



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Regional Development

2014/2149(INI)

8.5.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Culture and Education

towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe
(2014/2149(INI))

Rapporteur: Andrea Cozzolino

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Believes that, with regard to the cultural heritage, an integrated approach is necessary if one wishes to achieve cultural dialogue and mutual understanding; is convinced that such an approach can lead to enhanced social, economic and territorial cohesion, while also contributing to the fulfilment of the goals set in the Europe 2020 Strategy;
2. Notes that cultural heritage projects are often examples of innovative and sustainable economic activities which create jobs and develop the business and research capabilities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a major motor of the EU economy; notes that the cultural heritage is a common and public good and has a positive impact on social innovation, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, competitiveness and job creation; calls on the Commission, therefore, to encourage the Member States to invest in the cultural heritage and help to protect and conserve regional, national and European cultural identity;
3. Highlights the fact that promoting the conservation of cultural heritage assets and their inclusion in sustainable tourism products will attract people and help to strengthen the local/regional economy; calls on the Commission, in view of the economic importance of the cultural heritage and the links between the cultural heritage and sustainable tourism, to establish a comprehensive approach – also in the light of the recent initiative on the European Fund for Strategic Investments – to financing the cultural heritage, e.g. urban infrastructure developments, the standardisation and harmonisation necessary for (re)construction purposes and the preservation of monuments, bearing in mind that the diversity and special characteristics of the historical heritage call for specific solutions and methods;
4. Calls on the Commission, in the context of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and the revision of the Europe 2020 strategy, to support European cultural heritage projects, including large-scale projects, on the grounds that they create jobs in all regions, particularly for young people, and contribute to social cohesion; notes the multiple benefits of investment in the cultural heritage – which enhance the intrinsic value of the European cultural heritage – and stresses the need to consolidate public-private partnerships for funding purposes;
5. Calls on the Commission to evaluate the possibility of promoting within the EFSI a thematic investment platform to attract public and private resources in areas of applied research to the preservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage; notes, furthermore, that an integrated approach to the cultural heritage in the ESIF is still to be further enhanced; stresses, therefore, the importance of developing synergies between the EU's structural funds, framework programmes and other resources available to the cultural sector; calls on the Commission to monitor and guide Member States on integrating the cultural heritage into local and regional economic development, in order to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency and to report to Parliament on investments in the cultural heritage and the results achieved;

6. Notes that the spirit behind the revision of the ERDF Regulation and, in particular, the principle of integrated funding can, in specific cases, also be put into practice by supporting large-scale projects; recognises, however, the need to promote and support small-scale cultural initiatives, which are of particular importance for endogenous development and can help conserve the cultural heritage and promote local and regional development and socio-economic growth in general;
7. Regards large-scale projects as an example of the aforementioned integrated funding and of the benefits of safeguarding Europe's unique cultural heritage, as reflected by the Commission's direct and constant involvement in, and supervision of the implementation of, the projects; stresses the need to recognise their significance as the first step towards intercultural links and unification between the regions of Europe;
8. Notes that Article 3(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 refers to investment in 'small-scale cultural [...] infrastructure'; appreciates the funding opportunities for cultural services provided for in Article 5(9)(a) of the same regulation;
9. Notes that, during the negotiations on the regional operational programmes, the Commission put a ceiling of EUR 5 million on the total cost of infrastructure investment projects of this kind (EUR 10 million for UNESCO World Heritage sites);
10. Notes that this ceiling, in particular because it relates to total costs, could seriously limit Member States' ability to finance such integrated projects contributing to the preservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage; points out, however, that cultural infrastructure projects could be combined with cultural education projects (making full use of the possibilities of digitalisation) and projects for SMEs, etc., which would enable the total invested amount to be much higher than EUR 5 million;
11. Calls on the Commission, after consulting the Member States and regions, to consider increasing the figure of EUR 5 million, given that it could hamper the ability of Member States to use ERDF funds effectively; asks the Commission, furthermore, to encourage the effective combination of different funds for financing cultural projects, and to introduce flexibility in the case of specific projects where investment in infrastructure exceeds the limit of EUR 5 million;
12. Highlights the fact that ERDF cultural heritage projects are a practical example of multilevel governance and of the principle of subsidiarity and represent an important element of ERDF spending; stresses the importance of cross-border cultural projects that contribute to increasing economic and social cohesion and encourage inclusion; calls in this context for measures to be taken to strengthen and expand support for funding through public-private partnership agreements;
13. Notes that projects of this kind often provide examples of good practice in carrying out integrated projects in urban areas, thereby contributing to the development of the urban agenda; stresses the urban dimension of European cultural capital initiatives, which contribute to the development of cultural networks in cities and promote creative initiatives in the long term, such as safeguarding the identities of various local and regional cultural traditions; encourages, furthermore, the creation of all-round tourist products based on an integrated development/strategy plan and the use of ICT tools, marketing tools and other innovative techniques in order to enhance the visibility of the

cultural heritage;

14. Considers that DG Education and Culture should set up a KIC (Knowledge and Innovation Community) in the European Institute of Innovation and Technologies (EIT), specifically dedicated to cultural heritage conservation, and that this KIC should directly support a holistic vision of research and innovation;
15. Welcomes the Commission proposal to introduce VALOR as the platform for the dissemination of project results, but calls on the Commission also to include in the platform examples of good practice taken from the cultural heritage projects carried out under the ERDF during 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 programming periods; recommends carrying out a technical analysis of the specific methods of uploading data on the portal; draws attention to the need for the creation of a unified EU database/portal, containing information about funded cultural heritage projects from all EU programmes and initiatives, and asks the Commission to introduce a unified EU database/portal in order to inform potential beneficiaries about existing European funding lines;
16. Considers that, in the implementation of urban integrated and sustainable strategies (Article 7, ERDF Regulation, 1301/2013) and community-led local development strategies (Article 32, Common Provisions Regulation, 1303/2013), heritage conservation policies (in particular policy on historic centres) should be strengthened, smart specialisation should be implemented, as should housing adaptation to climate change demands, the use of ICT tools should be strengthened, and marketing tools and other innovative techniques should be applied for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the cultural heritage;
17. Calls on the Commission to establish a European Year of the Cultural Heritage.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	5.5.2015
Result of final vote	+: 37 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Pascal Arimont, José Blanco López, Franc Bogovič, Victor Boștinaru, Mercedes Bresso, Andrea Cozzolino, Rosa D'Amato, Tamás Deutsch, Anna Hedh, Krzysztof Hetman, Ivan Jakovčić, Marc Joulaud, Constanze Krehl, Martina Michels, Iskra Mihaylova, Andrey Novakov, Mirosław Piotrowski, Stanislav Polčák, Terry Reintke, Liliana Rodrigues, Fernando Ruas, Monika Smolková, Maria Spyrali, Olaf Stuger, Ruža Tomašić, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Ángela Vallina, Matthijs van Miltenburg, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Derek Vaughan, Joachim Zeller
Substitutes present for the final vote	Isabella Adinolfi, Enrique Calvet Chambon, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Ivana Maletić, Bronis Ropé, Marco Zullo
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Ulrike Trebesius