



**2021/2226(BUI)**

7.2.2022

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Budgets

on guidelines for the 2023 budget – Section III  
(2021/2226(BUI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Morten Løkkegaard

PA\_NonLeg

## 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. Is deeply concerned by the persistent impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education, the cultural and creative sectors and industries, youth, media and sports; urges the Commission, together with the Member States, to take all necessary measures to mitigate these impacts in order to ensure the recovery of these sectors and to continue facilitating their digital and green transitions, as well as supporting the beneficiaries of the Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes, including by strengthening the annual resources allocated to these programmes in the framework of the current MFF;
2. Recalls that the Creative Europe programme is the only EU programme dedicated specifically to supporting the cultural and creative sectors and industries; calls for particular support to be offered to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the cultural and creative sectors and industries, especially in order to facilitate their access to Union funding and to help them overcome market barriers, with the aim of enabling these companies to make the most of the digital transformation;
3. Notes that the unprecedented disruption in learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the education gap and, with it, the inequalities in education systems, in particular as regards digital education, distance learning and access to the internet and IT equipment;
4. Expresses its regret, in this regard, that some Member States are not investing a sufficient percentage of their gross domestic product (GDP) in education and training and calls on the Commission to devise specific support measures to address notably the effects of such disruption on mental wellbeing and to evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches implemented in the Member States to build more resilient and inclusive education and training systems;
5. Urges the Commission to present examples of Member States' best practices in already 2023, and ultimately in the interim evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme;
6. Stresses the need to increase financial support for cultural heritage in view of the impacts of the pandemic; urges the Commission to increase financing to actions specifically addressing heritage professionals and necessary conservation and maintenance works;
7. Calls for further support to be allocated to sports highly affected by the pandemic; underlines the need for further attention to be paid to school sports, community sports, athletes and trainers impacted by the limitations imposed due to the current epidemiological situation;
8. Expects to see a substantial increase in Erasmus+ funding for the sports sector in 2023 when the Key Action 1 individual exchanges of sports personnel begin to take place;

9. Notes with concern that, according to the Commission's financial programming, the overall Creative Europe envelope is expected to drop by 20 % between 2022 and 2023, even after taking into account the estimated 2023 top-up resulting from the programme-specific adjustment provided for in Article 5 of the MFF Regulation; considers that, because a full recovery of the cultural and creative sectors is not expected before 2024, additional funds must be allocated to this programme in 2023;
10. Calls on the Commission to examine the possibility of redirecting unused or saved resources to culture, education, youth, sports and media programmes;
11. Recalls the possible synergies and complementarities between Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps on the one hand, and other EU programmes and funding sources on the other, such as the European Social Fund+ (ESF+), the Just Transition Fund, the Horizon Europe programme, the Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF); regrets the fact that in practice, these synergies and complementarities are not being fully coordinated in most Member States;
12. Calls on the Commission, notwithstanding the need for sufficient funding for the programmes mentioned, to further examine these synergies and complementarities and to support the Member States in coordinating them, including by providing EU-level guidance and by facilitating the exchange of good practices;
13. Calls on the Commission, in this regard, to propose a training plan to help national agencies communicate more effectively with their responsible ministries in order to use ESF+ funds for Erasmus+ top-ups for those students who cannot afford to participate in Erasmus+ and to support the programme in other ways;
14. Recalls that there is significant funding available for the cultural and creative sectors and industries within the Horizon Europe programme and calls on the Commission to fully explore Cluster 2 on 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society' by publishing more open calls for proposals, which will help the sector to recover and to cope with the digital transition;
15. Is convinced that the capacity for building synergies across EU programmes is essential to achieve a European Education Area by 2025, to implement the digital education action plan and to make the New European Bauhaus initiative and the European Year of Youth 2022 a success; urges the Commission and the Member States, in this regard, to step up their efforts to maximise the complementary nature of their investments and actions and ensure they are supported across all EU funding sources;
16. Insists that the implementation of the above-mentioned initiatives must not come at the expense of the budgetary resources and core activities of the Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes;
17. Recalls that the RRF is focused on the Union's recovery and is deeply concerned that the goal of dedicating 2 % of the overall budget to culture has been achieved at an aggregated EU level only; notes that just 14 Member States have included culture in their RRF plans; draws attention, furthermore, to previous recommendations to allocate 10 % of the RRF to support education;

