



**European Committee
of the Regions**

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**Going Viral: Crisis impacts on cultural heritage –
lessons for cohesion policy**

EU Week of Regions and Cities 2022 Side Event

10 October 2022

Directorate C – Legislative Works (COTER, ECON, SEDEC)

Horizontal priority: Empowering cities and regions through EU policies, with a view to making them more resilient in dealing with globalisation and social and technological changes.

Key thematic priorities:

- Future of cohesion policy: Ensuring a strong cohesion policy to support economic, social and territorial cohesion in all regions beyond 2020 (COTER);
- European economic governance: Adding a territorial dimension to economic governance through a stronger partnership with cities and regions in the EU (ECON);
- Social dimension of the EU: Promoting a more inclusive Union for all territories of the EU (SEDEC).

Culture in a Union that strives for more: the role of regions and cities

(COR-2019-04646-00-01-AC-TRA)

Rapporteur: **Vincenzo Bianco (IT/PES)**

Member of Catania Municipal Council



A pluralistic and innovative vision of culture, involving the citizens more actively in cultural growth processes, is key to European integration.



Draft Opinion adopted on

11-12 February 2020: 138th PLENARY SESSION

OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS



Culture in a Union that strives for more: the role of regions and cities

(COR-2019-04646-00-01-AC-TRA)

Highlights:

- Need a broad understanding of culture and Europe's cultural diversity that goes beyond solely the conservation and protection of tangible heritage;
- Calls on the Commission to consider culture as one of the political priorities to be pursued in the new term, and on the Council to support it within the next Multiannual Financial Framework;
- Invites regions and cities to develop wide-reaching and effective actions and strategic plans on promoting and capitalising on cultural heritage;
- Considers it necessary, at European level, to strengthen initiatives fostering knowledge of and access to Europe's cultural heritage;
- Calls for increased investment in culture and in plans to bring aspects of cultural heritage into use, under interactive and sustainable management within the new 2030 Urban Agenda;
- Ask to capitalise on digital opportunities to promote culture in an interactive way and attract all groups of society, especially young people, as the future custodians and promoters of cultural heritage.

Restart of cultural and creative sectors

(COR-2020-04616-00-01-AC-TRA)

Rapporteur: **Giuseppe Varacalli (IT/Renew Europe)**

Member of Gerace Municipal Council (RC)



Cities and regions that are able to harness their history, tell their stories, renew and re-imagine themselves become attractive not only to tourists and the economic activities they generate, but also to businesses that locate there.



Draft Opinion adopted on

3-5 February 2021: 142nd PLENARY SESSION

OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS



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Restart of cultural and creative sectors

(COR-2020-04616-00-01-AC-TRA)

Highlights:

- Local and regional authorities should use EU funding and the various programmes and measures to promote individual artists and develop opportunities for events and exchanges, including on a virtual basis;
- Ask for EU calls for proposals that, among other things, provide more support for projects promoting the social role of culture, experimentation, and innovation in contemporary visual arts, aimed at the regeneration of peripheral, rural or vulnerable urban areas;
- Calls for a "Status of European artist", paying particular attention to the mobility of artists in the remotest European regions (*also one of the proposals resulted from the Conference on the Future of Europe*);
- Suggests developing opportunities now for events and exchanges, including on a virtual basis, which can help unearth the wealth of creative potential hidden in the regions, and thus make those artists, as many have been in the past, ambassadors and promoters of their own cultures;
- Welcomes with interest the new European Bauhaus initiative announced by the Commission president as part of the Renovation Wave strategy (*recent Opinion adopted on Bauhaus*).

The New European Bauhaus

Rapporteur: **Kieran McCarthy (IE/European Alliance)**

Member of a Local Executive: Cork City Council



The New Bauhaus Initiative strongly contributes to local and regional development by making European regions more attractive, developing sustainability and creating new employment opportunities. Local and regional authorities have important competences in promoting inter-cultural dialogue. They bear a major responsibility for shaping and supporting our rich variety of cultures. They have a key role in disseminating and applying best practice and exchange of experiences in inter-cultural dialogue in particular through their coordination of multi-dimensional local and regional networks in the cultural sector, involving all relevant actors.



