



**2022/0212(BUD)**

6.10.2022

# **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 2023 –  
all sections  
(2022/0212(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: 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. Highlights the need to continue the support for the cultural and creative sectors and industries, as well as the sports sector, that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and its long-lasting negative effects, as well as the need to urgently address the new priorities linked to the war in Ukraine, in particular by increasing support to Ukrainian learners, teachers, artists, cultural workers, journalists and NGOs;
2. Believes, in this regard, that the Union budget should provide for a significant increase of EUR 200 million compared to the draft budget in allocations for the Erasmus+ Programme in the financial year 2023 by so that the education and training systems can cope with the new challenges and that learners, teachers, schools, youth organisations and NGOs can benefit from adequate resources; believes, furthermore, that a budgetary increase also ensures the continued greening and digitalisation of the Erasmus+ Programme as well as further inclusion measures to allow the participation of more disadvantaged young Europeans and more learners; furthermore, highlights the importance of ensuring appropriate support to enable the reinforcement of the European Universities Initiative, as well as the proper functioning of the existing alliances and to take stock of the actions of Erasmus+ Teacher Academies in view of new calls for proposals in 2023;
3. Calls upon the Commission to ensure full implementation of the Union programmes in the fields of culture and education in 2023; reiterates the need to make sure that all programmes are accessible across Europe, in particular by small organisations, vulnerable people and people from remote, rural and isolated areas; therefore, calls on the Commission and Member States to seek for a fair and equitable digitalisation of the different Union programmes and projects allowing everyone to participate;
4. Furthermore, underlines the importance of financial support for inclusive events that promote the visibility of people with disabilities in culture and sports, such as the Special Olympics World Games in 2023;
5. Recalls the co-legislators' commitments to ensure a long-lasting legacy of the 2022 European Year of Youth also by identifying adequate financing from relevant Union programmes for follow-up activities in the subsequent years. Highlights the need for the Commission to timely report to the Parliament on the results of the 2022 European Year of Youth;
6. Furthermore, and in line with the recommendations of the Conference on the Future of Europe, calls for the promotion of youth mainstreaming across all related Union policies and for the enhancement of citizenship education through the reinforcement of Union programmes and projects supporting education about the Union;
7. Notes that the cultural and creative sectors and industries and the sports sector continue to suffer from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic; points out that, in addition

to the impact of the pandemic, those sectors are also facing new challenges such as rising inflation, rising energy costs and the associated loss of purchasing power among Union citizens; points out, furthermore, that the war in Ukraine is worsening the situation; therefore, calls for a bolstering of the Creative Europe Programme in order to provide targeted support for the creative sectors and industries, including the performing arts; consequently, insists on the need to increase the allocations for the Creative Europe Programme by EUR 40 million compared to the draft budget;

8. Stresses the need for additional funding for the ‘European Capitals of Culture’ Union action, as it represents a great added value for European society, and as the COVID-19 pandemic and rising inflation have significantly worsened the framework conditions for the implementation of that action;
9. Notes the persistent issue of disinformation, manipulation of public opinion and foreign information interference, which are undermining the functioning of democratic processes; therefore, emphasises the urgent need for more funding to support independent journalism and freedom of expression while fighting disinformation; insists, in this regard, that the budget for the Cross-Sectoral and Media Strands under the Creative Europe Programme should be reinforced with EUR 10 million and EUR 12 million respectively compared to the draft budget, and reiterates the need to explore the possibility of establishing a permanent Union editorial and news media fund to support independent editorial coverage, safeguard the independence of European journalists and journalism, and guarantee the freedom of the press;
10. In this context, considers that, beyond the reinforcement proposed to the Creative Europe Programme and with respect to the challenges posed by disinformation in external Union policy, there is a need to support those involved in the activities of fact-checking; calls therefore for an additional allocation of EUR 1 million for the budget line on ‘Information policy and strategic communication for external action’;
11. Believes that reinforcement is needed for the European Solidarity Corps Programme to support young people and organisations engaged in solidarity actions, also taking into account the consequences of the war in Ukraine;
12. Recalls the importance of citizens’ engagement activities, including town-twinning and remembrance, for peacekeeping in Europe; in that respect, considers that there is a need to allocate an additional EUR 2 million compared to the draft budget for the ‘Citizens’ engagement and participation’ strand of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme;
13. Reiterates the importance of funding multimedia actions, which aim to provide independent information about European topics, thus reinforcing Europe’s democratic principles; in this regard, emphasises the need for long-term stability for networks supported by the ‘Multimedia actions’ budget line to guarantee consistent high-quality journalism; therefore, highlights the need for open calls for proposals which guarantee long-term and sufficient funding for independent journalistic coverage of European topics;
14. Additionally, underlines the need for enhanced transparency and for a comprehensive review of Union spending on multimedia actions in order to ensure stability,

predictability and the scrutiny of those actions;

15. Insists that the New European Bauhaus initiative launched in 2021 needs proper and sufficient funding to be able and to deliver its objectives beyond 2022, and recalls that it should not be funded at the expense of the Creative Europe Programme; in that regard, recalls the Parliament position for an indispensable and swift mid-term revision of the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 to respond to the long-term consequences of the current crisis, to additionally look for avenues to establish a long-term dedicated funding for the New European Bauhaus initiative and for the European Education Area;
16. Moreover, calls for an additional amount of EUR 50 million from the Horizon Europe Programme to be dedicated to the New European Bauhaus Initiative in order to finance concrete projects; Additionally, calls for a coordination and support action to start in 2023 in order to prepare the launch of a Horizon Europe Mission on the New European Bauhaus in 2025;
17. Opposes the Council's position to propose an overall cut of EUR 16 million to the three budget lines under the remit of the Directorate-General for Communication, and in particular a cut of EUR 8 million to the executive and corporate services line to communication activities; therefore, proposes to restore the level of commitments and payment appropriations for the financial year 2023 in view of ensuring the continuity of key communication activities, including media monitoring, continued development of the Europa website, the fight against disinformation and misinformation, citizens engagement initiatives and local outreach;
18. Calls on the Commission and Member States to actively involve social partners and the civil society in the development and implementation of Union programmes;
19. Underlines the importance of pilot projects and preparatory actions in the framework of the Union budget and recalls the need to ensure financing to the high quality and balanced proposals submitted by the Committee on Culture and Education.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	3.10.2022
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : 24 - : 1 0 : 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Asim Ademov, Andrea Bocskor, Gianantonio Da Re, Laurence Farreng, Tomasz Frankowski, Romeo Franz, Catherine Griset, Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Irena Joveva, Petra Kammerevert, Niyazi Kizilyürek, Predrag Fred Matić, Niklas Nienaaß, Peter Pollák, Diana Riba i Giner, Monica Semedo, Andrey Slabakov, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Michaela Šojdrová, Sabine Verheyen, Maria Walsh, Milan Zver
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Loucas Fourlas, Martina Michels, Salima Yenbou

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

24	+
ECR	Andrey Slabakov
NI	Andrea Bocskor
PPE	Asim Ademov, Loucas Fourlas, Tomasz Frankowski, Peter Pollák, Michaela Šojdová, Sabine Verheyen, Maria Walsh, Milan Zver
RENEW	Laurence Farreng, Irena Joveva, Monica Semedo, Salima Yenbou
S&D	Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Petra Kammerevert, Predrag Fred Matic, Massimiliano Smeriglio
THE LEFT	Niyazi Kizilyürek, Martina Michels
VERTS/ALE	Romeo Franz, Niklas Nienä, Diana Riba i Giner

1	-
ID	Catherine Griset

1	0
ID	Gianantonio Da Re

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention