

**March 2018**

The European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018 provides a moment to take stock of Europe's shared history and values and reflect on how to build on these for the future. Culture is expressed in a variety of ways, translates into a diversity of tastes, and is both ancient and modern. Culture can both create links and be a source of division between people. It both influences education processes and depends on education to thrive and attract the public. Culture can also contribute to democratic freedom and relies on democracy and freedom to exist and blossom. To complement the YEYS event at the European Economic and Social Committee on 15-16 March 2018, this digest presents selected publications on these themes from the European Parliamentary Research Service.

**Arts, culture, and cultural awareness in education**

Briefing by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, November 2017

Cultural and educational policies can contribute to the development of skills that help people to cope with the complexity of contemporary multicultural societies, and to qualify for jobs in the fast-growing creative and cultural industries. Research on learning processes and the impact of art and cultural education support this position. Both Unesco and the OECD have called for a proper place for, and recognition of, art and culture in education. In the EU, competence for culture and education policies lies with the Member States, though the EU also plays a role, providing financial support and supplementing and coordinating their efforts in this field.

Celebrating European cultural heritage in 2018

'At a glance' note by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, September 2017

A Commission proposal paving the way for the designation of 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage was adopted by the European Parliament and Council last year. Following Parliament's recommendation, 2018 is dedicated to European cultural heritage and its role in the continent's shared history and values.

Access to culture in the European Union

In-depth analysis by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, July 2017

Culture, a broad term with a variety of interpretations, is a Member State competence. However, the EU Treaties envisage EU support for Member States' cultural policies, protection of cultural heritage, and promotion of culture and cultural cooperation. The Commission's cultural work programme covers accessible and inclusive culture as an objective of EU cultural measures, in the conviction that culture can play a role in social integration, education and well-being, in terms of consumption and also through active engagement. People 'consume' cultural goods and services by attending cultural events, such as concerts, film screenings, plays, exhibitions and dance and music performances, visiting heritage sites or museums, and reading books and newspapers.

Integration of refugees and migrants: Participation in cultural activities

'At a glance' note by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, February 2017

Over the past couple of years, the EU has received people fleeing conflict zones outside Europe on a scale unprecedented for Europe since World War II. In the multi-faceted challenge of integrating new arrivals, cultural aspects are also part of the solution.

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[Creating opportunities: The EU and students](#)

Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, June 2017

Over one third of the European Union (EU) population – some 170 million citizens – are aged under 30, with half that number under the age of 15 years. Although education policies in the EU are essentially decided and implemented by the individual EU countries, the EU provides sound evidence and analysis to help national governments make informed policy decisions and drive reforms to improve educational outcomes and the employability of young people. For this purpose, in 2009, the EU set a series of common objectives to address the most pressing concerns in EU education systems by 2020.

Further reading

[Creative Europe Programme](#)

Briefing, *How the EU budget is spent* by Matthew Parry and Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, September 2015

[Creative Europe programme at the halfway point](#)

'At a glance' note by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, February 2017

[European Capitals of Culture broaden their reach](#)

'At a glance' note by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, June 2016

[Crowdsourcing and crowdfunding in the cultural and creative sectors](#)

'At a glance' note by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, February 2016

[Protection of cultural heritage in armed conflicts](#)

Briefing by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, March 2016

[Regulating imports of cultural goods](#)

Briefing by Krisztina Binder, February 2018

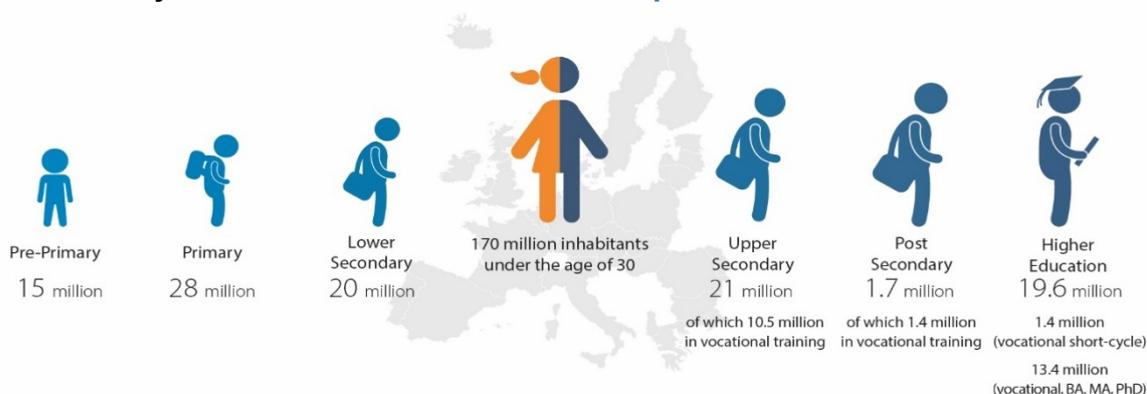
[EU strategy for international cultural relations](#)

'At a glance' note by Magdalena Pasikowska-Schnass, July 2017

[Perspectives on transatlantic cooperation: Culture in EU-US relations](#)

Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, July 2017

Number of students by level of education – More in the [Graphics Warehouse](#)



Sources: [Eurostat](#), 2015 (Pre-primary and Primary), [Eurostat](#), 2013 (Secondary), [Eurostat](#), 2015 (Demographic trends), [Eurostat](#), 2015 (Higher education).

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