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Committee on Culture and Education

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Special Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Resources for a Sustainable European Union after 2013

on policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013
(2010/2211(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Special Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Resources for a Sustainable European Union after 2013, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

Structure and duration of MFF

1. Notes that the existence of small headings, such as Heading 3b in the current MFF, hampers the reallocation of funds between programmes; urges that small headings and sub-headings be avoided in the next MFF;
2. Underlines the importance of striking the right balance between predictability and flexibility in multiannual expenditure; believes that a seven-year MFF would achieve this; takes the view that a five-plus-five-year MFF might also be satisfactory, provided that it included a comprehensive mid-term review with full involvement of Parliament;

European added value: in general

3. Points out that the current education, youth, media and culture funding programmes generate European added value by pooling resources and enhancing cooperation; notes that they correspond closely to the needs of the sectors concerned, have high implementation rates and produce noticeable leverage and spill-over effects;
4. Recalls that one of the five Europe 2020 headline targets is to reduce the share of early school leavers to less than 10% and increase the share of the younger generation with a degree or diploma to at least 40%; underlines that education, training and youth mobility are essential for creating and safeguarding jobs and reducing poverty, and are thus crucial for both Europe's short-term recovery and its longer-term growth and productivity; takes the view that EU programmes play an important role in steering national policies in the direction agreed at inter-governmental level, and towards the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy; recalls that EU policy initiatives have helped to modernise education and training policies and institutions within the Member States;
5. Stresses the importance of the cultural, creative and media sectors in achieving the Europe 2020 targets relating to employment, productivity and social cohesion; notes that, beyond their direct contribution to GDP, these industries have a positive spill-over effect on other sectors of the economy such as tourism and digital technologies; takes the view that EU policy initiatives and programmes in these areas have demonstrable 'European added value';

European added value: individual programmes

Lifelong Learning

6. Notes that the Lifelong Learning Programme brings about obvious economies of scale by organising mobility schemes at EU level and thus maximising synergies; notes that the Member States would not be able to finance similar actions unaided, and that the

programme therefore facilitates access to learning mobility for all EU citizens;

7. Notes that the programme's Erasmus sub-programme has an implementation rate of close to 100%; recalls the well-documented evidence that Erasmus facilitates study abroad and that this, in turn, significantly improves subsequent employment prospects;
8. Notes that the Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig sub-programmes promote partnerships and exchanges of best practices across Europe, helping both educators and learners to acquire new skills; acknowledges that they therefore bring to school, adult and vocational education a better understanding of cultural and linguistic diversity, and improve the European skills base; takes note of the success of the Erasmus Mundus programme (2009-2013) in establishing partnerships with universities outside the EU and highlighting the distinctive characteristics of European higher education;

Culture 2007

9. Notes that the Culture 2007 programme plays a unique role in supporting cross-border cooperation in the cultural sphere, reducing obstacles to mobility and fostering Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity; recalls its significant economic spill-over effects;

Youth in Action

10. Recalls that the Lisbon Treaty encourages the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe; takes the view that the Youth in Action programme contributes to this and reinforces the renewed EU Youth Strategy (2010–2018);

Europe for Citizens

11. Recalls that the Europe for Citizens programme supports European civic participation through transnational cooperation projects (such as town-twinning partnerships) and thereby contributes to the development of active European citizenship;

MEDIA

12. Stresses the important role that the MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus programmes have played in strengthening the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry; notes, in particular, that since national support mechanisms apply mainly to the production phase, these programmes have demonstrated significant European added value by supporting cross-border (and indeed global) distribution of European audiovisual works;

Future sports programme

13. Recalls the importance of sport for health, economic growth and jobs, tourism and social inclusion, and the fact that Article 165 TFEU gives the EU new competences in this field; welcomes the Commission communication entitled 'Developing the European Dimension in Sport' (COM(2011)0012) as a first step in assessing sport's added value and focusing on the societal, economic and organisational dimension of sport;

Budgetary consequences

14. Notes that EU education, youth, media and culture programmes are successful in that they enjoy high implementation rates and generate clear European added value, and believes that there are good arguments for increasing the resources devoted to them; underlines the importance of linking the allocation of resources more closely to take-up;
15. Calls for adequate funding for an ambitious programme in the field of sport, in line with the Union's new responsibilities in this area;
16. Underlines the importance of maximising synergies and multiplier effects between different parts of the budget, in particular between structural policies, on the one hand, and lifelong learning, youth and cultural projects, on the other.