

# ACCESS TO CULTURE



**A fundamental right of all citizens**

**Structured dialogue with civil society**



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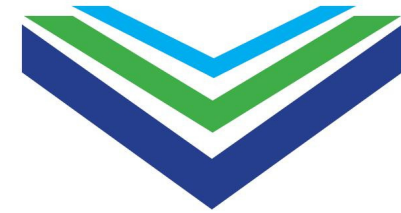


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# A structured dialogue, what for?

*'To engage civil society stakeholders in the  
implementation of the European Agenda for Culture'*

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# European Agenda for Culture

- May 2007: the European Commission adopts and publishes the first long-term strategy for culture at European level: the **Communication on Culture**
- 26/27 September 2007: the **European Cultural Forum** is organised under the Portuguese presidency of the EU to gather the sector's views on the Communication
- November 2007: the European Council of Ministers of Culture adopts the **European Agenda for Culture** based on the proposals made by the EC in its Communication

# European Agenda for Culture

## *Policy objectives*

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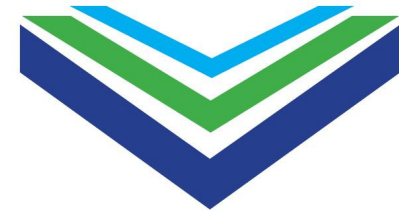
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1. The promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue;
2. The promotion of culture as a catalyst for creativity in the framework of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs;
3. The promotion of culture as a vital element in EU's international relations.

# European Agenda for Culture

## *New policy instruments*

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1. The Open Method of Coordination;
2. A structured dialogue with civil society;
3. A reinforced mainstreaming of culture in all EU programmes and policies.



# New policy instruments

## *The Open Method of Coordination*

- flexible cooperation framework in which Member States engage on a voluntary basis
- used in policy fields where the EU has weak or complementary competence (youth, social affairs, education)
- based on soft law mechanisms such as guidelines and indicators, benchmarking and sharing of best practice; effectiveness relies on peer pressure



# New policy instruments

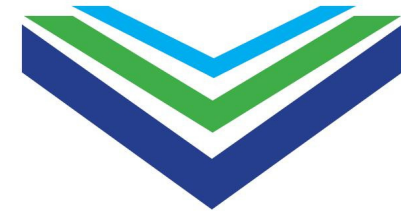
## *The Open Method of Coordination*

### OMC working groups and methodology

1. the mobility of artists and other professionals
2. the mobility of collections
3. stronger synergies between culture and education
4. EUROSTAT statistical working group on culture
5. cultural and creative industries

*'Each working group should draft biennial reports to be presented to the Council. The EC will involve European stakeholders by organizing a Cultural Forum in the year preceding the publication of the report.'*

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# New policy instruments

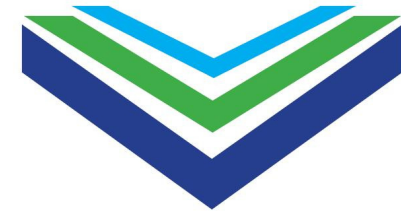
## *The structured dialogue*

### Dialogue with the sector

To involve the cultural sector in the development and implementation of the *European Agenda for Culture*, the EC decided to set up a 'structured dialogue' with civil society organized in 3 thematic platforms:

1. Platform for Intercultural Europe
2. Platform 'Access to Culture'
3. Platform 'Cultural and Creative industries'

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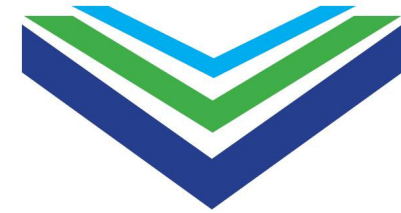
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# Structured dialogue

## *Platform for Intercultural Europe*

- Platform launched in 2006 - co-initiated by Culture Action Europe and the European Cultural Foundation
- Focus on the ‘trans-sectoral aspect’ of interculturalism’ platform (with actors from different civil societies policy fields such as arts, education, anti-discrimination, minority groups, etc)
- Main objective: sharing practice, formulating common definitions and recommendations
- *Rainbow Paper ‘Intercultural Dialogue: from practice to policy and back’*
- For more info: [www.intercultural-europe.org](http://www.intercultural-europe.org)

