

# Culture Action Europe Activity Report 2022

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

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# Highlights of 2022

## Cultural Deal for Europe

**The European cultural community  
proposes a transversal and overarching  
Cultural Deal for Europe  
to place culture at the heart  
of the European project.**



**#CulturalDealEU**

The year started with an online ***Annual Policy Conversation: A Cultural Deal for Europe***. The major conference, brought together by the Cultural Deal for Europe partners (Culture Action Europe, the European Cultural Foundation, Europa Nostra) with a line-up of high-level speakers, focused on the contribution of culture to Europe's recovery and to its green, sustainable and inclusive future through the European Green Deal, the Conference on the Future of Europe and the New European Bauhaus, of which the three hosting organisations are official partners. The aim of this policy conversation was to inspire and engage the wider European community of artists, cultural workers, creative industries and heritage stakeholders in building a future that is more resilient and sustainable for Europe and its citizens.

Some of the speakers that participated in the event included: Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth; French Minister for

Culture Roselyn Bachelot, representatives of the French Presidency-in exercise of the Council of the EU and the Czech Permanent Representation to the EU (Guillemette Madinier and Yvona Havel); MEP Monica Semedo (Renew Europe, Luxembourg); MEP Salima Yenbou (then Greens/EFA, France); MEP Marcos Ros Sempere (S&D, Spain); MEP Iskra Mihaylova (Renew Europe, Bulgaria); and MEP Sabine Verheyen (EPP, Germany), Chair of the European Parliament's Culture and Education Committee (CULT).

In May 2022, the Cultural Deal for Europe partners co-organised a workshop in Brussels in CAE's office, bringing together the teams from the three partner organisations to co-develop mid-term #CulturalDealEU strategy and collectively brainstorm on mid-term developments for the campaign as well as concrete actions to undertake in the near future.

The one-day workshop focused on sketching out in a participatory way the main mid-term features of the **#CulturalDealEU** two years after its inception, highlighting the sustainability dimension and singling out a dimension of support for Ukraine and its cultural sectors. Following-up on this meeting, a proposal for a "Cultural Deal for Ukraine", sketching out concrete measures to support the Ukrainian cultural sectors at large, was then presented in a dedicated Exchange of Views in the CULT Committee of the European Parliament by the three organisations.

In this framework, the Council Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026, the main roadmap for coordination of cultural policies in the EU, came into the spotlight. Kicking-off the mobilisation of the wider cultural ecosystem in the run-up to the preparation of the work leading to the Council Work Plan for Culture.

## **CAE's in the Council Work plan for Culture 2023-2026**

CAE's Secretary General Tere Badia was invited on 31 May in Paris to deliver a keynote address at the first informal Cultural Affairs Committee meeting of the Council kicking off the exchanges on the Council Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026.

Following the Paris intervention, on 11 July CAE organised a closed-door working session bringing together its members from the wider cultural ecosystem and representatives from 15 EU Member States. The meeting was hosted by the Czech Representation to the EU in its premises in Brussels. CAE members, cultural attachés who sit in the Council's Cultural Affairs

Committee and representatives of the European Commission discussed key features of the actions needed to be implemented for the cultural and creative sectors to thrive. The workshop created the space for CAE members to share their insights, engage in a shared dialogue and develop a concrete set of policy recommendations to be included in the new Work Plan. The priorities identified and further developed range from working conditions in the cultural sector to sustainability, from wellbeing to international cultural relations, and from cultural rights to artistic research and education. The Council Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 was adopted in November taking on board many of the inputs received.

## The 2022 Edition of Beyond the Obvious gathering

### CULTUROPOLIS: International Days on Cultural Rights

Culture Action Europe hosted its annual Beyond the Obvious (BtO) gathering in November 2022 for the first time since the pandemic.

