



Language and Cultural Diversity
WORKING GROUP

TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE

CALRE

WORK

GROUP

CULTURAL AND
LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

Open Webinar - 17 December 2020



CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN THE RECOVERY PLAN FOR EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN AGENDA OF CULTURE

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Introducción

On December 17th, the CALRE Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Working Group hosted an ONLINE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE, in which the essential aspects related to the protection of cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe that have emerged in Europe during this health crisis were addressed, such as:

- **Ecology and cultural survival:** the protection of culture expressed in minority languages.
- **Cultural and linguistic diversity in the European Cultural Agenda.**
- The **Recovery Plan for Europe** and the protection of cultural and linguistic diversity.

Goal

The goal of this working group is clear: to develop an executive work to compile proposals and contributions around cultural and linguistic diversity and its fit into the European Reconstruction Funds and the European Agenda for Culture and thus, be able to develop relevant proposals from the parliaments that make up CALRE.

This is, therefore, a work-in-progress document, a first approximation to the technical presentation of proposals that will be expanded and amended throughout this year 2021.



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Background

Cultural and creative industries are a source of job creation and **contribute to both growth and quality of life for European citizens**. Culture is also an excellent driver for promoting social inclusion and supporting cultural diversity.

The parliaments that shape **CALRE** come from territories with very different cultural realities. We are legislative assemblies with two or more co-official languages, and we are aware of our **cultural and linguistic diversity**. The recognition of this diversity precisely shapes the **common European wealth and identity**.

Cultural diversity is one of the distinctive characteristics of the European Union and the protection of cultural and linguistic heritage, one of its **founding principles**.

The Cultural and Linguistic Diversity WG is an **open forum of European legislative assemblies** to promote debate and practices and proposals exchange in favour of cultural diversity and regional minority languages used by fifty-five million European people.

European cultural and creative industries account for the 1% of European employment, with 9 million workers, what means the 4% of our GDP.

These figures, in the words of **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, president of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and former president of the European Committee of the Regions, are not a reflection of reality since one of the characteristics of the cultural industries throughout Europe is its very high precariousness, both in employment and companies.

The Covid-19 health crisis has dealt a severe blow to all productive sectors throughout Europe and the world. The cultural sphere is one of the most affected by the crisis, since

it intrinsically involves the concentration of people in open or closed spaces. The capacity and activity limitations established by the different governments to contain the pandemic, hinder the development of live cultural events, it also makes it difficult to professional meetings purposes of various kinds.

According to various studies, the cultural sphere will be one of the most affected by the crisis and one of the last to recover.

To help repair the economic and social damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU leaders have agreed on a recovery plan that will lead the way out of the crisis and lay the foundations for a modern and more sustainable Europe.

[The long-term EU budget, together with NextGenerationEU](#), a temporary instrument designed to boost recovery, will be the largest stimulus package ever financed through the EU budget. A total of € 1.8 trillion will help rebuild post-COVID-19 Europe, which will be greener, more digital and more resilient.

The new long-term budget will increase flexibility mechanisms to ensure its ability to cope with unforeseen needs. It is a budget prepared not only for today's realities, but also for the uncertainties of the future.

On December 17, 2020, the final stage of the adoption of the next long-term EU budget was reached.

From **Creative Europe**, the European Union program for the 2014-2020 period aimed at promoting the cultural and creative sectors, that provides support to artists, professionals and cultural and audiovisual organizations, the performing arts, the fine arts, the publishing, film, television, music, interdisciplinary arts, literature, heritage and the video game industry, has acted in a double sense:

- A package of urgent measures has been established to support the cultural and creative sectors through horizontal measures and collaboration with other funds.
- In addition, last December the budget for the period 21-27 was approved, being the most ambitious to date, endowed with 2.2 billion euros.

In the words of the President of the European Parliament, **David Sassoli**, culture and therefore cultural and linguistic diversity, can be not only economic sectors but also the key to the recovery and modernization of Europe, for its green and digital transition, the social cement of a post Covid-19 world, where interpersonal relationships must be reconnected because the places where culture happens are above all meeting places.

Proposals and contributions

- [Considering the documents of Priorities of the European Commission 2019-2024](#)
- Considering the European Agenda for Culture 2019-2022
- [Considering the New Creative Europe Program 2021-2027](#)
- Considering the support measures for the cultural and creative sectors of the European Union (Covid-19)
- Considering the European Parliament document [EU support for artists and the cultural and creative sector during the coronavirus crisis](#), May 2020.
- Collected the [interventions of the different panelists](#) on the online technical conference held by this working group on December 17, with:
 - **Karl-Heinz Lambertz**, President of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and former President of the European Committee of the Regions that talked about *The Recovery Plan for Europe: a path for the protection of cultural and linguistic diversity within the framework of the European Agenda of Culture*

- **Augusto Paramio Nieto**, Head of the Creative Europe-Culture Office and the European Citizenship Point, Ministry of Culture and Sport that talked about *Coronavirus: How does it affect the Creative Europe program? Priorities in the period of the new European programs 21-27*
- **Agustina Vilaret**, Chair of NPLD
- **Enric Morera**, President of Corts Valencianes & CALRE_WG_CLD Chair speech about *Ecology and cultural survival: the culture expressed in the minority languages of the EU need of protection*.
- Collected [the good practice cases](#) presented on the online technical conference held by this working group on December 17, with:
 - **Bakartxo Tejeria Otermin**, President of the Basque Parliament
 - **Unai Hualde Iglesias**, President of the Parliament of Navarre
 - **Col·lectiu Ovidi Montllor**, Valencian Region
 - **Escena Erasmus**, Valencian Region

The parliaments that make up the Conference of Regional Legislative Assemblies, CALRE, agree in the following

PROPOSALS FOR LINES OF ACTION TO DEBATE

1. The need to preserve European cultural and linguistic diversity through a firm and determined commitment to minority cultures and languages in the European Reconstruction Funds and the New Creative Europe Program, paying special attention to gender equality and inclusion through culture and language.
2. Guarantee part of the budget of the European Reconstruction Funds for cultural projects in minority languages (spoken by 55 million people, more than 10% of the population of the European Union).

3. Increase the presence of European linguistic diversity also in the processes of renovation and digitization of cultural venues and experiences promoted by the European Reconstruction Funds and the New Creative Europe Program, through specific budget lines for this purpose.
4. In the short term, the protection of professionals and companies dedicated to the cultural and creative fields, through direct support subsidies (SURE funds, Next Generation, Creative Europe, among others) and specific legislative measures to alleviate the high levels of precariousness in the sector as, due to this crisis, have seen their activity reduced.
5. Flexibility and extension of deadlines for existing calls for projects within the European framework for the cultural and creative sectors.
6. Encouragement to participation through campaigns, asf #CreativeEuropeAtHome for instance, spending stimulus, free digitization platforms and tools for the cultural industries, which take into account the various linguistic sensitivities of the European territory.
7. Establish cross-cutting mechanisms for collaboration between projects, quick and realistic, with common objectives that advocate for cultural diversity, from different disciplines and regions, to strengthen cross-border synergies, organizations and different funds.
8. The union of the parliamentary action of the regional parliaments with that of the European Union will be fundamental. Therefore, an in-depth analysis of the regional reality is essential to establish synergies and ties with all the European mechanisms in place.
9. Increase the quantity and quality of communication and training on the possibilities offered by the various European funds for the development and implementation of projects in the cultural and creative fields.



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WORKING GROUP

10. CALRE as a platform for inter-region analysis and information to guide all the funds offered by the EU to the cultural sector and European regions, thus promoting cross-border union.

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