



**2019/2028(BUD)**

23.7.2019

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020  
(2019/2028(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Petra Kammerevert



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that the Erasmus+ programme is a strategic investment in Europe's young generation, social cohesion and building a European sense of belonging; reaffirms that a substantial increase in the budget for the Erasmus + programme is critical and highly expected by citizens, as demonstrated by the volume of applications received, which exceeds by far the available funding; calls therefore for an adequate increase of the funding over the draft budget for 2020 across all Erasmus+ budget lines; reiterates Parliament's support for a tripling of the budget for the Erasmus+ programme in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) and its intention to stand up for that increase;
2. Deplores the cuts proposed by the Council to the Creative Europe programme, which undermine its role in supporting the Union's cultural and creative sectors and thus fostering a European sense of belonging, social cohesion, jobs and growth; insists that funding levels should match the ambitions of the programme and recalls that it has been chronically underfunded; consequently, in opposition to the cuts, asks for the budget lines corresponding to the Creative Europe programme to be restored and reinforced in order to boost the efforts to reinforce the creative and cultural sectors; reiterates Parliament's support for a doubling of the budget of the Creative Europe programme in the next MFF and its intention to stand up for that increase; calls on the Commission to continue to support the multilingual offer of European quality cultural TV programming across Europe through the Creative Europe programme;
3. Acknowledges that the interinstitutional agreement on the funding of the European Solidarity Corps has been respected and an adequate budget for the functioning of the programme has been allocated;
4. Emphasises the value of the Europe for Citizens programme in enhancing citizens' understanding of the Union and fostering a sense of citizenship; therefore deplores the budget cuts proposed by the Council; asks to restore and reinforce the related budget lines in order to encourage civic engagement and democratic participation; stresses that the next Europe for Citizens programme needs proper funding in the next MFF covering the period 2021-2027, albeit under the framework of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme;
5. Calls on the Commission to use the attention generated by the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) to build a coherent long-term strategy on promoting and safeguarding cultural heritage in Europe and to allocate necessary funds for this purpose in 2020 and beyond; calls, in that regard, for dedicated funds to be made available through relevant MFF programmes;
6. Welcomes the fact that culture- and education-related projects and infrastructure are supported across a range of Union programmes and instruments, notably the ESI Funds, EFSI, and Horizon 2020; calls on the Commission once again to foster coherent synergies across Union programmes – such as Horizon 2020, the Connecting Europe

Facility, Erasmus+, EaSI, Creative Europe and COSME, EFSI and ESI Funds – to enhance the support to projects in the fields of education, youth, and sport as well as in the cultural and creative sectors; insists that the synergies should not be interpreted as an endorsement by Parliament of any redeployments or budgetary cuts;

7. Urges to maintain and secure the Commission's draft budget for 2020 for multimedia actions, including the budget of the Euranet+ network within the multimedia actions budgetary line;
8. Is alarmed by the conclusions of the Rapid case review of the European Court of Auditors on Euronews, stating that in the Financial Regulation there is no longer any reference to the fact that Euronews is pursuing a general Union interest; therefore urges the Commission to end its cooperation with Euronews.