

How to Fill Out the MFF Survey Like a Pro

by [Culture Action Europe](#)

Please note that this document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an official explanation.

What is the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)?

The MFF is the European Union's long-term budget. Typically, it spans seven years: we are in the 2021-2027 cycle, and the next period will cover 2028-2034.

The MFF determines the budget structure: which priorities the EU will fund, which funding programs will be used, and how much money will be allocated. After the MFF is adopted, every year, the EU sets out an annual budget within the ceilings and guidelines established by the MFF. Here's how the process works: 1) The MFF sets the overall budget size and structure for seven years. 2) Each year, the EU details how the money will be allocated within the MFF framework.

Although 2028 seems distant, the EU is already planning the next MFF.

Why does it matter for culture?

The future of EU culture funding depends on the MFF. Currently, culture is funded mainly through the Creative Europe programme, with a €2.44 billion budget for 2021-2027. It represents 0.2% of the total MFF. However, the European Commission has announced plans to simplify the next MFF by reducing the number of funding programmes. This could imply merging Creative Europe with other programmes, a change we oppose, as it would diminish the sector's visibility and distinctiveness. **Therefore, the cultural sector needs to have a say in the MFF consultation, which the European Commission has recently launched.**

What's our end goal?

1) More funding for culture—at least 2% of the next MFF. 2) Preserve Creative Europe as a standalone programme with a distinct budget line in the next MFF. 3) Keep cultural components in other EU programmes (like Erasmus+, CERV, Horizon Europe, etc.).

Who can participate in the survey?

Pretty much everyone! National and local authorities, associations and civil society organisations, cultural organisations, research institutions, businesses, and even individual citizens (artists, students, etc.). Non-EU citizens can also participate!



Updated: 29 April 2025

We highly encourage networks and representative cultural organisations to submit their input, as collective voices often carry more weight. However, please note that the Commission does not officially state whether input from organisations is weighted differently than that from individuals.

Public consultation link:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14523-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-cross-border-education-training-and-solidarity-young-people-media-culture-and-creative-sectors-values-and-civil-society_en

Deadline: 06 May 2025 (midnight Brussels time)

Step 1: Register for an EU Login Account

To fill out the survey, you'll need an EU Login Account. If you don't have one, you'll be asked to register when you click the survey link.

The registration process may require you to set up two-factor verification and download the EU Login Mobile App, but don't worry—this is normal.

For detailed instructions, follow the Commission's guide here: https://trusted-digital-identity.europa.eu/eu-login-help/external-self-registered-account-faq/how-do-i-create-my-eu-login-account_en

Step 2: Fill out the survey

Once you've logged in, you'll start with the About You section:

- **Language of your contribution:** You can fill it out in any EU language.
- **Contribution type:** Choose whether you're submitting as an individual or as part of an organisation.
- **Name & Contact Info:** Provide your first and last name and email address.
- If you're submitting as an **individual**, you'll also be asked for: Your age group; Your main area of interest (choose Culture and Creativity and other relevant options); Country of origin.
- If you're responding on behalf of an **organisation**, you'll need to provide: the organisation's name, the number of employees, and the scope of your organisation (choose Culture and Creativity and other relevant options), the country of origin (the country of registration if you're submitting on behalf of an organisation). You can also provide the organisation's Transparency Register Number (although it's not mandatory, we recommend indicating your Transparency Register Number if you have one).

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Step 3: Privacy

The Commission will publish responses to this consultation, so you can choose whether to remain anonymous or have your details public.

Agree to the personal data protection provisions.

Step 4: Answer the question!

Question: Do you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes?

Select all that apply.

Do you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes?

- Erasmus+
- European Solidarity Corps
- Creative Europe
- Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme
- Justice programme
- European Social Fund+
- Horizon Europe
- Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Other, please specify:

Question: How important are these policy priorities to you?

We encourage you to mark all culture-related priorities (priorities of the Creative Europe programme) as 'very important'—here's the list:

- Support entrepreneurship and the creative economy
- Strengthen cooperation with non-EU countries (especially candidate countries) in education, training, youth, culture and sport
- Ensure widespread access to culture and cultural heritage
- Support mobility of artists and culture professionals
- Promote and preserve cultural heritage and European remembrance
- Promote cultural and linguistic diversity
- Promote media independence and media pluralism, fight disinformation
- Support the viability and resilience of the audiovisual and media sectors
- Promote entrepreneurship, access to market and scaling-up for small businesses in the creative sectors
- Improve people's access to quality media content
- Support the EU media regulatory framework



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- Promote a shared European identity

There are other important priorities (that belong to other programmes, like Erasmus+, CERV, etc.)—if you have worked with those programmes, feel free to indicate them too. If your organisation isn't involved with a certain priority, select '**Don't know/not applicable.**' Don't downgrade other sectors (e.g. by indicating that they are less important) if you don't work with them.

For example, Culture Action Europe has also selected the following priorities:

- Empower citizens, strengthen democratic engagement and participation, including from young people and children
- Protect democracy and promote democratic standards
- Uphold and promote the rule of law
- Promote trustworthy artificial intelligence that respects EU values
- Support civic space and capacity building of civil society organisations

Choose what aligns with your activity and experience. Although many of these priorities belong not to Creative Europe but to other programmes, like CERV, we have also chosen to prioritise them amid the dominant far-right narratives.

Question: To what extent would EU funding provide added value to address these policy priorities compared to funding at national, local or regional level?

The options are the same as in the previous question, so you can mirror your responses from the previous question. The EU wants to focus on areas with clear European added value—it wants to support things that can't be achieved by Member States alone. Here, it's important to mark all culture-related priorities to make the case that cultural cooperation brings clear value to Europe.

Question: To what extent do you consider that the following actions for cooperation and mobility in the area of education, training and solidarity would bring about a positive impact in the future?

A specific question on Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. If your organisation doesn't have experience with the programme or position on education, training and solidarity, indicate 'Don't know/not applicable.'

Question: To what extent do you consider that the following EU actions in the areas of culture, creative sectors and media would bring about a positive impact in the future?

Just mark all options as 'To a large extent'! If we want strong Creative Europe, we need to preserve existing funding lines.

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Question: To what extent do you consider that the following actions for values (democracy, equality, rule of law, fundamental rights) and civil society would bring about a positive impact in the future?

A specific question on CERV and Justice Programmes. If your organisation doesn't have experience with the programme or position on actions for values and civil society, indicate 'Don't know/not applicable.'

We nevertheless recommend marking the following actions as 'To a large extent' given the current political climate:

- Supporting the creation and development of EU-level networks and organisations
- Supporting local/grassroots civil society organisations that protect rights and promote EU values

Question: To what extent do you see the following as obstacles that prevent the EU budget from fully delivering on its objectives in these policy areas?

Recommended responses ('To a large extent'):

- Complex fund-specific rules for access to funding and compliance
- Administrative burden for beneficiaries
- Lack of flexibility to adapt to new or unforeseen developments

Avoid prioritising issues that could reflect poorly and backfire on the beneficiaries, like:

- Limited reach to diverse target groups (Although this might be the case when discussing accessibility of funding, the phrasing is vague and could also imply that funding used by beneficiaries does not have an effect on diverse target groups.)
- Lack of consistency and effectiveness in delivering EU priorities
Mark them 'Not at all' or 'Very little'

Question: To what extent do you agree that the following options could help the EU budget become more effective and efficient?

Here are suggested responses:

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	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Applying common rules, timelines and eligibility criteria to all relevant EU funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce the number of funding programmes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce more flexibility into resource allocation to react to crises and emerging needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Simplify access to funding for beneficiaries	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prioritise projects with high EU added value, such as multi-country projects and projects that contribute to the EU's strategic priorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Place greater focus on achieving results, including via performance-based funding (such as financing not linked to costs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use funds to promote both reforms and investments	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better preventing and combatting fraud, corruption and other illegal activities targeting EU funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

While many of these suggestions are appealing, consider their potential impact on culture. For example, applying common rules could mean culture would compete with agriculture or other industries. More flexibility in resource allocation to address crises might result in the culture budget being diverted elsewhere. And focusing on achieving specific outcomes could limit the creative freedom of cultural projects. Therefore, we propose using 'somewhat' rather than 'to a large extent' in these cases.

Question: If you would like to add further information—within the scope of this questionnaire—please feel free to do so here. 500 character(s) maximum

Suggested text:

[Name of organisation] believes Creative Europe should remain a standalone program with a distinct, increased budget line in the next MFF—currently, it's only 0.2% of the MFF. Every €1 invested in culture generates up to €11 in GDP (EPRS). Creative Europe is the only EU program exclusively funding cultural sectors as a public good. By supporting cross-border cultural cooperation, it delivers European value added that Member States alone cannot accomplish.

Question: If you wish to attach any relevant documents to support your replies, please feel free to do so here.



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You can attach Culture Action Europe's position paper on EU culture funding in the next MFF:
https://cultureactioneurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Future-of-EU-Culture-Funding_compr.pdf

These recommendations are provided to help clarify the consultation process and are not intended to impose any particular viewpoint. We kindly suggest avoiding identical responses, as they may be flagged by the Commission as coordinated messaging. Rather, we encourage you to use this guidance to form your own perspective.