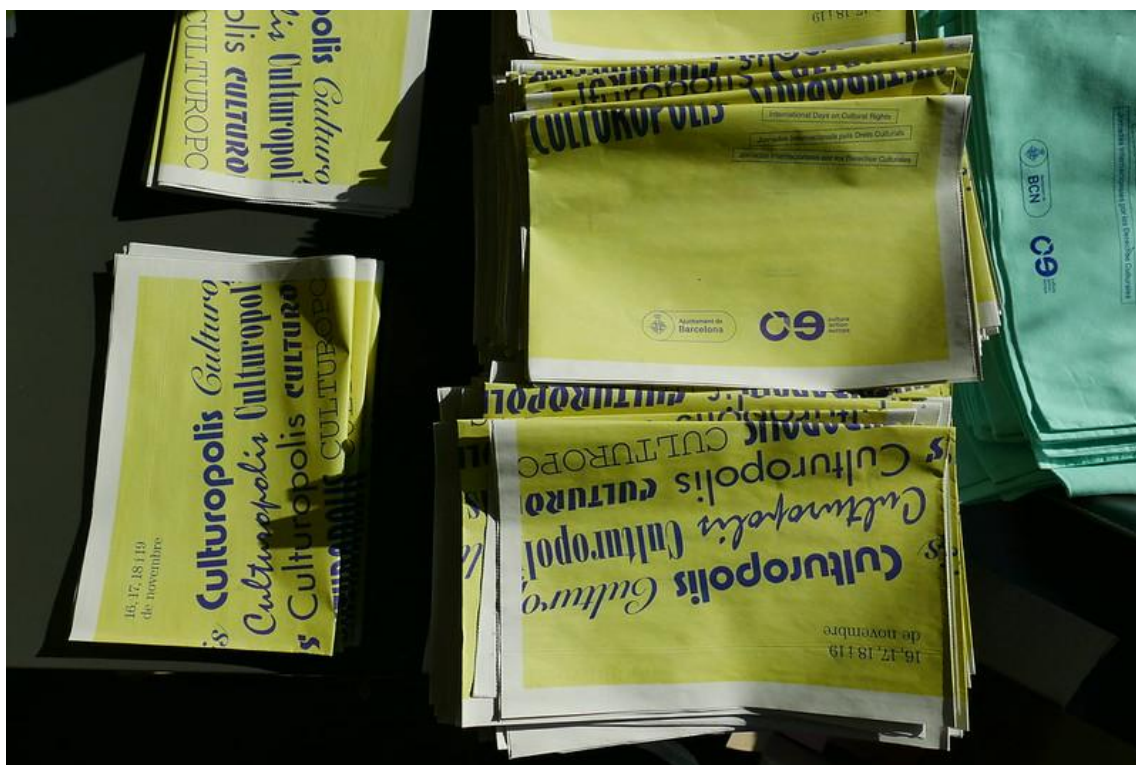
**CULTUROPOLIS: International Days on Cultural Rights**, the 2022 edition of the Beyond the Obvious conference took place in Barcelona, 15-19 November. Co-organised by the Culture Institute of Barcelona and Culture Action Europe (CAE) and in partnership with the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the international gathering hosted an academic congress, open debates, participatory formats and project marketplace on lines of work focused on **rights to access and participation in cultural life, cultural work, sustainability, diversities, participation and communities and digital environments**.

Throughout the conference, CULTUROPOLIS showcased a selection of public, private or community projects and good practices, in order to highlight various ways of exercising cultural rights. The conference fostered knowledge transfer and relations between arts and culture practice and research. Conference features like the Culturopolis Marketplace created places of dialogue, knowledge and interaction among the projects, research and people attending CULTUROPOLIS.

The speakers represented a broad range of backgrounds and practices, bringing perspectives from across European, local and grassroots levels. In addition, multidisciplinary research was shared, ranging from topics focused on cultural space and disability to gender justice to cultural mediation for public policies.

The conference also presented an artistic programme filled with exhibitions, concerts, interventions, radio shows, performances and artistic workshops, all related to exercising cultural rights, with the aim of raising awareness and promoting the involvement of cultural agents and the general public.

In the framework of CULTUROPOLIS, Culture Action Europe together with its member Michael Culture Association hosted a special edition of the Frequencies podcast. This special edition “Tales from CULTUROPOLIS” published four episodes inspired by conversations of the Barcelona gathering. Episodes explored topics of diversity, communities and participation, digital environments and cultural work.



