DRAFT 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 2022 – all sections (2021/0227(BUD))

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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. Believes that the economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic should not adversely affect investments of a social, educational and cultural nature; therefore, increases the allocations of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps Programme to better support the recovery, in particular by ‘greening’ those programmes; underlines that particular attention should be paid to ensure good outreach to vulnerable people, whose exclusion has been worsened by the pandemic;

2. Given the dramatic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on Europe’s cultural and creative sectors (CCS), reinforces the Culture strand of the Creative Europe Programme, to support organisations and artists in their recovery, to provide targeted support for the performing arts, in particular the music sector, and to ‘green’ the programme;

3. Urges the Member States once more to earmark at least 2 % of the Recovery and Resilience Facility for the recovery of the CCS and industries;

4. Insists that no funding from any of the three strands of the Creative Europe Programme should be used for financing projects in the framework of the New European Bauhaus initiative, in line with the repeated commitment of the Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth to this effect, in order to prevent diversion of the programme’s already thinly spread funds towards new, unforeseen political priorities;

5. Emphasises that more funding is needed to fund all high-quality projects submitted in the framework of calls for proposals under the Citizens’ engagement and participation strand of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and to tackle the historically low application success rate of that strand;

6. Increases the budget for “Multimedia actions” by EUR 2.2 million and creates a reserve of EUR 5 million, in order to encourage the Commission to provide more stability and predictability for radio networks covering EU affairs with funding covering at least two years; furthermore, splits the existing budget line into its four components, for enhanced budgetary scrutiny.