



**Language and Cultural Diversity**  
WORKING GROUP

# Working group Language and cultural diversity

## Work programme 2022

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## Introduction

The cultural sector is a source of job creation and contributes to both the growth and the quality of life of European citizens. Culture is also an excellent driver to promote social inclusion and support cultural diversity.

The parliaments that conform 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 constitutes precisely 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 Working Group on Cultural and Linguistic Diversity is an open forum of European legislative assemblies to encourage debate and exchange of practices and proposals in favour of cultural diversity and regional and minority languages used by fifty-five million European people.

The 2017 CALRE Plenary Assembly, held on November 9 in Seville, created this working group. Since then, we have developed our activity with the aim of promoting and protecting European diversity.

### **Linguistic diversity**

In a first stage, we developed our work focused on the linguistic diversity of the European Union, working on various documents presented by experts in a seminar held in Valencia in May 2018, the conclusions of which were collected in an exhaustive report that addressed the European reality in the subject and in which we proposed effective measures to promote diversity in the linguistic field. After the meeting held in Brussels on 2018 September 26, with various regional assemblies that debated and amended the text, this report was approved at the CALRE Plenary Assembly in Azores on November 21. For this purpose, this document was delivered to the European Commission and distributed to the rest of the European institutions.

In view of the work carried out, CALRE renewed the group's mandate at the same plenary assembly held in Azores.

### **Cultural diversity**

In a second stage, the working group has developed its activity within the framework of European cultural diversity. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, we had to rethink our work methodologies and adapt them to the new reality. In this sense, this working group organized on December 17, 2020 an online Technical Conference with the aim of establishing synergies between the different invited public and private agents, specialists or managers in the field of cultural diversity in Europe, to conclude in a report entitled *Cultural and linguistic diversity in the European reconstruction funds and the European Agenda of Culture* that included different proposals and contributions to be transferred from CALRE to managers of the cultural field in Europe, involving regions, cities and a representation of local and regional cultural organizations, thus taking into account the principle of subsidiarity. This document and the proposals contained in it were presented and approved at the 3rd Plenary Assembly of CALRE held on January 15, 2021.

In view of the work carried out, CALRE once again renewed the group's mandate in the same plenary assembly held in the Canary Islands in online format.

This last year 2021 has been a year of joint research with the cultural industries and the various supporting documents that emerged from the European Union to alleviate the Covid-19 crisis. With the aim of deepening in our common knowledge about the actual situation of culture in Europe.

On November 27, 2018, the European Commission approved the document **A New European Agenda for Culture 2019-2022**, derived from the previous Agenda for European Culture of 2007. It is a very ambitious document that focuses on the new cultural framework of the European Union, of maximum interest to our working group and the European cultural institutions, which takes into account the evolution of the European cultural sphere. This new Agenda for Culture develops the positive contribution of culture to European societies, their economies and international relations.

To increase the impact of the New Agenda, the European Commission has already proposed the contribution, on specific issues, at the national, regional or local level of the member states, through work plans, implementation and monitoring of the Agenda, since 2019 and until June 2022.

In this sense, the Council of the European Union, in order for the Agenda to be a dynamic instrument, appealing to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, is preparing a final report on its implementation, based on written voluntary



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contributions from member states up to June 2022, that intends to evaluate the Agenda in the medium term.

Moreover, the **Conference on the Future of Europe**, that should reach conclusions and provide guidance on the future of Europe by next spring, is now holding panels and conferences in different important topics to this Working Group.

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“Language and cultural diversity”





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Agenda

Date	Subject	Place
January	Presentation of the work proposal.	First CALRE Standing Committee (28/01).
Until March	Preferential deadline to register for the working group (Registration open throughout 2021).	-
From February	Beginning of work through the amendment form established for this purpose and contact with the parliaments.	Personal contact and form.
May	Follow-up meeting with WG members	online
October	Conclusions meeting and panel	Still to be determined
November	Presentation of conclusions draft	Third Standing Committee and assembly. CALRE

### Work programme

For all the above, our proposal for 2022 is to **continue deepening in this second stage of the working group through a written contribution, based on the 2020 and 2022 conclusions document and on the Conference on the Future of Europe**. After two years, enough information is already available to analyse and draw conclusions on the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on cultural and creative industries and European cultural and linguistic diversity. Thus, we understand that the goal of this working group for 2022 is flexible and must be adapted to the exceptional situation we are experiencing but intends to **contribute through concrete proposals to the recovery of cultural and creative industries, deepening the protection of cultural diversity from all over Europe**, offering the vision and possible proposals of the member parliaments of this working group and of the various cultural and linguistic agents with whom we have been working since 2017.

To do so, we base our work on the methodologies outlined by the European Council, understanding that, depending on the evolution of the pandemic, we may opt for online or face-to-face methodologies:

- OMC (Open Coordination Method)
- Ad hoc or expert groups
- Studies
- Conferences
- Seminars
- European Culture Forum
- Dialogues with civil society
- Formal and informal meetings
- Joint initiatives among WG members.

**Our priority** is to get in touch with the parliaments that make up this CALRE\_WG\_CLD so that those who are interested can make concrete contributions to the 2020 and 2021 working documents, approved by the CALRE assembly last November 2021. Thus, we will continue to expand and improve our proposals and research, focusing our efforts now on the Conference on the Future of Europe, thanks to the participation of all the parliaments involved and interested agents in the area, who may also make proposals. Cases of good practices or procedures would be considered. This document will be presented and debated in a final act / day in the fourth quarter of 2022.

In this sense, we present below a series of interesting supporting documents that can contribute to deepening the field of cultural diversity:

- On the one hand, **the New Culture Agenda 2019-2022**, the main document on which we should make proposals for improvement on the reality of the cultural and linguistic diversity of our regions.<sup>1</sup>
- On the other, the **Conclusions document on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022 of the Council of the European Union**, which we will use as a model and methodological framework.<sup>2</sup>
- In addition, it is interesting to consider the **Cultural and creative sectors in post-COVID-19 Europe (2020) of the European Parliament impact study**<sup>3</sup>.
- Finally, it is important to note that our main document will be the **conclusions and proposals one of this working group for the year 2020: Cultural and linguistic diversity in the European reconstruction funds and the European culture agenda**<sup>4</sup>.
- Any additional contribution will be welcome throughout the work process.

To be able to collect the amendments and proposals, an **online form** has been enabled, as the main management tool, so that the various members may contribute the proposals they deem appropriate.

In addition, we will **contact you individually** to establish a direct communication channel beyond the form.

Finally, with the objective that the development of the work of this group is as horizontal and participatory as possible, it is proposed that, if any of the regional parliaments of the group is interested in hosting a debate, presentation, seminar or has a specific proposal action or case of good practices, you should communicate it with enough time to carry out your proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> **New Culture Agenda 2019-2022:** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ES/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0267>

<sup>2</sup> **Conclusions document on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022 of the European Council:** <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13948-2018-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>3</sup> **Cultural and creative sectors in post-COVID-19 Europe (2020):** [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/652242/IPOL\\_STU\(2021\)652242\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/652242/IPOL_STU(2021)652242_EN.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> **Cultural and linguistic diversity in the European reconstruction funds and the European culture agenda:** <https://www.calrenet.eu/working-groups/language-and-cultural-diversity>



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Form to register for the working group:

**APPLICATION FORM:** <https://forms.gle/Nk9ee7mijhSMLZTj9>

Form to make proposals and participate actively:

**PROPOSALS FORM:** <https://forms.gle/bp9finQ22CYjHiXK6>

