A questionnaire for the online consultation of cultural stakeholders on the future Culture Programme

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SECTION 1: ABOUT YOU	
1.1 Please state your name (surname, first name)	Yeomans, Joanne. Director of EBLIDA, the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations
1.2 Please state your email address	director@eblida.org
1.3 In which country are you located?	NL the Netherlands
1.4 Have you heard of the European Union's Culture Programme 2007-13 before?	Yes
1.5 Have you or your organisation benefited from a grant under the Culture Programme 2007-13?	No
1.6 Are you or your organisation already involved in transnational co-operation in the field of culture?	Yes
1.7 In which cultural sector do you (or your organisation) operate?	Interdisciplinary
If interdisciplinary please specify the main (up to three) cultural or art forms covered.	Cultural Heritage Audio-visual; Literature, Books and Reading
1.8 In which capacity are you participating in this consultation?	An organisation
1.9a What is the size of the cultural department of your organisation?	Less than 11 employees
1.9b What type is your organisation?	Non-profit-making cultural association
1.9c Are you replying on behalf of a representative organisation in the cultural field?	Yes
1.9d Does your organisation represent individuals or organisations?	Organisations
1.9e How many members does your organisation represent?	100-250 direct members

SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW PROGRAMME FOR CULTURE	

2.1 Do you think there is a continuing need for a specific EU programme for culture?	Yes
2.2 To what extent should the new programme pursue the following objective: Protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity	To a moderate extent
2.3 To what extent should the new programme pursue the following objective: Promotion of the transnational circulation of cultural works and products	Don't know
2.4 To what extent should the new programme pursue the following objective: Widening access to European heritage and cultural works	To a great extent
2.5 To what extent should the new programme pursue the following objective: Professional development and capacity-building of artists or cultural operators in an international context	To a great extent
2.6a To what extent should the new programme pursue the following objective: Promote cultural cooperation with third country operators	Don't know
2.6b Should cooperation with third countries be limited to certain predefined countries or would a broader approach be preferable?	Don't know
2.7 To what extent should the new programme pursue the following objective: Promotion of urban and regional development through culture	To a great extent
2.8 To what extent should the new programme pursue the following objective: Widening access to culture and participation in culture for disadvantaged groups	To a great extent

2.9 Would you like to comment on the objectives for a new Culture Programme?	The next cultural programme should certainly have funding strands, but these should be embedded in a framework of broad European cultural strategy and policy which guides national policy and emphasizes the importance of supporting a thriving cultural landscape. Libraries are part of the European multi-cultural society already. They form a Europe-wide network providing the potential to inspire directly and to offer support for other cultural partners. Libraries stand for democratic, cultural, educational and social development in Europe and are a major tool in the fight against poverty, social exclusion and the digital divide. However, the potential of European libraries for the development of the European Union has not yet been fully exploited. The new Culture Programme should mobilize this library potential to enhance values as reflected in library policies like respect for diversity and intercultural dialogue, freedom of expression, human dignity, solidarity and tolerance.

SECTION 3: ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE NEW PROGRAMME FOR CULTURE

3.1a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Development of the professional skills of artists or other cultural professionals in an international context	Don't know
3.1b Would you like to explain your response?	
3.2a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: International networking for exchanging experience and practice (peer learning/peer coaching)	To a great extent

3.2b Would you like to explain your response?	Exchange between library professionals and their experiences improves the level of European library and information services for European citizens. Librarians as information specialists may exchange knowledge for cultural activities with other neighbouring fields, like schools, museums, theatres, educational and youth organisations. EBLIDA would also like, with the European Commission's help, to establish a European Knowledge Centre for libraries where data on library activities across Europe and examples of best practise could be shared and made available.
3.3a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Interdisciplinary partnerships between arts institutions and business to foster the entrepreneurial skills of artists or cultural professionals working in an international context.	Don't know
3.3b Would you like to explain your response?	
3.4a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Creation of new works and performances by operators from different countries working together	Don't know
3.4b Would you like to explain your response?	
3.5a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Development of a space for experimentation, innovation and risk taking in the cultural sector	To a moderate extent

