Creative Europe programme 2021-2027

Creative Europe 2021-2027 is the continuation of the Creative Europe programme, the only European Union programme directly targeting cultural and audiovisual activities. The EU competence in this domain is to help Member States address common challenges in these sectors, respect cultural and linguistic diversity, and safeguard cultural heritage across the EU. Its funding of only 0.14% of the EU budget limits its scope, mainly to supporting networks, platforms, cooperation or innovation projects, and the development of common data and studies. The European Parliament is expected to vote at second reading during its May plenary session on the agreed text resulting from interinstitutional negotiations.

Background
Cultural and creative sectors (CCS) account for 3.8% of EU jobs, but face challenges such as strong global competition, a digital shift that affects creators’ revenues, creation, distribution, promotion of and access to content, and a market that is fragmented along linguistic lines and with poor transnational circulation. Cultural workers and artists’ precarious working conditions have been exacerbated by coronavirus-related lockdowns of cultural venues, and accelerated digitisation without tested payment models.

European Commission proposal
On 30 May 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation establishing the new Creative Europe programme (2021-2027). The proposal continues efforts to help cultural and media sectors face new challenges and to cope with persisting ones. It keeps the original three-strand structure, separately supporting the cultural and creative sectors, the audiovisual sector, and cross-sectoral projects, including innovation and research in these domains, as well as artistic and journalistic freedom. The programme focuses on new skills, cross-domain innovation (virtual reality, online distribution, new payment models), competitiveness of European CCS, international cultural relations, cross-border access for European audiovisual works, new audiences including outside the EU, and cultural participation and inclusion. The proposal would have raised the programme budget from €1 485 million to €1 850 million (2018 prices).

European Parliament position
On 20 February 2019, Parliament’s Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) adopted its report on the proposal. In March 2019, Parliament adopted its first-reading position, and subsequently entered into interinstitutional negotiations from September 2019. Trilogue negotiations were concluded on 14 December 2020. The agreement between the co-legislators follows the financial envelope agreed by the European Council in the context of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (€1 842 million in current prices; +36% from the previous programme), supplemented by an additional allocation of €600 million in 2018 prices. The final text resulting from interinstitutional negotiations was approved by Coreper, for the Council, on 18 December 2020 and endorsed in the CULT committee meeting of 11 January 2021. The Council adopted its first-reading position on 13 April 2021. The text envisages specific calls and roles for the EP and the European Film Academy in the LUX Prize, and European Union Youth Orchestra, and a special focus on the music industry. CULT voted on 10 May 2021 to recommend approval of the text, which now needs to be formally adopted by Parliament at second reading, with the vote scheduled during the May plenary session.

Recommendation for second reading: 2018/0190(COD);
Committee responsible: CULT; Rapporteur: Massimiliano Smeriglio (S&D, Italy).