

# ACCESS TO CULTURE



## **A fundamental right of all citizens**

Without culture, and the relative freedom it implies, society, even when perfect, is but a jungle. This is why any authentic creation is a gift to the future.

Albert Camus



## The Platforms: A EU initiative

In June 2008 the Directorate General responsible for Education and Culture of the European Commission launched, in the framework of the European Agenda for Culture and the Structured Dialogue with the Cultural sector, three thematic platforms:

- Cultural and creative industries
- Intercultural Europe
- Access to Culture

The Platform Access to Culture organizes its work in three working groups:

- Audience Participation
- Creativity & Creation
- Education & Learning

Read the full position papers of each working group on [www.efa-aef.eu/en/activities/european-house-for-culture/](http://www.efa-aef.eu/en/activities/european-house-for-culture/)

**Participating organizations:** ACCR - Association des Centres Culturels de Rencontre, AEOM - Association of European open Air Museums / JAMTLI, CEATL - Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires, Culture Action Europe – EFAH, EAYF - European Academy of Yuste Foundation, EBLIDA - European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, EBLUL - European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, ECA - European Council of Artists, EFA – European Festivals Association, EFAP - European Forum for Architectural Policies, ELIA - European League of Institutes of the Arts, EMC - European Music Council, EMIRA - Euro-Mediterranean and International Research Association, ENGATC - European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centers, ENCC - European Network of Cultural Centres, ETC - European Theatre Convention, EUNIC - European Union National Institutes for Culture, EUNIC - European Union National Institutes for Culture / Goethe Institute, EUNIC - European Union National Institutes for Culture / Romanian Information Centre, EUROPA NOSTRA, European Association for the Education of Adults, European Association of Conservatoires (AEC), European Association of Conservatoires (AEC) / Royal Flemish Conservatoire, EWC - European Writers Congress, Felix Meritis Foundation, FEP - Federation of European Publishers, FERA - Federation of the European Film Directors, FIM - International Federation of Musicians, HorsLesMurs / Circostrada Network, IDEA Europe, IETM - International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts, IFA - International Federation of Actors, Interarts Foundation, Lieux Publics / In Situ, NEMO - The Network of European Museum Organisations, Pearl\* - Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe, REMA - Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne, Réseau Art Nouveau Network, RESEO - European Network for Opera and Dance Education, UTE - Union of the Theatres of Europe

## The Policy Guidelines: the Cultural sector's response

The Civil Society Platform for Access to Culture

- Positions Access to Culture in a human/cultural rights perspective;
- Places Access to Culture upstream in cultural policy-making (with a strong call to also mainstream culture in other policy fields);
- Formulates clear priority areas for action to develop the conditions of creation, education and participation across Europe.



## The Main Recommendations: the Cultural sector's proposals

The Platform Access to Culture puts forward nine recommendations with stated objectives, proposed actions and expected results:

### **Understanding the needs of all publics**

Data collection, research and consultations - to improve policymaking in the field of access to culture.

### **Overcoming linguistic barriers**

Language education and support to translation - to remove linguistic obstacles to access to culture.

### **Supporting highly qualified professionalism**

Social protection, education and training programmes - to ensure professional development and growth and, in turn, broaden the diversity of the cultural offer.

### **Improving funding and procedures**

More diverse and flexible funding opportunities, easier access to information - to facilitate access to funding to a larger group of artists and cultural professionals.

### **Advancing mobility and exchange**

Mobility funding, spaces for encounters and exchange, support to diffusion of artistic processes and products – to increase mobility, and integrate cultural stakeholders in foreign actions.

### **Promoting the cultural use of new technologies**

Increased access to new technologies to public and cultural actors, while insuring appropriate protection of creators' and interpreters' rights – to increase the cultural potential of new technologies.

### **Stimulating learning through culture**

Recognition of the synergies between education and culture and support to such projects in all appropriate funding instruments – to increase the access to culture through education and the access to education through culture.

### **Positioning access to culture upstream and transversally in all cultural policy-making**

Participatory policymaking, interdisciplinary policy working groups – to improve specific and general policies promoting access to culture.

### **Raising awareness of the legal frameworks on access to culture**

Information, ratification and implementation of all legal instruments on access to culture – to translate international commitments on access to culture into genuine policies.



## Next Steps: Involve the broader sector

The Access to Culture Platform will work to:

- Bring the voice of social society to the fore: Send us your Best Practice examples!
- Represent the needs of the sector: You have a General Assembly / Conference / Meeting planned? The Access to Culture Platform is willing to prepare an info session for the occasion!
- Identify suitable action in the different stages of policy formation: Inform us of the opportunities for influencing local, regional and European policy makers!
- Organise itself to open the way to new reflections and policy development at European, National, Regional and Local levels: Info sessions, meetings, debates can be organised with your members!

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For further information and full documentation,  
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Board of the Access to Culture Platform: AEOM/ Jamtli, European Festivals Association, International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts IETM, HorsLesMurs/ Circostrada Network, Culture Action Europe  
Chair: Mercedes Giovinazzo, Interarts



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