
The Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends



Thematic Session
**"The Role of Culture and Cultural
Heritage for Democracy"**

CDCPP Plenary Session, Strasbourg, 18th of November 2025

Content

1. **Social Security of Artists**
e.g. Ireland – Basic Income for Artists
2. **Cultural Policy Frameworks that encourage Democratic Values – e.g. Luxembourg Charta + Fair Culture Charta**
3. **Status of Freedom of Artistic Expression**
Examples of Good and Bad Practice in Europe
4. **Cultural Policy = Democracy Policy**



1. Social Security for Artists – Social Cohesion

Ireland as a Role Model – Basic Income for Artists

Facts

= 3-year Pilot Scheme testing impact of a basic income on artists

- **Purpose:** to investigate the suitability of a basic income style payment for supporting artists and artistic work
- **Duration:** 2022-2025 (now extended to February 2026)
- **Payment:** €325 per week
- **Participants:** 2000 in the treatment group
(randomly selected – demographically representative sample) +
997 in control group

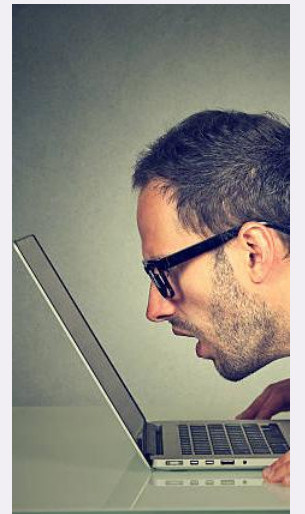


1. Social Security for Artists – Social Cohesion

Ireland as a Role Model – Basic Income for Artists

Results

- Artists **invest** 40% of the BI **back** into the material costs of their work
- Participants have been able to **turn down** some **unpaid work**
- Spend **less time** on work outside of arts practice – more time on their practice
- **Life satisfaction** is **higher** than in the control group
- **But:** the level of payment not indexed to inflation



1. Social Security for Artists – Social Cohesion

Ireland as a Role Model – Basic Income for Artists

Key findings from qualitative report May 2025

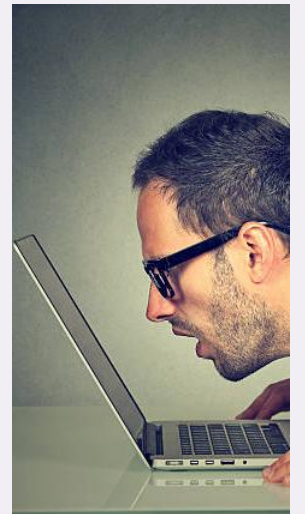
“Basic Income for the Arts in Ireland – Qualitative Report”, Dr. Jenny Dagg, 2025.

Successes:

- Financial Stability and wellbeing – reduction in financial stress.
- Creative autonomy – more time and greater self direction
- Increased self-efficacy – felt more empowered, confident, and validated in their professional and personal lives
- Practice and production – more time dedicated to their artistic work

Challenges:

- Impact on Disabled and Migrant artists
- Disparities between participating and non-participating artists – guilt
- Precarity anxiety – about the scheme coming to an end.
- Challenges of the broader socio-economic context
- Stresses about budgeting and tax obligations.



1. Social Security for Artists – Social Cohesion

Other Examples

- **Artists Social Security System (Germany):** enables freelance artists and publicists to access statutory health, nursing care and pension insurance (since 1983), financing 50 % by artists, 50 % by the users or clients and state subsidies
- **Minimum Fees / Fair Pay for artists (e.g. Austria, Germany, Poland + growing attention to this topic in several European countries)**



2. Cultural Policy Frameworks supporting Democratic Values – Luxembourg Charta & Fair Culture Charta

Luxembourg Code of Ethics for Cultural Entities

It is a guiding framework for cultural institutions

Key Principles are:

- Integrity and Transparency
- Respect for Diversity
- Preservation of Cultural Heritage
- Professionalism and Collaboration
- Ethical Use of Resources
- Community Engagement
- Ethical Conduct

➔ Strengthens the democratic values of cultural institutions



2. Cultural Policy Frameworks supporting Democratic Values – Luxembourg Charta & Fair Culture Charta

What is the Fair Culture Charta?

- A global initiative coordinated by the Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission that adapts the logic of fair-trade to the culture and creative sectors
- Its aim: to ensure decent working conditions, fair remuneration and equitable cultural exchange for artists, creatives and cultural workers worldwide
- It is voluntary (signing the charter does not create legal obligations or a certification scheme — though such mechanisms may be developed later)



2. Cultural Policy Frameworks supporting Democratic Values – Luxembourg Charta & Fair Culture Charta

Key Objectives of the Fair Culture Charta

- The Charter sets out major objectives, including: Promoting social, economic, cultural and other human rights of artists, creatives and cultural workers
 - Ensuring more balanced cultural exchanges (e.g., between Global North and Global South), improved working conditions and access to markets
- ➔ Strengthens democratic values and engages multiple stakeholders (governments, companies, civil society, creators, etc.) in co-responsibility



3. Status of Freedom of Artistic Expression

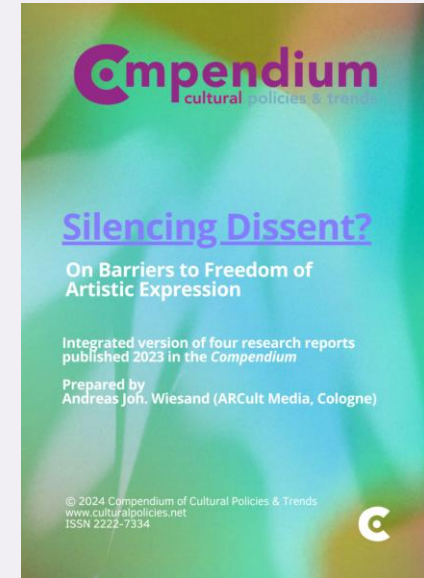
Compendium

- Campaign

= paper session + overview of materials + own survey

- Results

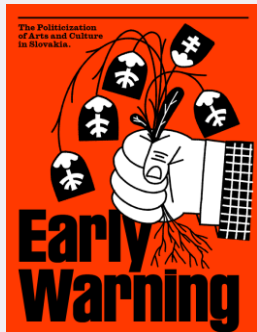
- Negative trend regarding the status of FoAE
- Legislation for FoAE is “officially” well established
- But limited possibility for complaints
- Major source for the restriction of FoAE: Political Climate
- Main instrument for censorship or self-censorship:
Cultural Funding Mechanism



Luxembourg Conference

“Watch It! Freedom of Artistic Expression Cultural Policies for Democracies”

- Cultural Policies can be used for or against democracies
 - ➔ Autonomy of cultural institutions (i.e. Slovakia + report of AFI)
- Monitoring and Mapping in other sectors is much better
 - ➔ Academic Freedom and Media Freedom
- **Luxembourg Call for Freedom of Artistic Expression**
 - ➔ Establishing an independent observatory or barometer for artistic freedom
 - ➔ Conducting qualitative research and surveys on FoAE
 - ➔ Mapping political programs, legislation, funding systems, and self-censorship trends
 - ➔ Strengthening ties with other frameworks and creating proactive, preventive, data-driven tools that reinforce democratic values



Strengthen Cultural Policy → Safeguard Democracy!

Cultural Policies = Democracy Policies

The Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends serves in this context as a

Critical resource for:

- **Identifying best practices and bad practices in cultural policies & democratic health**
- **Benchmarking participation indicators**
- **Identify developments regarding Freedom of Artistic Expression**
- **and shaping policies that link culture with democratic engagement**



Cultural Policies = Democracy Policies

- The Compendium is not just a database — it is a tool for democratic accountability and innovation in cultural policy
- Key findings of the Compendium for the SG Report 2025:
 - Member states are increasingly framing cultural policies within a human rights perspective, focusing on the rights of minorities and marginalised groups.
 - However, access to cultural participation remains unequal
 - There is growing recognition that cultural diversity is essential to democratic societies.
 - Funding challenges for the cultural sector persist due to economic and political pressures. Innovative mixed-funding models are emerging to support artistic and cultural initiatives. Ensuring transparent and diverse funding remains essential for sustaining a thriving cultural sector and artistic freedom.
 - Cultural education is gaining importance, with member states investing in programmes that promote democratic values, critical thinking and media literacy

When culture is vibrant, accessible, and participatory, democracy is lived — not only elected



Cultural Policies = Democracy Policies

Cultural policy in a democratic society should actively create frameworks that **enable participation, support creative expression, and ensure equitable cultural rights**

Core Objectives of Participatory Cultural Policy

1. Accessibility and Inclusion

- Remove financial, geographic, digital, and social barriers

2. Co-Creation and Community-Governance

- Involve citizens, cultural actors, and local communities in decision-making

3. Support for Cultural Rights

- Recognise cultural participation as a fundamental human right.

4. Sustainable Cultural Ecosystems

- Ensure long-term support for artists, heritage institutions, and cultural workers.

5. Intersectoral Links

- Integrate culture into education, urban planning, social policy, and digital innovation.

When culture is vibrant, accessible, and participatory, democracy is lived — not only elected



www.culturalpolicies.net

Thank you!

Looking forward to your questions and feedback!

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& Nina Wigger**

*Coordinator team of the
Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends*