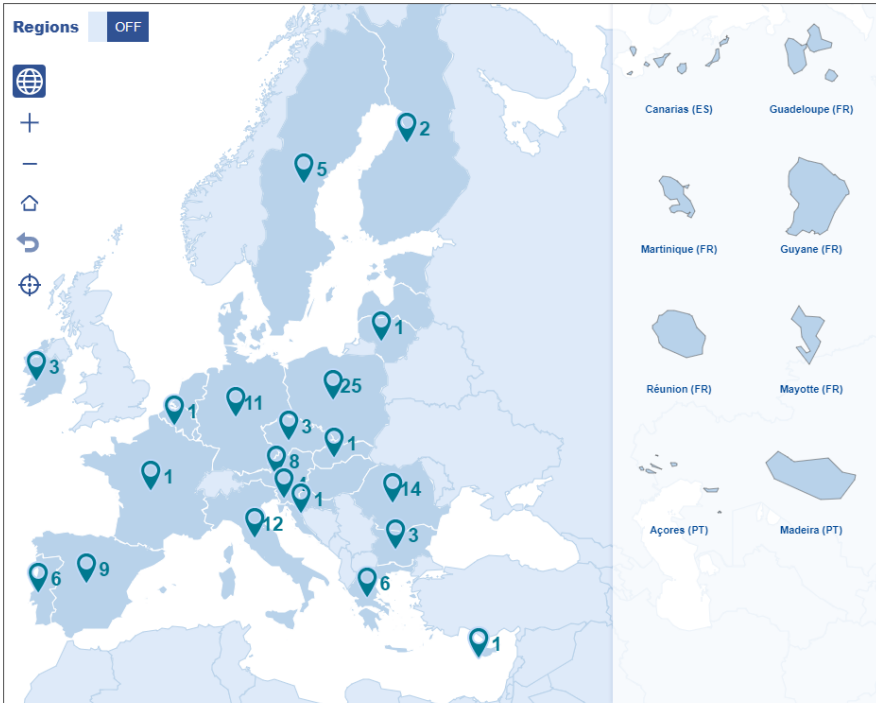
Promoting European values through education and culture

#ProEuropeanValues

[Europe in my region map \(europa.eu\)](https://cor.europa.eu/en/regions/Pages/EIR-map.aspx?view=stories&type=sedec)



Members #EuropeansAgainstCovid19 #EUGreenDeal #ProEuropeanValues



#ProEuropeanValues

Promoting European values through education and culture

Towards a community of best practices at local and regional level

In times when the resilience of our common European project is put to the test by several crises, the need to act to defend and promote our European values is now more pressing than ever before.

This collection of activities and experiences gathered in the form of a virtual map constitutes a concrete step towards creating a community of best practices at local and regional level on how to promote European values through education and culture. With more than 100 examples and contributions provided by the CoR's elected local and regional representatives and partners, its aim is to serve as an inspiration for further valuable ideas and projects, while also providing various opportunities to share experiences, exchange knowledge and start cooperation.

Already in 2017, on the occasion of the [Social Summit](#) in Gothenburg, it was underlined that "Education, culture and sport have a pivotal role in promoting active citizenship and common values amongst the youngest generations". But an imperative call to action became evident during the CoR plenary debates with Margaritis Schinas, Commission Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life (in June 2021) and French President Emmanuel Macron (in December 2021) on European values and the renewal of democracy. On these occasions, [VP Schinas](#) welcomed the fact that "the Commission together with the European Committee of the Regions will be joining forces and call on regions and cities across the Union to make pledges for the development of European classrooms", while [President Macron](#) underlined that regional elected representatives are the heart of European democracy and he spoke of the need to build a 'European demos' with local and regional authorities.

Indeed, the local and regional leaders are responsible for empowering young people to understand the importance of these values and of the European Union, which promotes and secures peace and prosperity. Considering the particularly favourable context of the Conference on the Future of Europe, encouraged by the support from CoR members, and building on the existing examples from many regions, the President of the CoR and the Chair of SEDEC commission suggested that a community of best practice be set up, to facilitate dialogue and the exchange of these good practices.

The CoR President Tzitzikostas summarized the purpose of the project during the June debate: "It is our responsibility – as parents and leaders – to offer our young generations the tools to realise that the EU made possible today's peace and unity. This is what we must do today, if we



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Thank you