

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REPORT ON
**BUILDING A STRONG FRAMEWORK FOR ARTISTS'
MOBILITY: FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES**OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION (OMC)
WORKING GROUP OF EU MEMBER STATES' EXPERTS
ON MOBILITY SUPPORT PROGRAMMES**1 | Introduction**

Mobility is an integral part of the working lives of many artists and cultural professionals in Europe. The transnational circulation of artists and their work broadens audiences, expands markets and increases employment opportunities. Mobility is about results, not just a matter of travelling across borders. It is an essential element in a chain of processes, which includes education/training, creation, production, dissemination/distribution, documentation/media, and art critique/preservation. Mobility within the European Union, as well as to and from its neighbouring countries and beyond is necessary in order to secure benefits.

Europe is currently undergoing a period of crisis and transformation. Budget cuts, globalisation and growing disparities among the Member States of the European Union (EU) are having an impact on the cultural sector, experienced to differing degrees within the specific area of artists' mobility programmes.

The present report on 'Building a Strong Framework for Artists' Mobility: Five Key Principles' is therefore especially timely, since it will serve as a resource for policy makers and cultural organisations in the EU Member States, cultural organisations in third countries, and the European Commission, on how mobility support programmes and schemes can be adapted to the new circumstances.

2 | Context of the report

This report is the outcome of the work undertaken by the **Working Group on Mobility Support Programmes**, a group of 25 experts representing an equal number of EU Member States that expressed an interest in participating. The Working Group was launched in early 2011 under the **Council Work Plan for Culture 2011-2014**¹ which implements the **European Agenda for Culture**².

The group worked together using the **Open Method of Coordination (OMC)**. The OMC is a voluntary form of cooperation between EU Member States, which aims to improve policy-making and structured cooperation by organising an exchange of best practices. The method was extended to the field of culture in 2008 on the recommendation of the European Commission in the European Agenda for Culture (2007).





The working group's mandate was to screen and assess mobility support programmes and schemes in order to identify the barriers and problems faced in particular by small-scale culture operators and young artists and cultural professionals, and to look at good practice examples illustrating how these difficulties were overcome. The Working Group built upon and pursued further important work on artists' mobility under the earlier Work Plan for Culture 2008-2010.

3 | The benefits of artists' mobility

Mobility carries benefits for artists and cultural professionals, for the public, for the EU Member States and for the EU as a whole. It is crucial for the success of large-scale international cultural events, as well as for short-term, low-cost collaborative encounters contributing to artists' and cultural professionals' development. For some countries, mobility is linked to an aspiration for international visibility and prestige in the arts and cultural sector. For others, mobility is a 'soft power' tool enhancing political and business relations, but also a means of promoting cultural exports. For smaller European countries, giving artists and cultural professionals access to mobility support schemes is especially important.

Cultural exchange and collaboration through mobility strengthen understanding and intercultural dialogue between people and foster tolerant and inclusive societies. Respect for the freedom of artistic expression and a commitment to protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expression in Europe and elsewhere can connect the local to the global. Supporting mobility is supporting key European values.

At the current critical juncture, public authorities need to rethink their policies and learn to do more with less public money. Artists' mobility and cooperation programmes are often effective means of achieving multiple benefits with a low budget, while also attracting high levels of visibility and participation. Moreover, mobility could be pivotal in smoothing out imbalances in Europe. Championing an open European cultural area is one response to the urgent calls to move beyond a narrow vision of Europe as a purely economic project.

4 | Five Key Principles for building a strong framework for artists' mobility

KEY PRINCIPLE 1

Acknowledge and build on the values and benefits of artists' mobility

KEY PRINCIPLE 2

Enhance complementarity between EU Member States' policies and EU action in the supports for artists' mobility

KEY PRINCIPLE 3

Adapt mobility support schemes to changing needs and circumstances

KEY PRINCIPLE 4

Artists' mobility support is a shared responsibility

KEY PRINCIPLE 5

A call for efficiency and effectiveness





KEY PRINCIPLE 1

Acknowledge and build on the values and benefits of artists' mobility

- Robust re-affirmation of the multiple, diverse benefits and values generated by the mobility of artists and cultural professionals.
- Vigilance from artists and policy makers so that support for cultural mobility programmes is not neglected.
- Positive focus on mobility support for smaller scale experimental encounters, laboratories and residencies reflecting emerging trends and patterns of collaboration.
- Weaving the cultural sector into a global network of professional collaborative relationships through investment in artists' mobility will contribute to its sustainability.
- Emphasising specific support schemes for artists' mobility is a relatively low-budget investment, aligned with employment and employability policies and in parallel with the goal of an open labour market in Europe.
- The leverage for spin-off benefits is maximised and the contribution artists can make to the creative industries is honoured.



KEY PRINCIPLE 2

Enhance complementarity between EU Member States' policies and EU action in the supports for artists' mobility

- The European Union and its Member States acting together have the potential to provide real added value.
- 'Creative Europe', the proposed new EU framework programme for the cultural and creative sectors for 2014-2020, will address artists' mobility (a) under the Culture strand, promoting the transnational circulation of cultural and creative works and operators, and (b) under the 'capacity-building' objective.
- Develop a strategic approach to enhance the way culture is promoted in EU international relations providing mechanisms for a presence in key global cultural markets.
- Avoid creating 'empty zones' in the European cultural infrastructure with closed, inward-looking cultural markets.
- The EU Member States need to recognise the positive value of co-financing artists and productions that contribute to international projects and reach audiences beyond national borders.



KEY PRINCIPLE 3

Adapt mobility support schemes to changing needs and circumstances

- Flexibility is essential to adapt to the new needs, trends and circumstances of artists' mobility in Europe and learn from best practices. Multi- and inter-disciplinary practices need to be reflected in mobility support schemes.
- Separate programmes or strands may be needed for different types of cultural operators to ensure a fair distribution of resources, while specific support measures may be necessary for small-scale, short-term initiatives.
- Transparent guidelines and open selection processes for mobility support programmes and schemes are vital.
- Eligibility conditions for mobility support programmes need to be revised so that they take into account the artists' contribution to the context where they work and live, regardless of their nationality.
- Guidelines for international mobility programmes and projects should be presented in more than one language, as multilingualism is a key to fostering mobility.
- Information on mobility support programmes and schemes should also be made accessible for persons with disabilities.
- International mobility should be integrated into the career pathways of students in the arts.
- Environmental sustainability needs to be factored into mobility support schemes much more explicitly.



4 KEY PRINCIPLE 4

Artists' mobility support is a shared responsibility

- Artists' mobility is a shared responsibility and a partnership opportunity for arts and culture agencies.
- New decentralised patterns of mobility are emerging. The role of the regions is becoming more important in mobility support schemes, as regions in some Member States strengthen their cultural policy and develop stronger aspirations to support mobility and cultural exchange.
- The new cohesion policy for 2014-2020 presents pathways for the cultural and creative sectors to assert their potential as an asset for growth and become incorporated into regional innovation strategies for smart specialisation.
- Cultural mobility should be further streamlined in other existing EU programmes such as Youth in Action, Citizenship Programme, etc.

5 KEY PRINCIPLE 5

A call for efficiency and effectiveness

- Simplify the application procedures for subsidies. Establish clear objectives and transparent selection criteria. Requests for audits and evaluation reports should be commensurate with the level of the grant awarded.
- Member States are called upon to adopt the recommendations on 'Information standards for the mobility of artists and cultural professionals' issued by a Commission-convened expert group in December 2011.
- Run training seminars about EU and international support schemes and methods of working.
- Raise awareness and enhance skill-building among professionals in the field of artists' mobility.
- Ensure inter-ministerial coordination, as well as coordination among bodies at regional and local levels, and agreement on joint principles and objectives.
- Internationally networked projects enable authorities and institutions to maximise synergies and resources in order to achieve greater impact and strategic benefits.
- Develop targets and indicators, both qualitative and quantitative, to measure such things as the intrinsic, instrumental, and diplomatic value of culture, audience and market development, and environmental sustainability.
- Collect more information on the results of mobility schemes and analyse the data better.
- Get the relevant agencies to evaluate mobility programmes and schemes on a regular basis.

1 Proposed by the European Commission in May 2007 and endorsed by the Council of the European Union in November 2007: <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:287:0001:0004:EN:PDF>
2 http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/117795.pdf

To read the full report, please use the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/policy-documents/omc-working-groups_en.htm

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Relevant links:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/key-documents/information-system-for-artist-mobility_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/key-documents/mobility-matters_en.htm
<http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/documents/mobility-info-standards.pdf>
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/artist-mobility_en.htm