
The Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends



Survey Results on Barriers to Freedom of Artistic Expression



Presentation by Ulrike Blumenreich & Olivier Göbel

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1. **Compendium Campaign
Barriers to Freedom of Artistic Expression**
2. **Survey Results: Status Quo of
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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 frameworks
2. gather subjective opinions about the related
challenges and barriers

- **Methodological Approach**

1. Desktop Research
2. Questionnaire:
 - Summer 2023
 - respondents: country experts

- **Survey Responses: 35 countries**



Compendium SURVEY: Barriers to Freedom of Artistic Expression



Artistic Freedom (UNESCO 2019)

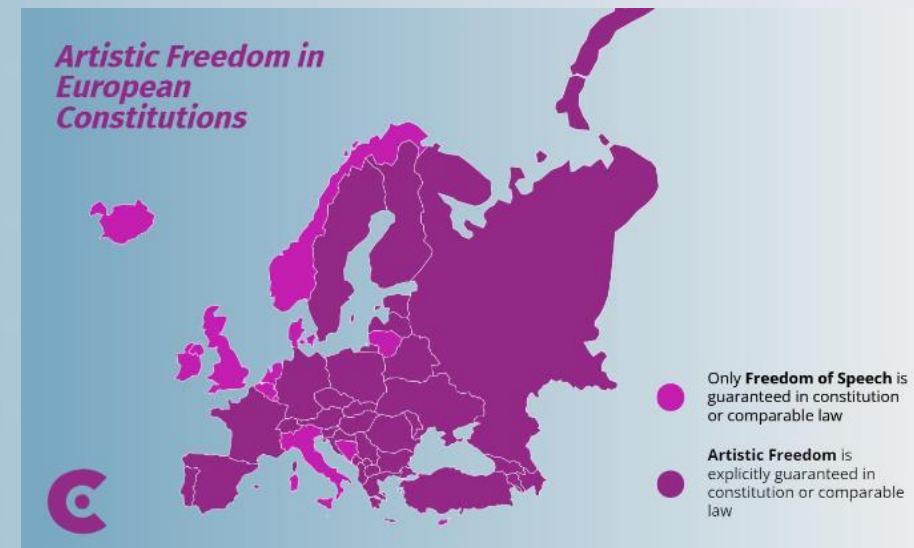
- the right to create without censorship or intimidation
- the right to have artistic work supported, distributed, remunerated
- The right to freedom of movement
- The right to freedom of association
- The right to protection of social and economic rights
- The right to participate in cultural life.



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 %**



Survey Results: Status Quo of Freedom of Artistic Expression

MEASURES: GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

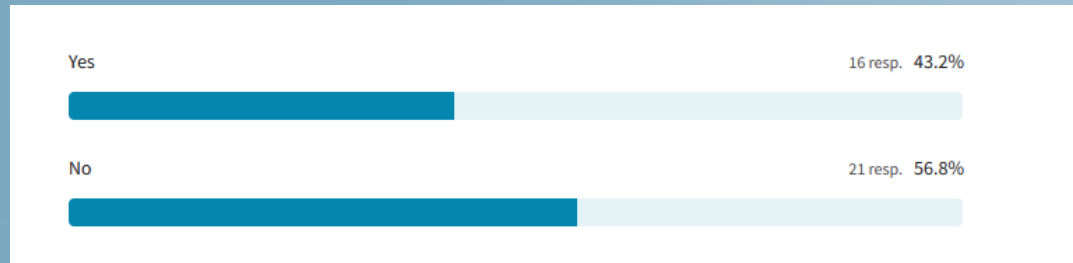
- Basic income for artists (pilot project in Ireland)
- Social securities for artists (as e.g. in Poland and Germany)
- Fair Pay Measures (as e.g. in Austria)
- Cultural participation measures (as e.g. in Latvia and Germany)
- Support of professional artistic associations (as e.g. in Switzerland)
- Mobility grants for artists (as e.g. in Ireland)
- Ethical guidelines (as e.g. in Finland)
- Cultural strategies (as e.g. in Scotland)



