

we are more

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Proposals for the next EU Culture Programme Culture Action Europe and the *we are more* campaign

The next Culture programme: a tool for arts and culture to experiment with new models, increase sustainability and solidarity, open up shared European spaces, and enhance their contribution to the development of our European societies.

The Culture Programme is the only instrument of the European Union exclusively dedicated to support the arts and culture. In its ten years of existence as a unified programme it has supported a vast number of key initiatives that have contributed both to the development of the cultural sector and to the enhancement of co-operations across Europe and beyond. It has also allowed for the testing out and development of the cultural sector's vision of Europe, and for the sharing and experimentation of this vision with very diverse partners as well as with hundreds of thousands of Europeans across the continent and beyond.

However, the Culture programme has also shown having a certain number of weak points that need to be corrected. Indeed, its very limited budget has not allowed for the development of a genuine critical mass of projects that could reach out through our societies in a truly constructive and sustainable way. Even with the significant progress made in the last years in its design and implementation, it is still not fully accessible to all relevant stakeholders. Finally, it lacks a clear and coherent rationale enabling the full use of its resources as well as the enhanced visibility and usability of its outcomes.

Today, when the European Union and its Member States are implementing the new Europe 2020 strategy and as public investment is being reviewed in terms of sustainable development and fair growth, the continuation of a EU support scheme for arts and culture is more relevant than ever. The European Union and its Member States need instruments that will nourish a vision of our societies that values arts and culture as well as individual and collective development; that strengthens cohesion, solidarity, and active citizenship, and that experiments with new models of development.

The next Culture Programme has to be bold and daring, embedded in the overall vision of sustainable and inclusive growth outlined by the Europe 2020 strategy, and aligned with the overall strategy launched by the *European Agenda for Culture*. Its objectives have to be refocused, its design and management improved, and its budget increased.

This position paper puts forward a summarised version of the proposals of the *we are more* campaign for the next Culture Programme. These proposals have been prepared by Culture Action Europe following extensive discussions and consultations with its members and partners. To read the full version of the *we are more* proposals, sign our manifesto, and know more about the campaign, go to www.wearemore.eu.

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A new rationale:

Through transnational co-operation: to support creative processes and their development; to share risk and experimentation; to forge relationships for a stronger European cultural space participating in inclusive development.

New specific objectives:

Support to co-operation partnerships and actions aiming at:

- (1) **Full and equal participation in culture** – addressing different obstacles such as regional, social, economical, educational, or digital imbalances.
- (2) **Sustainable development of the sector** – through capacity building, sectoral and trans-sectoral networking, sustainable partnerships and new governance models.
- (3) **Artistic and cultural experimentation** - in the economic, social and intercultural fields.

New action strands:

In line with its new refocused objectives, the Programme should also offer new action strands, better adapted to the needs of the sector:

- (1) **Laboratories** – to support experimentations and pilot projects, and facilitate the participation of smaller structures and newcomers.
- (2) **Multiannual structural and operational support** - to support capacity building, professional development, and the modelling of experiences and good practices.
- (3) **Europe-wide cultural initiatives** - to support actions that reinforce transnational citizens' participation, and open up new shared European artistic public spaces.

In parallel, the Programme should also offer to:

- Support preparatory and peer-to-peer meetings;
- Fund practice-based or academic research;
- Sustain mobility schemes for networking, peer learning, training, and capacity building, as well as projects aimed at reducing barriers to mobility (financial, regulatory, administrative, etc.).

Support to translation and participation of partners from third countries should also be enhanced but should go hand in hand with an appropriate increase of the overall budget of the Programme.

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