



THE 19TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**EUROPEAN INTEGRATION  
 REALITIES AND PERSPECTIVES**

**The Immigrant's Legal  
 Status in International Law**

**Cultural Policy of the European Union**

**Filofteia Repez<sup>1</sup>, Polixenia Olar<sup>2</sup>, Marian Stefan Zaharia<sup>3</sup>**

**Abstract:** The European Union is a geographical and political reality, whose cultural policy forms a supporting pillar of its construction. The European Union contributes to the flourishing of the cultures of the member states, respecting their national and regional diversity and highlighting the common cultural heritage. Based on these considerations, the article proposes two scientific objectives: the current strategic framework regarding cultural policy and aspects regarding the Union's international cultural relations.

**Keywords:** culture; cultural policy; European Union; strategic framework; cultural diversity; international cultural relations; actions

*“Culture - an infinite source of inspiration and innovation, a reflection of humanity and aesthetics, of our common language and our common heritage, as well as a fundamental part of our identities and communities” (Union, 2022).*

## 1. The Current Strategic Framework for Cultural Policy

The European Union is based on the rule of law which means that every action taken is based on the treaties voluntarily and democratically approved by its member states.

The European Union *“is a remarkable achievement, especially if we consider that even its architects are not sure what exactly it represents” (...)* it is not a territorial entity. Although it coordinates and regulates activities that take place within the territorial borders of member states, it has no territorial claims and is, in fact, an extraterritorial government institution. This makes the European Union unique” (Rifkin, 2006, p. 167).

<sup>1</sup> PhD, Faculty of Communication and International Relations, Danubius International University, Galati, Romania, Address: 3 Blvd Galati, 800654, Romania, Corresponding author: filofteiarepez@univ-danubius.ro.

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, PhD, Faculty of Security and Defense, National Defense University “Carol I”, Bucharest, Romania, Address: 68-72 Panduri Street, Bucharest 050662, Romania, E-mail: lisiolar@yahoo.com.

<sup>3</sup> Colonel PhD, Joint Logistics Command, Bucharest, Romania, Address: Drumul Taberei Boulevard, No. 7B, Bucharest, Romania, E-mail: zahariamstefan@yahoo.com.



At the basis of the European construction was the will of the states to work together, based on common interests, a fact that led to the conviction that in some fields better results can be obtained at the European level rather than at the national level.

In this way, *common policies* were created for all member states, which were developed and adopted by the institutions of the European Union and which are applicable throughout its territory.

By the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, signed in Lisbon, December 13, 2007, (also referred to as the Treaty of Lisbon, entered into force on December 1, 2009) the distribution of powers between The European Union and its Member States is established in: exclusive competences of the European Union, shared competences, supporting competences and special competences.

*Culture* is a field in which the Union is competent to carry out actions to support, coordinate or complement the action of the member states (support powers), and the member states have exclusive competence in terms of cultural policy. Cultural diversity highlights a basic phenomenon and is a value and an element of self-characterization of the European Union; it is, in fact, an important political, legal and foreign policy topic. But cultural diversity in the European Union is not only about the cultural differences between its inhabitants, it is also a resource, where artistic creation and cooperation know challenging experiences.

The legal basis for action in the field of culture at the level of the European Union is Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>1</sup>.

In this field, the Union contributes to the flourishing of the culture of the Member States, respecting their national and regional diversity and highlighting, at the same time, the common cultural heritage; its action has a multiple purpose, which consists in encouraging cooperation, supporting and complementing the action member states in the following areas<sup>2</sup>: improving the knowledge and dissemination of the culture and history of the European peoples; preservation and protection of cultural heritage of European importance; non-commercial cultural exchanges; artistic and literary creation, including in the audiovisual sector.

To respond to the initiative of the leaders of the European Union to build, through culture and education, societies based on cohesion and to offer a vision of an attractive European Union that achieves more, a new European Agenda for culture was adopted in 2018<sup>3</sup>.

This document includes *three strategic objectives*, with social, economic and external dimensions, shown in the table below, which aims to ensure that the full potential of culture contributes to building a fairer and more inclusive Union, giving support to innovation, creativity, growth and sustainable job creation.

---

<sup>1</sup> According to <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?from=EN&uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0267>, accessed on 18.04.2024.

<sup>2</sup> Article 167 para. 1 and paragraph 2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, current consolidated version: 01/03/2020, available online on the website <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12016E/TXT&from=EN#d1e5970-1-1>, accessed on 17.04 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Available online at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?qid=1527241001038&uri=COM:2018:267:FIN>, accessed on 17.04. 2024.

