

Platform “Access to Culture”

In this framework of the European Commission’s [European Agenda for Culture](#) three “[cultural platforms](#)” have been established acting as the channel for cultural stakeholders to provide concrete input and recommendations:

- [Rainbow Platform on Intercultural Dialogue](#)
- Platform on [Access to Culture](#)
- Platform on [Culture and Creative Industries](#)

The Access to Culture Platform was set up in June 2008 in the framework of the [structured dialogue process](#) launched by the European Commission – Directorate General for Education and Culture.

This Platform structured its work under 3 working groups: [Audience Participation, Creativity & Creation and Education & Learning](#).

The mandate of the Platform is to produce concrete political recommendations on how to enable, sustain and increase participation in culture and all kinds of artistic expressions at all levels. The process followed was to:

- Identify practices of participation
- Translate practice into principles
- And principles into political recommendation

The focus of the Platform is to advocate for the best conditions for artistic creation and for participation in the arts to become a key objective of European policies.

EFA Chairs the “Access to Culture” Platform Working Group on “Audience Participation”

The European Festivals Association (EFA) takes an active part in the Access to Culture Platform both by chairing the [Working Group on Audience Participation](#) and initiating the European House for Culture that ensures the secretariat of the Platform.

As Chair of the Working Group Audience Participation, EFA, together with 3 other European networks, extends the consultation process to include the expertise of EFA’s member festivals and national festivals associations: festivals are in [privileged position](#) to input on audience participation and play a crucial role in influencing the decision making process not only at European level but also at national, regional and local level.

In this framework cultural organisations are invited to [share their practices](#) in terms of ‘Participation/Audiences’ and to share what, in their opinion, Europe can do to trigger participation in festivals: what are the obstacles for participation?

In order to guarantee that the voice of the civil society is heard and that the practices of festivals are spotlighted in the larger political circuits, EFA included in a document to be presented to the European Commission, Members States and other Cultural Actors, best practice examples drawn from the experience and knowledge of EFA members.

EFA considers that it is essential to use this opportunity to be present on a political level and mainstream the importance of taking audience participation issues into consideration when devising policies in the cultural and other areas and of raising the profile of this concern on its implications towards active citizenship.