



2023/0264(BUD)

2.10.2023

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 2024 –
all sections

(COM(2023)0300 – C9-0336/2023 – 2023/0264(BUD))

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. Calls for significant increases for important EU programmes focussing on European citizens, including the European youth, culture, free press and education, namely Erasmus+ and Creative Europe; reiterates its call to ensure sufficient resources for youth policies and for the continuation of the legacy of the European Year of Youth to result in tangible outcomes for the young;
2. Calls for a significant increase of EUR 60 million for the Erasmus+ Programme;
3. Underlines the importance of Erasmus+, as the most successful EU flagship programme, to strengthen European identities and promote European values through education and learning in different Member States;
4. Stresses that some learners, particularly youths from disadvantaged backgrounds face significant financial obstacles and other difficulties, which may also affect teachers and educational staff, this causes the programme to remain inaccessible to a high number of people;
5. Highlights the role of the DiscoverEU initiative as a tool to bring young people closer to the EU;
6. Underlines the role of Erasmus+ in encouraging young people to participate in Europe's democratic life;
7. Highlights that the Programme should also continue to support Ukrainian students in the light of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine by supporting learners, teachers, schools, education and training systems, youth organisations and NGOs;
8. Believes that a budgetary increase will help ensure future inclusion measures and the continued greening and digitalisation of the Erasmus+ Programme;
9. Highlights the importance of additional funds to support the achievement of the European Education Area;
10. Highlights the potential of European University networks, in particular for further research cooperation and the gathering of educational resources;
11. Emphasises the need to support sport under Erasmus+ to promote its role in improving health and social inclusion while also fighting discrimination;
12. Highlights Esport and the significant potential in the gamification of educational material which, among other things, can help disadvantaged people learn and study better, including key European values; Furthermore underlines that new technologies require the development of new skills essential for the future of the labour market;

13. Highlights that Creative Europe, as the only EU Programme directly supporting the cultural and creative sector and industries, needs a significant reinforcement of all its strands to fulfil its goals in 2024, including ensuring the sector's full recovery after the pandemic and its resilience against the currently high inflation, which also undermines European citizen's purchasing power; besides, the increase in funding is needed to further implement cross-cutting actions linked to improving the overall inclusiveness of the programme and the green and digital transitions;
14. Highlights the need to support the cultural and creative sectors and industries, journalists and media professionals and the educational sector to manage multiple crises, including the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, continued high inflation and particularly high energy prices;
15. Reiterates the need to support editorial and news media to help counter the constant and intensifying information warfare, which is threatening the public debate in European democracies and their elections, including the elections of the European Parliament in 2024; therefore, insists that the Cross-Sectoral strand under Creative Europe should be reinforced with an additional EUR 15 million;

Recalls furthermore, the need to increase support for the cultural and creative sectors and industries to align the programme with the objectives of the 2018 New European Agenda for Culture, and the priorities and corresponding actions of the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026; therefore, the cultural strand under Creative Europe should be reinforced with an additional EUR 15 million; additionally, underlines the need to strengthen the media strand with an additional EUR 13 million to support the audio-visual sector;
16. Calls for an increase of the very limited budget for the European Solidarity Corps to be able to accommodate the increasing interest in the programme and to allow it to address unexpected challenges and to support young people engaged in civic engagement, mobility and solidarity actions; emphasises the need to strengthen the humanitarian strand to improve the programme's efforts related to the consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
17. Recalls the importance of the citizens' engagement strand in Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV), in particular as regards town twinning and remembrance activities, and the essential role of Civil Society Organisations in related projects and activities; expresses its continuous support for the programme and specifically the citizens' engagement strand;
18. Welcomes the development of the New European Bauhaus(NEB) initiative; reminds that financing of NEB should not come at the expense of already existing programmes in the field of culture and education like Creative Europe, Erasmus+ or the European Solidarity Corps; considers the deployment of existing funds insufficient to achieve the objectives of the initiative; reiterates its call for the Commission to ensure sufficient funding for the initiative in the 2024 budget and to consider establishing a separate budget as a part of the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF);
19. Asks the Commission, in view of the next MFF, to consider establishing a permanent Union news media fund to contribute to the digital development of media, safeguard the

independence of European journalists and journalism and guarantee freedom of the press;

20. Asks the Commission, in view of the next MFF, to propose sufficient funding for the European Education Area (EEA) and to reflect on a more appropriate budgetary structure to cover the EEA related actions; asks that this includes the financial contributions from the EU to the European School System (ESS) in future EU budgets, in order to increase transparency, ensure strategic planning and facilitate parliamentary scrutiny under the discharge procedure, and requests that the ESS be included in the further development of the EEA to become a 'laboratory' and source of experience for pedagogical innovation and the exchange of best practices for the benefit of all European students;
21. Asks the Commission, in view of the next MFF, to propose increased funding for the European Capitals of Culture, as they represent a great added value for European society, and the "Melina Mercouri Prize" as the only direct EU funding opportunity for European Capitals of Culture has been endowed with only 1.5 million euros for years.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	19.9.2023
Result of final vote	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;"> + : 21 - : 3 0 : 1 </div> </div>
Members present for the final vote	Asim Ademov, Andrea Bocskor, Ilana Cicurel, Laurence Farreng, Tomasz Frankowski, Catherine Griset, Hannes Heide, Petra Kammerevert, Niyazi Kizilyürek, Predrag Fred Matić, Niklas Nienass, Peter Pollák, Diana Riba i Giner, Marcos Ros Sempere, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Sabine Verheyen, Theodoros Zagorakis, Milan Zver
Substitutes present for the final vote	David Cormand, Morten Løkkegaard, Rob Rooken, Domènec Ruiz Devesa
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Angel Dzhambazki, Mónica Silvana González, Ivan Štefanec

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

21	+
PPE	Asim Ademov, Tomasz Frankowski, Peter Pollák, Ivan Štefanec, Sabine Verheyen, Theodoros Zagorakis, Milan Zver
Renew	Ilana Cicurel, Laurence Farreng, Morten Løkkegaard
S&D	Mónica Silvana González, Hannes Heide, Petra Kammerevert, Predrag Fred Matić, Marcos Ros Sempere, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Massimiliano Smeriglio
The Left	Niyazi Kizilyürek
Verts/ALE	David Cormand, Niklas Nienass, Diana Riba i Giner

3	-
ECR	Rob Rooken
ID	Catherine Griset
NI	Andrea Bocskor

1	0
ECR	Angel Dzhambazki

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention