

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSULTATION ON A NEW CULTURE PROGRAMME

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The number given to us as a registered ‘organisation’ : 55642894775-05.

IETM (international network for contemporary performing arts) is a large, diverse, well-established European cultural network created in 1981 and now numbering over 530 member-organisations from over 50 countries. Our members include small and large festivals; arts centres; theatre, dance and interdisciplinary performing companies; independent producers, programmers, curators; public authorities at local, national, regional and supranational levels and, since 2010 and to recognise employment changes in the sector, a small number of independent freelancers.

This separate contribution aims to draw attention to the probably context of the arts and culture sector in the next period as well as drawing attention to coherence with certain Europe 2020 strategy arguments. Please forgive the fact that it is written in note-form!

Context of the new culture Programme (from 2014...):

- increasing withdrawal and re-nationalisation of many EU MS's
- increasing intolerance for cultural diversity and build-up of aggression in the population
- the effects of drastic culture budget cuts by MS, local authorities, foundations, sponsors
- middle-scale arts and culture organisations especially hit hard (including middle-aged professionals)
- large institutions needed to open doors to collaboration and coproduction, to support the middle and small scales
- transformation of non-profits into for-profits or single traders due to reduction in public subsidies, THUS
- training will be essential for culture sector to enable it to take advantage of digital opportunities
- training will be essential for culture sector to make the transition to for-profit status
- training and major changes will be needed for public funding institutions to support for-profits
- there will be increasing disarray over intellectual property rights due to the digital explosion and its consequences
- mobility must be paired with reciprocity and addressing imbalances or else it will lead to brain drain and enforced nomadism
- flexible work practices will risk to leave culture sector professionals (highly educated) with little or no social protection or in extremely precarious states
- there is an increase in public resentment towards the ‘traditional leftish’, social values and culture, as they are perceived as ‘protected’ or ‘elite’.
- THUS arts and culture organisations must open to the wider society in increasingly creative and innovative ways in order to demonstrate their value

Arts and culture organisations are largely SME's. They are entrepreneurial, demonstrate teamworking, are experienced in international collaboration and co-production. Artists and culture workers have 'portfolio' working practices (in other words must learn to juggle different projects simultaneously) The sector has a high level and experience with international mobility. The so-called 'flexible' work force and working practices actually should be valued as a precursor and a test-bed for what may become widespread working practices in the EU.

The arts and culture sector works to raising the bar of intellectual analysis. It is about understanding our history and present, helping people grieve for what is lost but also to move on by identifying positive factors of change.

Europe 2020 Strategy

Some pertinent objectives :

- collaboration between States
- social innovation
- education, research, training, experimentation
- upholding political agreements on democracy and cult rights (c/f UNESCO, EU Charter, etc)
- globalisation and interdependence
- climate change in the context of international exchange

“ EU now needs to make a stronger effort to work together to make a successful exit from the crisis and to shape the next generation of public policies”

The arts and culture sector can help this new generation of policies and policy-makers to base strategies on values of education, critical thinking/analysis, creative problem solving, social innovation, empathy, mutual understanding and respect. It can underline the interdependence of the global society.

“EU and third countries can both foster mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue”

c/f Martha Nussbaum on the disaster awaiting democratic societies when humanities and the arts studies are cut away from all levels of education in place of education for economic growth (which does not require distribution of wealth, respect for human rights or other democratic values) , and the need to bring them back into the curriculum at all levels. (Martha C. Nussbaum's forthcoming book, “ Not For Profit: Why democracy needs the humanities”, quoted in The Times Literary Supplement, April 30 2010)

- *“ a new sustainable social market economy, a smarter, greener economy, where our prosperity will come from innovation and from using resources better, and where the key input will be knowledge.”*

Note that current policies based solely on economic growth have massively failed to bring stability, inclusion or sustainability, thus have to be balanced with more humanistic values.

Key Drivers:

- *“Creating value by basing growth on knowledge: education and research, innovation and creativity.”high number of low achievers in basic skills (reading, mathematics and science); Preventing early school leaving..vulnerable groups, gender equality and social cohesion...*

The arts have proved to provide accessible learning pathways for students who are not immediately to traditional academic approaches : see research and documentation in the UK.

- *“well-functioning system of intellectual property rights...”*

The arts sector can include pilots looking at intellectual property rights alternatives appropriate to the digital age

- *“Empowering people in inclusive societies. ...including entrepreneurship and a smooth transition between jobs. Transition between jobs, between training and jobs will have to be managed - **flexicurity**. ...Life long learning. Skills. Employment rates of immigrants can be improved, particularly for specific categories such as immigrants with low levels of education, women and those recently arrived. Self-employment should become a real option for those who may have recently lost their job. But this will require removing disincentives, such as the unequal treatment of the self-employed under most social security systems and disincentives to move to other Member States because of lack of portability of social and pension rights...”*

The so-called ‘flexible’ work force and working practices actually should be valued as a precursor and a test-bed for what may become widespread working practices in the EU.

- *“Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy...”*

Arts and culture organisations are already engaging with these issues.

- *“Europe needs 100% broadband coverage as soon as possible, industrial restructuring. to fully unlock the potential of SMEs and respond to the needs of the future...”*

Arts and cultural professionals need support and training in this regard and can offer the badly needed ‘content’.