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## Structured dialogue

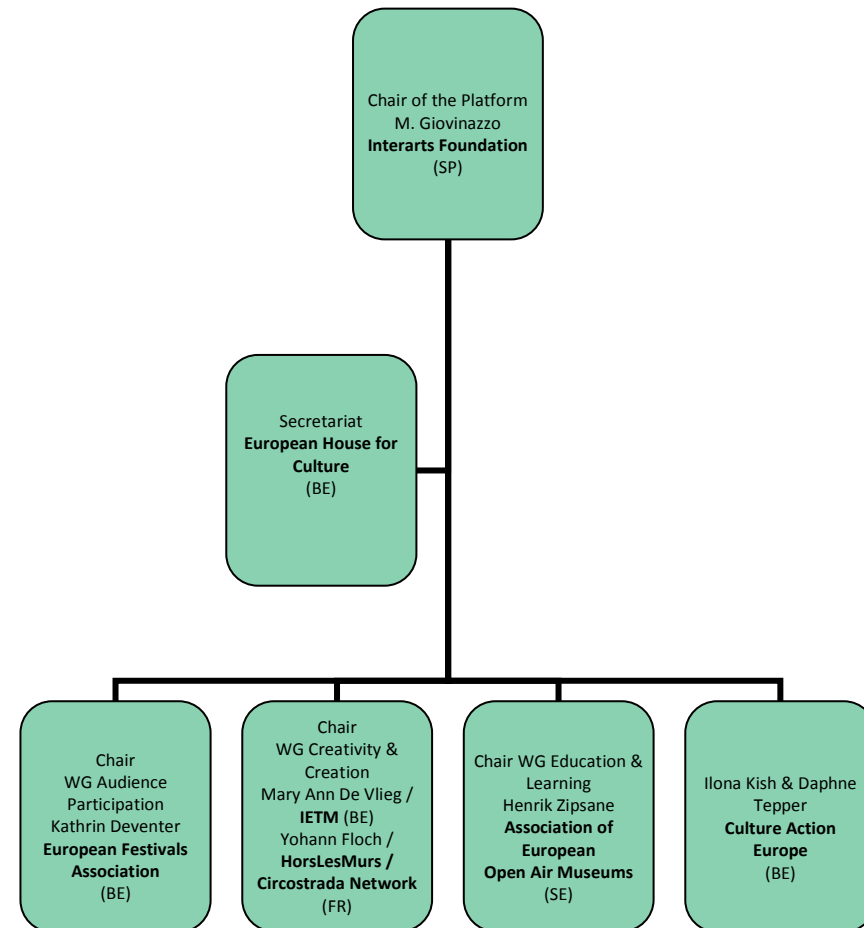
*Platform on 'potential of cultural and creative industries'*

- Launched in June 2008
- Four thematic working groups:
  - 1) Regulatory environment
  - 2) Support for SMEs' development
  - 3) Exchange/export - Circulation of works and artists
  - 4) The interface between artistic creation and the cultural industries
- Platform paper finalized during the summer 2009

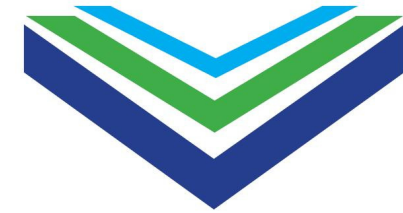


# Structured dialogue Access to Culture Platform

- Launched in June 2008
- Three thematic working groups:
  - 1) Audience Participation
  - 2) Creativity & Creation
  - 3) Education & Learning
- Platform paper finalised during the summer 2009



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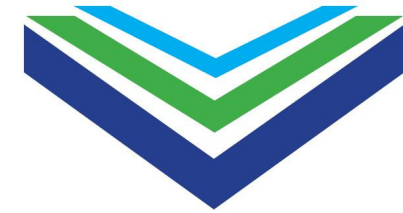


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# Access to Culture Platform

## Participating organizations

ACCR - Association des Centres Culturels de Rencontre, AEOM - Association of European open Air Museums / JAMTLI, CEATL - Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires, Culture Action Europe – EFAH, EAYF - European Academy of Yuste Foundation, EBLIDA - European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, EBLUL - European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, ECA - European Council of Artists, EFA – European Festivals Association, EFAP - European Forum for Architectural Policies, ELIA - European League of Institutes of the Arts, EMC - European Music Council, EMIRA - Euro-Mediterranean and International Research Association, ENCATC - European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centers, ENCC - European Network of Cultural Centres, ETC - European Theatre Convention, EUNIC - European Union National Institutes for Culture, EUNIC - European Union National Institutes for Culture / Goethe Institute, EUNIC - European Union National Institutes for Culture / Romanian Information Centre, EUROPA NOSTRA, European Association for the Education of Adults, European Association of Conservatoires (AEC), European Association of Conservatoires (AEC) / Royal Flemish Conservatoire, EWC - European Writers Congress, Felix Meritis Foundation, FEP - Federation of European Publishers, FERA - Federation of the European Film Directors, FIM - International Federation of Musicians, HorsLesMurs / Circostrada Network, IDEA Europe, IETM - International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts, IFA - International Federation of Actors, Interarts Foundation, Lieux Publics / In Situ, NEMO - The Network of European Museum Organisations, Pearle\* - Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe, REMA - Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne, Réseau Art Nouveau Network, RESEO - European Network for Opera and Dance Education, UTE - Union of the Theatres of Europe



