

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EDUCATION & CULTURE WORKING GROUP IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 'ACCESS TO CULTURE' CULTURAL SECTOR PLATFORM

Why are closer synergies between education and culture important at the European level?

The Education & Culture Working Group of the Access to Culture Cultural Sector Platform has the aim to explore the benefits of a closer synergy between education and culture within the context of the developments initiated by the EU Communication "A European Agenda for Culture within a Globalised World". In this process, the Working Group, consisting of representatives of a range of cultural networks and organisations working at the European level, has explored the various dimensions of the links between education and culture. In brief, these dimensions can be described as follows:

- Education provides access to culture for European citizens with the aim to develop participation in and the understanding of culture and the arts, which will enrich their daily lives. Access to culture through education can take place in various contexts: from formal education (ranging from cultural education in primary and secondary education to professional training in higher arts education) and non-formal education (organised educational activities outside a formal educational setting), to informal learning (in a 'real life' context, where learning can also take place in an implicit way).
- Another important dimension is the access to education through culture. Learning through cultural experiences can develop creative, personal and interpersonal skills that can be essential transferable skills for workers in a knowledge-based society.
- An increased exchange and cooperation in the fields of education and culture will lead to enhanced intercultural understanding and social cohesion at the European level. These are essential elements for a Europe built on cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.
- A closer synergy between education and culture will support the development of the creative and cultural industries, which show an enormous potential for employment and growth within the overall EU economy.
- A closer synergy between education and culture will support the implementation of the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning: not only Key Competence nr. 8 (Cultural Expression and Awareness) will be reached by offering access to culture through education, but other Key Competences can also be achieved by providing access to education through culture, such as Communication in the Mother Tongue (Key Competence nr. 1), Learning to Learn (Key Competence nr. 5), Social and Civic Competences (nr. 6), Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship (nr. 7) and Digital Competence (nr. 4.), assisting some learners in achieving educational results that may be not reached as easily in formal learning contexts.
- Finally, the working group would like to remind that 'free movement of knowledge and innovation' is of utmost importance within the European Union, and that access to culture contributes to the knowledge economy through education and lifelong learning. In this context, the working group underlines there should be a fair balance between the protection of intellectual property and the access to creative works in the context of learning practices.

To underpin these views, the Working Group has started with the collection of short case studies, which will be presented in a comparable format. The overview of case studies will serve as an annex to this document.

Our recommendations to increase synergies between education and culture at the European level

Based on the above-mentioned views, the working group would like to suggest the following initial recommendations for further exploration by the member states and European regions, the European Commission, the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) Working Group on Education & Culture, and the Cultural Sector Platforms.

1. Recommendations to the OMC Working Group on Education & Culture:

- To discuss the benefits of and actions for a closer synergy between education and culture by taking into account the role of culture and the arts in various educational contexts (formal [including all levels from pre-primary to and beyond higher education], informal and non-formal) and not just limit the discussion to arts education in primary and secondary (formal) education.
- To exchange information on the cultural participation of not only young people but also adults, including issues related to mobility of workers in the cultural education sector for adults.

- To engage in a regular exchange of views and information with the Access to Culture Cultural Platform Working Group on Education & Culture.
 - To connect the discussion on the synergies between education and culture in the OMC for culture to the follow-up programme of the 'Education and Training Agenda 2010' and the OMC in the field of education.
 - To share information on the results of qualitative research on the impact of arts education and cultural learning, and to support this process by an active approach towards translation of relevant texts.
2. Recommendations to the European Commission:
- To acknowledge within the European Year of Creativity & Innovation 2009 the role of education and culture as the main contributors to innovation in society and the economy by giving particular attention to activities, projects, organisations and networks in this field in the work programme of the year.
 - To introduce into the future EU cultural programme a specific strand to support cultural projects with an educational dimension based on the experiences of the CONNECT Initiative of the EU (1999-2000).
 - To declare the synergy between education and culture a priority in the future EU programme for education.
 - To mainstream the synergy between education and culture as a priority in other EU programmes and initiatives, in particular in the fields of external relations, research and regional development.
 - To improve the mobility of professionals in the cultural sector through an increased attention to the recognition of qualifications, in particular for those artists that include educational activities in their portfolio of professional obligations. This should be done by encouraging training institutions and employers to relate to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), so that competences and qualifications in the sector can be compared at the European level.
 - To improve the mobility in the cultural sector by offering mobility grants to recently graduated professionals supporting their efforts to establish a European-level professional practice that may include educational activities.
 - To take into consideration that, in order to promote and develop the fifth freedom 'knowledge and innovation', education and research should have easy access to culture and cultural heritage available in archives, libraries and other cultural heritage institutions.
3. Recommendations to the EU member states and European regions:
- To acknowledge the importance of a closer synergy between education and culture to the personal development of the citizens, the further development of the European integration process and economic growth of the EU, by supporting an active role of culture and the arts in formal, informal and non-formal educational contexts, and by giving sufficient support to the professional training of artists, managers, teachers, facilitators, social workers and other professionals engaged in these contexts.
 - To encourage representatives in the OMC working group on Education & Culture to use a wide remit in their work and not limit their attention to arts education in primary and secondary (formal) education.
 - To implement the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning and acknowledge the role culture could play in achieving these competences.
 - To encourage the European Institutions to declare the close synergy between education and culture a priority in the EU education and culture programmes.
 - To improve provision for the professional training of professionals in the cultural sector by recognising higher arts education in all 3 levels as outlined by the Bologna Declaration process (Bachelor, Master, 3rd cycle).
 - To develop policies that balance protection of intellectual property rights and the access to culture as instruments for lifelong learning.
4. Recommendations to the Cultural Sector Platforms:
- To take into account the synergy between education and culture as a horizontal issue in all areas of discussion in the framework of the cultural sector platforms, including the cultural industry platform and the 'Rainbow' platform for intercultural dialogue.
 - To suggest the synergy between education and culture as a central topic at the next Cultural Forum in 2009.
 - To engage in an evidence-based argumentation based on research literature and successful case studies.
 - To explore with the Commission how to set up a structured dialogue with the relevant OMC working groups.