

# Amendment Proposals for the ITRE Report on Horizon Europe

## Suggestions for amendments to the draft report, 2025/0543(COD), of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, for the period 2028-2034 laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/695

Source: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/ITRE-PR-785237\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/ITRE-PR-785237_EN.html)

The following amendments are proposed by the [Artistic Research Alliance](#) ([AEC](#), [CILECT](#), [CAE](#), [EAAE](#), [ELIA](#), [EQ-Arts](#), [GEECT](#), [MusiQuE](#), [SAR](#)) and [MCA](#)

*2 April 2026*

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## Introduction to the Amendment Proposals

**With these amendments, our main request is to include culture structurally within Horizon Europe: not just as a horizontal principle in Article 5, but also as part of the new 'Global Societal Challenges' Policy Window of the Competitiveness Pillar, with a dedicated budget line and funding.**

- We urge you, as shadow rapporteur, to amend the 'Global Societal Challenges' window in *Article 4* (and subsequently) to '**Culture** and Global Societal Challenges'. Without a dedicated component, the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) will lose: 1) the progress and success built through Cluster 2 in the current Horizon Europe programme; 2) visibility and certainty of dedicated future calls; and 3) the positioning of arts and the CCSI as a high-potential research and knowledge field within the European R&I ecosystem.

This would be unacceptable, particularly given that each additional euro invested in the CCSI [can generate up to €11 in GDP](#), and given the overwhelming demand for Cluster 2 under the current Horizon Europe framework. Horizon Europe should boost the CCSI's well-documented growth potential through dedicated funding, investment, and development pathways.

- We endorse the amendments to *Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point a* proposed by the ITRE draft report: “ensure a multidisciplinary approach, where appropriate, and provide for the integration of social sciences, humanities **and the arts (SSHA)** across all components under the Programme, including specific calls for proposals on **SSHA related topics, topics dedicated to the cultural and creative industries.**”

We urge you, as shadow rapporteur, to maintain this amendment, which properly recognises the arts as a knowledge domain parallel and complementary to the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. Speaking of SSHA rather than SSH is crucial to this end, and enables excellent research in the arts to be transversally integrated in the programme. This amendment rightly positions the CCSI as one of Europe's strategic sectors, and helps the EU to leverage the strength of the CCSI, the power of artistic research, creativity, creative innovation and cultural heritage for the Union's social market economy, including through contributions to the digital and clean transitions, decarbonisation, and health.

## Detailed Amendment Proposals

The numbering of the recitals and articles is aligned to the ITRE Draft Report.

### Recital 7a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
n.a.	<p>(7a) The governance of the Programme's collaborative research and innovation activities should be guided by Councils composed of prominent experts from science, innovation, industry and civil society, and implemented by expert teams empowered to design calls for proposals within the general thematic priorities; the general thematic priorities, including the budget available to each priority, will be set out in the Work Programmes adopted by Commission under examination procedure. The Work Programmes will cover three years, with each last year overlapping with the first year of the next Work Programme. This gives the expert teams enough time to work and offers predictability to applicants, while maintaining the needed flexibility over time. The observatory on emerging technologies established under the European Competitiveness Fund should play an important role in preparing the Work Programmes. This approach reflects the recommendation from the Draghi report to leave the management of the Programme to people</p>	<p>(7a) The governance of the Programme's collaborative research and innovation activities should be guided by Councils composed of prominent experts from <b>the European and international research &amp; innovation ecosystems, including from academia, science, innovation,</b> industry and civil society, and implemented by expert teams empowered to design calls for proposals within the general thematic priorities; the general thematic priorities, including the budget available to each priority, will be set out in the Work Programmes adopted by Commission under examination procedure. The Work Programmes will cover three years, with each last year overlapping with the first year of the next Work Programme. This gives the expert teams enough time to work and offers predictability to applicants, while maintaining the needed flexibility over time. The observatory on emerging technologies established under the European Competitiveness Fund should play an important role in preparing the Work Programmes. This</p>