18. Calls on the Commission to present a detailed report on how the RRF is contributing to the cultural and creative sectors and to education;
19. Welcomes the New European Bauhaus initiative, which builds bridges between the worlds of science and technology on the one hand and art and culture on the other, to efficiently address societal issues and build sustainable and inclusive living spaces; notes with concern, however, that a coherent and strategic approach for the financing of the initiative is still lacking;
20. Considers that the mere deployment of existing funds may not be sufficient to achieve the objectives of this initiative and emphasises the need for new funds;
21. Calls for a mid-term revision of the MFF, in which possibilities to establish long-term dedicated funding for the New European Bauhaus initiative as well as for the European Education Area may be explored;
22. Welcomes the inclusion measures put forward by the Commission with the aim of reinforcing the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes until 2027; calls on the Commission to implement concrete inclusion measures with regard to the Creative Europe programme, and to perform a transparent assessment of their implementation and report on the outcomes to Parliament;
23. Calls for specific inclusion measures targeting people with fewer opportunities and people with disabilities, including young people; calls also for particular attention to be paid to beneficiaries of such measures from rural, remote and mountainous areas;
24. Is pleased that Parliament managed to secure an additional EUR 8 million for the Erasmus+ programme and European Solidarity Corps to finance the European Year of Youth 2022, ensuring that the core activities of both programmes will not be affected; expresses its regret that this additional sum is still far from sufficient to cover the needs of this initiative;
25. Calls on the Commission, in this regard, to support the co-legislators' commitment for the European Year of Youth 2022 to leave a lasting legacy by planning follow-up activities and securing adequate financing for 2023 and by performing a thorough evaluation of the Year; recalls, in this regard, the Commission's commitment to carry out a mapping exercise throughout the year and within the current MFF and the EU programmes and instruments, to identify any additional funding beyond 2022 and to report regularly to Parliament and the Council on progress in this regard;
26. Reiterates the need for the Commission to perform a thorough evaluation and to submit a report to Parliament at the end of 2023 covering the implementation and results of the activities financed by the European Year of Youth;
27. Highlights the fallout from the economic downturn and strongly reiterates its call on the Commission and the Member States to increase the support available for the news media and audiovisual sectors; reiterates its call for a permanent EU news media fund to empower independent news coverage, safeguard the independence of European journalists and journalism, and guarantee the freedom of the press;

28. Takes note of the changed ownership structure of Euronews; remains concerned, however, that all conditions for guaranteeing journalistic independence may not be met; takes the view that the securing of a reserve fund for Euronews must be conditional on the provision of written, detailed and concrete measures by the main shareholders to guarantee journalistic independence effectively; insists that these undertakings be fit for proper assessment and regular review by the EU institutions;
29. Reiterates its call for enhanced transparency and for a comprehensive review of EU spending on multimedia actions in order to ensure stability, predictability and the scrutiny of those actions;
30. Urges the Commission and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency to continue improving their IT systems and tools and to make them more accessible, and to put forward additional administrative simplification measures that are necessary for the smooth and successful implementation of the Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes, as well as pilot projects and preparatory actions, in 2023;
31. Welcomes the Commission's new interactive guide mapping all relevant funding opportunities for the cultural and creative sectors and industries in order to improve their know-how and possibilities to benefit from available Union support and calls for regular reporting on the effectiveness of this tool;
32. Notes that there is still a need to further improve the visibility and understanding of EU actions targeting culture, education, youth, media and sports; calls on the Commission to further enhance its external communication strategy and the visibility of Union funding, including by diversifying the tools currently used;
33. Is concerned about the deficit of knowledge among citizens about democratic life in Europe and their lack of participation in it; stresses the need for more initiatives, beyond the setting up of the European universities networks, to strengthen civic and citizenship education at EU level, including EU policies and programmes and, when possible, the creation of permanent structures at Member State level with the aim of fostering the development of citizenship education and mobility as drivers leading to a greater sense of European belonging among young people;
34. Is concerned about the post-Brexit situation of EU students who wish to take part in study exchanges to the United Kingdom; calls on the Commission to use all available diplomatic means to persuade the United Kingdom of the advantages of re-joining Erasmus+ as a full member;
35. Calls on the Commission to start negotiating with Switzerland on its full participation in the Erasmus+ programme, independently of negotiations on other aspects of relations between the EU and Switzerland.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	7.2.2022
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 24 -: 1 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Asim Ademov, Ilana Cicurel, Gianantonio Da Re, Laurence Farreng, Tomasz Frankowski, Alexis Georgoulis, Catherine Griset, Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Irena Joveva, Petra Kammerevert, Niyazi Kizilyürek, Predrag Fred Matić, Dace Melbārde, Victor Negrescu, Peter Pollák, Marcos Ros Sempere, Monica Semedo, Andrey Slabakov, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Michaela Šojdrová, Sabine Verheyen, Salima Yenbou, Theodoros Zagorakis
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Christian Ehler, Loucas Fourlas, Elżbieta Kruk, Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

24	+
ECR	Dace Melbārde
PPE	Asim Ademov, Christian Ehler, Loucas Furlas, Tomasz Frankowski, Peter Pollák, Michaela Šojdrová, Sabine Verheyen, Theodoros Zagorakis
Renew	Ilana Cicurel, Laurence Farreng, Irena Joveva, Monica Semedo
S&D	Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Petra Kammerevert, Predrag Fred Matić, Victor Negrescu, Marcos Ros Sempere, Massimiliano Smeriglio
The Left	Alexis Georgoulis, Niyazi Kizilyürek
Verts/ALE	Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel, Salima Yenbou

1	-
ID	Catherine Griset

3	0
ECR	Elżbieta Kruk, Andrey Slabakov
ID	Gianantonio Da Re

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention