Brussels, 2 October 2026

Micheál Martin, Taoiseach of Ireland
Ministers of Finance of the EU Member States
Ministers of Culture of the EU Member States

Restore Creative Europe funding in the 2027 EU budget

Dear Taoiseach,

Dear Ministers,

For the fourth budget year in the current Multiannual Financial Framework, the Council proposes cutting Creative Europe's funding.

For the fourth time in seven years, Europe's cultural organisations are calling on the Council of the European Union to reject proposed cuts to Creative Europe.

Year after year, we must defend funding for cooperation that the EU says it wants to strengthen. It is particularly troubling to make this request for 2027, the final year of the current Multiannual Financial Framework and current Creative Europe programme.

The Council's position on the draft 2027 budget suggests reducing Creative Europe by €31.6 million in commitment appropriations and €10.53 million in payment appropriations compared with the Commission's proposal. The proposed commitment cuts apply to every strand: €7.8 million from Culture, €23.2 million from MEDIA and €0.6 million from the cross-sectoral strand.

A final programme year is not a year in which funding can be left over. The Commission has announced a €61 million European Cooperation Projects call for 2027, alongside continuing support for mobility, networks, European works and new actions. 2027 is the final year of the Creative Europe programme — and the future of its successor, AgoraEU, remains uncertain. It is therefore important to build the support needed to carry the programme forward into 2028 and the new Multiannual Financial Framework.

The case for protecting this funding has grown more urgent.

In November 2025, under the Danish Presidency, the Council recognised that cultural identity is deliberately targeted through military and hybrid threats and disinformation. A ministerial declaration endorsed by 26 Member States also warned that AI-generated manipulation threatens the integrity of cultural expression and committed ministers to upholding cultural diversity and artistic freedom.

In January, the Council sanctioned cultural figures for using their work to spread propaganda about the war in Ukraine. The Commission's 2027 plans include measures to support film distribution in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine in response to Russian aggression. Europe

needs independent creators, diverse European stories and the means for those stories to circulate across borders.

In June, the Council joined the Parliament and the Commission in signing the Joint Declaration 'Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe'. It committed to protecting artistic expression, shielding the independence of cultural institutions and supporting the sustainability of the cultural and creative sectors. The 2027 budget is an immediate opportunity to put those commitments into practice.

The European Parliament's budget guidelines likewise call for adequate Creative Europe funding. We support the CULT Committee's opinion on the 2027 EU budget and its proposed increase of €15 million above the Commission's draft budget for Creative Europe: €7 million for Culture, €5 million for MEDIA and €3 million for the cross-sectoral strand. This reinforcement would help address persistent oversubscription and enable more artists and cultural organisations to participate in European cooperation.

We recognise the pressure to manage the budget carefully and meet the EU's other commitments. But repeatedly looking to Creative Europe for savings comes at a cost: fewer opportunities to develop independent, cross-border cultural cooperation that the institutions have pledged to support.

We urge the Irish Presidency and all Member States to restore the Commission's proposed 2027 budget for all three Creative Europe strands, bringing the programme's total to €417.35 million in commitments and €406.45 million in payments, including related support expenditure. We also ask the Council to consider increasing funding beyond this level. This final year of the current MFF should be one in which Creative Europe's budget matches the Council's stated ambitions for culture.

Kind regards,

1. Culture Action Europe
2. AIxDESIGN
3. Aksioma – Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana
4. AMATEO
5. Alfa Theatre in Pilsen, Czechia
6. AntiTeatro
7. Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität
8. AreaOdeon
9. Arsmedia
10. ArtedelContatto ETS
11. ArtGarage
12. Arts for Health Austria
13. Asociace nezávislých divadel ČR (AND ČR)
14. Asociación Cultural Coordinadora de Salas Alternativas
15. Asociación de Profesionales de la Ilustración de Asturias (APIAST)
16. Asociación Galega de Profesionais da Ilustración (AGPI)

17. Asociația Daisler
18. Associació de Professionals de la Il·lustració Valenciana (APIV)
19. Associació Professional d'Il·lustradors de Catalunya (APIC)
20. Association des Centres culturels de rencontre (ACCR)
21. Association des traducteurs littéraires de France (ATLF)
22. Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC)
23. Association of Children's Culture in Finland
24. Association of Literary Translators of Serbia (UKPS)
25. Audiovisual Producers Finland (APFI)
26. Austrian Association of Independent Performing Arts
27. Austrian Music Council
28. Autori di Immagini
29. Balkan Express
30. Baltic Sea Philharmonic
31. bazmek entertainment, z.s.
32. Beldocs – International Documentary Film Festival
33. Bottega degli Apocrifi
34. Bühnen Graz GmbH
35. Bundesverband Freie Darstellende Künste – German Association of Independent Performing Arts
36. Bunker, Ljubljana
37. Carnica Institute
38. Carte Blanche ETS
39. Casablanca Film Production
40. Center for Contemporary Arts – Ljubljana (SCCA-Ljubljana)
41. Center for Music Ecosystems
42. Central Organization for Finnish Culture and Arts Associations (KULTA ry)
43. Centrum för dramatik – Swedish Centre for Dramatic Writing
44. Château de Goutelas – Centre culturel de rencontre
45. Cinehill Festival
46. Circostrada – European Network for Contemporary Circus and Outdoor Arts
47. Circus & Dance Finland
48. circusnext
49. City of Women
50. Classical ME
51. Cluj Cultural Centre
52. CO.LABS
53. Coordinamento delle Realtà della Scena Contemporanea (C.Re.S.Co.)
54. Culture Next
55. CzechLit
56. Danscentrum Sverige
57. Das Thema – To téma
58. December film production

59. delleAli Teatro
60. Digital Beast
61. Divadlo kjógen, z.s.
62. Divadlo X10 z.s.
63. Drugo more
64. Društvo Asociacija
65. Društvo humanistov Goriške
66. Društvo slovenskih književnih prevajalcev / Slovenian Association of Literary Translators (DSKP)
67. Društvo za dvig kakovosti življenja Tenzin
68. DutchCulture
69. Dve luni, Centre for Poetisation of the World
70. ELIA – European League of Institutes of the Arts
71. ELIAS 2069 Institute
72. Emanat
73. Esittävän taiteen vapaat yhteisöt ry – Association of Independent Performing Arts in Finland
74. Esitystaiteen seura ry / Live Art Society
75. Eskus – Performance Center
76. EURead
77. Europa Nostra
78. European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF)
79. European Association of Independent Performing Arts (EAIPA)
80. European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)
81. European Choral Association
82. European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO)
83. European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL)
84. European Creative Hubs Network Association
85. European Cultural Foundation
86. European Dance Development Network
87. European Early Music Network (REMA)
88. European Fashion Heritage Association
89. European Federation of National Youth Orchestras
90. European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC)
91. European Festivals Association (EFA)
92. European Folk Network
93. European Guild for Artificial Intelligence Regulation (EGAIR)
94. European Illustrators Forum (EIF)
95. European Music Council (EMC)
96. European Music Managers Alliance (EMMA)
97. European Music School Union
98. European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC)
99. European Producers Club (EPC)
100. European Union Youth Orchestra

101. European Writers' Council (EWC)
102. Europe Jazz Network (EJN)
103. EUscreen Foundation
104. Euskal Irudigileak – Asociación Profesional de Ilustradoras e Ilustradores de Euskadi
105. Faber Teater
106. Federación de Asociaciones de Ilustradores Profesionales (FADIP)
107. Federation of European Publishers
108. Félag íslenskra listdansara – Association of Professional Dancers in Iceland
109. Festival PLÁCEK / PLATZforma
110. Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes
111. Finnish Music Council
112. Finta Film
113. Forum Ljubljana
114. Foundation We Are
115. Galerija GONG
116. Gledališče Glej
117. Gommalacca Teatro
118. Gustav Film
119. Hangvető
120. Harmonia Sacra
121. Hungarian Music Council
122. IETM – International network for contemporary performing arts
123. Illustratörcentrum – The Swedish Centre for Illustration and Graphic Design
124. Illustrators Ireland
125. Illustrators Platform
126. IMPAKT
127. IMZ International Music + Media Centre
128. Institute of Network Cultures
129. institutions of Resolution Disputes (i.R.D.)
130. International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres
131. International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM)
132. International Federation of Musicians (FIM)
133. Kersnikova Institute
134. Krisis Publishing
135. Kronoteatro
136. Kulturno društvo Teater na konfini
137. Kulturno umetniško društvo Morgan
138. Kulturno-umetniško društvo Mreža (KUD Mreža)
139. Kulturverein VEIK
140. Kunsten '92
141. Kunsthalle Dortmund (formerly HMKV)
142. La Chartreuse (CIRCA)
143. L'espace APS/ASD
144. LI produkcija

145. Live DMA
146. Live Music Now International Association
147. Lukukeskus – The Finnish Reading Center
148. Maska Ljubljana
149. Me AndOther Me
150. Medeber Teatro
151. Medialab Matadero
152. medien.kunst.tirol
153. Michael Culture Association (MCA)
154. Moving in November
155. MP-STUDIO
156. MuseoSpace Foundation
157. Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma – Finnish National Gallery
158. Musikcentrum Öst
159. National Youth Orchestras of the Netherlands
160. Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision
161. Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO)
162. Nikolaus Harnoncourt Zentrum
163. Nomad Dance Academy Slovenija
164. Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture Secretariat
165. Norwegian National Youth Orchestra
166. Oblivia
167. OCUBO
168. ON Rizom Institute
169. On the Move
170. Open Culture! Platform
171. Opera Europa
172. Otok – Zavod za razvoj kulture in družbe
173. Outdoor Arts Italia ETS
174. PaNaMo
175. panke.gallery – Verein für künstlerisch-kulturelle Bildung e.V.
176. Pearle* – Live Performance Europe
177. Petra Pan Film Production
178. Plesni Teater Ljubljana
179. Plesno kulturno društvo CoraViento (PKD)
180. Podhoubí
181. Polish Music Council
182. Pro qm
183. Radio Študent
184. Reality Research Center
185. Rekultur z.s.
186. Reset! network
187. Reve Srl
188. Sartoria Caronte APS

189. Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival
190. Scottish Music Centre
191. Slovenian Musicological Society
192. Society of Audiovisual Authors (SAA)
193. Stowarzyszenie Tłumaczy Literatury / Polish Literary Translators' Association
194. Studio Virc d.o.o.
195. Sviðslistasamband Íslands – Iceland Performing Arts Association
196. Swedish Joint Committee for Artistic and Literary Professionals (KLYS)
197. Tantehorse
198. Teatercentrum
199. Teaterföreningen 4 FLOORS OF WHORES rf
200. Teater Viirus
201. Teatro Nudo
202. Teď nádech a leť / Now Breathe and Fly Theatre
203. Temporama
204. Theatre Quo Vadis
205. Theatrica ETS
206. The Green Room (TGR)
207. The United Euro Bridge
208. Tomas Bata University in Zlín
209. Trans Europe Halles
210. Turkish National Youth Philharmonic Orchestra
211. Tyche SRL
212. Ukrainian Institute
213. Unia Teatrów Niezależnych
214. Unison – Croatia Music Alliance
215. University of Nova Gorica – School of Arts
216. Warehouse Collective
217. Werkleitz / European Media Art Platform
218. YOUROPE – The European Festival Association
219. Zavod Alcedo
220. Zavod Kinoatelje
221. Zavod Mono O
222. Zavod ZANK
223. Zodiak – Center for New Dance

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