# Structured dialogue

## Access to Culture Platform

### Working Group Audience Participation

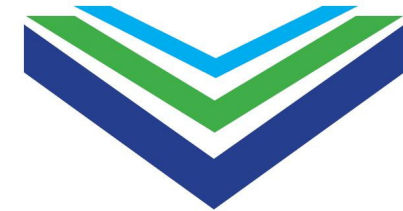
advocates the importance of taking audience participation into account at all levels of policy-making based on the broad spectrum of added value that a participative audience brings not only to the cultural sector but to society as a whole, especially in terms of civic participation and citizenship.

### Working Group Creativity & Creation

advocates for the best conditions for artistic creation, to ensure access to the creative process for all, and to explore the creativity of the arts sector within the wider field of 'creativity and innovation'.

### Working Group Education & Learning

explores the benefits of the interaction and synergy between education, learning and culture and the role that access/cultural participation plays at different educational levels.



# Access to Culture Platform

## *Policy guidelines*

### **Platform paper composed of:**

- policy recommendations
- supporting legal framework
- working groups position papers
- best practices

Recommendations directed to the European Commission, the EU Member states as well as all levels of competent sub-national authorities

### **Approach:**

- It positions access to culture in a human/cultural rights perspective
- It places access to culture upstream in cultural policy-making (with a strong call to also mainstream culture in other policy fields)
- It formulates clear priority areas for action to develop the conditions of creation, education and participation across Europe.



# Access to Culture Platform

## *Policy objectives and recommended actions*

(1)

### [ **Understanding the needs of all publics**

Data collection, research and consultations - to improve policymaking in the field of access to culture.

### [ **Overcoming linguistic barriers**

Language education and support to translation - to remove linguistic obstacles to access to culture.

### [ **Supporting highly qualified professionalism**

Social protection, education and training programmes - to ensure professional development and growth and, in turn, broaden the diversity of the cultural offer.

### [ **Improving funding and procedures**

More diverse and flexible funding opportunities, easier access to information - to facilitate access to funding to a larger group of artists and cultural professionals.



# Access to Culture Platform

## *Policy objectives and recommended actions*

(2)

[ **Advancing mobility and exchange**

Mobility funding, spaces for encounters and exchange, support to diffusion of artistic processes and products – to increase mobility, and integrate cultural stakeholders in foreign actions.

[ **Promoting the cultural use of new technologies**

Increased access to new technologies to public and cultural actors, while insuring appropriate protection of creators' and interpreters' rights – to increase the cultural potential of new technologies.

[ **Stimulating learning through culture**

Recognition of the synergies between education and culture and support to such projects in all appropriate funding instruments – to increase the access to culture through education and the access to education through culture.

[ **Positioning access to culture upstream and transversally in all cultural policy-making**

Participatory policymaking, interdisciplinary policy working groups – to improve specific and general policies promoting access to culture.

[ **Raising awareness of the legal frameworks on access to culture**

Information, ratification and implementation of all legal instruments on access to culture – to translate international commitments on access to culture into genuine policies.

# Access to Culture Platform

## *the next steps*

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## How can you participate

The **Access to Culture Platform** will work to:

- [ Bring the voice of social society to the fore  
**Send us your Best Practice examples**
- [ Represent the needs of the sector  
**You have a General Assembly / Conference / Meeting planned?**  
**The Access to Culture Platform is willing to prepare an info session for the occasion**
- [ Identify suitable action in the different stages of policy formation  
**inform us of the opportunities for influencing local, regional and European policy makers**
- [ Organise itself to open the way to new reflections and policy development at European, National, Regional and Local levels  
**Info sessions, meetings, debates can be organised with your members**

# Access to Culture Platform

## *Contact us*



Secretariat

**European House for Culture**

Place Flagey 18

1050 Brussels

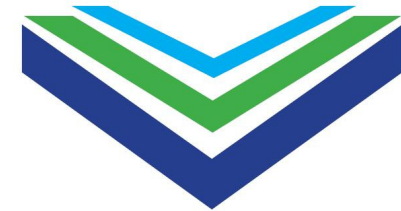
Belgium

Tel: 0032 02 644 48 00

[houseforculture@efa-aef.eu](mailto:houseforculture@efa-aef.eu)

[www.access-to-culture.eu](http://www.access-to-culture.eu)

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