3.5b Would you like to explain your response?	A virtual space for experimentation and innovation in libraries would be very useful in order to answer to library users' needs and citizens' demand and could be developed alongside the European Knowledge Centre mentioned in 3.2. It would take the form of a kind of "Library Lab" (similar to the LabForCulture.org or the Labs of the Helsinki City Library (Finland) or DOK Delft Library Concept Centre (NL)) and help libraries develop cross-border initiatives as well as take advantage of new ideas, best practise and new service concepts. Support for the Library itself, as a physical space, should also be encouraged by European policy as it offers a neutral place, open for all and not governed either by positive economic results nor by particular groups defined by religion, language, age, etc. The Library is recognized already by many of the public as offering a safe place for experimentation, testing of new concepts and development of innovative projects, and a place where people can come together to develop new ideas and new ways of working together. This new Library purpose needs recognition, support, and development in a European policy.
3.6a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Development of innovative digital cultural content, digitisation and new digital distribution and exhibition platforms	To a great extent

3.6b Would you like to explain your response?	There is a need to ensure that all members of the public, especially those that are disadvantaged, have access to the new forms of digital materials such as ebooks. The market is already bypassing libraries creating a digital divide between those who can afford access, and those who cannot. There is also a huge body of material in all kinds of libraries (not just national libraries and academic libraries but public libraries as well, such as local collections), that could be digitized for the benefit of all given the right funding and legal conditions for making them available to the public. Libraries are the key resource in this area but lack the funding (and in some cases the legal framework) to move their collections online. To support digitisation of actual materials and distribution across borders, legislation changes are necessary which are already in discussion. Projects should target not just digitisation, but the development of a European library infrastructure that would complement existing projects such as Europeana. There is a need for more European funded projects that promote access to digitized material and library services in a meaningful and sustainable way.
3.7a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Cultural activities promoting understanding of common European heritage	To a great extent
3.7b Would you like to explain your response?	Libraries promote European literature, languages, music, film, etc as part of their basic function and often work with different cultural groups to help promote their cultural heritage to others in their community. Libraries play an active role in the process of understanding the cultural heritage of others. They also offer education to groups which might otherwise be overlooked or disadvantaged, such as the older population, migrants, women, etc, which leads to improving cultural literacy across the community.
3.8a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Incentives for artists performing or touring outside of their own country	Don't know
3.8b Would you like to explain your response?	

3.9a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Transnational exchange of artefacts or other works	To a moderate extent
3.9b Would you like to explain your response?	There is still a big copyright issue concerning the cross-border movement (and sharing) of digital works in Europe. Some libraries participate in projects to exchange printed materials transnationally for the benefit of immigrant communities. With the move to a more digitised world, this becomes increasingly difficult.
3.10a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Funding for cultural and creative companies/organisations that promote the development of artists and their works in different European countries specifically with a view to fostering cultural diversity	To a great extent
3.10b Would you like to explain your response?	EBLIDA is the European network of library associations, and its work is financed by their membership fees. However, like many cultural organisations, libraries struggle for financial support, and so the EBLIDA network struggles to survive and fulfil its potential to facilitate library co-operation across Europe. Network funding to specifically support EBLIDA's efforts and to develop its potential is vital to ensure that libraries, which are key tools for sharing culture and ensuring inclusion, are able to continue their development in response to the challenges of the digital age.
3.11a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Support to enable artists and cultural operators to overcome barriers to transnational mobility (e.g. legal and administrative barriers)	Don't know
3.11b Would you like to explain your response?	
3.12a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Translation of fiction into different languages	To a moderate extent

3.12b Would you like to explain your response?	Libraries are an essential part of the chain in promoting lesser-spoken languages and offer a way to achieve the aim of increasing the readership of works produced in smaller countries. It should be a compulsory part of any European-funded translation project that copies of the books are distributed to libraries for free so that they are promoted to a wide readership and European citizens may benefit from European-funded translations. By doing so, libraries play an important part in promoting and distributing translated fiction.
3.13a To what extent should the grants for literary translation also allow other costs to be included, such as purchasing of rights, publication costs, translation of book summaries and other promotional activities	To a moderate extent
3.13b Would you like to explain your response?	See 3.12b: promotional activities should also take into account the potential of libraries to distribute and circulate the books
3.14a To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: Festivals with a strong European dimension and visibility and featuring works and artists of European significance	Don't know
3.14b Would you like to explain your response?	
3.15a The EU already supports European prizes in the fields of contemporary architecture, cultural heritage, literature and pop music. To what extent is it important for the new programme to support the following activities: New European prizes in the field of culture	Don't know
3.15b In which cultural sector(s) should new European prizes be supported?	
3.15c Would you like to explain your response?	
3.16a To what extent is it important for the Programme to support: media initiatives giving visibility to European cultural themes and projects	To a great extent