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

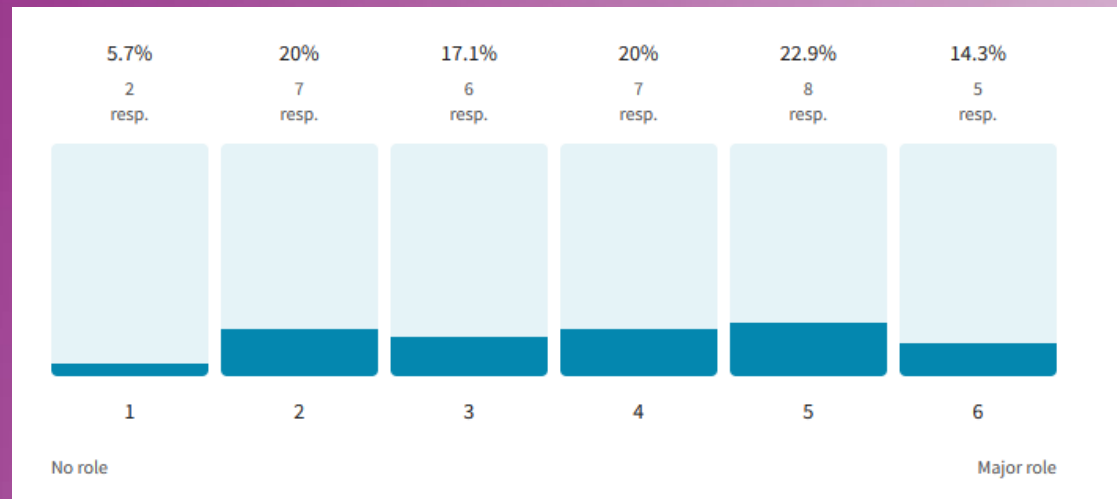
- 14 countries



Survey Results: Perceived Challenges and Barriers of FoAE



ROLE of Artistic Freedom in CULTURAL POLICY DISCOURSE



Has AF played a role in cultural policy discourse of your country in the last 5 years?

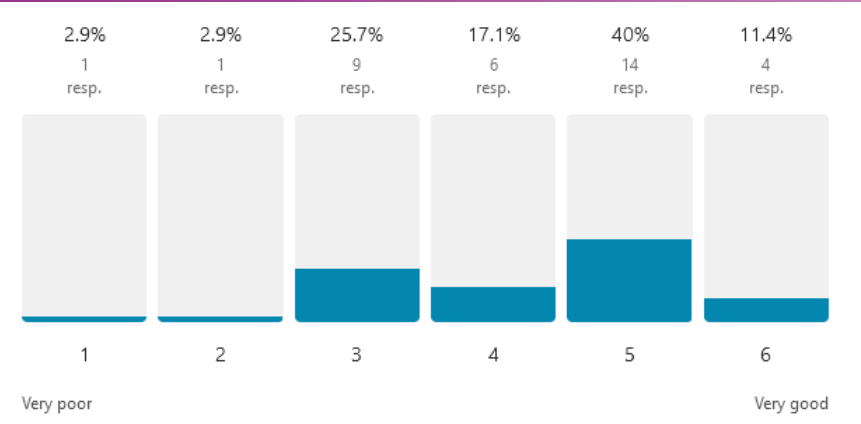


3.8 (average rating)



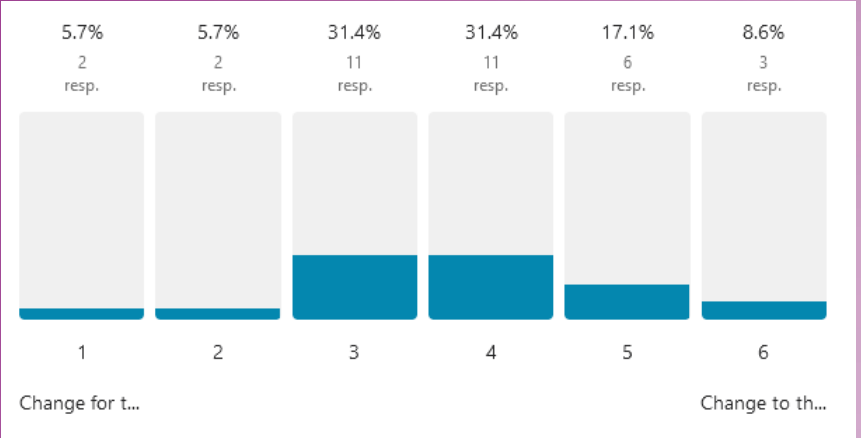
Survey Results: Perceived Challenges and Barriers of FoAE

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?

