

THE EU PLAN

FOR CULTURE

BY MICHAEL CULTURE ASSOCIATION





# PLANS BEFORE ACTIONS

Decision-making processes in the European Union are multiple and complex. Before arriving at concrete actions, plans need to be discussed between the different parties. European policies for culture are guided by several documents: one of the most important is the **Work Plan for Culture**. This **cyclical multi-annual document by the Council of European Union** aims to define the European Union's political **priorities for the entire cultural sector**.

Each Work Plan reflects the political condition of the Union and the main concerns of its member states. In this way, the Work Plan is established as a strategic and dynamic instrument of EU cultural cooperation.

The work plan is an excellent example of the **principle of subsidiarity**, named in the European treaties: according to this principle, priority is given to the actions of individual member states. Only when broader action is considered important, then the Union acts with its own instruments. That is why the Work Plan comes into action.

## THE GOAL

The goal of this workplan is thus to give European policy makers a **roadmap** so that they can constitute concrete actions with an impact on all areas of the cultural sector

## WHO WRITES IT

The workplan is produced by the **Council of the EU**. This institution is composed of the **ministers of the various member states** and holds -along with the European Parliament- the **legislative power** in the European Union. It is **not to be confused with the European Council**, which consists of the heads of state of the 27 members of the Union. For this reason, the institution meets in committees.

The committee that deals with culture is the **Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC)**, composed by the Ministries of Culture. Discussions on this issue are driven by the state holding the presidency, since it changes every 6 months.



## THE PLAN IS COMPOSED BY...

### PRIORITIES

the general outlines around which the entire workplan revolves

### TOPICS

For each priority, the topics delve into the areas and issues to target

### WORKING METHODS

The broad methods of getting member states to cooperate

### ACTIONS

What concretely will be done, like workshops and activities

# WHAT'S NEXT WORK PLAN 2023-2026

## New Priorities

The previous workplan (2019-2022) was focused on 6 priorities ranging from sustainability in cultural heritage to international cultural relations. The topics covered areas of interest important to the cultural sector and the final report showed how the plan had a significant impact on it. In any case, there was a need for industry professionals to reinforce some priorities and create new ones.

For this reason, **Culture Action Europe**, in cooperation with the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, organised a workshop on the new priorities to be adopted in the next work plan. Among the interesting proposals, the group urged to **bridge the gap with other public authorities at national level** and to focus more on the **role of culture for mental health, and diversity**. MCA got involved and tried to talk about **digital sobriety** and the importance of taking into account the **illicit trafficking of cultural goods**.

This initiative directly inspired the workplan briefly shown on the following page. It has been presented in **November 2023**. This plan is structured around 4 different priorities with 21 actions linked to them and has a **focus on the social and sustainable dimension of culture**.

## The place for Heritage

Cultural heritage is present in every aspect of this workplan: it is mentioned in every priority and is recognized for its transversal dimension. Particular attention is paid to its role in the **fight against climate change**: in addition to having to be safeguarded, cultural heritage can be a source of good practices regarding climate adaptation. A space in the plan is dedicated to high-quality living environments, but also to **digital** enabling **greater accessibility to cultural heritage** and as a platform for sharing knowledge and expertise.

An entire action is devoted to combating the **illicit trafficking of cultural property**: it is important for ministries of culture, law enforcement, and art market professionals to cooperate efficiently in this fight.

**4 POINTS**  
**21 PLANNED ACTIONS**  
**3 YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH THEM**

# PRIORITIES - 2023/2026



**ARTIST AND CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS:  
EMPOWERING THE CULTURAL AND  
CREATIVE SECTOR**

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**CULTURE FOR THE PEOPLE:  
ENHANCING CULTURAL PARTICIPATION  
AND THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN SOCIETY**

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**CULTURE FOR THE PLANET:  
UNLEASHING THE POWER OF CULTURE**

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**CULTURE FOR CO-CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS:  
STRENGTHENING THE CULTURAL DIMENSION  
OF EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS**







## RESOURCES

- [Council agrees on Work Plan for Culture, EU Commission, seen on 22/02/2023](#)
- [Work plan for culture 2019-2022, EUR-Lex, seen on 22/02/2023](#)
- [Member States discuss the Work Plan for Culture with CAE, Culture Action Europe, seen on 22/02/2023](#)
- [Report from the Commission on Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, EUR-Lex, seen on 22/02/2023](#)
- [The role of the Council of the EU, European Union website, seen on 22/02/2023](#)
- [European Heritage Alliance applauds due inclusion of cultural heritage concerns in the new EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026, Europa Nostra, seen on 22/02/2023](#)

## CONTACTS

This synthesis note is published by **Michael Culture Association (AISBL Belgium)**, a European trans-domain devoted to European digital cultural heritage, from aggregation, protection, preservation, valorization, and reuse, aiming to support the DCH communities.

MCA is a member of the Europeana Aggregators Forum through MUSEU-HUB: a reference point for European museums and other cultural institutions hosting museum collections in the field of digital cultural heritage and aggregation for Europeana.

If you have any comments or suggestions on this or the rest of the synthesis notes, please write to: [contact@michael-culture.eu](mailto:contact@michael-culture.eu)