3.16b Would you like to explain your response?	National support for public libraries varies considerably across Europe. A co-ordinated campaign would help to bring to everyone's attention to the modern library as a place that offers to users not just information, but inspiration, and for all users, from ordinary citizens to businesses. The wealth of activities that already go on in libraries is little known outside those who use libraries and their potential is often unrecognized by policy makers. European media campaigns and a closer cooperation with broadcasting would help to promote libraries and archives as exciting cultural organisations with a wide range of potential. Library budgets are very small compared to the marketing budgets necessary to get real visibility, especially in places where libraries are not well supported yet would often provide most benefit. A pan-European media campaign could also be envisaged for reading (either adult or children's reading), taking advantage of existing local and national campaigns and developing a feeling of a single European cultural space.
3.17 Would you like to comment on the activities within the new Culture Programme?	Libraries and archives should form a more central part of the activities of the Culture Programme than they have previously, especially with the increasing need to address poverty, social inclusion, mobility, innovation and education. Modern libraries are not just about digital information, but about an extremely wide range of potential services: - Libraries are a tool to promote different cultures and languages through activities, books and online services. - Libraries promote creativity in ordinary citizens as well as those working in the creative field. - Libraries offer an almost unique meeting place that is safe, unbiased, and flexible, and available for different cultural groups. They also offer a community space for exhibitions and events of other cultural groups and services. - Libraries can support local development making a location more attractive to families and offering support for local businesses. - Libraries offer access to the digital community for those excluded through poverty or education, and widen access for disadvantaged groups. Libraries and archives already exist but their potential is still quite often invisible to policy makers. To take advantage of this rich but under-developed resource, libraries need support in policy and in funding for pan-European networks, trans-national initiatives and projects, support for development of innovative online services, and opportunities for libraries to participate in exchange of experience and personnel. Supporting libraries in this way would help improve not just reading literacy but cultural, information and media

	literacy. It would help to move products and services into the digital environment as well as support individual users in learning how to participate and take advantage of this new digital world in a democratic surrounding. Supporting libraries helps support other cultural services and activities that have no space, platform or resources through which they can develop and promote themselves. Libraries may serve as bridges to the cultural rights of the European citizens. Supporting libraries is not just about providing funding, but about guiding cultural policy in Europe to make use of this existing though under-utilised network.

SECTION 4: TYPES OF SUPPORT WITHIN THE NEW PROGRAMME FOR CULTURE

4.1 The Culture Programme currently supports co-operation partnerships between cultural operators (at a rate of 50%): Is 50% the most appropriate rate for EU co-financing of co-operation projects?	No – the EU should fund fewer projects at a higher rate
4.2 EU operating grants currently meet 80% of the running costs of selected European-level organisations (Ambassadors, Advocacy Networks, Structured dialogue platforms). Is 80% the most appropriate level for EU co-financing of European-level organisations?	No – the EU should fund fewer organisations at a higher level
4.3 EU operating grants currently provided to organisations in support of their running costs are subject to the principle of "degressivity", i.e. they are reduced each year. To what extent does degressivity present a problem for cultural operators?	To a great extent

4.4 What problems does your organisation face as a result of degressivity?	The funding of EBLIDA is currently not sufficient to either identify and obtain independent funding, nor to really promote the value of its members in order to significantly increase membership or to improve members' own funding and thereby stabilise the membership funding base. It increasingly struggles to do more with less and yet is frustrated by the knowledge that libraries represent a greatly underutilised resource that could help Europe achieve some of its aims with less funding and effort that it puts into completely new initiatives.
4.5 Could you suggest any further specific ways to simplify the application process and the management of the new programme?	
4.6 How could the dissemination of the results of activities funded under the new programme be supported?	
4.7 Would you like to add anything else on the types of support within the new Culture Programme?	