	<p>with a proven track record at the frontier of innovation and is in line with the recommendation from the Report of Commission Expert Group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe of 6 December 2024 (the ‘Heitor report’) to establish dedicated Councils to guide collaborative research and innovation. The interplay between the Commission, the Councils, the expert teams and the Programme Committees creates a system that allows public authorities to retain full control over funding allocation while enabling experts to deliver an frontier and agile Programme. In order to fulfil their role effectively, lead experts and their expert teams should be engaged on a fulltime basis, ensuring the depth of commitment and continuity of expertise required to design high-quality calls and to engage meaningfully with the broader research and innovation ecosystem. Expert teams should proactively engage with relevant actors from industry, academia, civil society and the investment community in order to gather strategic intelligence on emerging needs, technological developments and market dynamics, so that calls reflect real-world opportunities and challenges. Furthermore, expert teams should</p>	<p>approach reflects the recommendation from the Draghi report to leave the management of the Programme to people with a proven track record at the frontier of innovation and is in line with the recommendation from the Report of Commission Expert Group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe of 6 December 2024 (the ‘Heitor report’) to establish dedicated Councils to guide collaborative research and innovation. The interplay between the Commission, the Councils, the expert teams and the Programme Committees creates a system that allows public authorities to retain full control over funding allocation while enabling experts to deliver an frontier and agile Programme. In order to fulfil their role effectively, lead experts and their expert teams should be engaged on a fulltime basis, ensuring the depth of commitment and continuity of expertise required to design high-quality calls and to engage meaningfully with the broader research and innovation ecosystem. Expert teams should proactively engage with relevant actors from industry, academia, civil society and the investment community in order to gather strategic intelligence on emerging needs, technological developments and market dynamics, so that calls reflect real-world</p>
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	<p>accompany the projects selected under the calls for which they are responsible throughout the project lifecycle, providing support, facilitating access to relevant networks and fostering connections between projects where there is common interest or where closer coordination would generate added value for the Union.</p>	<p>opportunities and challenges. <b>This should include open stakeholder consultations, to inform each work programme and the ongoing work of the councils and expert teams.</b></p> <p>Furthermore, expert teams should accompany the projects selected under the calls for which they are responsible throughout the project lifecycle, providing support, facilitating access to relevant networks and fostering connections between projects where there is common interest or where closer coordination would generate added value for the Union.</p>
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**Justification text proposal #1:** Clearer language, which in particular specifies the inclusion of experts from academia in each council, as higher education and research institutions are one of the key drivers of research and innovation in Europe. Furthermore, by slightly broadening up the phrasing, it become applicable to all experts regardless of which part of the R&I ecosystem they are active in.

**Justification text proposal #2:** The risk of working with closed councils is losing track of the broader developments within the R&I field, no council can be all-knowing and representative of all expertise in Europe's R&I ecosystem. Broader, preferably open, consultations at key moments should be included in the design and evaluation process of the workplans to catch key signals from across the R&I ecosystem. These consultations should take place at least once for every three-year workplan.

**Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point i b (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
n.a.	ib) Competitiveness Window III "Digital Leadership and Infrastructure"	ib) Competitiveness Window III "Digital Leadership and <b>Infrastructure</b> <b>Creativity</b> "

**Justification:** *Digital leadership and creativity are complementary and closely interconnected. The Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) have a transformative role to play in the digital transition and in maintaining a European digital space and digital cultures. The CCSI (including creative industries as well as higher arts education and research institutions) contribute to R&I for:*

- *Ethical, human-centred, responsible, and transparent development of digital technologies;*
- *The digitisation and digitalisation of cultural heritage;*
- *The development, testing, deployment, scale-up and internationalisation of innovative business models and creative entrepreneurship;*
- *Promoting cultural and creative diversity online for the public interest.*
- *Leveraging art-science-policy collaborations in relation to the digital transition*
- *the development of cutting-edge and digital creative content, technologies, and methodologies,*

*Broadening the Digital Leadership window by explicitly adding Creativity will strengthen Europe's competitive edge through creative innovation, artistic, design-driven and practice-based research, valorisation, and market uptake, thus enabling Europe's potential for creative and digital disruptive innovation and providing new pathways for digital transformation across the Union. (More on this topic, for instance, in the European Commission report [Unleashing the Potential of the Cultural and Creative Industries](#))*

*Furthermore, the added value of the new proposal of adding 'Infrastructure' in this policy window's title is unclear, R&I infrastructure is already tackled under pillar IV of the Horizon Europe proposal, while industry infrastructure is covered broadly by the related policy window of the European Competitiveness Fund.*

**Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii – introductory part**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
ii) ‘Society’, including research and innovation activities, such as:	ii) Global Societal Challenges Window, including the New European Bauhaus Facility	ii) <b>Culture and</b> Global Societal Challenges Window, including the New European Bauhaus Facility <b>and arts and culture-driven transformation</b>

**Justification:** *The Commission’s proposal for the next Horizon Europe removes culture as a visible structural component and treats it instead as a horizontal issue, even though the current programme dedicates €2.28 billion specifically to culture, creativity and inclusive society under Cluster 2. Demand for this part of the programme is exceptionally high and exponentially increasing: the 2025 calls for ‘Culture, creativity and inclusive society’ alone attracted 1,331 proposals, 80% more than in 2024 and nearly 250% more than in 2021. A merely transversal reference to the arts and cultural and creative industries cannot provide the visibility, continuity, critical mass and predictable investment needed to fully leverage arts and culture-driven research and innovation and support the development of the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI).*

