



Network of European
Museum Organisations

NEMO Report: European museums' participation in EU funding programmes

MAIN FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

Museums have benefitted from various EU funding programmes in the past years. Next to the Creative Europe Programme, specifically dedicated to support the European cultural, creative and audiovisual sector, there are a range of programmes, such as the Erasmus + Programme for learning opportunities, the Horizon 2020 programme for Research and Innovation actions, the Europe for Citizens programme and the programmes grouped under the Structural Funds that are relevant to museums' activities.

The current EU funding period 2014-2020 is coming to an end, while the negotiations for the new cycle of EU funding programmes are already in full swing. Budget proposals and priorities for the different programmes have been presented by the Commission and are presently under discussion.

NEMO's role

Networks on European level such as NEMO are instrumental for producing and sharing the necessary ingredients, i.e. knowledge, expertise a network and trust, for European project collaboration. They allow new potential museum partners to build expertise and provide them with a network to cooperate at European level, while also helping smaller organisations to participate in EU funded projects that run under their umbrella.

The Report

NEMO wants to ensure the best possible access for museums to the future EU funding programmes starting in 2021. In order to understand better the needs of the museum sector in this regard, NEMO has commissioned an analysis of the museums' participation in the centralized EU funding programmes from 2014-2018, that provides detailed data on national and European level about the current funding usage.¹

Research scope

The research includes the transnational funding from the Creative Europe (CE), Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens and Horizon 2020 (specifically the Humanities and Social Sciences strands) programmes. The EU Structural funds have been excluded from this research, since they are delegated to Members States and become accessible to museums via national authorities with individual priorities.

¹ full report https://nemo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMO_documents/NEMO_EU_funding_and_Museums_report.pdf

Funding opportunities available for museums through the EU Structural funds are extensive, but vary considerably from country to country.² NEMO and the national museum organisations could help to increase the number of successful museum projects under the structural funds by advocating for permanent representative of the culture and heritage sector on the relevant committees that negotiate the principles and priority definitions of the EU structural funding programmes at both national and European levels³.

Findings and Recommendations

The present report summarizes the five main findings of the report for museums in Europe (p.5-7), leading to recommendations

- to the European institutions to increase the available funding and provide better access for museums to future EU funding programmes; and
- to museums and national museum bodies to increase the sector's participation in EU funding programmes

Recommended Policy Goals

NEMO believes that the following policy goals should guide European decision-making on investment in the museums sector:

1. to ensure that European museums are able to play their full part in delivering European priorities, including growth, integration, social impact, skills, jobs and research,
2. to ensure that museums are better equipped to bid for and carry out EU funded projects,
3. to facilitate better access for micro-organisations⁴ to European cultural funding programmes,
4. to improve the training and mobility opportunities of the museum workforce through targeted actions at European level.

Recommended Actions for EU Policy Makers

Alongside other culture organisations at European level, NEMO recommends the following policy actions to support the European culture and museums' sector:

1. Considering that the budget of the culture strand of the Creative Europe Programme is only € 452 million over 7 years, and the share of museums of this budget is less than 6%, NEMO strongly supports initiatives to provide adequate budget for the new Creative Europe programme to increase success rates for funded projects and all new actions introduced under the CULTURE strand.
2. To strengthen the cultural dimension of other EU funding programmes priorities and objectives.

² An example is the European Regional Development Fund. Data shows that cultural heritage, including museums, has benefitted with a good share: In 2007-2013, 6.2 billion Euro from the ERDF went to cultural heritage, whereas in 2014-2020 the estimated amount is already 4.8 billion Euro. See [table](#) provided by the EP.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/

⁴ EU definition of SME's: <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/>

3. Application, administrative and financial management procedures should be simplified to make it easier for first-time applicants and smaller museums to benefit from the various funding programmes.
4. To provide a dedicated strand in the new CE Programme which addresses the needs for training and mobility of cultural workers, specifically employees in cultural heritage organisations, such as museums. This work is currently being piloted with the i-Portunus project.⁵
5. To improve communication and visibility of funding opportunities to allow better access for new players (for example by including the term “museum, collections etc.” in the calls which contain strands from which museums can benefit, in order to make museums more aware of existing funding opportunities).

Recommendations to museums and national museum umbrella bodies

1. Creation of networks of museums already active in EU programs at national level to pool expertise and contacts to help first time applicants to successfully run EU projects . A full list of museums per country active in European funding programmes is available in the full report.⁶
2. National contact points should be encouraged to map and advertise funding opportunities for museums in the specific EU funding programmes (CE, Erasmus Plus, Europe for Citizens, Horizon 2020) better. This could be achieved through a permanent exchange between museum organizations and contact points at national level.
3. The Europe for Citizens Programme is a good opportunity for museums for smaller projects. Even though funding per project typically ranges between 6.000-10.000 Euro only, museums should be encouraged to look into this programme for funding opportunities as well.
4. Umbrella bodies should organise targeted events (workshops, trainings) to access EU funding for interested museums, potentially through the NEMO network and in cooperation with the national contact points for the EU programmes .

⁵ See <https://www.i-portunus.eu>

⁶ see report https://nemo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMO_documents/NEMO_EU_funding_and_Museums_report.pdf, p. 12-17.

MAIN FINDINGS

I. Total number of museum projects, organisations and partners

The participation of museums across EU funding programmes varies considerably. In the period 2014-2018, a total of **663 projects** which included museums as partners have been funded across all 4 programmes⁷.

521 organisations were involved, while the **total amount of partners in the projects is 942**. This means that almost 50% of the organisations are participating in more than 1 EU funded project. 23 organisations have participated in all 4 programmes. This is a sign of ‘returning customers’.

Finding 1

Only a fraction of museums in Europe participates in the EU funding programmes. The access for new and more organisations to the funding programmes is limited. Extensive expertise, financial and administrative capacity and a network of partners is required to access EU funds.

II. Projects by programme and focus

Museums have participated in 132 Creative Europe projects.

Out of the **422 Erasmus+** projects museums were involved in, **302 had a training and education focus.**

Out of the 59 projects in the Horizon 2020 programme, the innovative training networks (MCSA) strand was most used.⁸

39 out of 50 projects funded under the Europe for Citizens strand were funded under the “European Remembrance” strand.

Finding 2

Next to the dedicated Creative Europe programme for the culture sector, other programmes, specifically the Erasmus + programme, holds many opportunities to support museums.

Finding 3

The high use of training and mobility strands in the Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 programmes underlines the need of museums for further training and continuous learning at European level.

⁷ see report https://ne-mo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMo_documents/NEMO_EU_funding_and_Museums_report.pdf, p. 4

⁸ see report https://ne-mo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMo_documents/NEMO_EU_funding_and_Museums_report.pdf, p. 5

III. Most and least represented countries accessing EU funding in the museum sector

Leading countries in accessing EU funding in the museum sector are Italy, Germany, Spain and France, whereas in the Creative Europe programme, the UK and Slovenia stand out among the best represented beneficiaries.

The same countries (Italy, Germany, France as the top 3) run most projects as lead partners. Given the amount of museums in these countries, the high numbers are not a surprise.

However, out of 44 participating countries, more than 50% (24 countries) run less than 10 projects as a lead partner.⁹

Finding 4

The figures show that the expertise, support and the network to set up projects for EU funded programmes is not geographically balanced across Europe. Museums in Northern and Eastern European countries benefit less from the funding opportunities as leading and participating entities.

IV. Share of total budget used by museums

The total budget of the CE, Erasmus+ and Europe for Citizens programmes that were received by museums is 32 million euro in the period 2014-2018. Museums in Italy, Germany, France and Slovenia received over 3 Mio Euro each.

Around 21 Million were allocated to museums in Horizon 2020. Museums in the UK and Germany were most successful in receiving funding from the Horizon 2020 programme.¹⁰

Total budget	2014-2020	Proportionally for 2014-2018	Amount for museums 2014-2018	% of total budget 2014-18 for museums
CE (Culture)	€ 452 million	€ 321 million	€ 18.4 million	~ 6 %
Erasmus+	€ 14.8 billion	€ 10.6 billion	€ 7 million	~ 0,06%
Horizon 2020 (Humanities & Social Sciences)	€ 80 billion	€ 57 billion	€ 21 million	~ 0,03 %
Europe for Citizens	€ 188 million	€ 134 million	€ 1.01 million	~ 0,8 %

Table 1: The four EU programme budgets and proportional share of museums

⁹ https://ne-mo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMO_documents/NEMO_EU_funding_and_Museums_report.pdf , p. 6-8, including individual data for each country

¹⁰ https://ne-mo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMO_documents/NEMO_EU_funding_and_Museums_report.pdf , p. 9-10, including individual data for each country

Museums receive an estimated 10.6 Mio Euro per year out of the centralized EU funding programmes.

Only **6% of the Creative Europe budget** (culture strand) is used by museums participating in projects. For the **Erasmus+, Horizon 2020 and Europe for Citizens programmes**, this percentage is less than **1%**.

Finding 5

The figures suggest that museums could become more prominent as funding beneficiaries, both in the Creative Europe programme as in the other programmes. Their role and potential for societal challenges, for research and training should be more visible and better tapped and supported through funding opportunities in all EU funding programmes, specifically the ones not dedicated to culture.