European Commission



Culture compass FOR EUROPE

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CULTURE AND THE EU: WHERE DO WE STAND?

Europe is a rich hub of cultural diversity, known for its art, culture, creativity, languages, and heritage.

87% of Europeans view culture and cultural heritage as key to feeling more European.

Culture

- is fundamental to EU values and shared European identity,
- reflects Europe's history and is a driving force shaping its future,
- empowers artists and cultural professionals to create, innovate and push boundaries,
- fosters a European sense of belonging.



OUR RESPONSE: THE CULTURE COMPASS

The Culture Compass for Europe establishes a vision based on the strengths of European culture: our shared values, our freedoms, our identity.

THE VISION: EUROPE FOR CULTURE, CULTURE FOR EUROPE

"Europe for Culture"

The Culture Compass is designed to be transversal, to support culture across strategies, sectors, policies, and funding tools by:

- safeguarding the **fundamental freedom of artistic expression,**
- ensuring everyone's **right to create and participate** in culture,
- empowering and protecting **artists and cultural professionals,**
- promoting the cultural sectors to **thrive, innovate, and compete** globally,
- addressing **specific challenges** of individual sectors.

"Culture for Europe"

The EU will leverage Europe's rich cultural diversity, cultural heritage and creativity to:

- boost people's **well-being,**
- strengthen **democratic and societal resilience,**
- help **regions** grow and bring **communities** together,
- drive economic progress and **enhance Europe's competitiveness,**
- strengthen Europe's **global** leadership.

The Culture Compass is supported by
four overarching tools:

- **Draft Joint Declaration between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission,** on key principles for cultural policy in Europe,
- **State of Culture report in the EU,** including specific emphasis on artistic freedom,
- **EU structured dialogue on Culture with stakeholders,** as a platform for dialogue,
- **EU Cultural Data Hub,** to support evidence-based policy making.



Investment

To bring this vision to life, the Culture Compass will mobilise existing and forthcoming **funding instruments** at every level, in parallel with **private investment and philanthropy.** The Commission will:

- **simplify access to EU funding for culture** and update the CulturEU funding guide,
- develop **EU guidelines on strategic investment** in culture.

FLAGSHIP ACTIONS OF THE CULTURE COMPASS

The Compass will guide policies through **four key directions** towards:

culture compass FOR EUROPE

Direction 1

A Union that **upholds and strengthens European values and cultural rights.**

- Propose a new **European Prize for Performing Arts.**
- Publish a Report to support Member States in increasing the **participation of and support to persons with disabilities** in culture.
- Improve young people's access to **cultural heritage through cultural heritage passes, DiscoverEU Culture Routes, and the EU youth discount card under Erasmus+.**

Direction 2

A Union that **empowers artists and cultural professionals and supports people.**

- Propose an **EU Artists Charter.**
- Establish a **Youth Cultural Ambassadors** network.
- Present EU **guidelines on culture, health and well-being.**

Direction 3

A Union that draws on culture and cultural heritage to become more **competitive, resilient and cohesive.**

- Present a dedicated **AI strategy for cultural and creative sectors.**
- Strengthen the **European Heritage Label** and the **European Capitals of Culture** post-2033.
- Adopt a Communication and a proposal for a Council Recommendation on the future of the **New European Bauhaus** (NEB).

Direction 4

A Union that **champions international cultural relations and partnerships.**

- Together with the HRVP, update the EU Strategy on **international cultural relations** and leverage the **Team Europe approach** for culture.
- A new phase of the **EU4Culture Programme in the Eastern Neighbourhood.**
- Launch a new **Euro-Med initiative for culture, sport and tourism** in the context of the Pact for the Mediterranean.



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