Culture Action Europe: a Vision for Culture in Europe

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History and mission

- Culture Action Europe (CAE) has been founded 1994 as European Forum for Arts and Heritage (EFAH). It is based in Brussels.
- In 2008 it changed its name in CAE and started being not only a “network of networks” but a trans-sectoral network gathering public and private cultural organizations as well as individuals.
- It has more than 150 members.
- Its mission is to put culture at the heart of public debate in Europe through:
  - **Advocacy** for access and participation in culture and cultural activities as fundamental rights of each individual (Art. 27 Declaration of Human Rights).
  - **Lobbying** for public investments in culture as an acknowledgement of its role to create a more cohesive and sustainable Europe.
Vision

CAE position is grounded on a perception of culture based on three characteristics:

1. A vision of *culture as a practice rather than a resource to be exploited*, focusing on cultural practices in the communities

2. An *inclusive, open, complementary* approach to culture

3. A *de-colonized cultural perspective*, based on a plurality of practices and participatory / sustainable cultural models, in order to promote cultural transversality and trans-disciplinarity
Strategies

• CAE is moving from being a sector-oriented organization to a theme-oriented one

• The new strategic plan 2019-2021 defines the approaches used to fulfill the mission:
  – Advocacy/Lobbying
  – Networking
  – Research, analysis, capacity building (addressed to members, policy makers, other stakeholders)
Activities

- To influence negotiations (such as the one related to Creative Europe)
- To negotiate on the MFF (2021-2027)
- To campaign (#Culture 2030Campaign)
- To make research on different topics:
  - Culture and SDGs (report *Implementing Culture within the Sustainable Development Goals: The role of culture in Agenda 2030*)
  - Culture and well-being
  - Freedom of artistic expression in Europe
Thanks for your attention

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