Dear Culture Action Europe Members,

**Culture Action Europe asks you to send letters to your national ministers to help secure funding for culture in EU regional programmes.**

**Context**

The European Commission [published](https://cultureactioneurope.org/news/proposed-e8-6-billion-for-culture-and-democracy-in-the-next-eu-budget/) its proposal for the next EU long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework, 2028–2034) on 16 July 2025. This proposal now needs to be agreed upon by other EU institutions, specifically the European Parliament and the Council, which represents the national governments of member states.

While the initial proposal for the culture programme in the next MFF, AgoraEU, is a positive step, Culture Action Europe wants to ensure that culture can also benefit from other EU funding programmes.

**What to do**

We ask you to engage your national ministers responsible for regional development (who will play a key role in the budget negotiations) to ensure that 2% of the EU regional funding programme (proposed National and Regional Partnership Plans) is earmarked for culture.

A template letter is below.

**Instructions**

**1. Please send your letters by 31 October 2025.** Member states will present their position by the end of the year, so if we want to influence it, we need to act now.Most ministries should have a publicly available contact email.

**2. The letter should be signed by members of your regional hub, but it can (and should!) also be open to other cultural organisations in your country.** We encourage you to mobilise as many signatories as possible, including those outside of Culture Action Europe.

If you're not a Culture Action Europe member but came across this template and would like to get involved, please write to luiza@cultureactioneurope.org, maya@cultureactioneurope.org and rhys@cultureactioneurope.org. Let us know your organisation and country, and we’ll connect you with the coordinators of the relevant regional hub.

**3. This letter is addressed to the minister responsible for regional development.** Also, make sure to copy your national ministries of finance and culture when sending your email.

**4. Please translate the letter and adapt it to fit your country**’**s context,** if needed. You know best how to reflect the national situation and political climate. However, please keep the core message clear: we urge the ministers to ensure that culture benefits from earmarked funding within the EU’s regional funding programmes.

**5. Before sending the letter, check the official requirements for letters in your country.** Some ministries may require a full name, surname, contact details, date, and signature from the sender.

Please include the name and contact details of the person the ministries can reach out to for further information.

**6. When you send your letters, please share them with us!** We may feature them in our communications as an example to inspire other hubs. And of course, share your letter in your social media.

Here is an example of a successful past campaign, when Culture Action Europe hubs sent letters to national finance ministers, for your inspiration: <https://cultureactioneurope.org/advocacy/cae-hubs-send-letters-to-national-finance-ministers-ahead/>

**Thank you! We**’**re counting on your swift action.**

T E M P L A T E L E T T E R

To:

Minister responsible for regional development

Copied:

Minister of culture

Minister of finance

Dear Minister [name of minister responsible for regional development],

We are writing to you as a group of cultural organisations from [your country], deeply engaged with EU policy and committed to the vitality of our regional cultural ecosystems in [your country].

As the European Union institutions begin negotiations on the next long-term budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034, we understand that, as a member of the General Affairs Council (Cohesion) configuration of the Council of the EU, you will play an important role in shaping the future of EU regional funding beyond 2027.

**We therefore call on you to ensure that regional cultural actors in [your country] can benefit from cohesion funding in the next MFF by earmarking 2% of this instrument specifically for cultural purposes.**

Our analysis of the European Commission’s initial proposal for the next MFF, particularly the National and Regional Partnership Plans, shows that there are very limited opportunities for EU regional funding to support culture.

This is worrying because culture is indispensable for uniting communities and fostering civic engagement. As stated in the [Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2022_466_R_0001), cultural participation facilitates social and territorial cohesion, fosters respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, and provides a platform for open dialogue within civil society.

Investing in culture pays off. [For example](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2025%3A587%3AFIN&qid=1759415871664), between 2013 and 2022, the European Capitals of Culture initiative attracted €900 million toward cultural agendas across the EU, with an annual investment of just €3–5 million. A mapping of 275 European regions showed that creative services significantly [boosted labour productivity](https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2022/06/the-culture-fix_fda3a600/991bb520-en.pdf) in 92% of those regions.

To strengthen the role of culture in EU regional funding, we propose earmarking at least **2% for culture** within the National and Regional Partnership Plans or any relevant cohesion or structural funding instrument in the next MFF. It should be reserved for enhancing access to culture and cultural participation, preserving and promoting cultural heritage and diversity, and investing in cultural infrastructure, in line with [Article 167 TFEU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2008/art_167/oj/eng).

A positive precedent exists: during the COVID‑19 pandemic, [nearly 2%](https://culture.ec.europa.eu/news/updated-data-national-recovery-and-facility-plans-allocate-eu117-billion-to-culture-and-creative-industries) of the Recovery and Resilience Facility was dedicated to culture and creative industries.

Based on lessons from the pandemic, we recommend the following guiding criteria for allocation and implementation:

* Uphold artistic freedom and freedom of expression; ensure the autonomy of cultural organisations.
* Distribute funding in a geographically balanced manner and ensure equitable access for cultural operators in both urban and rural areas.
* Avoid concentrating resources on a small number of beneficiaries; instead, prioritise support for independent creators, small organisations, and cultural professionals.
* Ensure that organisations and institutions that distribute funding commit to fair pay and equitable remuneration for EU funding beneficiaries.

Nearly 2000 artists and cultural professionals across Europe [have endorsed the call](https://cultureactioneurope.org/projects/cultureactionnow/endorse-the-campaign/) to strengthen culture’s funding in the next MFF. We ask you to align with this shared position and to ensure culture plays a meaningful role in regional development and cohesion in [your country].

Thank you for your attention and leadership ahead of these important negotiations.

Kind regards,

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