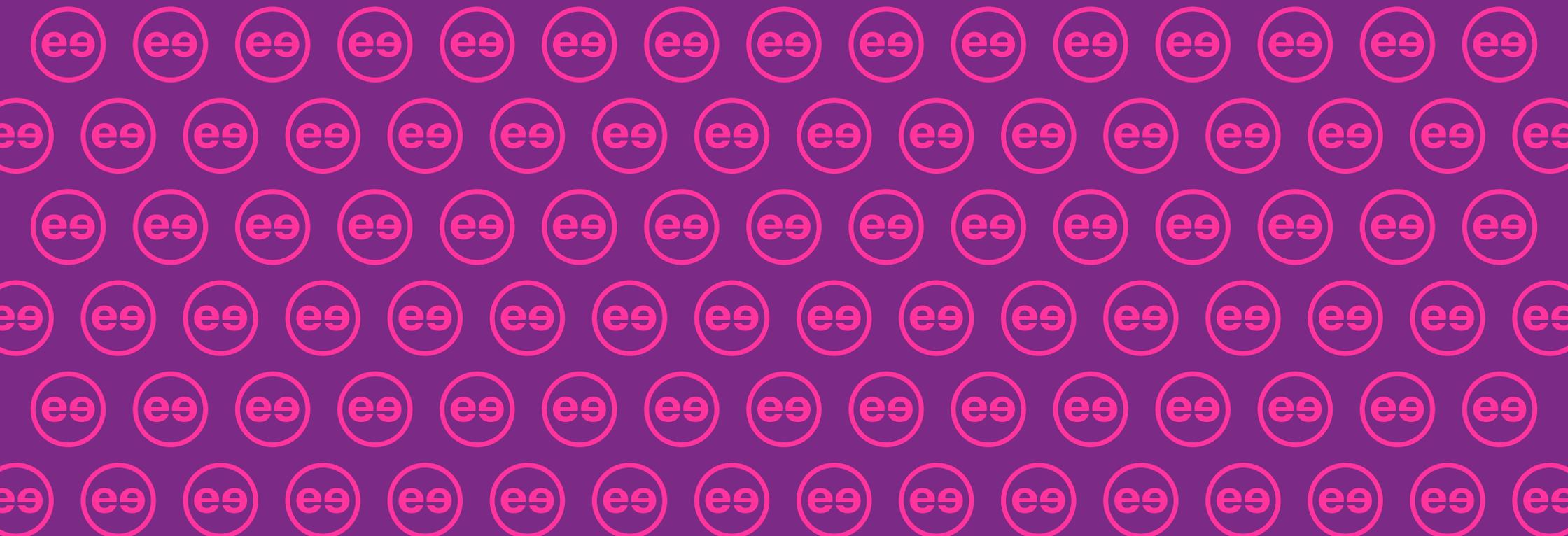


culture  
action  
europe

# Activity Report 2021





**CAE wants to thank all its members for their valuable contributions in our position papers, statements, campaigns, communication, working groups and hubs.**

**culture  
ACTION**  
**europe**

# HIGHLIGHTS 2021

In 2021, Culture Action Europe and its members continued working together to achieve the goals as defined by the **CAE strategy document 2019-2021**. With the aim to put culture at the heart of public-debate and decision making, the network initiated activities to support cultural workers post-pandemic at the national and European level, to bring issues related to working conditions of artists and cultural workers, freedom of artistic expression, culture and sustainability, cultural democracy and inclusion and diversity to the political discussions. These actions consolidated the positioning of Culture Action Europe as a major European cultural network advocating for a central place for arts and culture in Europe.

Efforts to engage with European cultural networks beyond the CAE community and to create spaces for cross-sectorial and interdisciplinary interaction and dialogue, further strengthened the network's positioning as the voice of the European cultural ecosystem.

Joint advocacy actions initiated by the **#CulturalDealEU campaign** partners, Culture Action Europe members and backed by the European Parliament, guaranteed an important investment to secure a future for cultural life in Europe post Covid-19. As **called by the European cultural community**, at the aggregated level, EU member states dedicated 2% of their National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) for culture and the arts. Culture Action Europe's important mapping **"Culture in the EU's National Recovery and Resilience Plans"** showed that more than 10 billion euros have been mobilised for culture at the EU level – a major achievement for the sector.

Beyond guaranteeing funding for the sector, Culture Action Europe continued advocating for long-term structural support to strengthen the European cultural ecosystem. In this context, the network further promoted public debates about the working conditions of artists and cultural workers. At the request of the CULT Committee of the European Parliament and in collaboration with the independent researcher Mafalda Dâmaso, Culture Action Europe developed a **background analysis** for the Parliament's Research Service (EPRS). The study provides an overview of the key characteristics of artists' and cultural workers' status across Europe, their working conditions, and career paths. Based on the

background analysis, Culture Action Europe also developed [policy recommendations](#). These findings have been featured in the [brainstorming report of the Voices of Culture](#) on the same topic, with CAE as one of the main penholders.

“[The Freedom of Artistic Expression in the European Union](#)” publication, commissioned by the member of the European Parliament Diana Riba i Giner and presented by the [Greens/European Free Alliance \(EFA\) Group](#) and Culture Action Europe, offers a general overview of the global and European legislative framework and case-law, outlining further possible courses of action aiming at strengthening the legal protection of freedom of artistic expression at the European level.

Topics of working conditions in the cultural sector and freedom of artistic expression have been further explored as part of the research project led by Culture Action Europe and supported by the Open Society Foundation (OSF). “[Engaging with the SWANA cultural agents in the EU](#)” project specifically explored working conditions of SWANA (South-West Asia and Northern Africa) artists and cultural professionals residing in Europe. The objective was to involve this community in advocating and shaping European cultural policies and

funding schemes that are more inclusive and better safeguard fundamental rights, and to make their participation more structural in the network’s membership. The “In Search of Equal Partners: On being a SWANA artist and cultural worker in the EU” publication synthesises the conclusions of this collaborative research, focusing on the topics of mobility, working conditions and freedom of artistic expression.

Diversity and inclusion of less represented voices in the decision-making processes has been one of the main focuses of Culture Action Europe in 2021. In the framework of “[Amplify: Make the Future of Europe Yours](#)” and “[Engaging with the SWANA cultural agents in the EU](#)” projects, the network facilitated new discussions with underrepresented communities. These actions resulted in diversifying the network by inviting these communities to join CAE as members and created channels of continuous exchange and co-design of overall advocacy messages of Culture Action Europe.

Promoting cultural rights, cultural democracy and democratisation of institutions as well as education are at the core of the [Porto Santo Charter](#), an initiative of the Ministry of Culture of Portugal, National Plan for the Arts, within the framework of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January-June 2021). Culture Action Europe took an active part in designing the charter and the [Porto Santo conference](#) on 27-28 April 2021.

As part of the [#Culture2030goal campaign](#), Culture Action Europe further continued campaigning for including culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. The

campaign published its [strategy document in May 2021](#), calling for the recognition of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and for mainstreaming culture across the global development agenda. The campaign also works towards including culture as a distinct goal in the post-2030 development framework. Beyond culture's contribution to the sustainability agenda, CAE advocated for sustainability of the sector itself and started exploring the ways to promote more sustainable practices within the cultural sector.

Based on our members' concerns and aspirations, and after a period of consultation, Culture Action Europe General Assembly in June 2021, approved a new strategy document outlining [strategic directions of the network for the period of 2022-2024](#). The following topics were identified by members: culture, environment and sustainability, well-being (and well-living), and welfare and living conditions in the cultural ecosystem. These strategic themes were central in our application for the Creative Europe Networks Grant (June 2021-June 2024) that was again supported by the European Commission.

At the end of 2021, Culture Action Europe embarked on an important journey to develop policy proposals for culture and well-being. What is the role of culture to improve health and wellbeing? And how can we create change through culture by impacting European policy making? This is the scope of the [CultureForHealth project](#). CultureForHealth responds to the objective of the European Commission's Preparatory Action – Bottom-Up Policy Development for Culture & Well-being in the EU. The project has the

ambition to trigger a true policy change in EU, regional and local levels - bringing closer together the health, cultural and social policies.

These and other activities of Culture Action Europe are explained in further detail in this report. We want to thank all our members, partners, funders and political interlocutors for supporting the actions of the network.

