



CORTS VALENCIANES



Language and Cultural Diversity
WORKING GROUP

Working group Language and cultural diversity

Report on the work and conclusions 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.

Background

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 considers 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 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**, has reached conclusions and provided guidance on the future of Europe last spring, and its conclusions has been added to this document.

Enric MORERA CATALÀ

Coordinator of the Working group

“Language and cultural diversity”

Agenda

Date	Subject	Place
January	Presentation of the work proposal.	First CALRE Standing Committee (28/01).
Juny	Meeting with Ana Solé Mena	European Comission Brussels (1/07).
August	Meeting in l'Alghero with Michele Pais, Presidente del Consiglio Regionale della Sardegna and the Mayor Mario Conoci.	L'Alghero Italy. (several dates in August).

Current situation

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In this stage of the process of reviewing and adapting to the New Agenda for Culture, the Covid-19 crisis has hit the cultural and creative industries around the world, changing priorities. 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 make it difficult to carry out live cultural events, it also makes it difficult to meet people for professional purposes of various kinds.

Europe's policy makers have taken considerable and unprecedented steps to support the cultural and creative industries during the crisis. However, the expected revenue losses for the cultural and creative industries far exceed the support measures in place. Furthermore, the innovation topics highlighted in the emergency and relaunch support measures lacked a broad perspective:

addressing beyond the (current) digital opportunities the main crises affecting the cultural and creative industries and their role and impact on the society in general (in relation, for example, to health, the environment, social cohesion, solidarity, and the economy).

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.

Moreover, to complement and support Member States' actions, the European Commission has taken a set of measures to tackle the consequences of the coronavirus outbreak on the cultural and creative sectors in two directions: horizontal measures and those related specifically to Creative Europe, the European Commission's programme to support the culture and audio-visual sectors. On 29 June 2021, the Commission published EU guidelines to facilitate the safe resumption of activities in the cultural and creative sectors across the

EU. The guidelines aim to provide a coordinated approach in line with the specific national, regional, and local conditions. They are expected to guide the design and implementation of measures and protocols in EU countries and cover two key dimensions: the safe reopening of the cultural sectors and their sustainable recovery.

The guidelines are presented in the context of a gradual improvement in the public health situation in the EU and consider the different epidemiological situations in the Member States. They provide the indicators and criteria (such as the viral circulation, the vaccination coverage, the use of protective measures, the use of tests and contact tracing) to be considered when planning the resumption of certain activities.

Research, findings, and proposals

- 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.
- Considering the [EU guidelines for the safe resumption of activities in the cultural and creative sectors - COVID-19](#), June 2021.
- Considering [The 2021 Annual Single Market Report](#), from Rebuilding Europe, 2021.
- Considering the [conclusions document Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in the Recovery Plan for Europe and the European Agenda of Culture 2020](#), from Cultural and Linguistic Diversity CALRE's working group, January 2020, and its set of proposals for lines of action to debate.
- [Considering the conclusions of the Conference of the Future of Europe on Culture related with Culture field.](#)
- Considering the several meetings with the Valencian and European cultural sector hold by the CALRE's team throughout 2022.
- Considering the 2022 Annual Single Market Report.
- Considering the [2022 Key Figures on Europe from Eurostat](#).
- Considering the meeting held in July 2022 with the head of Schools and Plurilingualism of the European Commission, Anna Solé i Mena, to present the work carried out in this working group with the aim of finding points of common collaboration.

- Considering the meetings held in August 2022 a l'Alghero with the Mayor Mario Conoci, to strengthen relations between both regions and plan joint initiatives in the cultural, tourist and economic fields and with the President Michele Pais.

The visions and expectations about the State of Culture in Europe suffer from the same failures, shortcomings, pessimism, or discouragement of a sector in permanent crisis, which is overcoming them, precisely using the innovation of small creators. It is these, the creators, and their endemic ability to generate networks that keeps them as the asset. On the other hand, although this period poses a future scenario less influenced by COVID-19, where the clouds of viral uncertainty are cleared, and with a return to **face-to-face activities already oversaturated**, this work shows and demonstrates the same flaws as the previous ones. Even though, there was some evidence – as of January 2022 – that household consumption in the EU was returning to its pre-pandemic structure, albeit rather slowly.

The **2022 Annual Single Market Report** has confirmed that the ecosystem was among the hardest hit industrial ecosystems in the EU 2021 and that it's still recovering from it.

In addition, the effects that both the Ukraine War and the inflation that has triggered are going to have on society and, therefore, on culture, are still unclear.

In view of this situation, more **coordinated and bottom-up actions** are being developed. As an example, Valencian Region has developed [the Culture for Recovery Strategic Plan](#), a set of strategic actions for the enhancement of the Valencian cultural ecosystem, aimed at social, economic and territorial transformation from culture.

Furthermore, the sector needs a set of measures ‘crystal-clear’ and some stability to operate safely. The multiplicity of regulations and the constant changes in restrictions at different levels do not help to consolidate a strategy in a sector, which, as we said before, already suffers from problems of precariousness and discontinuity from the base.

Besides, the regulation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the period from 2021 to 2027 considers it a priority to combat depopulation of rural areas, and incorporates a definition that, for the first time, analyzes the demographic problem by provinces and municipalities or groupings of municipalities. And it not only analyzes population density, but also the loss of inhabitants as a factor to consider. Something that Spain will be able to benefit from when proposing projects in which to invest the more than 20,000 million euros that correspond to it for the next seven years. The wording of the text has been agreed this week between the Council, the European Parliament, and the Commission, although it has yet to be formally approved.

Proposals:

1. **Promote multilingualism** as a bridge to other cultures from an early age. Minority and regional languages require additional protection, taking note of the Council of Europe Convention on Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The EU should consider setting up an institution promoting language diversity at the European level. From elementary school onwards, it should be mandatory that children reach competence in an active EU language other than their own to the highest possible level. To facilitate the ability of European citizens to communicate with wider groups of their fellow Europeans and as a factor of European cohesion, learning of the language of the immediate neighbouring EU Member States in cross

border areas and reaching a certifiable standard in English should be encouraged by Member States.

2. **Strengthen the audio-visual field** of European regions with similar cultural and linguistic characteristics.
3. Create opportunities to **share European cultures**, bring people together and move them towards a common European identity, for instance through events and gatherings involving all target groups and taking place in various locations.
4. **Combat depopulation of rural areas with culture.** Throughout a coordinated European plan, offering funds and support to quality cultural and leisure activities, trainings and professional stays and grants in detected depopulated European areas and facilitate the maintenance of cultural rural infrastructures and networks.