



# ENCATC

The European network on cultural  
management and policy

***Policy Statement***  
**ENCATC welcomes the launch  
of the Culture Compass for Europe**

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ENCATC – the European network on cultural management and policy – warmly welcomes the [European Commission's launch of the Culture Compass for Europe](#), a landmark strategic vision that places culture and cultural heritage at the heart of Europe's future.

As the only European network dedicated to cultural management and policy education, ENCATC has actively contributed to the consultation process leading to this new framework, mobilising its members across more than 40 countries and submitting evidence-informed proposals grounded in research, practice, and professional experience. We are pleased to see many of [our recommendations](#) reflected in the final Culture Compass, demonstrating the value of structured dialogue between EU institutions and the cultural education and research community.

## **A Strong and Timely Vision for Europe**

The Culture Compass affirms that culture is not peripheral but foundational to Europe's resilience, democratic life, global leadership, and sustainable development.

## We particularly welcome:

- **A renewed commitment to artistic freedom and cultural rights**

The systematic monitoring of artistic freedom and the inclusion of cultural rights within EU policy are essential steps toward safeguarding democratic societies. ENCATC stands ready to support the development of indicators, evidence, and analysis.

- **Improved working conditions for artists and cultural professionals**

The announced proposal of an **EU Artists Charter** marks a historic step. Fair remuneration, social protection, and mental-health considerations are crucial for a sustainable cultural workforce. ENCATC will contribute expertise on training, capacity building, and professional development.

- **A transversal and inclusive approach to education, mobility and wellbeing**

The reinforcement of arts and cultural education, lifelong learning, STEAM approaches, youth participation, and culture's contribution to health and wellbeing aligns closely with ENCATC's mission to professionalise the sector and to promote culture as a public and common good.

- **A forward-looking approach to digital transformation and AI**

The forthcoming AI Strategy for Cultural and Creative Sectors is a decisive step. We applaud the recognition of both opportunities and risks related to AI, digital skills, and the discoverability of European content. ENCATC and its members will engage actively to ensure ethical and inclusive implementation.

- **Culture as a driver of competitiveness, cohesion, regional development, and sustainability**

From cultural tourism to the European Heritage Label, from the New European Bauhaus to the new R&I Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage, the Culture Compass positions culture as a strategic resource for territories, economies, and communities.

- **A stronger role for Europe in international cultural relations**

We welcome the commitment to update the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations and to strengthen Team Europe approaches, EU4Culture, and Euro-Med cooperation. These developments resonate deeply with ENCATC's long-standing engagement in intercultural dialogue, global partnerships, and education diplomacy.

## ENCATC's Commitment to Supporting the Culture Compass

ENCATC reaffirms its commitment to supporting the successful implementation of the Culture Compass through:

- **capacity-building and education** for current and future cultural leaders;
- **policy research and evidence-based insights**;
- **international cooperation**, particularly across Europe, its neighbourhood, and global partners;
- **inclusive, regenerative, and future-oriented approaches** that place people and planet at the centre of cultural development.

As the European Commission moves toward the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework and the new **AgoraEU** programme, ENCATC stands ready to collaborate closely with EU institutions, Member States, regional and local authorities, and the wider cultural and creative ecosystem.

Culture is a strategic asset for Europe. With the Culture Compass, the EU takes an important step toward a more cohesive, democratic, innovative, and culturally rich future. ENCATC is proud to contribute to this collective ambition.