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 2023 – all sections (2022/0212(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. Highlights the need to continue to support the cultural and creative sectors and industries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to urgently address the new priorities linked to the war in Ukraine, including by increasing support to Ukrainian students, artists, journalists and NGOs;

2. Recalls that the Union budget should ensure the long-lasting legacy of the 2022 European Year of Youth, as agreed by the co-legislators;

3. Believes, in this regard, that the Union budget should foresee a significant increase in the 2023 Erasmus+ Programme 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;

4. Notes that the cultural and creative sectors and industries continue to suffer from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic; points out, furthermore, that the rising inflation, caused by the war in Ukraine is worsening the situation and therefore a bolstering of the Creative Europe Programme is needed; consequently, insists on the need to reinstate at least half of the budgetary cut to Creative Europe Programme, which was proposed by the Commission for 2023 when compared to 2022 and in order to provide targeted support for the creative sectors and industries, including the performing arts and in particular the live performance sector;

5. Emphasises the urgent need for more funding to fight disinformation; insists, in this regard, that the budget for the Cross-Sectoral and Media Strands under Creative Europe should be reinforced;

6. Insists that the New European Bauhaus initiative should not be funded at the expense of the Creative Europe Programme; in this regard, recalls the Parliament position for an indispensable and swift mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework to respond to the long-term consequences of the current crisis, to additionally explore the possibilities to establish a long-term dedicated funding for the New European Bauhaus initiative and for the European Education Area, as well as a permanent Union news media fund to empower independent news coverage, safeguard the independence of European journalists and journalism, and guarantee the freedom of the press;

7. Believes that a reinforcement is needed to 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 and that more funding is required for the Citizens’ engagement and participation strand of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme.