid
- [EMPOWER](#) (Empower Parents), Madrid
- [Estefanía Roderó](#), Madrid
- [Grigri](#), Madrid
- [La Horizontal](#), Madrid
- Natalia González Sañudo, [Taller Etnográfico /Culturas/Salud/Biodiversidad](#), Alcalá de Henares (Madrid)
- [Quinta del sordo](#), Madrid
- [El Cubo Verde](#) · Red de Espacios de Arte en el Campo (España).
- Rocío Nogales Muriel ([EMES. International Research Network](#))
- [REACC](#) (Red de Espacios y Agentes de la Cultura Comunitaria)

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