

Newsletter

CULT Committee meeting on 19 September 2023

Consideration of draft reports/opinions

Implementation report – Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027

Milan Zver (EPP)



On 19 September, a total of four reports assessing the early implementation of all 2021-2027 MFF funding programmes falling under CULT's remit were presented, starting with the largest programme, Erasmus+. The Rapporteur highlighted that Erasmus+ is highly successful and the European flagship programme that fulfils the regulation's objectives. The Rapporteur pointed out the very high levels of participation and the frequent occurrences of over-subscription. He commended the programme for being flexible in difficult times and proving the importance and effectiveness of European cooperation.

The Rapporteur was critical of the IT infrastructure, as elements did not function correctly and the operation of other interfaces was far too slow. He also felt that the promised simplification processes have not yet gone far enough. Moreover, he indicated that no new elements should be added to an already complex structure. Additionally, the Rapporteur appealed for greater synergies with other EU actions and programmes

Shadow Rapporteurs and Members agreed that the programme was highly successful, but were equally critical of the IT tools. They also highlighted issues such as the way forward for the European Universities Initiative and how to improve DiscoverEU. They underlined that more work is required to enhance further inclusion, especially towards persons with disabilities and linguistic minorities. They also stressed the importance of the programme's contribution to teacher training, the next steps in establishing the European Education Area, and the contribution in fostering European values and European identities. Shadows and Members also stressed the need to improve coordination between the Commission and National agencies.

Implementation report – European Solidarity Corps programme 2021-2027

Michaela Šojdrová (EPP)



The Rapporteur presented her draft report, emphasising the success of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) in facing the recent crises and that it has exceeded original expectations. The Rapporteur suggested reinforcing the visibility and budget of the programme to allow for even more participants, especially those with fewer opportunities. She emphasised the need to improve the functioning of digital tools and systems, including the linguistic support for participants. She underlined the importance of recognising the learning outcomes emanating from volunteering activities, for example by awarding ECTS credits for volunteering experiences. In addition, the Rapporteur called for the creation of a special visa category for non-Schengen participants. She also recommended new formats of volunteering as well as revising the

number of participants for in-country activities for the next programming period, as well as strengthening the specific supporting role of participating organisations.

In the ensuing debate, CULT Members agreed on the importance of the programme for the EU added value it brings. They collectively stressed the need to provide an adequate budget for the programme that will accommodate the demand by young people and address new challenges. Finally, Members suggested using the ESC to promote European citizenship education to young people, for example via an online module.

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Implementation report – Creative Europe programme 2021-2027

Massimiliano Smeriglio (S&D)



During the presentation of the main elements of his draft INI report, the Rapporteur described how the analysis carried out for the report is based on limited data covering the two years of the programme's implementation. He outlined how these years have been greatly impacted by many unexpected external factors such as the pandemic, the consequences of the war of aggression against Ukraine, and high inflation. The implementation of the programme had nevertheless been effective overall. He highlighted how the programme mainstreams its actions through the cross-cutting priorities of inclusion, equality, along with a focus on gender balance, and greening. While the Rapporteur welcomed the increase in the total budget, he regretted how it is now being largely absorbed by high inflation.

Additionally, due to the huge interest in the programme's calls, the success rates appear on the low-side. The Rapporteur also stressed that any proposed cuts to the budget next year would send out a very negative signal to the sector. In conclusion, he made a number of recommendations, in particular the need to simplify reporting procedures as well as improve the programme's IT tools.

In the ensuing debate, Members welcomed the Rapporteur's report and agreed with the recommendations. They discussed the importance of funding smaller projects and festivals in addition

to the video-gaming sector. All acknowledged the programme is already immensely underfunded, and given the importance of culture, they vehemently opposed the proposed cut to the programme's budget in 2024 by the EU Member States and the Council of the EU.

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Implementation report – Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme 2021-2027 – citizens' engagement and participation

Łukasz Kohut (S&D)



Presenting his draft report, the Rapporteur insisted on the importance of EU programmes such as the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme that reach out to individual citizens and have a positive impact on their perception of the EU. The Rapporteur conducted a critical review of the first two years of the CERV programme's implementation. He proposed a number of priorities for the Commission's mid-term review and the future programming period. The main proposals centred on focusing on increasing the visibility of the programme and introducing re-granting for smaller beneficiaries under Strand 3, which is currently only available under Strand 1 and the Daphne call. The Rapporteur also asked for the unit costs to be increased to face the high inflation rate.

Members demonstrated their support to the draft report and underlined the importance of the programme to support pro-democratic education, in particular for young people. This was particularly the case in Member States where the rule-of-law principle is under question.

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European historical consciousness

Niyazi Kizilyürek (The Left)



During the presentation of the draft own-initiative report, the Rapporteur highlighted the importance of the timing of the report in light of the current European landscape in which debates around history and forms of remembrance are often politicised. The Rapporteur stressed that this way of consciously approaching history beyond a nationalistic view is an essential part of understanding where we - as Europeans - stand now and where we will go in the future. The report examines ways and means to deal with Europe's complex, conflict-ridden and contested past. More particularly, it assesses past and current "politics of the past" at EU level, identifies existing shortcomings, and describes ways to foster a "culture of remembering" and a (self-)critical historical consciousness. Such European historical consciousness is considered central for Europeans to

be able to come to terms with their past, confidently deal with the present and work towards a common future.