**Table 1. The Strategic Objectives of the European Union in the Field of Culture<sup>1</sup>**

The strategic objective 1	<b>The social dimension</b> - harnessing the potential of culture and cultural diversity for social cohesion and well-being	1. Encouraging the cultural capacity of all Europeans by making available a wide range of cultural activities and by offering opportunities for active participation; 2. Encouraging the mobility of professionals in the cultural and creative sectors and removing barriers to their mobility; 3. Protecting and promoting European cultural heritage as a common resource, to raise awareness among citizens of our common history and values, and to strengthen the sense of a common European identity.
The strategic objective 2	<b>The economic dimension</b> - supporting culture-based creativity in education, innovation, job creation and growth	1. Promotion of arts, culture and creative thinking in formal and non-formal education and training at all levels and in lifelong learning; 2. Encouraging favorable ecosystems for cultural and creative industries, by promoting access to financing, innovation capacity, fair remuneration of authors and creators, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation; 3. Promoting the skills needed in the cultural and creative sectors, including digital, entrepreneurial, traditional and specialized skills.
The strategic objective 3	<b>The external dimension</b> - the strengthening of international cultural relations	1. Supporting culture as an engine of sustainable social and economic development; 2. Promoting culture and intercultural dialogue in order to develop peaceful intercommunity relations; 3. Consolidating cooperation in the field of cultural heritage.

The European agenda for culture is implemented by the Council Resolution on the European Union Work Plan in the field of culture for the period 2023-2026. Chronologically, the fourth work plan is built on the previous programs of the periods 2019-2022, 2015-2018 and 2011-2014.

The guiding principles on which this Work Plan in the field of culture is based are:

- *“culture and cultural heritage have intrinsic value and contribute to the consolidation of European identity;*
- *cultural diversity and linguistic diversity represent a fundamental asset of the European Union and must be respected, promoted and improved, including through mobility and the circulation of works;*
- *freedom of artistic expression and creativity are fundamental to the human ability to face challenges, think critically, innovate and invent and must be encouraged and supported in all relevant ways;*
- *cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are essential for the promotion and protection of human rights; it encourages mutual understanding, contributes to the prevention and resolution of conflicts and promotes international reconciliation, peace and stability; any misuse of culture for the purpose of spreading war propaganda and disinformation and inciting hatred is incompatible with the fundamental values and principles of the European Union;*

<sup>1</sup> Comunicarea Comisiei către Parlamentul European, Consiliu, Comitetul Economic și Social European și Comitetul regiunilor O nouă agendă europeană pentru cultură/ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A new European agenda for culture, Bruxelles, 22.5.2018, available online at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?qid=1527241001038&uri=COM:2018:267:FIN> and <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/ro/policies/strategic-framework-for-the-eus-cultural-policy>, accessed on 19.04. 2024.

- culture has a significant contribution to sustainable development, to the economy and to social inclusion, strengthening territorial cohesion;
- culture has the potential to promote equality and mutual respect and to combat all forms of violence, discrimination, intolerance and prejudice;
- implementation should be supported by the optimized use of quality data and statistics”<sup>1</sup>.

According to Eurostat statistics for the year 2022, 7.7 million people were working in the cultural field, representing 3.8% of all jobs<sup>2</sup>, demonstrating, in this way, its importance within the Union.

## 2. Aspects Regarding the International Cultural Relations of the European Union

Culture plays an important role in the external relations of the European Union, providing social and economic benefits and responding to various global challenges (refugee integration, combating violent radicalization, protecting world cultural heritage).

The promotion of culture as a vital element in the international relations of the European Union is a main objective of the European Agenda for culture since 2007<sup>3</sup>, together with two other strategic objectives: the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue and the promotion of culture as a catalyst for creativity within the Strategy from Lisbon for economic growth, employment, innovation and competitiveness.

Through the European Agenda for Culture in 2018, a comprehensive approach to international cultural relations is desired, the document defining cultural networks as “powerful tools for creating interpersonal links and lasting peaceful cross-border connections and dialogues and, therefore, encouraging international cultural relations, which are the basis of international regulatory activity and the creation of a European cultural space”<sup>4</sup>.

After a process of mapping and consultation of the European Union with cultural institutes and organizations in 54 countries, the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council entitled “Towards an EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations” was published on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 in which the principles guiding the action of the Union in the field of international cultural relations are set out: the promotion of cultural diversity and respect for human rights, the encouragement of mutual respect and intercultural dialogue, the respect for complementarity and subsidiarity, the encouragement of the transversal approach to culture and the promotion of culture through existing cooperation frameworks<sup>5</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the Council on 29 November 2022, available online at [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207(01)), accessed on 18 April 2024.

<sup>2</sup> *Culture statistics - cultural employment/ Culture statistics - cultural employment*, available online on the website. [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture\\_statistics\\_-\\_cultural\\_employment](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture_statistics_-_cultural_employment), accessed on 23.04. 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Available online at [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007G1129\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007G1129(01)), accessed on 19.04 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Relațiile culturale internaționale/ International cultural relations, online at <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/ro/policies/international-cultural-relations> and point 59 of Rezoluția Parlamentului European din 11 decembrie 2018 referitoare la noua agendă europeană pentru cultură/ Resolution of the European Parliament of 11 December 2018 on the new European agenda for culture, online at [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0499\\_RO.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0499_RO.html), accessed on 19.04. 2024.

<sup>5</sup> *The guiding principles for EU action are detailed in “Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations”.*

The international cultural relations of the European Union include both the states (some of which are strategic partners - Brazil, Canada, China, India, Mexico, Japan, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Russia, South Africa and the USA) and international organizations (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Council of Europe). Among the actions carried out, we will highlight: *The EU Cultural Diplomacy Platform*<sup>1</sup>, established with a multiple purpose: to provide advice on foreign cultural policy, to facilitate collaboration in the network, to carry out activities together with the interested parties in the field of culture and to develop training programs for achieving the leading position in the cultural sector; the activities of EUNIC (National Cultural Institutes of the European Union)<sup>2</sup> aimed at identifying innovative models of collaboration between European actors and local actors from third countries to support cultural projects relevant to the local context; *the Creative Europe program*<sup>3</sup> is also a program through which the European Commission supports cultural and audiovisual projects with countries outside the European Union.

### 3. Conclusions

The cultural field is very important in the European Union, in the Treaty on the European Union stating that it respects the richness of its cultural and linguistic diversity and watches over the protection and development of the European cultural heritage.

The European Union is involved in promoting cultural relations not only between its member states but also in international cultural relations, promoting cultural cooperation and contributing to intercultural dialogue, conflict prevention, reconciliation and resilience.

The initiatives and actions of the European Union in the cultural field in the last 20 years have gained consistency and a clearer outline.

### References

- Berna, Maria-Beatrice (2019). *Drept și politici ale Uniunii Europene. Note de curs. Law and policies of the European Union, course notes*. Bucharest: Universul Juridic Publishing House.
- de Montbrial, Thierry (2013). Poate exista o politică culturală europeană?/There can be a European cultural policy? *Critical Notebooks Journal*, nr.7(309).
- Matei, Ion Viorel (2016). *Politici ale Uniunii Europene/ Policies of the European Union*. Craiova: Sitech Publishing House.
- Rifkin, Jeremy (2006). *Visul European. Despre cum pe tăcute, Europa va pune în umbra „visul American”/ The European dream. About how Europe will quietly put the “American dream” in the shade*. Bucharest: Polirom Publishing House.
- Roșca, Lucian-Emil (2010). Diversitatea culturală și integrare europeană. *Transilvania Journal*. Sibiu.

#### Online

<https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe>.

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15381-2022-INIT/ro/pdf>.

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture\\_statistics\\_-\\_cultural\\_employment](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture_statistics_-_cultural_employment).

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?qid=1527241001038&uri=COM:2018:267:FIN>.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=JOIN%3A2016%3A29%3AFIN>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cultureinexternalrelations.eu/about-us/>, accessed on 22.04. 2024.

<sup>2</sup> EUNIC. <https://www.eunicglobal.eu/>, accessed on 22.04. 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Program website is <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe>, accessed on 22.04. 2024.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12016E/TXT&from=EN#d1e5970-1-1>.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?from=EN&uri=CELEX%3A52018DC0267>.

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207(01)).

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207(01)).

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007G1129\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007G1129(01)).

<https://www.cultureinexternalrelations.eu/about-us/>.

<https://www.eunicglobal.eu/>.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0499\\_RO.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0499_RO.html).

<https://www.observatorcultural.ro/articol/exista-o-politica-culturala-europeana/>.