

Contribution of the European Music Council to the EU 2020 consultation

The European Music Council (EMC), regional group of the International Music Council (IMC), is the umbrella organisation for musical life in Europe. It is a platform for National Music Councils and organisations involved in various fields of music from many European countries; the 78 members have their seat in 29 European countries.

The European Music Council contributes to a better mutual understanding among peoples and their different cultures and to the right for all musical cultures to coexist. It acknowledges the significant role that music and culture play for political and societal development of a peaceful and integrative Europe. Therefore it advocates on local, national and European level for an appropriate framework for music, music professionals and access to music.

The EMC provides exceptional value to its membership by building knowledge, creating networking opportunities, supporting and enhancing the visibility of initiatives that help sustain people's participation in music and cultural life.

The European Music Council welcomes the open consultation on the EU 2020 strategy and would like to contribute to this important forward-looking process. It is crucial for the European Union and its Member States to adopt a new vision and action plan for its economic and social development that takes stock of the lessons of the past, refocuses on European values of equality, solidarity and openness, and paves the way for future societies where quality of life and inclusion prevail. The EMC hopes to be also involved in the future discussion on EU 2020.

The protection and promotion of cultural and musical diversity is the main objective of the European Music Council, therefore we have examined the EU 2020 strategy with regard to these issues. Europe's biggest asset is the diversity of its members with their diverse knowledge that is a huge source for innovation and inclusion. Arts and culture address major challenges, such as social exclusion, integration and ageing while at the same time arts and culture foster the necessary innovative culture that is needed for a sustainable and innovative knowledge economy and society.

The EMC very much welcomes that the EU 2020 strategy values the importance of education and research for a knowledge-based society that is the "engine for sustainable growth".

We would like to add that **arts and music education** play a vital role in the education circuit:

- Arts and music education have the power to overcome social inequalities
- Arts and music education can play a crucial role in intercultural dialogue and as such help the inclusion of immigrants
- Through arts and music education "basic skills" (reading, mathematics and science) may be strengthened
- Lifelong learning is a key element of arts (and music) education in formal, non-formal and informal settings. It is important to acknowledge lifelong learning for professional

and personal reasons. As such, it not only enhances social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development, but also competitiveness and employability.¹

The EMC very much agrees that the EU needs to provide more attractive framework conditions for innovation and creativity. It shall be taken into account that **culture and artistic production are a resource for creativity and innovation**. Artists and other cultural professionals shall be given sufficient means to participate in the development of a creative Europe.

A well-functioning, **fair intellectual property rights system** shall ensure a diversity of expressions as well as stimulate innovation and artistic creation.

The culture and creative industries account for 2.3% of GDP with an annual turnover of EUR 654 billion. Moreover, **cultural and creative industries employ at least 5.8 million people**, 3.1% of total EU25 population in 2003². Cultural and creative industries, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are risk takers, investing in new talents and new aesthetics, fostering creativity and innovation as well as ensuring cultural diversity and choice for consumers³.

In the field of arts and culture, Europe wide coordination and collaboration is crucial not only to promote creativity and economic growth but also to support **arts and culture as a key element in the development of European societies**, carrying values of respect, tolerance, and solidarity. Supporting social inclusion, with a special focus on intercultural action with migrants and cultural minorities, the arts contribute to our living together in a culturally diverse Europe.

Arts and culture need a supportive operating environment especially in the fields of mobility, employment and social protection, intellectual property, funding schemes and in integration in social and economic policies. **Support to arts and culture** should be envisaged as participating in the development of democratic, open and inclusive societies. This should be reflected in the budgetary policies. Investing in arts and culture also means investing in the future.

Some issues of this contribution have been inspired by the contribution of Culture Action Europe to the EU 2020 consultation. The European Music Council supports the contribution by Culture Action Europe.

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¹ See also the chapter on adult learning in the frame of the EU Commission's lifelong learning policy http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc58_en.htm

² See study on the Economy of Culture in Europe conducted for the European Commission in 2006 http://ec.europa.eu/culture/key-documents/doc873_en.htm

³ See recommendations produced by the Platform on Cultural and Creative Industries http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/doc1583_en.htm