
The Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends



Survey Results on Barriers to Freedom of Artistic Expression

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Strasbourg, No culture ↔ No democracy, 12th December 2024

- 1. Compendium Campaign
Barriers to Freedom of Artistic Expression**
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QUO VADIS Freedom of Artistic Expression**



Intention of Campaign

Barriers to Freedom of Artistic Expression

- Freedom of Artistic Expression (FoAE) important element of cultural policies
- Raising awareness on this important topic

Activities

- Series of context papers by Andreas J. Wiesand
 - definitions, political climate, censorship, social & community pressure
- Compiling information material on: actors, events, studies & reports,
- “Right to Culture” Conference, Malta Oct. 2023
- SURVEY “Barrier to Freedom of Artistic Expressions”



Compendium SURVEY: Barriers to Freedom of Artistic Expression

- **AIM:**

Identify Potential Status Quo and Developments
of FoAE in European Countries from 2 Perspectives:

1. gather objective information about legal and administrative frameworks
2. gather subjective opinions about the related challenges and barriers

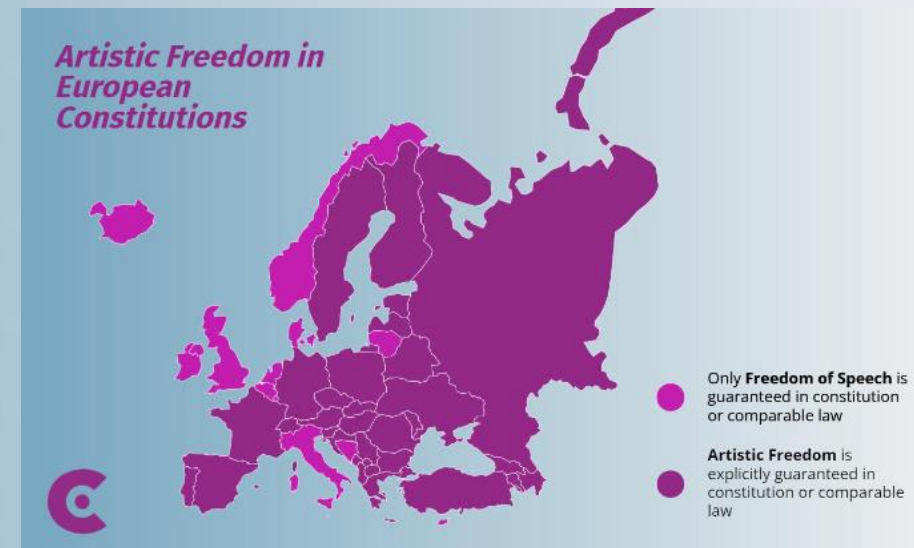
- **Survey Responses:** 35 countries



Survey Results: Status Quo of Freedom of Artistic Expression

PART of LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Freedom of Expressions
 - Is part of the constitutions of **46** countries
 - Freedom of Artistic Expressions is explicitly named in the constitutions of **30** countries



Survey Results:

Status Quo of Freedom of Artistic Expression

MEASURES

- the right to participate in cultural life: **71.4 %**
- the right to have artistic work supported, distributed, remunerated: **70.6 %**
- the right to freedom of movement: **64.6 %**
- the right to freedom of association: **62.9 %**
- the right to protection of social and economic rights: **61.8 %**
- the right to create without censorship or intimidation: **48.6 %**

