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Subject:	Stocktaking on the Council Conclusions on the recovery, resilience and sustainability of the cultural and creative sectors (CCS) – Presidency discussion paper

With a view to the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) meeting on 30 March 2023, delegations will find attached a discussion paper prepared by the Presidency.

As indicated in the discussion paper, delegations' inputs should be sent to the Presidency (david.ek@gov.se , tobias.adolfsson@gov.se) and the GSC (andres.tobias@consilium.europa.eu , and eycs@consilium.europa.eu) by **Friday 21 April 2023**

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TREE.1.B LIMITE **EN**

**STOCKTAKING ON THE COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE RECOVERY,
RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTORS
(CCS)**

PRESIDENCY DISCUSSION PAPER

INTRODUCTION

On 18 May 2021, a bit more than a year after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council approved Conclusions on the recovery, resilience and sustainability of the cultural and creative sectors (CCS)¹. In its Conclusions, the Council recalled the determination to take decisive policy actions promptly in order to support the CCS in times of crisis and beyond. To this aim, the Council identified six priorities with a view to promoting the recovery of the CCS towards greater resilience and sustainability:

- I. IMPROVE ACCESS TO AVAILABLE FUNDING
- II. ENHANCE THE RESILIENCE OF CCS PROFESSIONALS
- III. FURTHER STRENGTHEN MOBILITY AND COOPERATION
- IV. EXPEDITE THE DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSITIONS
- V. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND PREPAREDNESS FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES
- VI. TAKE CULTURAL SCENES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INTO ACCOUNT

¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52021XG0602\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52021XG0602(01))

Furthermore, the Council called on Member States and the Commission to exchange on best practices and to take stock of these Conclusions by 2023.

The EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026² foresees such a stocktaking of these Council Conclusions during 2023, and this will be conducted by the Swedish and Spanish Presidencies consecutively. This Presidency discussion paper will serve as the basis for the first part of the stocktaking, during the Swedish Presidency, with a discussion during the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) meeting on 30 March 2023.

The EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026, adopted at a time when the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery had been ongoing for some time and on the basis of discussions on the future resilience of the CCS, foresees several actions building on and taking forward invitations made in the above-mentioned Council Conclusions, not least regarding the digital and green transitions.

Since the adoption of the Council Conclusions in 2021, new initiatives on cross-border mobility and cooperation in the European CCS have also been launched, including

- The Creative Europe action Culture moves Europe³, which provides mobility grants for artists and cultural professionals, and
- the Council Conclusions of 4 April 2022 on reinforcing intercultural exchanges through the mobility of artists and cultural and creative professionals, and through multilingualism in the digital era⁴, for which the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026 foresees a stocktaking in 2025.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/60399/st15381-en22.pdf>

³ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/creative-europe-culture-strand/culture-moves-europe>

⁴ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022XG0413\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022XG0413(02))

Taking these developments into account, the Presidency suggests focusing, for the first part of this stocktaking, on priorities V (Improve knowledge and preparedness for future challenges) and VI (Take cultural scenes and local communities into account). For easier reference, the full text of these priorities is attached to this note.

PRIORITY V. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND PREPAREDNESS FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

This priority highlights the need for in-depth knowledge regarding the CCS, including research, mapping and dialogue as well as sharing of know-how, good practice and information related to the most effective ways to leverage the recovery of the CCS and focus on preparedness⁵.

In November 2022, the final report of pilot project “Measuring the Culture and Creative Sectors in the EU”⁶, financed by Creative Europe, presented its three outputs: a proposal for a new framework with an updated definition of the scope of the CCS; a pioneer method for capturing and quantifying online services in the CCS; and updated economic figures on the CCS. The specific action on cultural statistics “to build resilience in and through culture” in the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026, will build on this project’s results and support increased exchange of best practices among the Member States. Eurostat’s Expert Group on Cultural statistics will create a Task Force to work during 2023 on the follow-up to this project.

⁵ The priority also contains an invitation to Member States and the Commission to enhance the safeguarding of cultural heritage by focusing on sustainability and disaster resilience as an integral part of cultural heritage management, of relevance to the action in the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026 on safeguarding heritage against natural and human-made disasters.

⁶ <https://www.measuring-ccs.eu/the-measuring-ccs-consortium-publishes-the-final-report/>

The action in the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026 on cultural governance may be of particular relevance to the invitations made to the Member States and the Commission under this priority. Improving knowledge and preparedness for future challenges is vital for EU and national cultural policy, and there are many ways in which this can be done.

On 1 February 2023, the EU-funded FLIP project⁷ launched its Policy Paper “From Reaction to Action – Collaborative Transformation Policies in Culture and Beyond for Future-Oriented Policy-Making and Action”⁸, which provides insights into major future transformation scenarios and their impact on the CCS and cultural policy, encouraging actors of change to engage in collaborative policies of transformation. The FLIP project, via the European Creative Hubs Network, also manages the Creatives Unite platform, that started as a means for sharing of information and good practice among the CCS regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and today it is highlighting good practice and solutions that lead the way towards recovering from the crisis and can help the CCS to imagine the next day.⁹

⁷ Creative FLIP is a Preparatory Action, co-funded by the EU and project partners with the overall goal to build a stronger resilience of the CCSI, the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries, by further strengthening their overall ecosystem. The consortium comprises the Goethe-Institut as lead partner, the European Creative Hubs Network, IDEA Consult, 3s Unternehmensberatung and Intellectual Property Institute Luxembourg.