## Launch of the CultureForHealth report

Wellbeing and well-living are one of the strategic strands of CAE for 2021-2024, thereby the launch of the “CultureForHealth Report. Culture’s contribution to health and well-being. A report on evidence and policy recommendations for Europe” in November 2022 was a key milestone contributing to this strategic goal. The report was launched in the European Parliament as a seminar co-chaired by Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and MEP Sabine Verheyen, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament. A week later, it was followed by an online event with over 200 registrations and featured speakers from the World Health Organisations, the European Parliament as well as gave space for case examples.

The CultureForHealth Report, produced jointly by the consortium, compiles evidence from over 310 scientific studies that participation in cultural activities improves the health & well-being of citizens. It has also formulated a set of policy recommendations with the ambition to trigger a true policy change in the EU on all levels. The report gives additional argumentation for convincing decision makers and politicians - and changes the narrative from the economic argumentation why culture should be funded. The project also produced a database of mapped initiatives on Culture, Health and Wellbeing, collecting over 800+ projects now that can serve as inspiration for others. The database is searchable by country, target group, art field and the collection of cases is still ongoing.

CultureForHealth implements the EU Preparatory Action: Bottom-Up Policy Development for Culture & Well-being in the EU, by a consortium consisting of Cluj Cultural Centre, Trans Europe Halles, Central Denmark Region, The Northern Dimension Partnership of Culture, Društvo Asociacija and CAE.



## #AmplifyinAction on #EuropeDay2022



On 9 May, Europe Day 2022, the project “Amplify: Make the Future of Europe Yours” concluded with its final event, #AmplifyinAction, dedicated to taking action to make the voices of artists, cultural workers, activists and community leaders heard by decision-makers across Europe. Both in-person and live-streamed, this full day of action put arts and culture at the centre of discussions around the future of Europe and featured the voices of the Amplify participants, covering issues related to climate, youth, equity, diversity and inclusion, values and rights, among others.

The event took place in Brussels and reached across Europe through a live stream. The event venue at BOZAR became a live studio where Polina Moroz, Beatrice Duodu, Guillemette Madinier (representative from the French Presidency of the Council of the EU), Angelos Agalianos (policy officer at the European Commission), Daryna Zhyvohliadova, Teresa O’Connell, Taras Nazaruk and 8 art students shared their messages with the public and had the chance to interact with policymakers who joined the event online like Members of the European Parliament Laurence Farreng (Renew Europe, France), Alexis Georgoulis (The Left, Greece),



Niklas Nienaaß (Greens/EFA, Germany) and the representatives of the hubs that worked in the Amplify project.

The event was completed with the social media campaign #AmplifyinAction, allowing everyone to share their comments, opinions, questions, investigations, art projects and more, aiming to create a more powerful and strong message to the European Union about the importance of arts and culture in the future of Europe.

#AmplifyinAction was part of Europe Day 22, a day full of online and offline activities across Europe. Jointly curated by Culture Action Europe (Brussels), Centre for fine arts – BOZAR (Brussels), the European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam) and De Balie (Amsterdam), the day offered a wide range of debates, conversations, presentations, cultural and artistic program and actions to celebrate and shape the future of Europe together, the future that responds to current challenges, aspirations and dreams of Europeans.

## #Culture2030Goal Campaign Proposes a Cultural Goal

During the MONDIACULT meeting in Mexico City, the **Culture2030Goal campaign** presented a zero-draft of a potential future development goal focused on culture.

With no explicit focus on culture in the UN 2030 Agenda, opportunities to mobilise the cultural sector, to draw on its reach, insights and energy to accelerate development are being overlooked. The group emphasises that mobilisation is essential, given the long and difficult road left to travel to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The seven international organisations behind the #Culture2030Goal campaign – United Cities and Local Governments' Culture Committee, the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Music Council (IMC), the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), Arterial Network, Culture Action Europe (CAE) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) – are committed to rectifying this situation, now and in future.

In the short term, global cultural networks propose this passes through the **closer engagement of the cultural sector in policy** planning and implementation. The campaign has welcomed the **MONDIACULT 2022** conference, its focus on sustainable development, and hopes that it can still fulfil its potential to transform the way we think about cultural policy.

Yet in the long term only **an explicit culture goal**, agreed upon at the highest level, can deliver the profile and focus needed. With the halfway point in the 2030 Agenda imminent, and key UN meetings in 2023 which are likely to shape the run-up to the post-2030 Agenda, it is time to reflect on what this could look like.

