



FERA

Federation of European Film Directors

CREATIVE EUROPE – CREATING EUROPE

The Creative Europe Programme is the only EU instrument exclusively dedicated to support the culture and audiovisual sectors. It brings together and further builds on two successful current Programmes.

Over the past 20 years the MEDIA Programme has supported training, development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works and encouraged filmmakers to collaborate across borders. It has made a unique contribution to a vibrant European audiovisual sector.

For 10 years the Culture Programme has supported artistic productions, translations, networking, exchange of best practices and peer learning. It has had a structuring effect on the sector's capacity to contribute to policy-making at the European level.

FERA, the Federation of European Film Directors, and its 39 member organisations in 29 countries, representing some 20.000 Creative Europeans, strongly supports the proposed Creative Europe Programme, which could play a crucial part in helping our sectors adapt to the digital shift. It provides the means and the tools to tackle challenges and seize opportunities.

FERA commends the European Commission for proposing a 37% budget increase for Creative Europe in the next budget period (2014-2020). It is important to remember that this is still a minuscule 0,002% of the total EU budget.

European film directors believe that creativity and innovation, inherent to arts and culture, are fundamental to achieving sustainable development, and key to delivering the EU2020 Strategy objective of smart and inclusive growth.

European creators and their partner companies are entrepreneurs of the mind.

We therefore call upon the European institutions, all member states and participating countries to:

1. Support the proposed overall budget for Creative Europe.
2. Allocate an appropriate share of resources to each of the strands, taking due account of their individual specificities, needs and potential, in order to fulfill the Programme's objectives.



3. Ensure that the different funding opportunities offered are equally available to the diverse range of actors in Europe's cultural and audiovisual "ecosystem".
4. Engage in a close dialogue with all stakeholders from the audiovisual and culture sectors during the process of defining the Programme's operational objectives and call for proposals.
5. Find pragmatic solutions to the question of merging MEDIA desks and Culture Contact Points so that the quality information service and specialized know-how of each is maintained, to the benefit of both sets of users.
6. Recognize the specific role of European networks, as key to active participation of civil society in European cooperation and policy-making. If the current operational grants for networks are to be replaced by project grants, these must be compatible with the way such networks actually function.
7. Accept the proposal to open the Creative Europe Programme to the European Neighbourhood countries on the basis of relevant agreements.

There has never been a better time to invest in a sector that has always been diverse, but never divisive. Our work contributes to promoting a shared identity. A Creative Europe creates Europeans!

FERA President

István Szabó

Creative Council

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Members

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia
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