

## **Creative Europe - a unique instrument that enables arts and culture to strengthen solidarity and experiment with innovative social and economic models**

Culture Action Europe, in the framework of the *we are more – act for culture in Europe* campaign welcomes the European Commission's proposal for Creative Europe but calls for an improved recognition of the social dimension of arts and culture and the importance of risk taking and experimentation.

Culture Action Europe, in the framework of the *we are more – act for culture in Europe* campaign:

- Recalls that the Culture Programme is the **only EU instrument exclusively dedicated to support arts and culture**. Over the past 10 years the EU Culture Programme has supported a vast number of cultural co-operations across borders that have contributed to the development of the cultural sector across Europe. Investing in a unique instrument that nourishes a vision of societies that values **arts and culture as factors that strengthen solidarity between communities**, is particularly important in the context of uncertainty due to the financial crisis and to the delivery of the EU2020 objectives on inclusive growth.
- Asks EU Member States and the European Parliament to **support the proposed overall budget for Creative Europe**.
- Calls on EU Member States and the European Parliament to include the **social outreach and educational dimension** as part of the explicit objectives on audience development.
- Affirms that creativity and innovation; inherent to the arts and culture, are fundamental elements of the sustainable development of European societies. Including **risk taking and experimentation as a priority under the Culture Strand** is critical to enabling innovative social and economic models and key to the delivery of the EU2020 strategy objectives on smart growth.
- Believes that the European Added Value of cultural co-operation should be expressed especially in terms of its **networking, exchange of best practices and peer learning** in the cultural sector.
- Regrets the proposed discontinuation of operational grants in the Creative Europe programme and calls on the EU Member States, the European Parliament and the European Commission to **ensure that the measure supporting European bodies within the Culture Strand recognises the specific role of European networks**, as key actors ensuring active participation of civil society in European cooperation and policy-making.
- Welcomes the provision in the EC proposal related to the opening of the Creative Europe programme to the **European Neighbourhood countries** on the basis of relevant agreements and urges the European Union to conclude the Memoranda of Understanding relative to cultural co-operation with the European Neighbourhood countries as soon as possible.
- Calls on the EU Member States, the European Parliament and the European Commission to establish the necessary mechanisms to provide for a **close dialogue with all stakeholders** from the culture and creative sectors **in the implementation of the Creative Europe Programme** and, in particular, in the process leading to the definition of the operational objectives and the call for proposals, fundamental to guaranteeing a clear focus, meeting the needs of the beneficiaries and ensuring that the different opportunities offered are equally available to the diverse range of actors in Europe's cultural and artistic "ecosystem".