DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Budgets

Guidelines for the 2023 Budget - Section III (2021/2226(BUI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Morten Løkkegaard
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, and sports; urges the Commission to take all necessary measures to continue facilitating the digital transition of these sectors and supporting the beneficiaries of the Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes;

2. 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+ and the Recovery and Resilience Facility; regrets the fact that in practice, these synergies and complementarities are not being fully coordinated in most Member States;

3. Is convinced that the capacity for building synergies across EU programmes is essential to achieve a European Education Area by 2025 and a successful New European Bauhaus initiative; 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;

4. Welcomes the inclusion measures put forward by the Commission with the aim of reinforcing the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes until 2027;

5. 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 need to be allocated to this programme in 2023;

6. 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;

7. 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;

8. Urges the Commission and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency to continue improving their IT systems and tools 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.