



# **Position Paper on the Role of Culture in the Next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034**

June 2024

[cultureactioneurope.org](https://cultureactioneurope.org)



**Culture Action Europe**, a pan-European network representing 240 cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics, and policymakers, advocates for the significant and visible role of culture, arts, and humanities in the forthcoming EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034 (FP10).

Research & Innovation (R&I) bring Europe forward during a time marked by global challenges and uncertainty. Creative thinking, experimental research, and open-ended settings are essential for generating new knowledge, understanding, and skills that drive change.

The EU is not only a community of constitutional and democratically constituted societies but also a community of values. Linguistic and cultural diversity, and states' active role in promoting culture, education, and political participation are the European traits that provide a competitive edge globally.

The development of FP10 presents an opportunity to highlight these unique features. R&I within and through the humanities and arts, as well as the innovative potential of the creative and cultural sectors and industries (CCSI), can stimulate social resilience, sustainability and competitiveness (see Culture Action Europe's [open letter to Mario Draghi](#)).

Therefore, we are addressing the European Commission (including its [Expert Group](#) on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon Europe, which will provide strategic recommendations on maximising the impact of EU Research and Innovation programmes in the future), EU member states, and the European Parliament with four considerations on how to shape FP10 post-2027:

#### **1. Strengthen the Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts (SSHA) contributions to Horizon Europe.**

The diversity of research disciplines is a key strength of the Horizon Europe programme, which promotes not only cross-border but also cross-disciplinary cooperation, forming an important building block for FP10. We support further fine-tuning of the funding programme with lessons learned from past years, engaging key R&I stakeholders. This diversity and permeability between disciplines also enable smaller projects to contribute significantly to the generation of new knowledge and the promotion of knowledge exchange. The implementation of a separate cluster within the Horizon Europe programme dedicated to culture, creativity and inclusive society, also covering SSHA, was a first step ahead towards diversity. To strengthen and consolidate this, we encourage decision-makers to:

- maintain a separate cluster dedicated to culture, creativity and inclusive society (or similar) as part of FP10;
- continue integrating culture and creativity-related R&I topics as structural elements in the next Framework Programme;

- ensure a balanced mix of funding for applied research and basic research, for technological disciplines and the cultural and creative sectors, for using empirical and non-empirical methods;
- involve experts from arts and humanities in the various selection committees, juries, expert groups, boards and other bodies related to the EU R&I policies, including in the European Research Council and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

## **2. Increase the Social Science, Humanities & Arts budget.**

Funding R&I is an investment in the future of European societies. According to the [European Parliamentary Research Service](#), each euro invested in the common EU action supporting or complementing existing funding for the creative and cultural sector could potentially generate a return of up to €11 of GDP. To maintain Europe's strategic autonomy and enhance its global competitiveness, we propose increasing the budget for the SSHA-focused cluster to at least 200 million euros annually.

## **3. Artistic research.**

Artistic research drives innovation in the CCSI, addresses major social challenges, strengthens social cohesion, enhances democracy, and advances green and digital transformations. As a distinct research domain, artistic research generates new insights through artistic practice and reflection, following its own epistemic logic in line with the five core criteria to identify good research practices as set out in the Frascati Manual ([FM 2015, 1.33, p. 28](#)) and [Vienna Declaration](#). Artistic research spans all art disciplines and generates knowledge within these fields and in transdisciplinary contexts. The legal framework for FP10 should explicitly state that the programme aims to make significant contributions not only to research in the cultural and creative sectors but also to artistic research. The legal base should also outline that research outputs may be presented as artistic practices or cultural or creative works.

## **4. Reduce prescriptiveness to offer flexibility.**

Given the exploratory, innovative, and performative nature of artistic research and practices, it is crucial to maintain research freedom in artistic research. The next FP10 should ensure that the topic descriptions in destinations (calls), including their scope and expected outcomes, are less prescriptive and more adaptable to accommodate various methodologies for achieving desired impacts.

**In light of the preparation for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034, Culture Action Europe remains open to further discussions with respective stakeholders from both EU institutions and the cultural sector on the role of culture in FP10.**