

Galway, 26 June 2026

To:

A Thaoiseach,
A Thánaiste agus a Aire Airgeadais,
A Aire Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta,

Support the Arts and the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries in the EU's Research, Innovation and Competitiveness Funding

An Open Letter from the International #NamePlaceFund Partners to the
Irish Presidency of the Council;

I dtréimhsí scoilte agus neamhchinnteacht seasaimid le fuinneamh agus práinn ionainn. Tá súil againn go n-éistfidh sibh lenár n-iaratas agus go ngníomhóidh sibh air.

In times of division and uncertainty, we stand together with energy and urgency. We hope that you will hear our request, and act upon it.

*The cattle head to the drinker
to feel the cool water on their tongue
and that tang of iron from the old famine pot
sets some unknown process in motion.*

- by Derville Quigley

Gathering this week at the 2026 International Forum on Artistic Research of the Society for Artistic Research, held at the University of Galway, we have experienced a generosity of new ideas from across and beyond Europe. We felt the real impacts of global warming and witnessed firsthand through the work of our Irish colleagues what it means to hold space for culture and the generative quality of the arts. It is meaningful that these exchanges and artistic interventions involving over 300 artists, researchers and policymakers, coincide with the start of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Presidency comes at a crucial moment in the trilogue negotiations for the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034. On behalf of the #NamePlaceFund partners, we call on you to use your leadership to support the inclusion of dedicated funding opportunities for Europe's Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI) - including higher education institutions engaged in artistic research - within the next Horizon Europe Programme and the European Competitiveness Fund.

The #NamePlaceFund campaign is coordinated by the Artistic Research Alliance ([AEC](#), [CILECT](#), [Culture Action Europe](#), [EAAE](#), [ELIA](#), [EQ-Arts](#), [GEECT](#), [MusiQuE](#), and [SAR](#)) and

[Michael Culture Association](#). Together we represent approximately 1,200 institutions involved in artistic and cultural research and cultural heritage in Europe. This includes research institutions in cultural heritage and all art practice disciplines: architecture, design, film, photography, fine art, media and digital arts, music and the performing arts, creative writing, circus, etc., as well as transdisciplinary efforts.

We believe that Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund should contribute to a future in which Europe champions its cultural and linguistic diversity. This requires programme frameworks that;

- support **the role of arts in society** (for instance in creating spaces for constructive disagreement in polarised times and providing alternatives to silo-thinking and echo-chambers).
- invest in, and promote the full recognition of **the generative and transformative potential of culture and artistic research**, both autonomously and in transdisciplinary collaboration.
- contribute to the realisation of **the substantial growth potential of the CCSI** across Europe.

Our Call to Action: Name, Place Fund

It is extremely concerning to see the many missed opportunities in the Commission's proposals for Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund, as well as in the positions emerging from the European Parliament. In Horizon, we see that culture's dedicated budget line is abruptly discontinued. The arts are only mentioned as part of a 'horizontal principle' on transdisciplinarity. In the Competitiveness Fund, the CCSI are squeezed into a single line inside the 'Health, Biotechnology, and Sustainable Prosperity' window. If pursued, this approach to structuring the programmes will have a detrimental effect on the CCSI and will substantially hold back Europe's research and innovation potential.

We ask you to use your leadership to turn the tide and work with the Council to present a vision of research, innovation and competitiveness that fully embeds the arts and the CCSI as a driving force that equips the EU to address the challenges of the future. Supporting artistic research and other forms of research and innovation in the CCSI will not only be economically beneficial ([€1 invested in CCSI yields up to €11 in GDP](#)), but will also strengthen the transformative capacity, creative and innovative edge, and societal resilience of the EU and its member states.

We have read the Council's partial general approach on the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and Specific Programme with great attention. We welcome the explicit inclusion of culture under the Society pillar, with the objective of sustaining European cultures and cultural heritage while strengthening the CCSI. However, to effectively anchor research and innovation funding for culture in the next seven years, we believe the Council must go one step further. That is why, we urge you to put the following action points on the agenda of the Irish Presidency of the Council.

In Horizon Europe:

Add 'culture' to the title of the Horizon Europe *Society* pillar, changing it to: *Society and Culture*. This is in line with the spirit of the current Cluster 2, where culture, creativity and inclusive society are brought together (**NAME**). Maintain the structural components for culture proposed in the partial general approach (**PLACE**). Ensure a dedicated budget line for culture within the 'Society and Culture' pillar, with at least €5 billion of the €7.6 billion earmarked for culture (**FUND**).

In the European Competitiveness Fund:

Acknowledge the important role of the CCSI for Europe's competitiveness, by including 'creativity' in the title of one of the Competitiveness Fund policy windows (**NAME**). Match this with dedicated structural components focusing on culture, cultural heritage, and creativity. Dedicated components mean dedicated budget lines, work programmes, and calls, giving the CCSI strong grounding (**PLACE**). Earmark €3 billion for culture and the CCSI (**FUND**).

Furthermore, we ask you to consider an urgent shift in the narrative on competitiveness in Europe, which is increasingly narrowing towards economic growth, market, and industry. Gathered here in Galway, it is abundantly clear that the MFF must be grounded in a vision of competitiveness that encompasses multiple dimensions: **economic, social, cultural, and environmental**. Nurtured by the CCSI, cultural heritage, cultural diversity, creative agency, and artistic intelligence are crucial pillars for Europe's long-term competitiveness and resilience.

Bringing these points forward as part of the Irish Presidency of the Council would turn the commitments of the Joint Declaration "Culture for Europe – Europe for Culture", signed by the Cyprus Presidency on the 18th of June, into impactful action which will clearly resonate across the CCSI. As an international coalition, we gladly offer our support to the Irish Presidency in this effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We trust you will answer our call.

Le gach dea-mhéin,

The #NamePlaceFund Partners,

And, the Executive Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies of the University of Galway



This letter was signed by the #NamePlaceFund Partners and co-signed by the Executive Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies of the University of Galway within the auspices of the SAR International Forum on Artistic Research.

Galway, 26 June 2026



Deborah Kelleher, President, AEC



Lars Ebert, Secretary-General, Culture Action Europe



Susanne Stürmer, President, ELIA



Barry Dignam, Chair, GEECT



Jacques Moreau, President, MusiQuE




Co-Signed by

Rebecca Braun, Executive Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, University of Galway

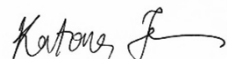
Manuel J. Damasio, President, CILECT



Roberto Cavallo, President, EAAE



John Butler, Chief Executive Officer, EQ-Arts



Júlia Katona, President, Michael Culture Association



Florian Schneider, President, Society for Artistic Research