*Happy reading.*

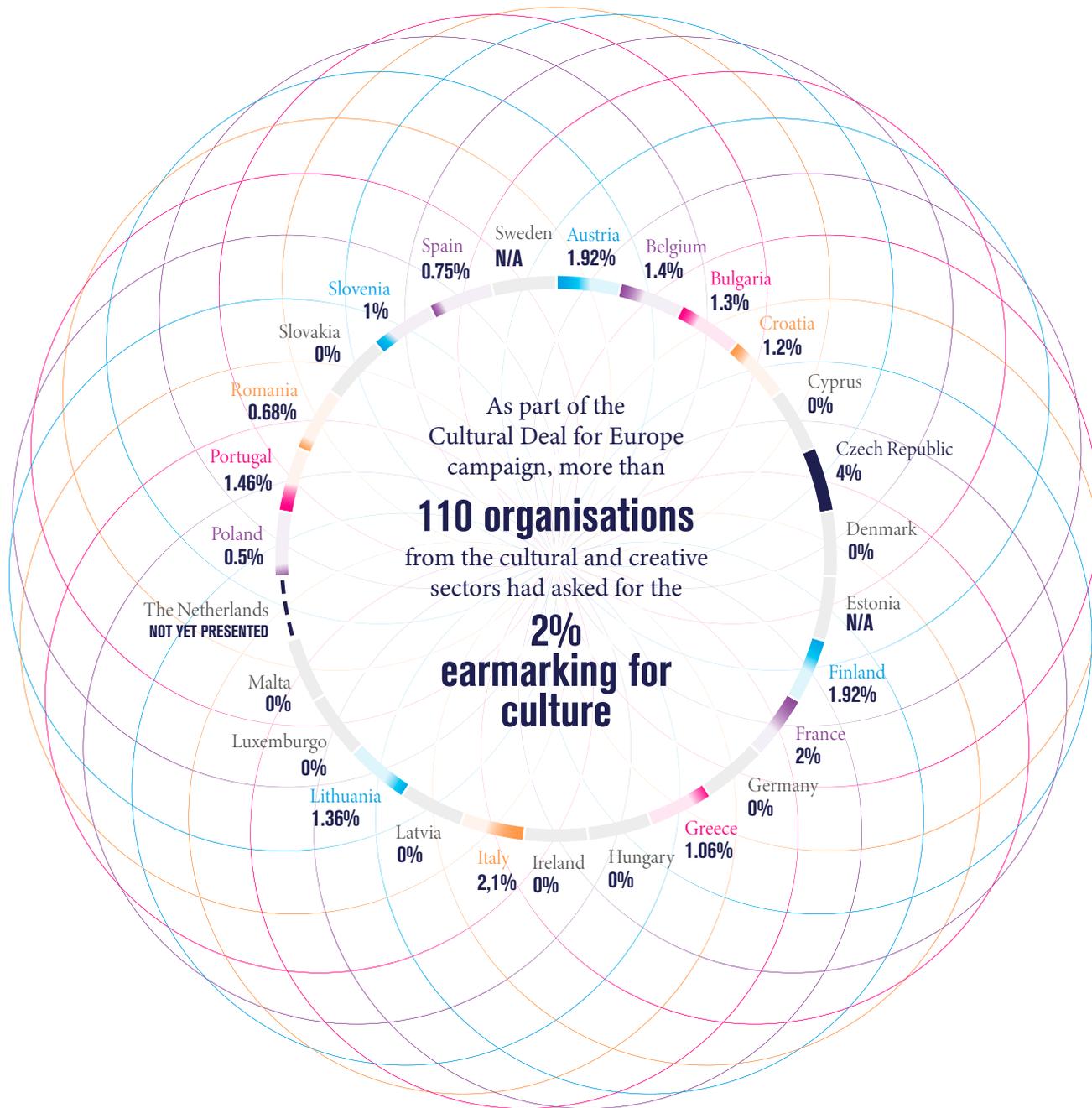


In a joint effort, coordinated by Culture Action Europe, 110+ European cultural networks sent an open letter to the Heads of State and Government, Ministers for European Affairs, Ministers for Finance and Ministers for Culture, following up on a previous address in the second half of 2020 and calling them to include culture in each and every National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRPs). The representatives of the European cultural ecosystem urged governments to dedicate at least 2% of the Recovery Fund to culture and put culture as a priority sector when using funds from Next Generation EU. In addition, 110+ cultural networks called on the Member States to engage with the representatives of their cultural communities and civil society organisations in the design and implementation of the NRRPs. *“Long-term structural support to rebuild the European cultural ecosystem needs to be co-developed, involving all relevant stakeholders, both public and private”* – the letter reads.

The #CulturalDealEU campaign partners continued advocating for earmarking 2% of National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) both at the European aggregated level and national levels. This plea has been strongly supported by the European Parliament in various positions voted or questions to the Commission on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility presented throughout 2021.

Following up on these calls from the European cultural sector, Culture Action Europe in close collaboration with its members, mapped the place for culture in each National Recovery and Resilience Plans and presented the outcome in a publication.

“Culture in the EU’s National Recovery and Resilience Plans”, the first mapping of its kind, aimed at analysing what types of investments and reforms (if any) are contained in the NRRPs directly supporting Europe’s cultural ecosystem, which has been among the most affected by the long crisis and the subsequent containment measures. 14 countries out of 26 (at the time of writing, 26 EU Member States out of 27 - all but The Netherlands) had finalised and presented their National Recovery and Resilience Plans) - 53% of the total - have included culture in their NRRPs. The analysis stemming from this overview proved that at least 2% in the EU26 - i.e., around 10 billion euros - has been mobilised for culture. As a result of the mapping exercise performed thanks to the contributions from Culture Action Europe members, we could conclude that while the 2% figure has been met at an aggregated EU level, the majority of Member States either did not foresee any specific line for culture or lagged behind such value, standing at around 1% - well under the 2% earmarking asked by the cultural community.



The publication of the mapping that was made public on 9 December, was first presented to the media (by press release and online press conference) and Culture Action Europe members during a **lunchtime presentation**. Over 40 members attended the launch presentation and over 10 media outlets covered the story, including articles from the **Parliament Magazine**, **Comunidade Cultural e Arte** in Portugal, **AgCULT** in Italy, and the **Polis Blog** in Germany.

The #CulturalDealEU campaign developed a **campaign toolkit** and made it available for use by the wider European cultural community. On January 13, 2021, Culture Action Europe lead on the #CulturalDealEU social media action day, calling its members, partners and the wider European cultural and political communities to support the deal by adding the #CulturalDealEU logo on their websites; changing social media banners for a day with the #CulturalDealEU visuals, active engagement with the hashtag on social media, creating messages and calls, using the campaign visuals, and sharing the videos from the launch event. CAE's efforts resulted in over 44.3k impressions on Twitter, reaching over 13k people on Facebook and over 500 on Instagram. In addition to social media, CAE brought over 8,000 views to the CAE website,

# SOCIAL MEDIA

## CULTURAL DEAL FOR EUROPE CAMPAIGN

Devote at least  
2% of the EU  
Recovery plan  
to culture



Ensure that  
Member States  
add a European &  
cultural dimension  
to their recovery  
plans



#CulturalDealEU

Include culture in  
the 2030 Sustainable  
Development  
Agenda and the  
European  
Green Deal



#CulturalDealEU

Mainstream  
funding for culture  
into all relevant  
EU programmes  
& actions



#CulturalDealEU

Mainstream  
funding for  
culture  
into all relevant  
EU programmes  
& actions



#CulturalDealEU

Include  
culture as a  
key driver of the  
EU's external  
relations



#CulturalDealEU

Uphold  
democracy  
and rights for  
a values-based  
Europe



#CulturalDealEU

Team up with  
philanthropy  
to support Europe's  
recovery and  
shape its  
future



#CulturalDealEU

Engage cultural  
agents in the  
democratic debate  
on the Future  
of Europe

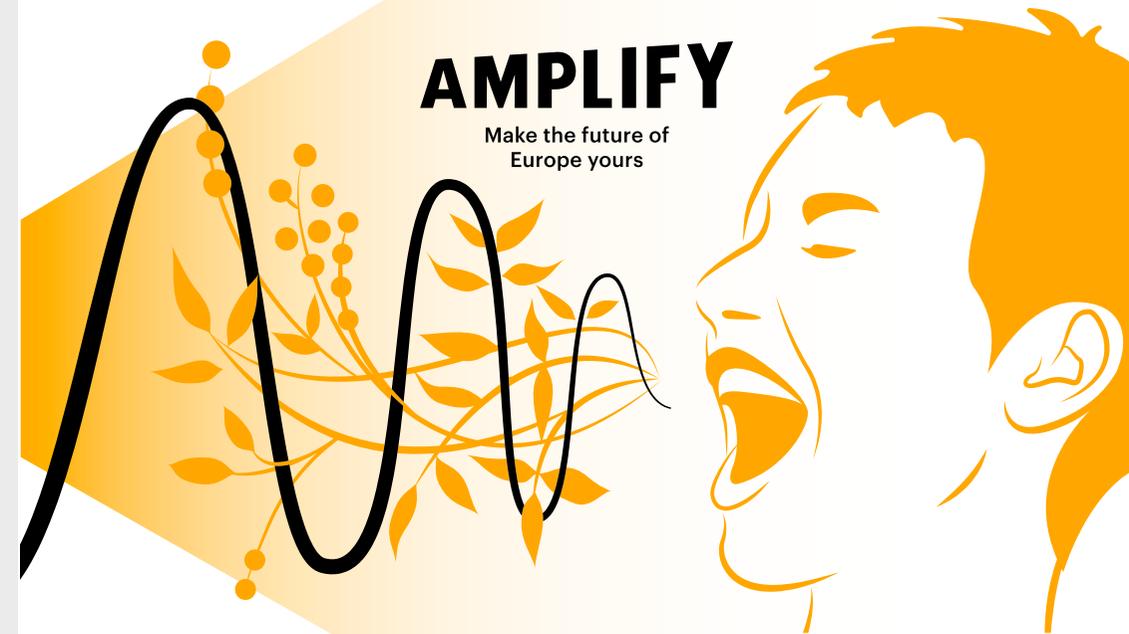


#CulturalDealEU

over 70% of which were new visitors. The day also focused on engaging in advocacy activities by sending letters to their National Governments to ask for earmarking at least 2% of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans for the cultural and creative sectors or by organising national hub meetings to discuss the deal and propose the National/Regional chapters. Culture Action Europe members in France, in Denmark and Sweden and in the Netherlands organised local meetings in order to engage with the #CulturalDealEU at the national level.

In order to get further support of the cultural community across Europe, the [#CulturalDealEU statement was opened for endorsements in 2021](#). Over 1000 cultural organisations, networks, artists and activists supported the call.

The [Annual Policy Conversation A Cultural Deal for Europe](#) was planned to take place in November 2021 in a live setting, however the event had to be postponed due to the pandemic. It took place in the end online in February 2022, with a line-up of high-level speakers from all EU major institutions.



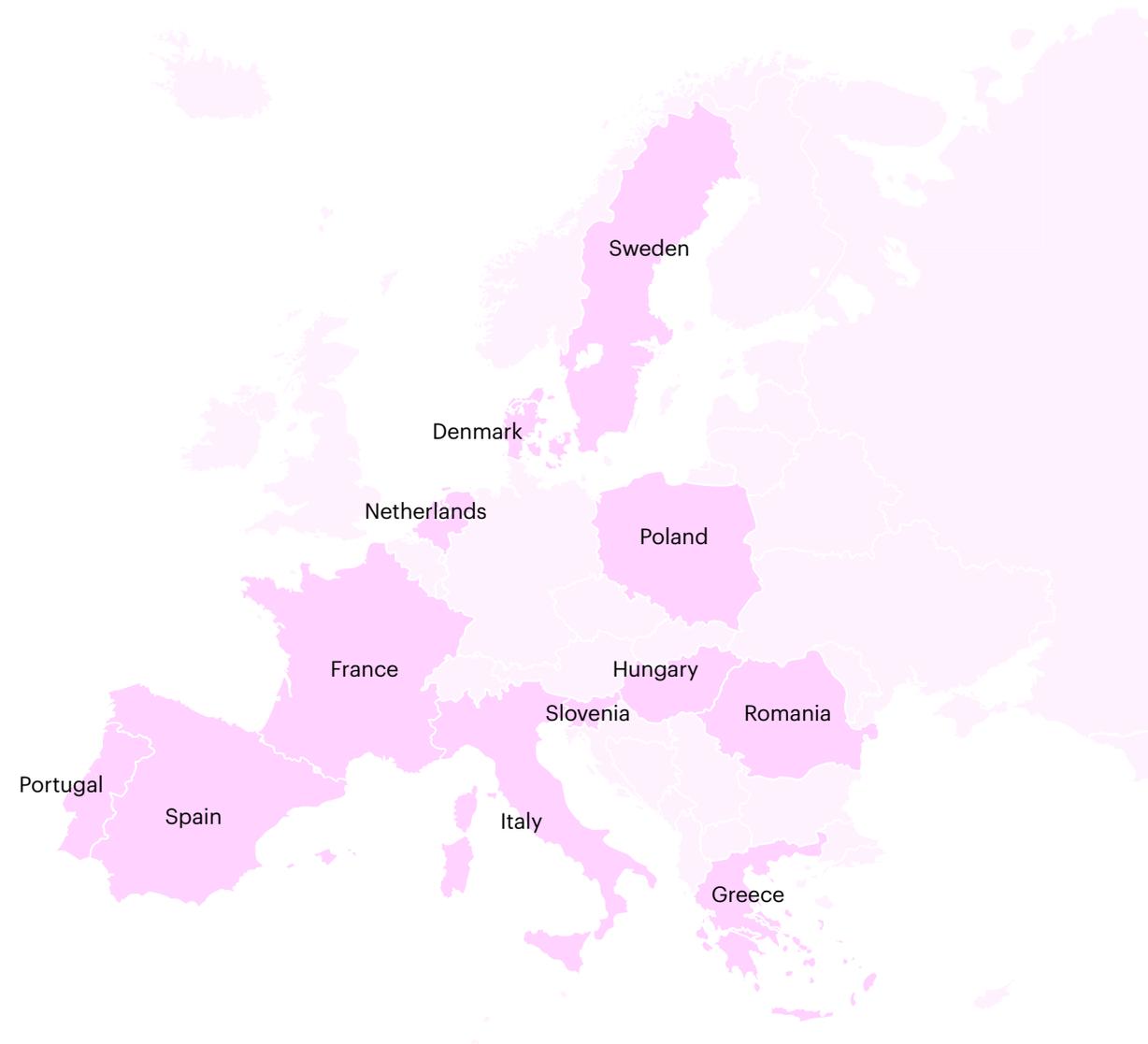
## CAE ACTIONS RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

In March 2021 the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) was finally set in motion. The CoFoE meant to give citizens a greater role in shaping the Union's future, its policies, and visions, improving its resilience. Citizens got the chance to express their views on the issues that matter to them through an online platform and through events organised locally by the Member States. The challenges the EU is facing were

discussed, including those brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and policy topics such as climate change, economic and social issues, and digital transformation.

However, the process has also been met by some reservations from the civil society regarding the inclusivity, diversity and effective participation, manifesting the need to involve the civil society social partners, young people, underrepresented groups, and local and regional governments in a structured way. Otherwise, organisations fear that the voices of citizens won't be fully represented and their contributions might not have a significant impact.

Culture Action Europe strategically engaged with the CoFoE process with a timely project that aimed to bring underrepresented voices in the cultural sector across Europe to the conference on the Future of Europe process. Co-financed by the European Parliament, the **Amplify: Make the Future of Europe Yours project** engaged with cultural agents and mediators at the intersection of arts and society by mobilising cultural initiatives that work with underrepresented communities to bring together the ideas, concerns, hopes, and demands of those groups across Europe to include in the vision of the Future of Europe. The project was implemented in 12 European countries (DK, FR, GR, HU, IT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, ES, SE) led by CAE members, bringing underrepresented voices in the cultural sector to the CoFoE through local group sessions organised by CAE members. **The project was officially launched on 7 September 2021 with an online press-conference.**



In the second part of 2021, the Amplify hubs engaged with local communities in their countries and collaborated to co-create recommendations in their local language(s) outlining ideas and concerns about the vision of the future of Europe. The twelve recommendations were submitted to the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) platform early October, in order to be picked up at the discussions in the citizens' panels. The Amplify project partners led a social media action day to give visibility to the recommendations stemming from these consultations. This action consisted of publishing a blogpost, sending a newsletter that called to action over 25k members of the CAE network and encouraging participants from each hub to use campaign materials and templates to post on social media throughout the day about their recommendations. Based on these individual proposals, Culture Action Europe developed a manifesto and disseminated widely early January 2022, including to over 100 EU decision-makers.

Culture Action Europe also joined the Civil Society Convention on the Future of Europe (CSCoFoE), an initiative coordinated by Civil Society Europe - where CAE is in the steering committee - , that aimed at creating a direct link between European civil society organisations and the Conference Plenary, ensuring transparency and compliance with European citizens' claims and aspirations.

On 18 June 2021 over 50 civil society organisations across Europe, including Culture Action Europe, joined **Citizens Take Over Europe** in signing an open letter to the Co-Chairs and Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE), calling for the inclusion of marginalised communities in the Conference. Culture Action Europe continued to support the campaign by meeting with Conference organisers, as well as signing an **open letter** early 2022 calling for transparency around the recommendations coming out of the Conference and an open letter that called for accountability of the outcomes of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

**make  
heard**

# WORKING CONDITIONS OF ARTISTS AND CULTURAL WORKERS

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated pre-existing trends, including unprecedented income loss, growing precariousness, and inequalities in the European cultural ecosystem. Facing destitution, many workers may leave the sector and thousands of institutions may close. With them, accumulated knowledge and skills would be permanently lost, and the cultural ecosystem would be profoundly weakened. A solution to tackle this challenge includes strengthening the status of artists and cultural workers and, with it, the resilience of the sector.

The CULT Committee of the European Parliament worked on an own-initiative report on the situation of artists and cultural workers and the cultural recovery in the EU, which was presented in the committee at the end of May 2021. In this frame, Culture Action Europe, together with the independent researcher Mafalda Dâmaso, has developed a **background analysis** for the Parliament's Research Service (EPRS).

The study provides an overview of the key characteristics of artists' and cultural workers' status across Europe, their working conditions, and career paths. Among the main factors that lead to the precariousness of artists and cultural workers, the study underlines the non-standard nature of their working conditions,

status and income, and artists' propensity for cross border mobility (which includes atypical situations that aren't easily translated into pre-existing categories associated with visas, social protection or taxation).

By summarising the main profiles of the relevant competencies of the EU, this background analysis tries to outline the available instruments (both legislative and non-legislative) in the EU's toolbox to adopt a comprehensive policy approach towards a European Framework for working conditions in the cultural and creative sectors and industries, as called for by the European Parliament in its **Resolution on the Cultural Recovery of Europe from September 2020**.

This would entail an articulation with relevant EU policies on competition, the internal market, social policy, fundamental rights and equality, among others, and initiatives such as the transposition of the 2019 copyright directive.

Among the most relevant issues, the study suggests that **a European Framework** might introduce a comprehensive and common approach to 'artistic work' and 'cultural work' across the Member States and EU policy-making, also in

line with UNESCO documents. It could also address the need for minimum standards and minimum requirements for the working conditions in the cultural and creative sectors, to tackle structural inequalities throughout the EU, which may ultimately undermine European cultural diversity.

Based on the background analysis, Culture Action Europe also developed **policy recommendations**. These findings have been featured in the **brainstorming report of the Voices of Culture** on the same topic, for which CAE was one of the main penholders.

## Freedom of artistic expression

Freedom of artistic expression (FoAE) is a fundamental pillar of any democratic system and a key value of the European project. Rarely researched as an autonomous legal concept, FoAE has been often conflated with other rights or freedoms or treated as a part of a broader analysis of the general freedom of expression. This has resulted in a rather fragmented and superficial picture of what freedom of artistic expression is in a global context and, especially, at European level.

**The Freedom of Artistic Expression in the European Union** publication commissioned by the **Greens/European Free Alliance Group** and developed by Culture Action Europe,, offers a general overview of the global and European legislative framework and case-law, outlining further possible courses of action aiming at strengthening the legal protection of FoAE at a European level.

The FoAE matter has been on the top tier of CAE's agenda since 2012 starting from the active support of the the **Arts Rights and Justice (ARJ)** working group to the establishment of the partnership with **Freemuse** in 2019. In January 2020, Freemuse and CAE fueled a public debate on the FoAE, while the latter launched the report on the **State of Artistic Freedom in Europe** at the European Parliament presenting recommendations to the European institutions regarding the protection and promotion of artistic expression in the EU. Additionally, CAE contributed to the "**Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**" at the UNESCO headquarter in Paris, 2020, and the same year published the position paper "**Protecting artistic freedom as a European value**", highlighting the need to develop a European handbook on the legal framework, relevant to all Member States.

Following the above, the study developed by CAE underlines the need for artistic freedom to be relevantly and efficiently protected by a precise EU legal framework. It suggests that EU Member States, as parties of the European Convention on Human Rights, should abide by the international law instruments and encourage a structured dialogue at the EU level aiming the joint action of cultural practitioners and legal experts. The joint efforts could lead to the realisation of a handbook containing guidelines for a better protection of FoAE at the EU level, including general indicators to monitor the state of freedom of artistic expression across the Union.

The legal overview of this study has been performed by **Prof. Marcin Górski**, dr. habil. (Law), associate professor of the Department of European Constitutional Law, University of Łódź (Poland). He is also an attorney, a member of the Human Rights Committee of the Polish Bar of Attorneys and head of the Legal Department of the City of Łódź. From the legal overview of Prof. Górski, **Culture Action Europe** together with **Yamam Al-Zubaidi**, drew some conclusions presented at the end of the study.

On 21 October 2021, Culture Action Europe, together with Freemuse, participated as representatives of the European cultural community in a closed-door online workshop on freedom of artistic expression with the representatives of the Member States, organised by the European Commission as part of the current Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022.

## New European Bauhaus

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a creative and interdisciplinary initiative led by the European Commission that brings the European Green Deal to daily spaces and experiences, and closer to the people. It has its focus on the creation of a sustainable and inclusive future for Europe. Culture Action Europe has been recognised by the European Commission as an official partner of the NEB.

On the 26 February CAE organised a session to inform its members about the New European Bauhaus initiative. The meeting consisted of two parts. The first one an informative part with the participation of the Head of the New European Bauhaus Unit within the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission Xavier Troussard and MEP Niklas Nienäß from the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA) to present the project, provide their views on it, and answer the questions from CAE members. The second part of the meeting, only with CAE members, collected their ideas and inputs on how to shape CAE's contribution to the "co-design" phase of the NEB.

On 29 April, the New European Bauhaus Collective (NEBC), where Culture Action Europe is part of, organised an online conference **Common Ground: Making the Renovation Wave a Cultural Project**. Culture Action Europe was in charge of one break-out session on participatory approaches that explored how collective and participatory processes led by artists and cultural agents can catalyse the challenges of sustainable and inclusive practices, which are based upon the strategic collaboration between various disciplines and sectors.

On 7 October Culture Action Europe organised a pop-up working group for its members to discuss the place for culture within the New European Bauhaus. The group also worked together to develop Culture Action Europe's position paper on the New European Bauhaus to be published in 2022.

## Artistic and cultural research and STEAM practices R+D+i

CAE has been collaborating in the definition of the ISEA2022, International Symposium on Electronic Art in Barcelona, one of the most important annual events worldwide dedicated to the crossroads where art, design, science, technology and society meet, which will take place in Barcelona in June 2022. CAE contributed to the definition of the extended ISEA activities around the city, as well as contacting most of the cultural institutions in Barcelona and designing the collaboration strategies with the public bodies (Generalitat de Catalunya and Barcelona City Council).

## NETWORK

In 2021, we welcomed 28 new members to Culture Action Europe. All categories of new members - from European networks to individual members joined in this period. We are listing them here in an alphabetical order:

- A25 Cultural Foundation (BG)
- Asociace nezávislých divadel ČR (CZ)
- Association des Amis de la Fondation Seguin (FR)
- Chris Torch (IT)
- Cosimo Del Vecchio (IT)
- Cristina Loglio (IT)
- D6:EU (CY)
- EUNIC Global (BE)
- European Creative Hubs Network (BE)
- European Folk Network (UK)
- European Region of Culture (DK)
- Fairouz Tamimi (SE)
- Fanak Fund (FR)
- Federation for European Storytelling (BE)
- Gdansk Community Foundation (PL)
- IED Istituto Europeo di Design Spa (IT)
- IN SITU / Lieux publics (FR)
- Krytyka Polityczna / Stanislaw Brzozowski Association (PL)
- MERAKI Srl (IT)

- Merve Eryuruk (TK)
- Objects of Sound (PT)
- OBSERVATORIO DAS INDUSTRIAS CRIATIVAS | i2C.ADD (PT)
- Paula Cruz Ribeiro (PT)
- SparksNet GmbH (DE)
- Suisseculture (CH)
- The European Festival Association (BE)
- The Young Quill (GR)
- Tiro Association For Arts (LB)

Warm welcome to  
our new members!

## ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

On 10 June 2021, Culture Action Europe hosted its Annual General Assembly 2021. During the meeting new **CAE strategy 2022-2024** was voted on. In a nutshell three main strategic focuses of Culture Action Europe for the period 2022-2024 were identified:

- **Culture, environment and sustainability.** CAE will specifically address the *cultural contribution to sustainability at all levels, the reorientation of cultural practices towards more sustainable models and the advocacy to ensure the sustainability of the cultural sector* itself, all including the environmental dimension.
- **Well-being (and well-living)** with a specific focus on access to and participation in culture and cultural rights. We will address the relationship of *culture to social cohesion, community building and participation, democracy, diversity and equality and health, with a specific focus on access to culture and cultural rights*. To this end, we will create strategic cross-sectoral and international partnerships with organisations that put well-being at the centre.
- **Welfare and living conditions in the cultural ecosystem.** CAE aims to work together with other initiatives to develop a political agenda that takes into account the

*specificity of the material living conditions of artists, cultural workers and organisations, with a particular attention given to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conditions of those artists and cultural workers subject to marginalisation due to gender, race, ethnicity, age, or disability.*

**These three main strategic focuses are added to CAEs actions upon the current European policies.** CAE proactively works to *mainstream culture in all relevant policy areas of EU action*. CAE's constant cooperation with the European institutions and familiarity with their procedures and inner-workings on the one side, and its proximity to members on the other, sparks a *tradition of close engagement with cultural policies and those wider agendas affecting culture at the European level*.