➔ **Political Climate**

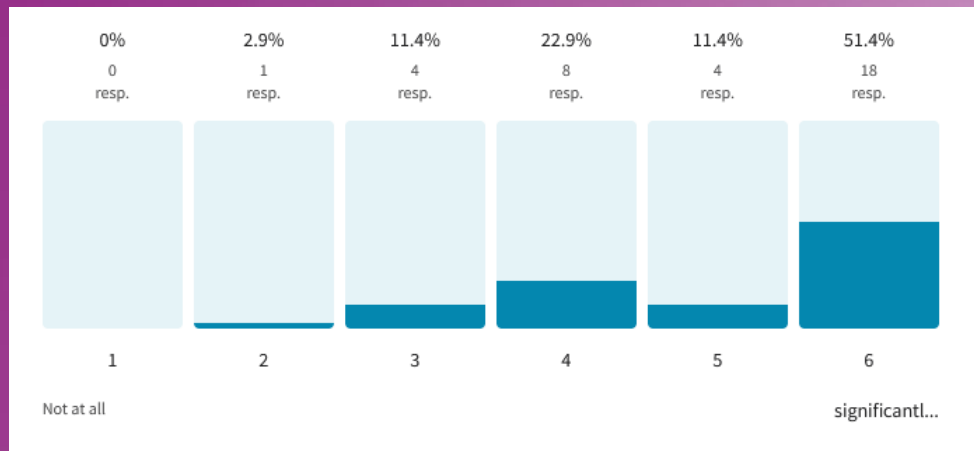
How do you think the **restriction** of freedom of artistic expression through those issues has **changed** over the years?

➔ **Political Climate**



Survey Results: Perceived Challenges and Barriers of FoAE

Issues and themes challenging freedom of artistic expression

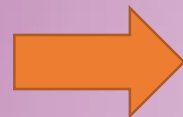


To what extent do you believe that **access to funding affects** an artist's ability to **freely express** themselves in your country?



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

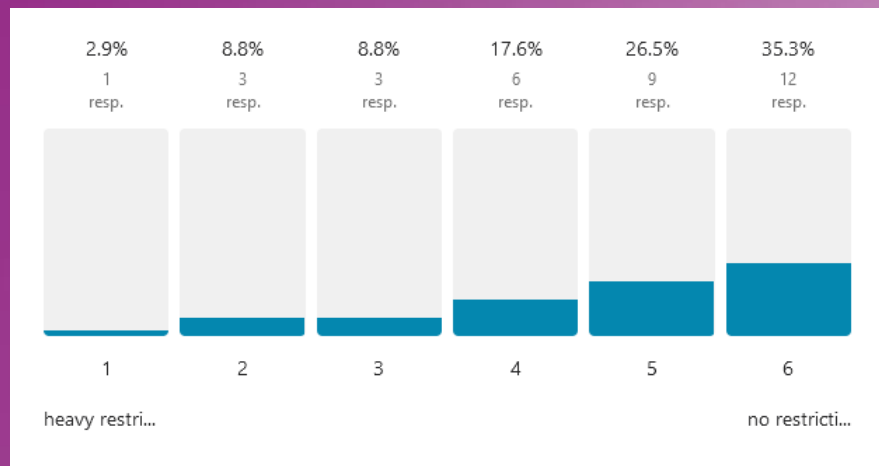


- **Religion, islamophobia**
- **Minorities, ethnic groups**
- **Immigration, refugees**
- **Historical contexts**
- **LGBTQI+**
- **Questioning politicians in power**



Survey Results: Perceived Challenges and Barriers of FoAE

Freedom of Artistic Expression



Have you personally ever felt that your **own expression** was **restricted or (self-) censored**?

➔ **4.61**
(average rating)

Are you aware of **any cases where artists faced limitations** on their artistic expression due to societal, cultural, or legal reasons?

➔ **Several examples in 30 countries**

New technological developments (i.e. AI) as an opportunity or as a threat for freedom of artistic expression?

➔ **Balance between Benefits & Challenges**



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 seen **over time, the overall impression is that FoAE is facing more restrictions**
- **Political climate restricts most FoAE** → **instrument: access to funding**
- It is everyone's job 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



www.culturalpolicies.net

Thank you!

Looking forward to your questions and feedback!

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