**Culture Action Europe’s recommendations**

**on the**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME (2014-2016)**

*In July 2016, Silvia Costa (Chair of the CULT Committee at the European Parliament) presented her reflections on the implementation of the Creative Europe Programme. We welcomed the inclusion of the comments presented by CAE in the* [*‘Feedback on the Creative Europe Programme’*](http://cultureactioneurope.org/news/feedback-on-the-creative-europe-programme/) *in her speech. In particular, our calls for the recognition of culture’s impact on* ***cohesion and inclusiveness*** *and the need for* ***more transparency*** *and consideration of* ***qualitative aspects in the evaluation process****.*

In this paper, we go further in advocating for concrete, and operational changes in the programme that could boost both its efficiency and relevance for the cultural and creative sector. These recommendations reflect the feedback received from our members during the implementation of the Creative Europe programme in the period 2014-2016.

**More transparency**

We highlight again the need for more transparency in the implementation and the evaluation process of the programme. Applicants would benefit from more transparency in the **selection of** evaluators. Better transparency would result from data being made available **on the** general topics of successful (and unsuccessful) projects**.** Publishing the details of supported projectsin relation to the main guiding values of the programme (skills development, mobility, etc.) would provide a better understanding of the balance of priorities of Creative Europe. Lastly, guaranteeing transparency in the overall process is fundamental to sustain the high standards the Creative Europe programme is known for, as previously [stated](http://cultureactioneurope.org/news/cae-statement-on-the-euyo-case/) by CAE.

**Simplification and balance**

The evaluation of projects should be better balanced between content and structural requirements. **The** application process is considered too onerous for cultural operators, especially considering the (low) success rate. Culture Action Europe advocates for the inclusion of a 2-stage application process in the next programme, in line with Horizon 2020. The first stage would pre-select projects based on content**.** Short-listed applicants would then be required to provide structural elements, such as legal and financial details. This wouldenhance efficiency by reducing the burden on both evaluators and applicants.

**Better coverage of the CCS**

The imbalance between the granting of media/creative and cultural projects has to be addressed**,** with more consideration given to the latter. The implementation of the Financial Guarantee Facility, requires particular clarification, including the indicators evaluating the Facility with regard to non-commercial SMEs and its usefulness for not-for-profit organisations.

**Reporting and programme evaluation**

Lastly, we call for the final evaluation of funded projects to be improved. Measuring the outcome and impact of projects is essential for the beneficiaries as well as for EACEA and DG EAC. This would contribute to continuous improvement of policy while minimising the risk of having the funding of this crucial scheme (yet again) threatened with abolition.

We hope these elements will be taken into consideration when the European parliament drafts its report on the implementation of the Creative Europe programme, and that the European Commission will also include our proposals in its mid-term review (due for the end of 2017).

Overall, we truly wish for the next cultural funding programme to be as supportive to our sector as it can be. At Culture Action Europe, we believe that the EU should place culture in a central position in order to respond to the challenges faced in the European Union today. We suggest that future modifications in the Creative Europe Programme are seen as part of a general strategy to include culture as a key element for transformation and change.

**Culture Action Europe is the main voice of the cultural and creative sector in the European Union.**

**We are a network of 145 organisations, representing over 80,000 individuals throughout the EU.**

**CAE is dedicated to promote culture as a necessary condition for sustainable development both at a local and European scale.**