

## EMC input to Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) consultation

Link to the survey: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14523-EU-s-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-cross-border-education-training-and-solidarity-youth-media-culture-and-creative-sectors-values-and-civil-society/public-consultation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14523-EU-s-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-cross-border-education-training-and-solidarity-youth-media-culture-and-creative-sectors-values-and-civil-society/public-consultation_en)

Deadline: 6 May 2025 – **extended to 7 May, midnight**

You need an EU Login account to fill out the survey

Creative Europe is the EU's only funding programme exclusively aimed at the cultural and creative sectors. The core funding strands – cooperation projects, European networks and platforms, as well as Culture Moves Europe<sup>1</sup> – provide important opportunities for cultural cooperation and exchange, mobility of artists and cultural workers and for networking and capacity building of the culture sector at large. Additionally, sector-specific initiatives such as Music Moves Europe, provide unique opportunities for tailored support. This way, the programme promotes intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity in Europe and beyond.

The cultural and creative sectors have shown its impact and potential for further strengthening social and economic development. Music and culture can also play an important role for mutual understanding and peacebuilding. Freedom of expression and democratic values such as access and participation are at the core of music and cultural activities. Many Creative Europe projects have exemplified how this can be achieved with the support of the programme.

Therefore, it needs a strong Creative Europe programme that is accessible to a wide array of actors (incl. NGOs, non-profit organisations, SMEs and individuals) in the sector.

In the points below, the EMC highlights and further specifies its priorities to the questions of the survey on funding for music and culture in the future MFF. You can find the full response of the EMC to the survey [here](#).

### **Policy priorities & EU added value**

In addition to and further specifying the policy priorities listed in the survey, the EMC highlights the following priorities:

- **Ensure musical diversity across Europe** with regards to genre diversity, the diversity of the music sector and geographical diversity;
- **Safeguard the freedom of artistic/musical expression and freedom of speech**, within the EU and its external relations, including safeguarding the independence of cultural organisations.
- **Embrace a dialogue-based approach to international cultural exchange**, overcoming post-colonial structures with eye-level exchanges at the foreground;

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<sup>1</sup>Additionally, the European Capitals of Culture, are also an indispensable part of the culture strand.

- **Ensure the development of responsible AI** that empowers authors, performers and other rightsholders to exercise and enforce their rights;
- **Strengthen music and cultural education, training and skills development** on all levels – from informal education, schools, vocational and tertiary education to lifelong training;
- **Foster cultural participation for all generations** contributing to empowering citizens, democratic engagement and participation;
- **Uphold and promote respect of fundamental/human rights, promote equality and non-discrimination** and support civic space and civil society organisations;
- **Foster sustainability measures**, including environmental, social and economic sustainability. These measures should enable the culture and creative sectors to adapt sustainable practices to fully exploit their potential without creating additional barriers;

### **EU actions for the cultural and creative sectors**

To further expand on the question regarding EU action in the field of culture, the EMC stresses the following aspects for a reinforced Creative Europe programme addressing the needs and strengths of the music and wider cultural sector:

- **Ensure increased funding for music and culture in the upcoming MFF.** Raise the overall budget for Creative Europe as well as for music within other EU funding programmes such as Creative Europe, Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Single market, European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund;
- Reinforce funding for **cooperation projects, European networks and platforms**;
- **Maintain the Music Moves Europe (MME) framework and further develop an MME strategy** including a regular dialogue with the music sector
- Look into pathways to **establish a European Music Observatory** either through additional Creative Europe funds or funds from other sources e.g. Single Market programme or a future Competitiveness Fund;
- Maintain **individual and group mobility support** through Culture Moves Europe and make it more accessible for ensembles and **music groups with more than 5 people**;
- Continue **music sector specific support** through smaller grants to respond to the needs of the sector as exemplified through the MusicAIRE and LIVEMX cascading grant schemes.
- **Cascading grants:** Creative Europe has successfully shown that the distribution of smaller grants with light administration can be implemented through cascading grant schemes, however further improvement is needed regarding the management of such grants for an external consortium.

### **General questions on EU funding: Obstacles, efficiency and effectiveness**

From what we understand at this point, the European Commission plans a significant restructuring for the future MFF along three main lines: A Competitiveness Fund, A fund linked to reforms and investments, A fund for external action. It has been mentioned several times by members of the European Commission that there are ‘too many overlaps’ between programmes’ and that combining programmes would benefit potential applicants. This is also reflected in the questions on obstacles as well as on the efficiency and effectiveness of the EU budget.

We fully understand that this might stem from the experience with the large funds that make up the majority of the MFF (e.g. the European Regional Development Fund ERDF, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). However, this does not reflect the reality of action programmes like Creative Europe or Erasmus+, the accessibility of these programmes or their effectiveness. The EMC therefore stresses that **it is crucial to reflect these different realities in the design of the MFF and its programmes and funds in order for the EU budget to be accessible, efficient and most of all, effective.**

- Maintain and reinforce **Creative Europe as a standalone programme.**
- **Avoid (new) barriers to programme accessibility:** It poses an obstacle if application and reporting requirements are imposed generally (e.g. from Horizon) that are not applicable to the specific nature of cultural projects and the organisations in the CCS implementing such projects funded by Creative Europe projects.
- Ensure that the application and reporting procedures are **programme-specific** and correspond to the nature of applicants and beneficiaries in the Creative Europe programme. This should come with further improvement on the technical and administrative implementation specifically with the aim to reduce the workload for applicants and beneficiaries.
- **Continuity and openness:** Ensure that Creative Europe is accessible to organisations as first-time beneficiaries and at the same time ensures continuity. Creative Europe can be most effective when it continues to build on successful networks and initiatives and at the same time enables less(er) experienced organisations as first-time beneficiaries to build up their activities;