

"Integrating Cultural Management and Policy Research into Europe's Research and Innovation Agenda: ENCATC's Strategic Priorities for FP10" April 2025

Responding to the Open Consultation on the MFF and the Future of Research Funding in Europe

As the European Union prepares the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the post-2027 period and the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10), ENCATC – the European network on cultural management and policy – calls for renewed support for research in cultural management and policy.

We welcome the ongoing consultation process and seek to ensure that the future priorities of the EU in research and innovation truly reflect the transformative role of culture in building inclusive, sustainable, and resilient societies. This is a crucial moment: our sector must be heard to ensure that research in cultural management and policy finds adequate space within future EU funding instruments, particularly in Horizon Europe's successor and in initiatives such as the European Research Area (ERA).

The Centrality of Research in Cultural Management and Policy for Europe's Future

Research in the cultural and creative sectors plays a fundamental role in addressing Europe's most pressing challenges—from democratic participation and social cohesion to climate action and digital transformation. However, despite its recognized value, cultural management, policy research, and research on cultural management and policy education continue to face underrepresentation in EU funding frameworks. To ensure that culture continues to drive innovation and sustainable development, FP10 must:

- **Strengthen the role of Cluster 2: "Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society"**, maintaining it as a distinct and well-funded cluster in FP10.
- **Support transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and cross-border research**, particularly where culture intersects with education, social affairs and welfare, economics, management, technology, health, international cooperation, urban and territorial development, climate action and sustainability.
- Uphold **open science** principles by promoting open access to research outputs, data, and methodologies in cultural management and policy research, thereby enhancing transparency, fostering international collaboration, and maximizing the societal impact of publicly funded research.
- **Ensure participation and mobility for researchers**, including emerging and early-career scholars, by increasing dedicated budgetary lines and mobility schemes.

Key Contributions and Recommendations from ENCATC

As a recognized stakeholder in the European cultural management and policy research and cultural management and policy education research landscape, ENCATC gathers and mobilises a global community of academics, professionals, organisations and institutions committed to advancing cultural management and policy. Given the urgent need to address societal challenges through a deeper understanding of Europe's values, identities, and cultural dynamics, **we strongly advocate for a significant increase in the overall budget for research** in FP10, with particular attention to the humanities and social sciences—fields that are often underfunded despite their fundamental relevance and contribution.

We therefore call for the following strategic priorities in the new financial and research planning:

1. Research in the Cultural and Creative Sectors as a Pillar of Innovation

- Recognise the **innovative potential of the cultural and creative sectors (CCS)** as drivers of economic development and social wellbeing.
- Fund research that enhances cultural governance, cultural diplomacy, participatory and equitable governance and management models, digital innovation in culture, and sustainability in the cultural sector.
- Foster **alliances with innovation ecosystems**, such as **EIT Culture & Creativity**, to position culture within a broader network of stakeholders—emphasizing that research in the cultural field thrives within collaborative, cross-sector environments.

2. Support for Transversal, Multidisciplinary and Cross-sectoral Approaches

- Promote programmes that break disciplinary silos and facilitate **transversal collaboration** between arts, culture and the CCIs and fields such as environmental sciences, AI, health, education, and social policy.

3. Adequate Funding for Cluster 2 and Cultural Research in FP10

- Advocate for **a significant increase in the overall Horizon budget**, with dedicated funding streams for cultural research.
- Maintain and expand **Cluster 2**, as a unique and indispensable platform to explore Europe's cultural fabric, societal values, and global relationships.

4. Researcher Mobility and Capacity Building

- Strengthen tools and grants for **researcher mobility**, particularly for early-career and independent researchers.
- Foster **equitable access to international research programmes**, with particular attention to underrepresented regions and institutions.
- Support **emerging researchers**, such as through doctoral and post-doctoral funding schemes, publication support, and peer-learning platforms.
- Support **diverse career pathways for researchers**, both within and beyond academia, by recognizing and facilitating professional research opportunities in cultural management, policy-making, the creative industries, and other relevant sectors.
- Develop and promote **Researcher in Residency** programmes, where cultural management and policy researchers can work directly within cultural institutions, enhancing the practical applications of research and fostering closer ties between academia and the cultural sector.

5. Global Collaboration and Partnership Development

- Encourage **strategic partnerships and regional engagement** through mechanisms that support international cultural research collaborations, such as those with Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- Support **the active participation of European networks in global research dialogues**, contributing to shared knowledge production and alignment with ERA priorities on international cooperation and policy coherence.

6. Data, Evidence and Policy Alignment

- Invest in research that provides robust data and **policy-relevant insights to inform evidence-based policy at European, national, and regional levels**—supporting more coherent and impactful governance and policy making across the multilevel policy landscape.
- Support the development of **theoretical frameworks** that underpin and legitimize evidence-based approaches—recognizing that strong conceptual foundations are essential for interpreting data, shaping policy, and ensuring research impact across diverse cultural contexts.
- Promote the principles of **open science**, ensuring that research in the cultural and creative field is accessible, transparent, and contributes to shared knowledge across disciplines and regions.
- Ensure culture and creative sectors are visible and included in the ERA Monitoring Mechanism and key indicators of research impact.

7. Research Priorities: Diversity, Cooperation, and Global Challenges

- Deepen research into the **role of culture in international relations and cooperation**, rethinking how cultural engagement can shape relations between countries and world regions.
- Address **cultural diversity not only as a concept**, but as a practical policy and management challenge—exploring how to sustain and develop diversity within institutions, communities, and governance models.
- Engage with the **priority areas outlined by Mondiacult**, analyzing how cultural management and policy research can contribute to them. This includes the **need to build cross-sectoral and international alliances** that support shared cultural objectives and advance global cultural policy dialogue.
- Deepen research on questions of cultural citizenship and cultural rights as regards inclusion and the broader questions of democracy and governance.

Conclusion

ENCATC urges the European Commission, the European Parliament, and all relevant stakeholders to safeguard and elevate the role of culture and cultural policy and management research in Europe's future.

We are at a moment when a comprehensive, forward-looking, and culturally enriched research agenda for Europe is much needed. ENCATC stands ready to contribute to data-driven and research-

based policy development and implementation, drawing from over 30 years of expertise and an active international network.

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