During the AGA the report on CAE activities and annual accounts 2020 were approved. During the event new members of the CAE Executive Committee were elected, and CAE got the official 'go ahead' from members to implement planned activities and a budget for 2021. Minutes available [here](#).

## Members' Forum 2021

On 23 and 24 April, Culture Action Europe hosted an **online Members' Forum**. The Forum offered an opportunity to plan together the next CAE strategy period, exchange on joint actions, hear about members' initiatives and get informed about Culture Action Europe's ongoing projects and campaigns. CAE Members' Forum also featured informal exchange sessions with fellow members, as well as cultural policy debates and dialogue with institutional representatives, including the Heads of Unit responsible, respectively, for Creative Europe and for Cultural Policy at the European Commission's DG EAC, Barbara Gessler and Catherine Magnant.

The contributions from this Members' Forum also shaped the Creative Europe application of Culture Action Europe, which was submitted in September 2021 and granted funding for an upcoming 3 years period. Minutes are available [here](#).

## Geographical Hubs

CAE members, members of members and external invited participants from a specific geographical area have the opportunity to come together in the CAE hub platforms. Any CAE member can initiate a hub meeting, if they get at least one other member on board.

On 13 January Culture Action Europe, Trans Europe Halles and the Danish Center for Arts & Interculture (CKI),

in collaboration with Nordisk Kulturfond and Kommunernes Landforening (KL), organised the **CAE Danish-Swedish Hub** meeting online, due to the remaining effects of the pandemic, as a following-up on the CAE Swedish Hub of the previous year. It focused on developing joint advocacy actions to call for sufficient and increased funding for the arts and culture in Europe. It also facilitated a cultural check in the Nordic region and started a conversation between cultural operators and funders in the region. As an output of this meeting, a first draft of the Nordic Chapter of the Cultural Deal for Europe was developed, which led to a debate about it on April 30th.

On 30 March, CAE organised the **French Hub** online meeting to strengthen the links between the French and European cultural sectors as well as their representation within European institutions and in debates on European cultural policy. Some topics addressed during the meeting were the presentation of the Cultural Deal for Europe, the upcoming French Presidency of the Council of the EU 2022, the Conference on the Future of Europe, Culture in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans, and the integration of culture in other EU funding mechanisms and how to create synergies.

On 10 May, marking Europe Day 2021, the Dutch EuropaPlatform hosted the **Dutch Hub** to discuss how the Deal can strengthen European cultural policy at Dutch national level. The aim was to generate concrete proposals for how to implement the Cultural Deal for Europe within the Netherlands, and to investigate ways in which to connect European campaigns to their Dutch counterparts. The focus

was on the five pillars from the Cultural Deal that were deemed most relevant to the Dutch context: 1) mainstreaming culture across all policy fields, 2) relevant and timely support to cultural workers, 3) upholding democracy and rights for a values-based Europe, 4) full inclusion of culture in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the European Green Deal and 5) philanthropy's support to the recovery of Europe.

Finally, on 18 November another **French Hub** meeting, taking place in Brussels this time, brought together representatives of the French members of CAE, MEP Salima Yenbou from the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA), the deputy councillor for Culture of the French Permanent Representation Guillemette Madinier, representatives of the Ministry of Culture, as well as three members of the executive committee of CAE (president and members of the Board of Directors), and 3 members of the CAE team. The discussions focused on CAE's report on the place of culture in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans and on the French Plan, on news of European policies and programs, CAE's main areas of work, the issues raised by the members of the HUB and the "Amplify" project as well as on the upcoming French Presidency of the Council of the EU.

# REPRESENTING THE VOICE OF CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM

CAE representatives have taken part in members' flagship events as well as in conferences organised by the EU bodies, from national to local governments, civil society, CAE membership and relevant partners, prioritising those that occur in regions less represented in the network. To highlight some examples, The Situation of Artists and Cultural Workers and the postCOVID-19 Cultural Recovery in the European Union [background analysis](#) was presented in the CULT Committee of the European Parliament, CAE participated in the 3rd civil society forum of the 2005 UNESCO Convention, in the Porto Santo Charter process and in the United Cities and Local Governments Culture Summit, as well as in several public conferences and events organised by the EU Institutions, Creative Europe consortia, and/or the network's members.

## Porto Santo Charter

[Porto Santo Charter](#) is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture, National Plan for the Arts, within the framework of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU.

In March 2021, Culture Action Europe members contributed to the process of developing the charter that puts cultural rights, cultural democracy and education as guiding principles. The team behind the Porto Santo Charter facilitated the discussion to hear the voices of cultural agents from around Europe and integrated them in the vision document. Culture Action Europe also participated and assisted in organising the Porto Santo Conference.

## #Culture2030goal campaign

As part of the [#Culture2030goal campaign](#), Culture Action Europe further continued campaigning for including culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. The campaign published its [strategy document in May 2021](#), calling for the recognition of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and for mainstreaming culture across the global development agenda. The campaign also works towards including culture as a distinct goal in the post-2030 development framework. Beyond culture's contribution to the sustainability agenda, CAE advocated for sustainability of the sector itself and started exploring the ways to promote more sustainable practices within the cultural sector.

On 20 April, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), together with UN-Habitat and Metropolis, and in partnership with the [#culture2030goal](#) campaign, the Rome City Council and Palaexpo, organised a 'Cities Are Listening'

session on culture entitled **Upgrading Culture in Sustainable Development: The Time is Now**. The session aimed to consolidate a dialogue between global cultural civil society networks, local and regional governments.

The session allowed panellists and participants to give visibility to the campaign #culture2030goal; learn from the narratives, the activities, and the challenges of global cultural networks; give visibility to the Rome Charter; visualise specific examples of work by the Orchestras of Transformation that relate culture and the arts with the SDGs; and learn from narratives, activities, and challenges of UCLG members in the field of culture.

Tere Badia, Secretary-General of Culture Action Europe, joined the event to discuss on the importance of enhancing the place of culture in the global development conversation and the mission of the #culture2030goal campaign.

Culture Action Europe participated in the **UCLG Culture Summit**, the main meeting point at the global level of cities, local governments and other stakeholders that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability, that took place in September.

CAE's President Ines Camara contributed to a workshop on the #Culture2030goal Campaign and our Policy Director Gabriele Rosana chaired a panel discussion on Covid-19 and Cultural Policies.

# CAE PROJECTS 2021

## Engaging with SWANA cultural agents in the EU

The one-year **project**, from February 2021 to January 2022, aimed at raising awareness about the specific circumstances of SWANA – the South West Asia and North African (acronym chosen to replace the mainstream MENA, Middle Eastern and North African) – cultural agents residing and working in the European Union, with a particular focus on the (post) COVID-19 context. It also looked into strengthening collaboration between SWANA cultural professionals in Europe and their European peers.

The objective was to involve this community in advocating and shaping European cultural policies and funding schemes that are more inclusive and better safeguard fundamental rights (including

working conditions, mobility, freedom of artistic expression and gender equality).

Through a research phase the particular circumstances, realities and patterns of SWANA cultural agents residing and working in the EU were identified, and helped to determine which are the main challenges to living a fulfilling professional life as well as cooperating with other EU peers, showing that the the COVID-19 crisis has abruptly aggravated those working and living conditions.

The methodology used entailed a desk-based research review of all available information in all the EU Member States on legislation and policies that might affect the SWANA community in terms of the three themes of the project – working conditions, mobility of artists and cultural workers and freedom of artistic expression. Following the preliminary desk research, reading panels with experts and community representatives were formed to further elaborate on challenges that are relevant to advance action and advocacy at EU level.

The practical results of the project are presented in the “In Search of Equal Partners: On being a SWANA artist and cultural worker in the EU” publication, which synthesises the conclusions of this collaborative research and the areas of recommendations stemming therefrom in order to intensify further advocacy on the issue of the situation of the SWANA artists and cultural workers residing in the EU.

## CultureForHealth

**CultureForHealth project** started in December 2021 and will last until May 2023. It responds to the objective of the Preparatory Action – Bottom-Up Policy Development for Culture & Well-being in the EU.

Through research the importance of the role of culture for well-being and health will be clarified and good examples of EU, national, regional and local programmes, initiatives and projects will be collected to develop a compendium of sustainable culture-based solutions for wellbeing and health targeting practitioners.

The research is complemented with the organisation of a series of roundtables and study visits in Denmark, Italy and Romania, webinars, workshops and a final conference. With doing so, CultureforHealth will facilitate cross-sectorial and trans-European cooperation aiming at the generation of knowledge and compilation of policy guidelines on how to enhance well-being through culture.

Finally, the initiative will also institute six pilot projects in Denmark, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia aiming at “management and treatment” of illnesses as well as “prevention and promotion” for a variety of life stages and age groups.

## Amplify: Make the Future of Europe Yours

Publicly launched on 7 September 2021, the Amplify: **Make the future of Europe Yours** project, co-financed by the European Parliament, worked across 12 European countries (DK, FR, GR, HU, IT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, ES, SE) bringing underrepresented voices in the cultural sector to the Conference on the Future of Europe. Project members worked 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. At the end of the project, project participants contributed to a large-scale, public campaign advocating for action at the local, national and EU level

## Come2Art

The **Come2Art** project establishes a collaborative scheme between artists and cultural workers currently in limbo and community members promoting life skills development through arts and using creative placemaking as a canvas for pilot testing the acquired skills through an inclusive approach, promoting active citizenship. The goal of this project is to develop life skills on common grounds to build community resilience.

In addition to engaging, training and mobilising artists and cultural workers, Come2Art will provide life skills to members of local communities through artistic expression, approaching creativity as a resource for building resilience. The project

will also connect local artists, community organisations and citizens through inclusive co-creativity hubs, to practically apply life skills through creative placemaking efforts, promoting active citizenship.

## Capacity building for European Capitals of Culture

The **Capacity Building for the European Capitals of Culture** project supports capacity building and peer-learning activities for ECoCs. It aims to provide selected cities with practical support where skills gaps have been identified, with a robust technical assistance structure, a set of tools, materials, practical and theoretical expertise and knowledge while enhancing networking opportunities for ECoC organising teams.

Specific activities to help build ECoCs' capacity included Academy Camps, toolkits, webinars and MOOCs. As part of the project, a repository was developed for relevant materials (e.g. documents and multimedia).

# PROJECTS NOT FUNDED

CAE was asked to be a partner for the following project applications in 2021 that were not successful or which did not materialise:

- Inner Space Creative Europe Cooperation application
- Get Everyone to the same table: eNgaging artists and Environmental activiSts for a sustaInable Society (GENESIS). Creative Europe Cooperation application
- Culture is memory in Action- CUMEAC Creative Europe Cooperation application
- Remakers Creative Europe Cooperation application
- “Fabulamundi Playwriting Europe - New Voices” Creative Europe Cooperation application
- Creative Learning Hub- Education through Culture - Erasmus+ application
- Digital Mediators – Online Training in Digital Tools for Non-Formal Educators

and Mediators from Arts, Culture, Science, Heritage, Communities and Schools - Erasmus plus application

- COMMOCI - COMunity-based Museums and Other Cultural Institutions - Horizon application
- Hybridence - Horizon application
- Culture for Climate Neutrality -3CN - Horizon application

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