



2017/2044(BUD)

9.6.2017

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 2018
(2017/2044(BUD))

Rapporteur: Morten Løkkegaard

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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. Deeply regrets that the draft budget does not include any of the additional 50 million EUR earmarked for Erasmus+ in the MFF revision for the period 2018-2020; calls for a proportionate tranche of that money to be made available in 2018 so that Erasmus+ can fully deliver as a strategic investment in Europe's young people;
2. Expresses concern that funding for the Solidarity Corps draws heavily on Erasmus+; considers that greater clarity is required, particularly on the link between the new Corps and the EVS; welcomes the fact that 18.4 million EUR set aside for the Corps in 2018 is fresh money; insists that this money must not come from the Erasmus+ top-up under the MFF revision;
3. Highlights the chronic under-funding of both the Culture sub-programme under Creative Europe and the Europe for Citizens programme; calls for more funds for both in 2018; deplores the 740 000 EUR reduction in the latter's 2018 budget vis-à-vis the financial programming figure; recalls that this represents around 3% of the EfC budget and will impact its already low project success rates;
4. Welcomes the additional 4 million EUR on the Creative Europe budget line to fund the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018; deplores, however, the absence of a stand-alone budget line in accordance with the Parliament and Council commitment to make 7 million EUR for the EYCH "visible in a budget line";
5. Calls on the Commission to review initiatives under the 'multimedia actions' budget line to ensure that the budget effectively supports high-quality independent coverage of EU affairs; reiterates its support for a sustainable multiannual funding arrangement for Euranet+;
6. Underscores the value of pilot projects and preparatory actions in shaping future EU policy initiatives; points to the success of the New Narrative for Europe PA, which has effectively fostered debate and fresh thinking among young people on the EU's challenges; calls for the initiative to be continued through the Youth strand of Erasmus+.