⁸ <https://creativeflip.creativehubs.net/2023/02/02/creative-flip-launches-policy-paper-from-reaction-to-action-collaborative-transformation-policies-in-culture-and-beyond-for-future-oriented-policy-making-and-action/>

⁹ <http://www.creativesunite.eu/>

PRIORITY VI. TAKE CULTURAL SCENES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INTO ACCOUNT

This priority highlights the importance of dialogue and of taking into account the needs of cultural scenes and local communities when designing cultural policy actions; the importance of innovative, cross-sectoral and bottom-up cooperation for outreach; and the need to stimulate active cultural participation, including by the most marginalised and vulnerable social groups.

The priority in the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026 on culture for the people and enhancing cultural participation and the role of culture in society, notably including the action on culture and promoting democracy, may be of particular relevance to the invitations made to the Member States and the Commission under this priority. This topic is of importance not only for cultural policy, but also for democracy at large, with focus on active participation.

In the Spring of 2023, the Commission is expected to present a study on how participation in arts and culture promotes active citizenship, openness, curiosity and critical thinking and thereby leads to a strengthening of democracy.

The Open Method of Coordination Group on Culture and Health foreseen in the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026, which is expected to start its work in 2024, can bring forward examples on cross-sectoral partnerships to take advantage of the benefits of culture for well-being.

STOCK-TAKING EXERCISE

The Presidency would like to invite the Member States to share their good practice relating to the invitations made in the Council Conclusions based on the questions below. Based on the input received through the exchanges during the CAC meeting on 30 March, and the written answers to the questions below that Member States can send in writing to the Presidency at any time between now and 21 April 2023, the Presidency will compile a synthesis of the stocktaking to be disseminated to the Member States.

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

The questions that the Presidency would invite delegations to answer (based on experience from the respective Member States) for their possible written input are the following:

IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND PREPAREDNESS FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

- 1. Has a close and structured dialogue been promoted with CCS stakeholders to assess/ identify the CCS' special conditions and needs?**
If yes, could you please specify how this was done?
- 2. Do you have examples of other good practices and/or recent studies to get insight and in-depth knowledge of the specific needs, characteristics, and vulnerabilities of the CCS all along the value chain?**
- 3. Would you like to share any measures known or that have been implemented to focus on the CCS' preparedness for unexpected and uncertain phenomena that may disrupt the sectors in the future?**

TAKE CULTURAL SCENES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INTO ACCOUNT

- 4. Considering the importance of public participation in the designing and evaluation of cultural policies, what would you consider relevant to take into account in order to place cultural policy decision-makers closer to citizens and local communities?**

Would you like to:

- a) highlight any good practice to this effect that you have been able to identify?*
- b) identify the difficulties found in the implementation of these measures?*
- c) propose any aspect that should be considered for reflexion at a European level?*

- 5. Do you know any example where the design of public policies benefited from implemented partnerships (e.g. health, education, youth, science, research and innovation, environment, employment, social affairs, tourism) regarding the benefits of culture for well-being and sustainability?**

If yes, you are kindly invited to:

- a) highlight any good practices that you have been able to identify*
- b) identify the difficulties found in the implementation of these measures*
- c) propose any aspect that should be considered for reflection at a European level*

6. Are you aware of any (recent) public policies that have contributed to stimulating cultural participation and equal access to culture for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups?

If yes, you are kindly invited to:

- a) highlight any good practices that you have been able to identify*
- b) identify the difficulties found in the implementation of these measures*
- c) propose any aspect that should be considered for reflexion at a European level*

Written inputs from delegations are kindly requested by 21 April 2023 at the latest to david.ek@gov.se, tobias.adolfsson@gov.se, andres.tobias@consilium.europa.eu, and eycs@consilium.europa.eu.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CAC DISCUSSION ON 30 MARCH 2023

During the CAC meeting on 30 March, delegations will have the possibility to give their input on two more overarching questions pertaining to the two priorities above:

1. Improve knowledge and preparedness for future challenges

What are the major challenges for strengthening knowledge about the CCS' specific needs and vulnerabilities, and strengthening the resilience in the CCS?

2. Take cultural scenes and local communities into account

What could be done on different levels, including the European, to better take cultural scenes and local communities into account when designing cultural policy actions?

Excerpts from the Council conclusions on the recovery, resilience and sustainability of CCS

V. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND PREPAREDNESS FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION TO:

44. Promote a thorough and in-depth knowledge of the specific needs, characteristics, and vulnerabilities of each cultural and creative sector all along the value chain, through, for example, research, mapping and ongoing and close dialogue with stakeholders, including local communities.
45. Facilitate the sharing of know-how, best practices and information related to the most effective ways to leverage the recovery of the CCS (e.g., measures of the recovery plan), and to focus on preparedness for unexpected and uncertain phenomena that may disrupt these sectors in the future.
46. Enhance the safeguarding of cultural heritage by focusing on sustainability and disaster resilience as an integral part of cultural heritage management.

VI. TAKE CULTURAL SCENES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INTO ACCOUNT

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION TO:

47. Include the needs and views of cultural scenes and local communities as a source of guidance for establishing priorities on cultural policies, strategies, and programmes, thus maximising the social impact of activities and ideas that emanate from the cultural sphere.

48. Further encourage partnerships between the CCS and other policy sectors (e.g., health, education, youth, science, research and innovation, environment, employment, social affairs, tourism), in order to take advantage of the benefits of culture for well-being and sustainability by making full use of existing structures and programmes where relevant.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES TO:

49. Encourage, where possible, links between cultural scenes, local communities, authorities, and CCS professionals, recognising the strongly bottom-up nature of culture and creative ecosystems.

50. Promote social connectedness through culture as a valuable response to the effects of social distancing and digital interactions.

51. Promote cultural awareness in societies by stimulating active cultural participation and equal access to culture for all social groups, including the most marginalised and vulnerable ones.

52. Encourage cultural institutions to develop innovative approaches and methods to attract diverse audiences.
