

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

POLICY HANDBOOK ON ARTISTS' RESIDENCIES

OPEN METHOD OF COORDINATION (OMC)
WORKING GROUP OF EU MEMBER STATES' EXPERTS
ON ARTISTS' RESIDENCIES

1 | Introduction

Artists' residencies have become intrinsic to many artistic careers. They play an important role in facilitating and catalysing artists' ability to move across the world.

Artists participating in residency programmes build bridges between countries and cultures, which contributes to cultural understanding. Being in a residency creates opportunities for the artists and participants to learn and get insights into the cultural background of each other and the community in which they are working.

2 | Definition of Artists' Residencies

'Artists' residencies provide artists and other creative professionals with the time, space and resources to work, individually or collectively, on areas of their practice that reward heightened reflection or focus.'

3 | Context for the report

This report is the outcome of the OMC Working Group on Artists' Residencies, a group of national experts from the EU Member States, launched in April 2013 under Priority Area C 'Skills and Mobility' of the Council Work Plan for Culture 2011-2014¹, which implements the European Agenda for Culture².

The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) is a voluntary form of cooperation between EU Member States, which aims to improve policymaking and structured cooperation through peer-learning and the exchange of best practice. 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 OMC Working Group's mandate was to identify the success factors in preparing, carrying out and following-up artists' residencies, with a specific focus on building capacity and with the goal of reducing imbalances in incoming/outgoing residencies. The good practice identified should help to build capacity, both inside the EU and when developing residencies in third countries, as well as to facilitate networking at EU level.





The aim of the Policy Handbook is to provide an analysis of the value of artists' residencies and to identify examples of good practice. It also looks at recent trends, benefits and success factors to inform policymakers and practitioners of the best way to support and develop residency programmes in the 21st century.

4 | Who is this report for?

The target groups of the Policy Handbook are policymakers, namely the national, regional, and local authorities in the EU Member States, cultural organisations (including artists' residencies) in the EU Member States and third countries, practitioners, potential funders and the private sector.

5 | Benefits of artists' residencies programmes

The OMC Working Group felt that the benefits of artists' residencies programmes are undervalued and that advocacy for the practice is weak. The OMC Working Group also felt that Europe is entering a time when cultural diversity and intercultural understanding are more important than ever. Therefore, the mobility of artists in general, and artists' residencies programmes in particular, can play a significant role in this respect.

The OMC Working Group has identified a range of common benefits that artists' residencies bring to the cultural sector:

- artists' professional development;
- economic benefits for the artist, the host, the region, etc.;
- cultural development for the artist, the host organisation, the local community;
- organisational learning and capacity building for the host organisation and for community organisations;
- profile raising, particularly for the city/region where the residency is located.

6 | Critical success factors

The OMC Working Group has identified the following critical success factors for artists' residencies:

- the importance of setting clear objectives and understanding what each partner wishes to achieve through the residency;
 - communicating those objectives and being clear about needs, conditions and expectations for the residency;
 - allocating sufficient time for planning, research and negotiation;
 - allocating sufficient time for practical issues, such as obtaining visas (in the case of international artists) and other regulatory issues;
 - allocating sufficient time for fundraising if necessary;
 - researching and understanding the culture of the artist, the organisation, and the city/region/country concerned, both in terms of its overarching culture and its institutional culture;
 - being sensitive and listening to the other partners involved. Building trust and understanding;
 - creating an operational plan to include ancillary activities, networking and profile raising;
 - putting in place a communications strategy, both for the individual artist and the organisation.
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7 | Recommendations

I. For policy makers

At EU level

1. The promotion of good practice can be facilitated at EU level, in part through the wide dissemination of this Policy Handbook. This would support advocacy work to promote the value of artists' residencies in relation to artistic development, and economic and social impacts.
2. Access to funding for artists' residencies could be widened through support from EU funding programmes, such as the EU Structural Investment Funds, and providing access to residency programmes for talented young people in the context of Erasmus+.
3. Despite well-known methodological difficulties in obtaining comparable statistics on artists' mobility, the OMC Working Group would recommend that an expert group tackles this issue by researching standards for these statistics so that data can be collected by the EU Member States.
4. Collaboration on and the coordination of information resources concerning artists' mobility provided by EU Member States would reduce imbalances and obstacles to mobility.
5. Despite limited competencies at EU level regarding social security and taxation, the EU is invited to facilitate the exchange of best practice among EU Member States, in order to reduce obstacles related to social security and taxation for artists and culture professionals working across borders, to support and improve their intra-EU mobility, and to promote cultural exchanges and cultural diversity in the EU.

At national level (EU Member States)

1. The gathering of statistics and relevant qualitative and quantitative data on artists' mobility should be encouraged.
2. EU Member States should look at their policies concerning the movement of people in general, and work towards the removal of regulatory and administrative barriers in the areas of their respective competencies (e.g. visas, social security, and taxation).
3. EU Member States are invited to revisit the issue of artists' taxation and, more specifically, the taxation of grants awarded to artists for artists' residencies, in particular through instruments from the new Work Plan for Culture 2015-2018³.
4. Artists' residencies should be, wherever possible, signposted on EU Member States' information platforms with particular reference to leaders in the sector, such as DutchCultureITransArtists⁴.
5. Inter-ministerial cooperation can be improved to ensure equal support for incoming and outgoing artists and targeted at reducing obstacles to mobility.
6. Inter-governmental communication at all levels of governance (sub-regional, local, city, etc.) can be improved in order to create a coherent strategy for artists' residencies, both in terms of funding and the development of premises.
7. Following the good practice developed in the Nordic countries⁵ and in the Visegrad group funding schemes⁶, the OMC Working Group would recommend that EU Member States consider the formation of regional consortia.
8. EU Member States should acknowledge the importance of residencies in cultural policies through the creation and promotion of funding programmes that support the movement of artists across borders and artists' residencies.

9. National training and capacity building programmes should include an intercultural competence, as well as good practice in running residencies.
10. Advocacy and inclusion in EU funding programmes, for example, the European Structural Investment Funds, including European Territorial Cooperation instruments, should be improved. Funding agencies should maintain an open-minded approach to residencies in order to allow new forms and ideas to emerge and be developed.

At regional/local/city level

1. This is the level at which most of the venues and sites for residencies are funded. The OMC Working Group recommends that the relevant funding should be maintained as a priority, despite increasing pressure on budgets.
2. The inclusion of artists' residencies programmes in funding schemes across disciplines and sectors, for example, in regeneration strategies, should be advocated and sustained.
3. Regions should include information on residencies, which acknowledges their positive impact on regional/local/city profiles, in promotional material for the locality.

II. For cultural organisations and artists

To maintain good practice, the OMC Working Group recommends that the cultural organisations and participant artists:

- ensure that there are clear, well-articulated aims and shared objectives by all parties involved;
- encourage the wide and appropriate communication and dissemination of information, opportunities and local knowledge of residencies, especially in third countries;
- attend targeted training sessions (workshops and support) for artists, hosts, the community, and students;
- have realistic expectations concerning residencies, particularly when working with non-arts and cultural organisations. They should also ensure non-exploitative, inclusive practice is followed by all stakeholders;
- ensure good evaluation takes place, documentation is produced and feedback is provided to inform future practice;
- develop new and sustainable networks in order to create greater impacts and legacies.

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

3 <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16094-2014-INIT/en/pdf>

4 <http://www.dutchculture.nl/residencies>

5 <http://www.kulturkontaktnord.org/lang-en/forms-of-funding/artist-residencies>

6 <http://visegradfund.org/>

The full report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/policy/cultural-creative-industries/mobility_en.htm

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