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

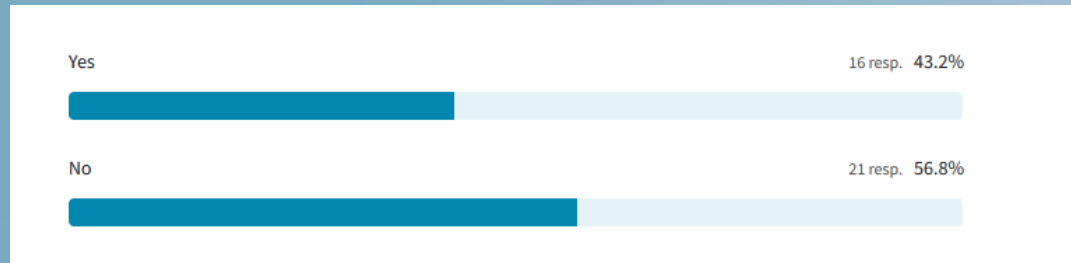
- Basic income for artists (pilot project in Ireland)
- Social securities for artists (as e.g. in Poland and Germany)
- Fair Pay Measures (as e.g. in Austria)
- Cultural participation measures (as e.g. in Latvia)
- Ethical guidelines (as e.g. in Finland and Luxembourg)



Survey Results: Status Quo of Freedom of Artistic Expression



MONITORING



Are there bodies / institutions,
that monitor AF in your country?

- Ministries of Culture, Human Right Stakeholders, Observatories, Cultural Associations

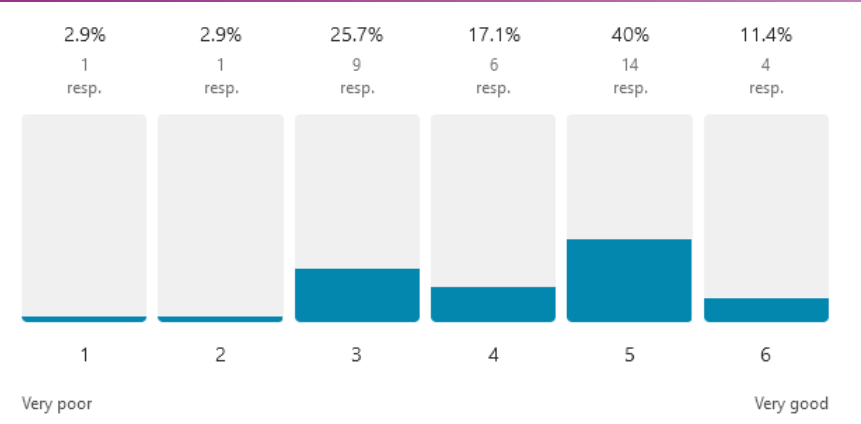
LEGAL MECHANISM FOR COMPLAINTS

- Only in 14 countries



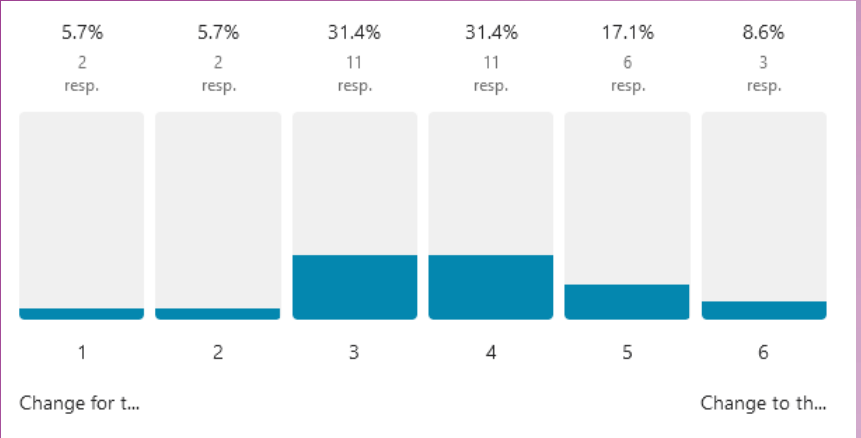
Survey Results: Perceived Challenges and Barriers of FoAE

Perceived State and Development of FoAE



How would you rate the **current state of freedom of artistic expression** in your country?

➔ **4.23**
(average rating)



How has the **state of freedom of artistic expression in your country changed** in the last 5 years?

➔ **3.78**
(average rating)



Survey Results: Perceived Challenges and Barriers of FoAE

Potential Restrictions for Freedom of Artistic Expression

| | 1 high restriction | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 low restriction |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| Political climate | 17.1% | 20% | 11.4% | 17.1% | 22.9% | 11.4% |
| Censorship or self-censorship | 11.4% | 14.3% | 14.3% | 17.1% | 22.9% | 20% |
| Social and community pressures | 2.9% | 20% | 5.7% | 28.6% | 34.3% | 8.6% |
| Other | 11.1% | 11.1% | 22.2% | 11.1% | 38.9% | 11.1% |

| | 1 change for the worse | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 change for the better |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------|
| Political climate | 17.1% | 20% | 25.7% | 20% | 5.7% | 11.4% |
| Censorship or self-censorship | 9.4% | 25% | 28.1% | 21.9% | 6.2% | 9.4% |
| Social and community pressures | 8.8% | 14.7% | 35.3% | 26.5% | 2.9% | 14.7% |
| Other | 5.9% | 5.9% | 47.1% | 17.6% | 17.6% | 11.8% |

To what degree do the following **issues restrict freedom of artistic expression** in your country?

How do you think the **restriction** of freedom of artistic expression through those issues **has changed over the years?**



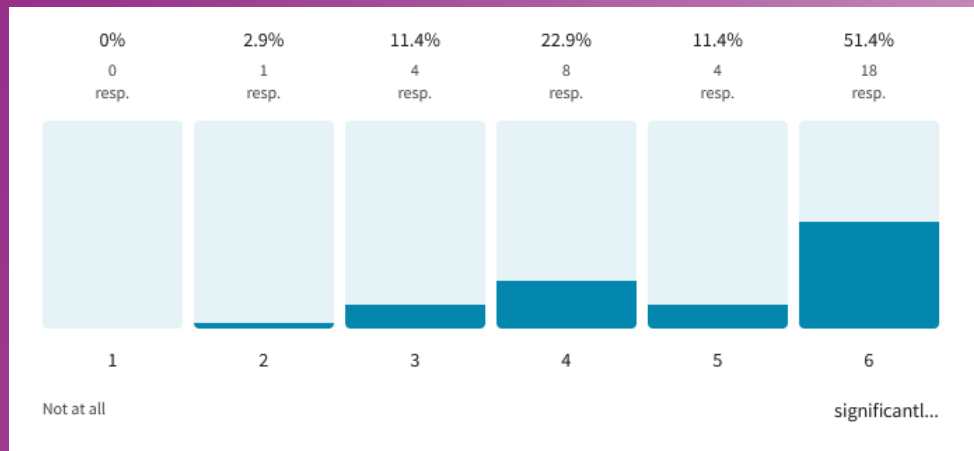
➔ **Political Climate**

➔ **Political Climate**



Survey Results: Perceived Challenges and Barriers of FoAE

Issues and themes challenging freedom of artistic expression

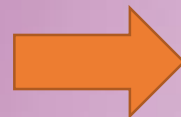


To what extent do you believe that **access to funding affects** an artist's ability to **freely express** themselves in your country?



4.97
(average rating)

Please indicate **any particular issues or themes** in your country that are **more sensitive** when it comes to **restricting** freedom of artistic expression



- **Religion, islamophobia**
- **Minorities, ethnic groups**
- **Immigration, refugees**
- **Historical contexts**
- **LGBTQI+**
- **Questioning politicians in power**



Survey Conclusions: QUO VADIS Freedom of Artistic Expression



GENERAL TREND in EUROPE

- In Europe, **freedom of artistic expression is officially at a good level**, both in terms of law and measures that govern this right
- There is however a **clear potential for improvement** in the area of **monitoring, complaints, awareness** raising and policy discourse
- FoAE is in a good current state, but **over time FoAE it is facing more restrictions**
- **Political climate restricts most FoAE** → instrument: access to funding
- It is an to fight for our rights
- The first rights to be challenged are often cultural rights and FoAE
- **OUR DUTY:** Future Monitoring of Freedom of Artistic Expressions → **More FoAE Surveys**