The proposal outlines 5 key reasons why we need a dedicated cultural goal:

1. To ensure **adequate focus on culture** at the highest level of government.
2. To ensure that the range of **connections between culture and other policy areas** are fully accounted for.
3. To ensure that the culture sector itself feels a **sense of engagement in and ownership** of the goals.
4. To ensure that all **other goals are activated**, and that their achievement is strengthened, through the **mobilising power of culture**.
5. To ensure that the achievement of all goals can be **protected from systemic and behavioural barriers** that can be addressed through a cultural lens.

At the end of Mondiacult 2022, the Ministers of Culture of the Member States of UNESCO adopted a declaration, highlighting willingness to integrate a specific Culture Goal in the post-2030 development agenda. #Culture2030Goal Campaign partners welcomed this undertaking but called on world leaders to not miss the opportunity again to explicitly recognise the role of culture as an accelerator of development today, and a pillar of any future inclusive development model, as they did in the years up to 2015.

## Culture Action Europe has a new graphic identity!

On 27 June 2022 we launched the new Culture Action Europe graphic identity! Since the last logo change in 2006, CAE has grown and changed as an organisation and community. This new identity represents the movement and vivacity of the ongoing work of the network. New logo, together with new brochures and templates, have been developed.

We are proud of our new look!

# Advocacy

## New European Bauhaus

Following the first meeting of Culture Action Europe's pop-up Working Group on the New European Bauhaus (NEB) in autumn 2021 in reaction to the Commission's Communication on the NEB, a second online exchange took place on 28 February 2022 to shape the network's position on the initiative.

In March, Culture Action Europe consulted its wide cross-sectoral membership made up of over 170 networks, organisations, policy-makers, activists, individuals, to draft the policy recommendations, in reaction to the Commission's Communication on the New European Bauhaus, and in order to constructively contribute to the own-initiative report by the European Parliament.

***New European Bauhaus Festival*** - from 9 to 12 June, the Culture Strand Offices of the Creative Europe Desk community participated in the Fair of the New European Bauhaus Festival. On 10 June, Culture Action Europe's Policy Director, Gabriele Rosana, contributed to the session, "**What is the role of Arts and Culture in the NEB initiative?**". Inspired by the position paper on the New European Bauhaus of Culture Action Europe, this panel was an opportunity to reflect on and debate how cultural and arts organisations could be more actively engaged in the New European Bauhaus initiative.

## SWANA Artists and Cultural Workers

On 20 January 2022, Culture Action Europe published a new research report: **In Search of Equal Partners: On being a SWANA artist and cultural worker in the EU**, which revealed particular circumstances, realities and patterns of SWANA artists and cultural workers residing in the EU and determined which are the main challenges to living a fulfilling professional life as well as cooperating with other EU peers.

The proposed methodology 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 purpose of the series of consultations and collective research with the SWANA community of artists and cultural workers within the EU, led by the main researcher Yamam Al-Zubaidi, was to deliver practical results by formulating policy recommendations and advocacy actions, mainly addressed to European institutions but also to the cultural sector community itself. 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 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.

## Artists at risk

The issue of artists at risk and displaced artists came into the spotlight as a consequence of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 and the Russian brutal aggression of Ukraine in February 2022. CAE organised an online meeting on the 10th of February to provide a briefing on the situation of Afghan artists and cultural activists in order to inspire action and to design a collective plan. We reached out to our members to take action at local and regional level as well as working with national governments and EU institutions, to build support mechanisms for our Afghan peers, including relocation to cultural organisations in Europe where they can continue to work.

Together with our partners from the Cultural Deal for Europe campaign (ECF, Europa Nostra), CAE opened up a new strand of activities focused on the support for the cultural sectors at large in Ukraine, and resulting in a set of policy recommendations presented to the EU Institutions. To date, the Commission has already acted upon some of them.

# Network

## Member's Forum June 2022

On 23 June 2022, right after Culture Action Europe held its Annual General Assembly the Members' Forum took place in an online discussion moderated from the CAE office in Brussels. It involved a networking activity and presentation of new members as well as a discussion on the Advocacy priorities for the Council Work Plan for Culture 2022-2026. The meeting minutes of the Members Forum is [available here](#).

## New members joining Culture Action Europe in 2022

We are happy that 63 new members joined Culture Action Europe in 2022. Representing different sectors and different countries, from European networks to individual members, the Culture Action Europe community remains diverse and colorful! Meet our new members:

A25 Cultural Foundation | Art Futures | Art27Scotland | Asociace nezávislých divadel ČR | Asociación Kudwa | Ass. cult. ZERKALO | Association des Amis de la Fondation Seguin | Blumbergs Foundation | Bundesmusikverband Chor & Orchester e.V. | ChildPress | Chris Torch | Circolo del Design | Cirkus Syd | Club Silencio | Compagnia Materiaviva | Cosimo Del Vecchio | Creative Institute Trenčín | Cristina Loglio | D6 Culture EU Ltd | Daryna Zhyvohliadova | EUNIC Global | European Creative Hubs Network | European Folk Network | European Region of Culture | Fairouz Tamimi | Fanak Fund | Federation for European Storytelling | Festival Girona en Moviment | Frederick Robin | Galerie ART CRU Berlin / PS-Art e.V. Berlin | Gdansk Community Foundation | Guillermo Rodríguez | IED Istituto Europeo di Design S.p.A. - Società Benefit | IN SITU / Lieux publics | Journalism liberal | Jumana Al-Yasiri | Krytyka Polityczna / Stanislaw Brzozowski Association | kukutana.net | La Tempesta: City, culture & technology |

LEVEL | Luca Bergamo | Masahat-Open Spaces for Arab Culture in Exile | MERAKI Srl | Merve Eryuruk | MiklagardArts | Município de Oeiras | Nawar Alhusari | Non-Governmental Organization Volyn Foundation | Objects of Sound | OBSERVATORIO DAS INDUSTRIAS CRIATIVAS | i2C.ADD [PORTUGAL] | Paula Cruz Ribeiro | Rajae Mechkour | Red de Espacios y Agentes de Cultura Comunitaria, REACC | RED NOSES International | Space-time Works AB | SparksNet GmbH | Suisseculture | TEATRO SCIENTIFICO/TEATRO LABORATORIO | Terramar Museum Foundation | The European Festival Association | The Young Quill | Third Space Collective/Gallery | Tiro Association For Arts

## Culture Action Europe 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 hubs. Any CAE member can initiate a hub meeting, if they get at least one other member on board.

In 2022 the following hubs took place:

### Germany

On 8 February 2022 the Culture Action Europe -German Hub meeting took place online. Participants discussed the actions to take in the context of the new government in Germany. CAE members planned to draft a joint letter to the decision makers offering the networks expertise and knowledge as well as proposals for the next Work plan for Culture drawing on the key topics of CAE's strategy strands for 2022-2024. The upcoming CAE activities were discussed and their relevance for German CAE members as well as the planning of an next German hub.

### France

On 24 May the French CAE Hub met in order to produce a first feedback of the exchanges on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022 of the EU Council and the recommendations on the upcoming plan 2023-2026. The Hub was solicited in doing so by the French Minister of Culture, in order to present the results to the Commission on Cultural Affairs. The result of the meeting was a Summary Document (titled Initial Feedback and Recommendations on the Work Plan for Culture) containing the feedback on the past Work Plan and some suggestions for the priorities



of the upcoming Work Plan. The French Hub met also in the framework of the Amplify Project on 9 May, Europe's Day, in Paris.

### **Switzerland**

In the beginning of December 2022 a Swiss CAE hub meeting took place. The Swiss cultural sector is not able to join nor the Creative Europe program, nor the Horizon and Erasmus+ programs. Since the Swiss government cancelled the negotiations of the institutional framework with the EU in May 2021 there is no sign of a development especially from the Swiss government. CAE office proposed a series of actions and levels where advocacy could take place such as organising meetings with the Swiss representation in Brussels, drafting an open letter or making horizontal connections with other CAE members from third country states like the UK for an exchange of experiences and to join forces.

# CAE Projects 2022

## Pro-CCS: Microfunding Cultural and Creative Sectors

The Pro-CCS: Microfunding Cultural and Creative Sectors project, which will run until January 2024, supports the overall cultural and creative sectors (CCS) by bridging the skills gap of professionals in the sector and connecting them with the business and microfinance sector. The aim of this project is to support cultural entrepreneurs in the implementation and financing of their business ideas since the challenges in accessing finance are one of the most critical obstacles to its growth, especially with the ongoing Covid-19 crisis generating a sudden and massive loss of revenue opportunities.

This project will create access to a European community of mentors who are specialised in providing online training and tutoring to CCS professionals as well as supporting their microbusiness ideas by easing access to credit and funding opportunities. The project will also support financial intermediaries in better understanding of unique needs of the CCS and to reinforce their awareness of the economic potential of the sector itself. Specifically, Pro-CCS will develop a training course for financial tutors and business development services providers, a distance training course addressed to CCS professionals, and a toolkit addressed to financial intermediators to support business start-up in the cultural and creative sector.

**Pro-CCS** is a transversal project, as it is led by a diverse group of partners that cover the full range of the project activities: a national public body (**Ente Nazionale per il Microcredito, Italy**) expert in the implementation of microfinance policies and tools at European and national level; an innovation and business centre (**InnoGrowth, Bulgaria**); a business incubator part of a worldwide network (**ImpactHub Leipzig, Germany**); one umbrella organization supporting the CCS at EU level (**Culture Action Europe, Belgium**); one consultancy company (**Euradia Italia**) specialized in institutional relations, project management and communication.

## Culture For Health

The [CultureForHealth project](#) is an EU Preparatory Action titled “ Bottom-Up Policy Development for Culture & Well-being in the EU” and aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and success stories in the EU related to the role of culture in well-being and health. CultureForHealth is implemented by a consortium consisting of Culture Action Europe, Trans Europe Halles, Central Denmark Region, The Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, Cluj Cultural Centre, and Društvo Asociacija. The project is co-funded by the European Union. Key outputs of the project was the “[CultureForHealth Report](#). Culture’s contribution to health and well-being. A report on evidence and policy recommendations for Europe”, a database of mapped initiatives on Culture, Health and Wellbeing, collecting over 800+ projects that can serve as inspiration to anyone planning to start such an initiative and the implementation of cross- sectoral roundtables in Denmark, Italy and Romania, as well as the implementation of six pilot projects on the ground: 1. Culture in Hospitals, 2. Arts and Culture in Nursing Homes - by Central Denmark region 3. Music and Motherhood (targeting women with postpartum depression) - by Cluj Cultural Centre, 4. Inclusion of Art in businesses and companies- by Društvo Asociacija 5. Intergenerational social well being with participatory arts and culture: Social well-being laboratories - by Trans Europe Halles - Associazione Oltre in Bologna, Italy, 6. Mind the gap - by [Trans Europe Halles](#) - Truc spherique in Zilina, Slovakia.

## Come2Art

**Come2Art** connects local artists, community organisations and citizens through inclusive co-creativity hubs, to practically apply life skills through creative placemaking efforts, promoting active citizenship. In addition to engaging, training and mobilising artists and cultural workers, **Come2Art provides life skills to members of local communities through artistic expression**, approaching creativity as a resource for building resilience. Come2Art puts artists at the centre of collective planning and implementation of creative placemaking projects, such as mural arts and public art sculptures in order to give citizens alternative ways of expression and social connection. Artists have **a leading social role in building community resilience through arts**, and involved citizens will acquire life skills, such as self-regulation of emotions, flexibility, communication and collaboration, digital content creation, critical and creative thinking.

COME2ART Partnership comprises 7 key players from 4 EU countries namely: ActionAid Hellas, Greece, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, Culture Action Europe, Belgium, Melting Pro, Italy, Clube Intercultural, Portugal, IoDeposito, Italy, Creativity Platform, Greece.

# Projects closed in 2022

## Capacity Building for the 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, Online training materials and podcasts. As part of the project, a repository was developed for relevant materials (e.g. documents and multimedia) that was transferred to the European Commission- still awaiting to be re-published.

## 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.

## Engaging with SWANA cultural agents in the EU

Engaging with SWANA cultural agents in the EU The 14 month project, starting from February 2021 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).