



2017/2279(INI)

5.2.2018

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Regional Development

on strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union: the 7th report of the European Commission (2017/2279(INI))

Rapporteur: Mircea Diaconu

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Believes that culture, education, youth and sport play a crucial role in shaping the future of the European Union and have tremendous potential in terms of generating European added value and economic growth in all the EU regions, in particular within the framework of cohesion policy;
2. Regrets that the Commission's 7th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion does not make any quantitative or qualitative reference to culture-related projects, which accounted for EUR 6 billion of cohesion policy expenditure;
3. Urges the Commission to continue investing in culture, education, youth and sport, and to build on the positive outcomes of the two previous generations of programmes (2007-2013; 2014-2020);
4. Calls for the creation in the next programming period of two thematic objectives on culture and education, explicitly referenced as such;
5. Calls on the Member States to develop, within the sphere of cohesion policy, long-term strategies in the fields of culture, education, youth and sport, which can serve as a basis for strategic investments during the 2021-2027 programming period;
6. Considers that post-2020 cohesion policy investments in culture and education should be more efficient and effective, in terms of both the quality and the quantity of the projects implemented;
7. Asks the Commission to include in the future regulation on the cohesion policy quality indicators for culture-related investments, as also required by Parliament's resolution of 8 September 2015 entitled 'Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe'.