

## The Arts and Europe: some issues to consider



The National Campaign for the Arts is committed to supporting arts and audiences in the UK. We strongly believe that Art creates conversation that transcends national borders and speaks to our common humanity, but as a registered Charity it is not appropriate for us to express a view on whether we should leave or remain in the EU. However, we do think there are questions that need to be carefully considered.

### Funding

UK Arts organisations are significant beneficiaries of €1.3bn from the Creative Europe programme to support small and medium-sized cultural enterprises. Between 2007 and 2011 over 200 UK organisations participated in trans-national projects funded by the EU Culture Programme. In 2014 the [DCMS](#) reported an Arts Council England and British Council statement: that the UK achieved twice the average successful proportion of Creative Europe applications compared to all EU nations. Currently there are some non-EU members of this programme. If the UK were to leave the EU, could we negotiate to remain part of the Creative Europe initiative and ensure that the UK continues to benefit from this programme?

### International artistic exchange and export

The UK is widely acknowledged as a world leader in the performing and visual arts. EU membership currently allows the easy export of UK work to a key international market. UK audiences also benefit from easy access to high quality work from around Europe. Without this exchange of work across borders, our international status is at risk. If the UK were to leave the EU, would it be possible to negotiate for the unrestricted movement of artistic work between the UK and the EU?

### A single approach to complex issues

Many UK arts organisations tour throughout Europe and our artists sell their work in many different nations. At the moment, the EU provides a forum to discuss and agree systems and approaches, for everything from copyright to the agreed frequencies for radio microphones. Artists selling in Europe currently benefit from common approaches to tax and customs controls. If the UK were to leave the EU, could we continue to benefit from this single European approach? How would the UK's voice be heard in future negotiations?

### Workforce

British arts organisations benefit from the free movement of artists, which enables us to attract the finest talent. This is vital at a time of reduced public investment, when we need every tool at our disposal to remain competitive in a global market. Even under current EU membership, dancers, choreographers and classical musicians are classified by the UK Government as 'Shortage Occupations'. The extension of the points-based system to migrant workers from the EU would mean extra administrative duties for many arts organisations; it could make the UK an unattractive place to work, could lower the quality of the workforce, and has the potential to make UK arts organisations financially unsustainable. Artists and arts workers currently benefit from the opportunities for employment or freelance work in mainland Europe. If the UK were to leave the

EU, how could our arts organisations attract and retain world class talent, and how might our own talent benefit from opportunities to work in the rest of the European Union?

### **Talent development**

Artists and arts professionals in training also benefit from the €14.7bn Erasmus+ programme, focusing on education, training, youth and sport. This programme has given UK artists the opportunity to train with some of the world's most talented teachers and given them access to new cultural experiences that develop the practice of our next generation of creative talent. If the UK were to leave the EU, how would we ensure our emerging artists have affordable access to international training?

### **Administrative Burdens**

Some arts organisations believe that EU intervention on issues makes things simpler. For others the added layer of regulation increases complexity and related cost. The UK has already agreed opt-outs in certain areas, including the Working Time Directive. In others such as Health and Safety, the UK enforces EU regulation in the arts far more rigorously than most other nations. If the UK were to leave the EU, would the administrative burdens and the related costs incurred by UK artists and arts organisations increase or decrease?

Arts organisations that are charities are strongly advised to read the [NCVO's Discussion Paper on the Implications of EU Membership for Charities](#).

Arts Council England has also produced [guidance for organisations](#) regarding the EU referendum.

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