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**Culture in the European Union**

The EU works to **preserve Europe's shared cultural heritage** and help **make it accessible to all**. It also supports and promotes the arts and creative industries in Europe.

Support for the **arts and creative industries** takes the form of:

* programmes to help them get the most out of digital technologies & the EU market
* funding
* help with research projects
* support for cooperation with EU & non-EU partners.

The following EU policies have links with **culture:**

* [education](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/education-training-youth_en) (including [language learning](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/multilingualism_en))
* [scientific research](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/research-innovation_en)
* support for [IT & communications technologies](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/digital-economy-society_en)
* [social policy](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/employment-social-affairs_en)
* [regional development.](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/regional-policy_en)

Under **regional policy**, for example, the EU supports music schools, concert halls and recording studios and funds the restoration of historic theatres (e.g. the *Teatro del Liceu*, Barcelona, and the *Fenice*, Venice).

**Creative Europe programme**

[Creative Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/index_en.htm) helps European cinema, the arts and the creative industries create more jobs and growth, building on the successful MEDIA, MEDIA Mundus and Culture programmes.

With a €1.46 bn budget for 2014-2020, Creative Europe

* safeguards & promotes Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity & cultural richness
* contributes to the EU's goal of smart, sustainable & inclusive economic growth
* helps the arts & creative sectors adapt to the digital age & globalisation
* opens up new international opportunities, markets & audiences
* promotes economic development.

**Arts prizes in the European Union**

The EU supports prizes for cultural heritage, architecture, literature and music which highlight Europe's artistic achievements.

**European capitals of culture**

Each year, **2 cities** are picked as [European capitals of culture](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/index_en.htm).

This enables them to:

* celebrate their European identity
* step up cooperation with arts organisations at home & abroad
* boost local arts further.

Their special status brings proven **long-term benefits**, both **social** and **cultural**.



Culture and audiovisual

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Updated in November 2014

This publication is part of the 'European Union explained' series

See also:

**EU institutions & bodies**

* **European Parliament**
  + [Committee on culture & education](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cult/home.html)
* **Council of the European Union**
  + [Education, youth, culture & sport](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/configurations/eycs/)
* **European Commission**
  + [Creative Europe](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/node_en)
* **Committee of the Regions**
  + [Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC)](http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/commissions/Pages/cor-commissions.aspx?comm=SEDEC)
* **EU agencies**
  + [Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php)

**Funding opportunities**

* [Grants](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/calls/index_en.htm)
* [Call for tenders (public procurement)](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/calls/index_en.htm)

**Publications, newsletters and statistics**

* [Publications](https://publications.europa.eu/en/browse-by-subject?p_p_id=portal2012searchParametersDetails_WAR_portal2012portlet_INSTANCE_sl307hrzee6R&p_p_lifecycle=1&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=localnav&p_p_col_count=3&domain=EUPub&selectedSubjectId=317&elementType=2&SEARCH_TYPE=BROWSE_BY_SUBJECT&facet.eurovoc.domain=28&facet.eurovoc.subject=317&facet.eurovoc.subdomain=2831&)
* [Newsletters](http://europa.eu/newsroom/press-facilities/mailing-rss_en)
* [Statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/culture/overview)

**Legislation**

* [Summaries of EU legislation on culture](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/chapter/culture.html?root_default=SUM_1_CODED=10&locale=en)
* Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [Article 167 (culture)](https://europa.eu/european-union/sites/europaeu/files/eu_citizenship/consolidated-treaties_en.pdf#page=122)

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