



2026/0196(BUD)

29.9.2026

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Budgets

on the General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2027 – all sections
(2026/0196(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Helder Sousa Silva

PA_NonLegBud

OPINION

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following into its motion for a resolution:

1. Reiterates its long-standing position that the Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes need an adequate budget in the final year of the current programming period to achieve their full potential and set the tone for the next MFF; in that context, deplores the Council's cuts to those programmes in its reading of the 2027 draft budget, amounting to EUR 159 million, EUR 31.6 million and EUR 0.18 million respectively; stresses that any reduction would be detrimental to the programmes' smooth functioning and would jeopardise their proven contribution to the priorities of the Union;
2. Strongly deplores the Commission's attempt to cut Erasmus+ funding compared to the original financial programming to create additional unallocated margin in heading 2b; believes that financing other priorities cannot come at the expense of mobility of young people in the most successful and recognizable Union programme; in line with the joint declaration by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission from 2020 and with the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources¹, according to which expenditure covering the financing costs of NextGeneration EU shall aim at not reducing Union programmes and funds, demands the return of all funds recovered from the pandemic period – EUR 357 million recovered in 2024, 2025 and 2026 – to the programme's largest strand, with funds for learning mobility implemented via national agencies;
3. Calls for an additional increase of EUR 50 million to the largest strand of Erasmus+, which has the biggest absorption capacity due to oversubscription, in line with the political commitment to better include smaller organisations and people with fewer opportunities, as well as to take into account inflation and rising living costs;
4. Underlines the need to ensure funding stability for initiatives such as the European Universities Alliances and the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies and to safeguard upcoming initiatives such as European Schools Alliances as well as to support the implementation of the European Education Area;
5. Proposes modest but important increases to the strands of Erasmus+ dedicated to youth and sport, by EUR 5 million and EUR 3 million respectively; underlines the need to keep those strands strong, due to their high demand and oversubscription;
6. Stresses the need for a reinforcement of the European Solidarity Corps by EUR 5 million in order to help that small programme have an even bigger impact by offering more volunteering and solidarity activities, promoting community resilience and youth-led responses to crises, including the war in Ukraine;
7. Insists on realistic increases to all three strands of Creative Europe, the Union's only

¹ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinst/2020/1222/oj.

programme dedicated to the cultural, creative and audiovisual sectors, as well as news media, set at EUR 7 million for the Culture strand, EUR 5 million for the Media strand, and EUR 3 million for the cross-sectoral strand; reiterates that a robust Creative Europe is important to help the audiovisual sector and increase its ability to reach audiences across borders, to protect media freedom and pluralism, and ensure citizens' access to reliable information, as well as to help deliver the objectives of the Culture Compass for Europe and the newly signed Joint Declaration "Europe for Culture, Culture for Europe";

8. Recognizes the role of pilot projects and preparatory actions (PPPAs) as important tools for the Members of the European Parliament to test new initiatives; supports therefore the CULT PPPAs that receive grades A and B in the assessment procedure;
9. Points out that budgetary flexibility and simplification must go hand in hand with transparency and democratic accountability, and must not undermine Parliament's ability to scrutinise Union spending; stresses, therefore, the need to maintain sufficient visibility and traceability of funding earmarked for education, youth, sport, culture, the cultural and creative sectors, the audiovisual arts and media when implementing the budget.

ANNEX: DECLARATION OF INPUT

The rapporteur for opinion declares under his exclusive responsibility that he did not include in his opinion input from interest representatives falling within the scope of the Interinstitutional Agreement on a mandatory transparency register¹, or from representatives of public authorities of third countries, including their diplomatic missions and embassies, to be listed in this Annex pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.

¹ Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on a mandatory transparency register (OJ L 207, 11.6.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2021/611/oj).

**INFORMATION ON ADOPTION
BY THE COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION**

Date adopted	29.9.2026	
Result of final vote	+:	23
	—:	2
	0:	1

**FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL
BY THE COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION**

23	+
ECR	Lara Magoni, Marco Squarta
PPE	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Zala Černilec Tomašič, Loucas Furlas, Giusi Princi, Manuela Ripa, Hélder Sousa Silva, Viktor Weisz, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski
Renew	Laurence Farreng, Hristo Petrov, Eugen Tomac
S&D	Maria Guzenina, Hannes Heide, Emma Rafowicz, Sabrina Repp, Sandro Ruotolo, Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus
The Left	Carolina Morace, Nikos Pappas
Verts/ALE	Diana Riba i Giner, Nela Riehl

2	-
ESN	Zsuzsanna Borvendég
PfE	Catherine Griset

1	0
PfE	Annamária Vicsek

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention