



Feedback on the Creative Europe Programme

The following note was produced by Culture Action Europe to the attention of Silvia Costa – Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education at the European Parliament. As the voice of culture in Europe, CAE’s feedback on the Creative Europe Programme represents an opinion of the culture sector’s concerns, provided by a network of 145 members in different arts and cultural domains, as well as an extended network of contacts. For more specific suggestions into particular sub-sector challenges, we recommend targeted consultations with our members.

1) Recognition of culture’s impact on cohesion and inclusiveness

Our members regret that the current Creative Europe Programme gives preponderance to the economic dimension over other key impacts of arts and culture. While culture and the arts certainly contribute to boosting economic growth and creating jobs, culture is also key to strengthening social cohesion, civil society engagement, security, inclusiveness, and intercultural and intergenerational dialogue. Considering the challenges the EU is currently facing, culture is also a means to promote the core values of the European Union project, and to foster a better understanding of the European Union and its activities on national, regional and local levels. **In this regard, CAE advocates for a holistic consideration of culture’s value in the elaboration of future programmes, including its intrinsic dimension as well as its social impact.**

2) Clarification and supervision of the Financial Guarantee Facility on non-commercial organisations

Culture Action Europe’s members welcome the - albeit belated - implementation of the Financial Guarantee Facility. Nonetheless, and as already correctly stated by the CULT Committee, doubts remain over the possibility for non-commercial SMEs to access this fund and its usefulness for not-for profit organisations - a target group originally seen as beneficiaries of such a facility. **CAE calls for a clarification of the Financial Guarantee Facility in order to ensure that it serves the purpose of helping every cultural agent, and we advocate for the CULT Committee to closely monitor its implementation.**

3) Transparency and consideration of qualitative aspects in the evaluation process

Culture Action Europe members call for greater transparency in the evaluation process of submitted applications, including for those not selected for funding. Giving a clear picture

of selection criteria and making available data on the general topics of successful (and unsuccessful) applications is essential to create a better sense of understanding and faith in the objectivity of funding decisions. By defining its evaluation criteria, the Commission should include qualitative dimensions, and avoid focusing merely on quantitative data. Additionally, a review of the evaluation and selection process is necessary, including more debates amongst the full jury and the involvement of the applicant to clarify details of the application if necessary. **CAE calls for a re-thinking of the selection criteria, heightening objectivity of scores. In general, the indicator system used for Creative Europe project assessments needs to be broadened and a focus on qualitative impact measurement should be considered.**

4) Review of the funding process for a more secure treasury management
Culture Action Europe members notified that financial insecurity tends to emerge from the very late and partial funding of the Creative Europe Programme. This, in turn, has the effect of complicating treasury management for small structure, and can eventually hurt the overall management. **CAE calls for a review of the funding process in order to give small organisations more financial stability through secure treasury management.**

Overall, Culture Action Europe calls on the European Commission to re-think the Europe Creative Programme, based on the necessity to better recognise culture's intrinsic social value as well as to focus on qualitative impact measurement in the elaboration of future programmes. We also call for a clarification of the Financial Guarantee Facility and for a review of the funding process, along with more transparency in the evaluation procedure.

Moreover, CAE underlines the necessity to think beyond the limited framework of the on-going programme, and insists on the necessity to place culture in a central position in order to respond to challenges faced in the European Union today. Therefore, **Culture Action Europe suggests that modifications to the Creative Europe Programme as well as other future culture and media actions are seen as part of a general strategy to include culture as a key element for transformation and change.**