



2017/2044(BUD)

11.7.2017

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 the full 50 million EUR to be made available in 2018 and distributed between the 'education and training' (12 million EUR) and 'youth' (38 million EUR) budget lines of Erasmus+, so that the programme can fully deliver as a strategic investment in Europe's young people;
2. Underscores that common European challenges need a common European response; stresses, in this respect, the need to support large-scale innovation projects in the field of education, training and youth carried out by European Civil Society networks; calls, once again, for allocating part of the overall Erasmus+ funding of KA2 'Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices' to centralised actions; notes, furthermore, the need to increase the operational support to European networks under KA3 'Support for policy reform' in order to maximise the promotion and dissemination of the opportunities offered by Erasmus+;
3. Recalls that the Youth Guarantee scheme and the Youth Employment Initiative are key tools to address the persistent problem of high levels of youth unemployment and calls for their continued improvement, as well as a substantial budget increase; points out that policies supporting demand and investments, growth-enhancing structural reforms and coordination in social policies are needed to support quality transitions of young people into the labour market in a sustainable way;
4. Expresses concern that funding for the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) draws heavily on Erasmus+ and, to a lesser extent, on other programmes, notably the Employment and Social Innovation programme; calls on the Commission to elaborate on the detailed budgetary links between the new Corps and the EVS and on the distinction between the volunteering and occupational strands, so as to ensure there will be no substitution of potential quality jobs with unpaid volunteering; welcomes the fact that 18.4 million EUR set aside for the Corps in 2018 is fresh money; insists that funding for new initiatives does not put further pressure on Erasmus+ programme resources and that no other funds than those committed to the EU part of the EVS be transferred from Erasmus+ to the Corps; insists that financing dedicated to volunteering activities under the ESC should at least match the budget withdrawn from the EVS;
5. Highlights the chronic under-funding of the Europe for Citizens programme; 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; calls for additional funds to be directed to action grants under the EfC budget for 2018;
6. Calls for an additional 14 million EUR to be committed to the Creative Europe budget

for 2018 in order to meet the expectations of European citizens, as well as the ambitions of the respective sub-programmes; expresses concern that particularly the Culture sub-programme is severely underfinanced, and consequently struggles to achieve satisfactory success rates; highlights that the MEDIA sub-programme and the Guarantee Facility would also benefit, in terms of improved success rates, from a stable and consistent budget allocation;

7. Welcomes the efforts made by the EU institutions in recent years to address the payments backlog; points out that delays in finalising contracts between the relevant bodies and beneficiaries, as well as late payments, jeopardise full implementation of the programmes by the Commission;
8. Underlines the importance of cultural and educational work for the successful integration of refugees in European host societies and therefore calls for the more permanent introduction of refugee integration projects as one of the objectives in the Erasmus+ and Creative Europe programmes on the basis of the work that has started under the special calls 2016;
9. Underscores the need to further strengthen the international dimension of Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens and Horizon 2020 under the EEAS budget section as a central element in developing further the people-to-people approach in the EU's external cultural relations;
10. Welcomes the additional 4 million EUR on the Creative Europe budget line to fund the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018; deploras, 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”;
11. Calls on Member States and the EIB to fully use the potential of EFSI to support the cultural and creative sector, and thereby drive growth, by allocating a greater share of EFSI funding to cultural and creative industries; urges, furthermore, the Commission and the EIB to promote the interaction between the Cultural and Creative Sector Guarantee Facility and EFSI in order to provide fit-for-purpose loans for cultural and creative industries;
12. 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+; expresses its concern over the relatively small allocation to Euranet+ for 2018; calls on the European Commission to secure a sustainable long-term solution whereby Euranet+ becomes an integral part of the EU’s annual budget, ensuring a level of funding whereby its reach and number of listeners can be expanded over the coming years;
13. 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 on the Commission to assess how the initiative could be continued through the Youth strand of Erasmus+; considers that long-term continuation of the initiative would be best ensured through the establishment of a legal base and the

provision of dedicated funds through fresh money;

14. Welcomes the inclusion of the Special Annual Events budget line in the budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018, which will allow the development of a sense of European belonging among citizens; notes that the scope of the Special Annual Event should demonstrably serve the added value to the European citizens across the EU Member States;
15. Highlights the importance of creating the best conditions for ensuring that citizens can understand and participate in the functioning of the Union, its policies and processes; emphasises, in that respect, the need for the European Union to improve its communication policy;
16. Highlights the importance of statistical research and access to comparable data resources allowing for the effective monitoring and analysis of the cultural, economic and societal impact of policies in the field of culture and education; in this respect, recalls the need to allocate sufficient resources for that purpose;
17. Stresses that in order to address the chronically low success rates of some EU programmes that are caused by underfunding and to provide for a counter-cyclical function of the EU budget, a system of genuine and consistent own resources must be put in place for the post-2020 MFF.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	11.7.2017
Result of final vote	+: 22 -: 4 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Isabella Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde, Nikolaos Chountis, Silvia Costa, María Teresa Giménez Barbat, Giorgos Grammatikakis, Petra Kammerevert, Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, Stefano Maullu, Morten Messerschmidt, Luigi Morgano, Momchil Nekov, John Procter, Michaela Šojdrová, Yana Toom, Helga Trüpel, Sabine Verheyen, Julie Ward, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Milan Zver, Krystyna Łybacka
Substitutes present for the final vote	Mary Honeyball, Marc Joulaud, Morten Løkkegaard, Emma McClarkin, Martina Michels
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Lefteris Christoforou, Maria Heubuch