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Ahead of the 2019 European elections the European Parliament is preparing a series of short research notes to explain the deliveries of the EU from the point of view of citizens. This compilation presents snapshots of a selection of notes on cultural heritage, as well as on activities and professions in the cultural and creative sectors. What type of culture lover are you?

Cultural heritage professionals

Cultural heritage matters to 80 % of EU citizens, according to a 2017 opinion poll. This means that the people who take care of our architectural and archaeological sites and historical artefacts have a special role to play. The importance of cultural heritage is recognised in the EU Treaties and, although the EU has no power to make laws in this area, it does provide financial support. ([Read more...](#))

Cultural tourists

If you choose holiday destinations on the basis of the cultural sites or museums you could visit, as [40 % of European tourists](#) do, you may be interested to know how the EU supports sites that are off the beaten track and helps them link up with similar sites in cross-border areas. These often hidden treasures are economic assets, and it is important to attract tourists to visit them. To take just one example, two museums in northern France have benefited from EU funds, the Calais Lace Museum and the Louvre-Lens. ([Read more...](#))

Archaeologists

The single market [allows](#) archaeologists to work freely in the EU, if they have the right qualifications, although they may have to complete an adaptation period or pass an aptitude test. The EU also supports cooperation between archaeologists, research centres and universities through a [number](#) of policies, programmes and funding. 'Creative Europe', Horizon 2020, the 7th Framework programme, and the European Regional Development Fund provide most funding, and benefit both traditional and emerging archaeology-related professions. ([Read more...](#))

Architects

If you are one of the nearly 500 000 architects practising in the EU and you are wondering which EU countries offer the best job prospects in your line of work, here is a tip for you. On average, there are 97 architects per 100 000 inhabitants in the EU, peaking at 242 in Italy, and going as low as 40 or less in Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary. Hopefully, this will help you consider your next move, since architects have the right to practise in another EU country. ([Read more...](#))

Film-makers

If you go to the cinema more than twice a year, you are already doing better than the average European. If so, you must have noticed that American productions make up three-quarters of the films on offer. This situation is disconcerting, not least because US-based companies produced 'just' 789 feature films in 2016 – compared to 1 740 European productions in the same period. The strong US presence in the EU film market explains why public support is provided to assist European cinema in gaining a competitive edge. ([Read more...](#))

Artists

Are you one of the nearly 2 million creative and performing artists in the EU? Then for you, mobility may not be just a matter of choice, but also of professional survival. Even though mobility remains primarily the responsibility of EU countries, there are areas in which the EU can make a difference. One such example is the [Creative Europe](#) programme. Its budget of over [€450 million](#) for culture should allow some 250 000 artists and culture professionals to work together across borders. ([Read more...](#))

Writers

The European book industry is flourishing. Eight of the world's top ten [publishing groups](#) are European-owned. The world's major book fairs – Frankfurt, London, and Bologna – take place in Europe. In addition, in 2015, some 575 000 new titles were circulated by European publishers, reaping total annual sales revenue of over €22 billion. The entire book chain – from writing to selling books – is estimated to employ between 600 000 and 700 000 people, including some 150 000 authors. ([Read more...](#))

Choir singers

Strolling around Europe's towns and villages you are likely to spot various posters announcing choral concerts. A 2017 report on the popularity of collective singing in Europe confirmed that it is a major cultural pastime involving 22.5 million people, around [4.5 % of the population](#). National participation levels vary however – 2.3 % of Poles compared with 11 % of [Austrians](#) are involved in collective singing. Choral singing is more than just an art form, it is above all a social activity that takes place in schools, places of worship, community centres and the like. ([Read more...](#))

Book-lovers

Reading is the [second](#) most popular cultural activity in the European Union. This is an activity that can be enjoyed at very low cost, as books are freely available in thousands of [public libraries](#). As part of its work to promote culture in general, the EU aims to help people explore the diversity of its languages and literary traditions. Since 2009, it has been awarding a [European Union Prize for Literature](#) to spark interest in fiction from other countries. ([Read more...](#))

Cooks and foodies

As an amateur cook or 'foodie', you value products that are delicious, authentic and safe. Europeans enjoy a wide choice of top quality products, ranging from Greek olive oil, Spanish ham and Belgian chocolate, to Swedish herring. Thanks to the freedom of trade within the internal market, all of these products can be sold anywhere in the EU. You can be confident that the food is safe to eat because of EU food safety rules, strict limits for pesticide residues and mandatory information about allergens. ([Read more...](#))

Opera-lovers

Those ready to spend a lot of money on an evening in a prestigious venue such as an opera house are outnumbered by cinema goers. With few exceptions, cinema is more popular than live dance, ballet, concert and opera performances: which together account for just [18 %](#) of EU citizens' participation in cultural activities. However, if you are a young Estonian, Czech, Latvian or Austrian, you are not afraid of going to an [opera house](#) to witness some of the most passionate love stories, or those dramatic struggles for power and wealth. ([Read more...](#))

Circus-lovers

Saturday afternoons at the circus equal sweet family memories for many of us. Today, modern circus artists rely more on feats of human skill and daring than on exotic animals. With hundreds of circuses in the EU, this 250-year-old traditional art is still alive, but needs to address the challenges it faces: competition from other forms of entertainment, the effects of the economic crisis, and the ban on wild animals in circuses that responds to growing public awareness of animal welfare in several EU countries, for example. The EU is helping circuses address the various threats to the future of circus arts. ([Read more...](#))

Young music fans

EU support for artists is designed to preserve diversity of musical styles against fierce world competition and also to ensure that there is a rich choice of music on offer for European audiences. The [European Border Breakers Awards](#) for emerging artists and groups gives them an opportunity to conquer European audiences beyond the borders of their home country. The worldwide careers of Adele, Stromae and Hozier have confirmed that ambition. With the [Public Choice Award](#) the public can pick the artists that appeal to them the most. ([Read more...](#))

Fans of major sports and cultural events

Are you one of the [3.6 billion viewers](#) who watched TV transmissions of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games? If so, you might want to know that the [legislation](#) allowing the free TV airing of events of major importance to society was prompted by the European Parliament. Such events have to be selected in advance by EU countries wishing to ensure TV coverage of them for the public, and be [listed](#) in the EU Official Journal. ([Read more...](#))

TV viewers

Do you [spend](#) around four hours in front of your TV screen every day? No worries then, you behave like the average European! Television remains by far the most popular media worldwide. The fact that it is part of the daily routine of millions of EU citizens, entertaining them, informing them and shaping their opinions, explains why we need specific EU rules [covering](#) all kinds of media services accessible on TV, the internet, cable and mobile devices. ([Read more...](#))

Young TV viewers

Do your children spend less time in school than in front of a TV set? You are not alone. Worryingly, by the age of 18, the average young European will have [spent](#) a full four years in front of a screen. Although there are potential benefits from watching TV, time dedicated to such media may displace other meaningful activities, such as reading, exercising or playing. Since 1996, the EU has been a forerunner in the fight against harmful audiovisual content. ([Read more...](#))

This information has been prepared by the secretariat of the European Parliament as part of a wider project looking at the achievements of the European Union and the impact it has on citizens in their everyday lives. The texts cover a non-exhaustive selection of examples of EU policies, actions and projects. The content should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.
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