

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 (COM(2018)366 final).

The Committee on EU Policies of Italy's Chamber of Deputies,

Having examined, pursuant to the Chamber of Deputies Rule 127(1), the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013, (COM(2018)366 final);

Considering the Government note on the document pursuant to article 6(4) of law No 234 of 24 December 2012,

Whereas

The programme in question replaces the current Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 establishing the Creative Europe programme (2014-2020) to support the cultural, creative and audiovisual sectors, to pursue their work in the years 2021 – 2027;

it lays down two general objectives: to promote Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage, and to support the competitiveness, growth and scalability of the cultural, artistic and audiovisual industry and businesses in particular; the programme is open to the cultural and creative organisations of the Member States of the European Union, and under certain conditions, to some third countries (including Norway, Tunisia, Ukraine, the Balkan states, and Georgia);

the proposal forms part of the New European Agenda for Culture presented by the European Commission on 22 May 2018, providing that the MEDIA and Culture sectors and the new cross-sectoral strand can continue to enjoy independent planning of support funding for the years 2021-2027. The Proposal was presented by the European Commission on 30 May 2018 as part of a package of measures and initiatives referring to the "Investing in People" chapter of the draft multi-annual budget of the European Union for the period 2021-2027, for a Union of 27 Member States (without the United Kingdom);

the Proposal for a Regulation is based on the existing structure of the present Creative Europe Programme with two subsections, Culture and Media, and with one Cross-sectoral strand. It confirms the structure and the objectives of the Creative Europe programme with a number of changes introduced by the European Commission making it possible for the new programme to respond to the changed economic, technological, social and political environment;

the Creative Europe programme finances numerous prizes and initiatives which contribute to the dissemination of culture in the Member States, fostering access to and the enjoyment of our cultural heritage. These initiatives include the "European Capital of Culture" initiative, the European Heritage Label, the biennial European Union prize for contemporary architecture, the European Heritage Days, the European Union Prize for popular and contemporary music, the annual European prize for literature, supporting European films, and the European Cinema Forum;

the programme also finances European platforms to promote the mobility and visibility of creators and artists, particularly those with less international visibility, and to stimulate the European-level planning of cultural and artistic activities, and European networks which enable the operators in the sector to cooperate internationally, broadening their careers and improving their visibility in Europe and in the world;

the Creative Europe programme is a response to certain crucial challenges which the culture sector is having to address;

the programme also confirms the central role of the European institutions in relation to culture, with the twofold purpose of creating and sharing a European identity on the one hand, and promoting the development of the cultural-economic sector on the other. According to European Commission data, Europe's cultural and creative sectors contribute approximately € 509 billion in added value to the gross national product (GDP), or 5.3 percent of the European Union total, and employs over 12 million people full-time, equivalent to 7.5 percent of the European labour force, making it the European Union's third largest employer, after construction and food. They make a substantial contribution to investment, innovation and job creation, driving European exports worldwide, creating and enhancing a positive image of Europe and the European way of life, with positive fall-out on the digital sector and on cultural tourism;

the initiative is to be deemed consistent with European legislation, implementing the Declaration signed in Rome in 2017 by the leaders of the Member States and the European institutions, to create a Union "in which the citizens have new opportunities for cultural and social advancement and economic growth". This objective was confirmed at the Gothenburg meeting in November 2017 by the European Council in December 2017, which highlighted the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage as a pivotal opportunity to increase awareness of the social and economic importance of culture and heritage;

the proposal is compliant with the principle of conferral under which any powers which are not provided by the European Treaties are vested in the Member States. For its legal basis is in article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) establishing the powers of the Union in the culture sector, and article 173 TFEU, which provides that the Union and the Member States shall guarantee the conditions required to make the industry competitive within the EU;

the proposal is compliant with the principle of proportionality in that it is limited to what is needed to pursue its objectives. It is also compliant with the principle of subsidiarity, by guaranteeing complementary financial support to the resources provided by national and regional funds for the promotion of European audiovisual works.

in the European programme, there are value-added elements in all the three MEDIA, CULTURE and CROSS-SECTORAL areas. 1) it promotes the cross-border circulation of cultural and creative European works, particularly audiovisuals; 2) the support of the European Union may help to obtain supplementary funding; 3) it fosters the establishment of European cross-border networks and partnerships;

the purposes of the proposal must be considered positive overall, also in light of the European Commission's impact analysis of the Creative Europe programme 2014-2020;

noting that while the proposed financial package is larger than the current Creative Europe programme 2014-2020, it appears to be inadequate to meet its declared purposes and the needs of the cultural and creative sector. For the resources allocated to the MEDIA and CULTURE sector are insufficient to meet the needs. Inadequate resourcing could lead to the rejection of proposals and projects even with high innovative potential, and might discourage many new players from applying for funding;

bearing in mind the need to expand familiarity with the opportunities offered by the Creative Europe programme and to ensure wider accessibility to the programme, also by cutting red tape;

considering the need to mainstream culture, also of a local nature, into the financial instruments provided by the European Institutions;

deeming it appropriate to offer further measures to support the Music sector, by accurately monitoring the value chain, to make it possible to channel support, including financial support, better targeted to the various links in this chain;

Noting the need for this final document to be forwarded promptly to the European Institutions,

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A POSITIVE OPINION,

with the following qualifications:

The Committee responsible by subject matter should consider recommending the European Union authorities:

- (a) to increase significantly the funding available to the programme, in order to achieve a 50 percent increase above the amount available under the current programme;
- (b) to adopt measures to enhance, also at the local level, initiatives and instruments to disseminate familiarity with the calls for projects and the opportunities being offered by the Creative Europe programme so that more projects can be submitted for funding;
- (c) to explicitly refer to culture, including local and regional culture in its various forms, languages and local dialects, as well as intercultural dialogue, in the regulations of the structural funds and other programmes financed by the European Union, particularly in relation the rules governing the cohesion funds, and Erasmus, Horizon and EU Invest, foreign policy and cooperation programmes;
- (d) to provide access to funding by a larger number of people, to introduce instruments to encourage meetings between different entities intending to submit European cultural projects;
- (e) to provide training for civil servants to guarantee adequate assistance for the submission of projects.