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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.9.2026)

The Commission is committed to supporting European artists and Europe's cultural heritage at a time when platforms are becoming ever more powerful and tend to promote non-European culture. This makes it more difficult for European artists and heritage to remain visible to European citizens.

One important way of strengthening the visibility of European culture is through the various cultural prizes awarded by the EU. These prizes are co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme.

In practice, the Programme supports the prizes through lump-sum grants awarded to the organisations and consortia responsible for managing them. This support is set out in the annual work programmes. For the year 2026, the total amounts corresponding to the awards are:

- EU Prize for Popular and Contemporary Music: EUR 600 000
- EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture: EUR 500 000
- European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL): EUR 600 000
- EU Prize for Cultural Heritage: EUR 450 000
- EU Prize for Jewish Cultural Heritage: EUR 300 000

The total amount of co-financing for prizes for 2026 is EUR 2.45 million, representing 0.64% of the Creative Europe budget for that year. The Creative Europe Programme amounts to about 0.23% of the total EU budget for 2021–2027.

The prizes are implemented by organisations active in the respective sectors, helping to ensure that prize activities serve the interests of the artists and cultural stakeholders concerned. They are also accompanied by promotion and market-development efforts. For example, winners and nominated authors of the EU Prize for Literature are actively promoted at major book fairs, helping to secure translation rights and broaden international visibility.