*Therefore, this amendment proposes to include culture explicitly within the scope of the ‘**Culture and** Global Societal Challenges’ policy window. To match the high demand and high potential, we also propose doubling the budget from €2.28 billion in 2021-2027 to **€5 billion in 2028-2034** (which represents a real doubling when accounting for inflation). To accommodate for this, the overall budget for the Culture and Global Societal Challenges Window should be increased not just proportionally to the overall budget increase of the programme to 220 billion (to approximately 10 billion), but with an additional earmarked budget for arts and culture-driven transformation of 5 billion, to a total of 15 billion.*

*We are confident that this investment will have positive results for the EU, both in terms of societal resilience and prosperity. The European Parliamentary Research Centre has [estimated](#) that each additional euro invested in the cultural and creative sectors could generate up to €11 in GDP. It furthermore is important to secure ‘Art and Culture-Driven Transformation’ as a dedicated budget line of the policy window to ensure that culture retains a clear and predictable structural place in the next Framework Programme. The [CULT Committee Opinion](#), supports the creation of such a budget line, which is complementary – though related – to global societal challenges and the New European Bauhaus initiative.*

**Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point b – point i b (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
N.a.	i b. EUR XX XXX XXX XXX for Competitiveness Window III "Digital Leadership and Infrastructure"	i b. EUR XX XXX XXX XXX for Competitiveness Window III "Digital Leadership and <b>Creativity</b> "

*Justification: same as Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point i b (new).*

**Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point b – point i d (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
n.a.	i d. EUR XX XXX XXX XXX for Global Societal Challenges Window, of which at least EUR XX XXX XXX XXX for the New European Bauhaus Facility.	i d. EUR <b>15 000 000 000</b> for <b>Culture and</b> Global Societal Challenges Window, of which at least EUR XX XXX XXX XXX for the New European Bauhaus Facility, <b>and EUR 5 000 000 000 for arts and culture-driven transformation.</b>

*Justification: same as Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii – introductory part*

**Article 15 – paragraph 4**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
4. The Programme shall support activities to tackle global societal challenges in the areas of strengthening democratic values and tackling disinformation, including rule of law and fundamental rights; promoting socioeconomic transformations that contribute to inclusion and growth, addressing demographic and	4. The Programme shall, <b>under the Global Societal Challenges Window</b> , support activities to tackle global societal challenges in the areas of strengthening democratic values and tackling disinformation, including rule of law and fundamental rights; promoting socioeconomic transformations that	4. The Programme shall, <b>under the Culture and Global Societal Challenges Window</b> , support activities to tackle global societal challenges in the areas of strengthening democratic values and tackling disinformation, including rule of law and fundamental rights; promoting socioeconomic transformations that

intergenerational challenges, including from a youth perspective and including migration management and integration of migrants.	contribute to inclusion and growth, addressing demographic and intergenerational challenges, including from a youth perspective and including migration management and integration of migrants.	contribute to inclusion and growth, addressing demographic and intergenerational challenges, including from a youth perspective and including migration management and integration of migrants; <b>sustaining arts, cultures and heritage across Europe and strengthening cultural and creative sectors and industries.</b>
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**Justification:** same as Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii – introductory part

**Article 15 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
n.a.	Councils for collaborative R&I 1. The implementation of the Competitiveness Windows shall be guided by the Council for European Competitiveness Research. 2. The implementation of the Global Societal Challenges Window shall be guided by the European Council for Global Societal Challenges Research. 3. The Councils referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall consist of at least 15 prominent experts from science, innovation, industry and civil society. Members of those Councils shall be appointed for five years, once extendable by up to six years. [...]	Councils for collaborative R&I 1. The implementation of the Competitiveness Windows shall be guided by the Council for European Competitiveness Research. 2. The implementation of the Global Societal Challenges Window shall be guided by the European Council for Global Societal Challenges Research. 3. The Councils referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall consist of at least 15 prominent experts <b>the European and international research &amp; innovation ecosystems, including from academia, science, innovation,</b> industry and civil society. [...]

Justification: same as Recital 7a (new)

**Article 15 b (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
n.a.	<p>Expert-led implementation</p> <p>1. For each general thematic priority referred to in Article 15(4a), the Commission shall appoint at least one lead expert supported by an expert team to develop draft calls for the implementation of the thematic priority. The draft calls shall be developed on a rolling basis until the budget allocated to the general thematic priority has been fully committed to calls. Before submitting a draft call to the Commission, the lead expert shall present the draft call to the relevant Council referred to in Article 15a for feedback.</p> <p>2. The call texts implementing the general thematic priorities shall be adopted by the Commission by means of implementing acts. Where the Commission does not alter the text of the call compared to the draft call submitted to it by the lead expert under paragraph 1 of this Article, Commission shall adopt immediately applicable implementing acts in accordance with Article 10b(6).</p> <p>3. The Commission may alter the call text compared to the draft call submitted by</p>	<b>Deleted</b>

	<p>the lead expert only in exceptional and duly justified cases. Departures shall only be justified when the call text goes outside the scope of the general thematic priority for which the lead expert has been appointed, when the call text is not in accordance with Union law, including the Financial Regulation, or when two or more draft calls developed by lead experts have such significant overlap that they can be combined in a single call. When the Commission decides to depart from the draft call, the implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with Article 10b(5). The Commission shall provide the Parliament and the Council with a clear and precise justification and explanation for the departure.</p> <p>4. After having received the draft call text from the lead expert, the Commission shall decide, in accordance with Article 20(2), if and how Article 10(3) of Regulation (EU) XXX [European Competitiveness Fund] shall be applied. This decision shall be part of the implementing act adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10b(6).</p> <p>5. Each lead expert and the expert team shall be appointed following a call for expression of interest included in the Work Programme referred to in paragraph 1. The call will close at the</p>	
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	<p>latest three months after the adoption of the Work Programme. The appointment of the lead expert and expert team shall be concluded no later than three months after the closing of the call.</p> <p>6. Lead experts and members of the expert teams shall be external experts within the meaning of Article 10(3) and be appointed for up to five years. The Commission shall selected those lead experts and members of the expert teams based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) scientific expertise ;</li> <li>(b) track record of success in innovation;</li> <li>(c) commercial experience ;</li> <li>(d) management skills</li> </ul> <p>The Commission may appoint one official to an expert team to ensure all decisions are taken in the interest of the Union.</p>	
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**Justification:** *While we welcome more detailed descriptions of the procedures for developing the work programmes and calls, the procedure described here is too risky (more likely resulting in narrow perspective), as it puts a lot of power on an individual council members for developing calls. Broader stakeholder consultations should be integrated as input for the designing the calls as well. We suggest deleting this article until the procedure is redesigned in a more representative way.*

**Article 18 – paragraph 2 – point 2**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
The Programme shall ensure the effective promotion and protection of values and principles of the ERA and the Pact for	n.a.	The Programme shall ensure the effective promotion and protection of values and principles of the ERA and the Pact for

research and innovation, notably ethics and integrity in research and innovation, freedom of scientific research and gender equality and equal opportunities, and the promotion of attractive research careers and mobility. [...]		research and innovation, notably ethics and integrity in research and innovation, <b>freedom of the arts and scientific research, academic freedom</b> , and gender equality and equal opportunities, and the promotion of attractive research careers and mobility. [...]
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**Justification:** Full alignment with the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#), article 13, requires this to be freedom of ‘the arts and scientific research’ and ‘academic freedom’. Academic freedom need to be an addition as it is a broader concept than freedom of scientific research, as for instance outlined by the [European Parliament Academic Freedom Monitor](#) (page 2):

“The essential elements [of academic freedom] include the freedom to research, the freedom to teach, the freedom to study, and the freedom of academic expression.” “The supportive elements [of academic freedom] include institutional autonomy and academic self-governance, as well as adequate labour agreements and financial conditions.”

#### Article 34 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
n.a.	<p>Programme evaluation</p> <p>1. Programme evaluations shall be carried out in a timely manner to feed into the decision-making process of the Programme, the next framework programme and other initiatives relevant to R&amp;I.</p> <p>2. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall be carried out with the assistance of independent experts selected on the basis of a transparent process once there is sufficient information available</p>	<p>Programme evaluation</p> <p>1. Programme evaluations shall be carried out in a timely manner to feed into the decision-making process of the Programme, the next framework programme and other initiatives relevant to R&amp;I.</p> <p>2. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall be carried out with the assistance of independent experts selected on the basis of a transparent process once there is sufficient information available</p>

	<p>about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after entry into force of this Regulation. The evaluation shall form the basis for Commission proposals to adjust or reorientate the Programme, as appropriate. It shall assess the Programme's effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, and Union added value.</p> <p>3. At the end of the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the end of the period specified in Article 1, a final evaluation of the Programme shall be completed by the Commission. It shall include an assessment of the long-term impact of previous framework programmes.</p> <p>4. The Commission shall publish and communicate the conclusions of the evaluations accompanied by its observations and shall present them to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.</p>	<p>about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after entry into force of this Regulation. The evaluation shall form the basis for Commission proposals to adjust or reorientate the Programme, as appropriate. It shall assess the Programme's effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, and Union added value.</p> <p>3. At the end of the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the end of the period specified in Article 1, a final evaluation of the Programme shall be completed by the Commission. It shall include an assessment of the long-term impact of previous framework programmes.</p> <p>4. The interim and final evaluations shall be informed by an open consultation process of stakeholders and beneficiaries, complemented with targeted stakeholder dialogues hosted by the Commission and its expert groups, representing as much as possible the broad spectrum of stakeholders from Europe's R&amp;I ecosystem.</p> <p>5. The Commission shall publish and communicate the conclusions of the evaluations accompanied by its observations and shall present them to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.</p>
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**Justification:** For a complete and significant evaluation, programme beneficiary experiences need to be considered, as well as the knowledge of stakeholder representatives from the European R&I ecosystem about the impact that the programme is having, possible pitfalls, and gaps to address in the future. Formats the European Commission has previously successfully used are open stakeholder consultations, targeted consultations of beneficiaries, and stakeholder dialogues. It is important to make sure that stakeholder dialogues are representative of the full spectrum of actors within the European R&I ecosystem.

**Title II a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission	Text proposed in the ITRE draft report	Amendment
n.a.	Annex 1. Broad lines of activities Pillar I "Excellent Science" ERC [...] MSCA [...] FTTE [...] JRC [...] Pillar II "Competitiveness and Society" Competitiveness Window I "Energy Infrastructure; Decarbonisation & Clean Technology" [...] Competitiveness Window II "Biotechnology, Health, and Sustainable Prosperity" [...] Competitiveness Window III "Digital Leadership and Infrastructure" [...] Competitiveness Window IV "Space,	Annex 1. Broad lines of activities Pillar I "Excellent Science" ERC [...] MSCA [...] FTTE [...] JRC [...] Pillar II "Competitiveness and Society" Competitiveness Window I "Energy Infrastructure; Decarbonisation & Clean Technology" [...] Competitiveness Window II "Biotechnology, Health, and Sustainable Prosperity" [...] Competitiveness Window III "Digital Leadership and <b>Infrastructure Creativity</b> " [...] Competitiveness Window IV "Space,

	<p>Critical Raw Materials, Security"  [...]  Fast Track to Innovation  [...]  European Demonstrator Scheme  [...]  Pillar III "Innovation"  EIC  [...]  European Innovation Ecosystems  [...]  Pillar IV "European Research Area"  Reforming and enhancing the European R&amp;I system  [...]  Research and technology infrastructures  [...]  Widening participation and spreading excellence  [...]  European support for Researchers at Risk  [...]</p>	<p>Critical Raw Materials, Security"  [...]  <b>Competitiveness Window V 'Culture and Global Societal Challenges'</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New European Bauhaus Facility</b></li> <li>• <b>Arts and Culture-driven transformation</b></li> </ul> [...]  Fast Track to Innovation  [...]  European Demonstrator Scheme  [...]  Pillar III "Innovation"  EIC  [...]  European Innovation Ecosystems  [...]  Pillar IV "European Research Area"  Reforming and enhancing the European R&amp;I system  [...]  Research and technology infrastructures  [...]  Widening participation and spreading excellence  [...]  European support for Researchers at Risk  [...]</p>
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**Justification:** and same as Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point i b (new) and same as Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii – introductory part.

## About Us

### About the Artistic Research Alliance

*The Artistic Research Alliance stands for the field of artistic research in all its diversity. This includes academic institutions as well as independent research actors, and research in all art practice disciplines (including architecture, design, film, photography, fine art, media and digital arts, music and the performing arts, creative writing, circus, as well as transdisciplinary efforts).*

*Representing around 1000 institutions in the field of artistic research, we offer our collective expertise to contribute to the discourse on key policy, funding, and assessment frameworks. The Artistic Research Alliance is composed of **AEC, CILECT, CAE, EAAE, ELIA, EQ-Arts, GEECT, MusiQuE, and SAR**. Read more about [who we are](#).*



### About Michael Culture Association

*Michael Culture Association (MCA) is a trans-sectoral and trans-domain European network gathering more than 200 public and private organisations from all over Europe and beyond, for the preservation, the promotion and the valorisation of heritage and digital cultural contents, and its communities. Read more [about MCA](#).*