The report, which is informed by two Policy Department studies on [European Historical Memory: Policies, Challenges and Perspectives](#) and [European Identity](#), consists of four parts: 1) Dealing with Europe's (dark) past as a risk and an opportunity; 2) Politics of the past in the European Union - a critical assessment; 3) Towards an informed historical consciousness in Europe; and 4) Outlook: the legacy of the past and the EU's future.

While a similar draft report on the sensitive issue of European historical memory had failed in the EP in 2013 due to the particular approach chosen back then and also insurmountable ideological differences between political groups, this new report met with overall support from across the political spectrum, with Shadows and Members praising the report for its neutrality and thoughtful approach.

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Votes

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024 - all sections

Morten Løkkegaard (Renew)



CULT adopted this opinion by a broad majority (21/3/1). It provides the justification for the additions to the Commission's estimates for the programmes that are fully under its remit (Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps) for the financial year 2024. CULT had adopted the increased amounts last July. The opinion highlights the difficult context created by the need to recover from the impact of the pandemic, high inflation and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. At the same time, the opinion stresses that the programmes need to implement the objectives in their legal basis effectively. These include the priority of not leaving anyone behind, in addition to contributing to the green and digital transitions.

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Policy Department Research

Recently finished projects



Concomitant expertise for CULT reports:

Implementation reports on MFF programmes

- Study on [The EU funding programmes for 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sport: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Erasmus +](#); September 2023
- Study on [The EU funding programmes for 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sport: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Creative Europe](#); September 2023
- Study on [The EU funding programmes for 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sport: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: European Solidarity Corps](#); September 2023
- Study on [The EU funding programmes for 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sport: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme - Strand 3 "Citizens' engagement and participation"](#); September 2023

Legislative report on the European Media Freedom Act :

- Background analysis on [European Media Freedom Act](#), April 2023
- Policy recommendations briefing [European Media Freedom Act](#), May 2023

Implementation report on The revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive:

- Background analysis on [Implementation of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#), November 2022;
- Policy recommendations briefing on [The Implementation and Future of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#), November 2022.

INI report on Esports and video games:

- Background analysis on [Esports](#), May 2022;
- Briefing on [Esports - Policy Recommendations](#), May 2022.

INI report on The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism:

- Background analysis on [The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism](#), October 2021;
- Briefing on [The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism – policy recommendations](#), November 2021.

INI report on Europe's Media in the Digital Decade: An Action Plan to Support Recovery and Transformation:

- Background analysis on [Europe's media in the digital decade: an action plan to support recovery and transformation in the news media sector](#), May 2021;
- Thematic briefing on [Media Action Plan: key challenges related to media pluralism, media freedom and democracy](#), May 2021;
- Briefing on [Media Action Plan: policy recommendations](#), May 2021;

INI report on *The situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU*:

- Background analysis on [The situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU](#), March 2021;
- Policy Recommendations Briefing on [The situation of artists and cultural workers and the post-COVID cultural recovery in the European Union policy](#), May 2021;

INI report on *The European Education Area: a shared holistic approach to education, skills and competences*:

- Study on [Making the European Education Area a reality: state of affairs, challenges and prospects](#), February 2021;
- Study on [Towards a European Education – Critical Perspectives on Challenges Ahead](#), October 2020;
- Briefing on [Approaches of the Council and the Commission to the European Education Area: strategic priorities and quantitative objectives](#), April 2021;
- Briefing on *The European Education Area seen by the Member States of the European Union - Synthesis of a survey conducted amongst Member States' representatives* (internal), March 2021;
- Briefing on *The European Education Area: bibliographical review* (internal), April 2021;

Other studies:

- [Protecting cultural heritage from armed conflicts in Ukraine and beyond](#), March 2023
- [The influence of social media on the development of children and young people](#), February 2023
- [The European Universities Initiative: first lessons, main challenges and perspectives](#), January 2023;
- [The European Union's approach to multilingualism in its own communications policy](#), October 2022;
- [The European Schools System: state of play, challenges and perspectives](#), June 2022;
- [EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward](#), June 2021;
- [Cultural and Creative Sectors in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis effects and policy recommendations](#), February 2021;
- [Education and Youth in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis effects and policy recommendations](#), May 2021.

Workshop:

- [Workshop on the influence of social media on the development of children and young people](#), held on 01/03/2023.
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Selection of forthcoming projects

Useful links and contacts:

- [Research for CULT Committee](#)
- [Supporting analysis for CULT Committee](#)
- <https://twitter.com/PolicyCULT>
- poldep-cohesion@europarl.europa.eu

Next CULT Committee meeting: 24 October 2023

Useful links

- [CULT Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)
- [Calendar of meetings](#)
- [Policy Department Publications in the EP](#)
- [European Parliament - Think Thank](#)
- [The Spanish Presidency of the Council](#)

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