

## Support for the cultural sector is growing around the world... unevenly

We quickly realized that the cultural sector was going to suffer enormously from the Covid-19 pandemic. A multitude of shows, performances, festivals, film shoots, book fairs and other cultural events were cancelled, and many cultural spaces, bookstores, cinemas and museums closed their doors.

All over the world, initiatives from artists, civil society organizations, funding agencies and businesses have emerged, followed in several countries by announcements of support for the cultural sector.

We were initially hesitant to make an inventory of them, since others have started work, the situation is changing rapidly, we will not be able to continually update the information collected, and the list will not be complete because we cannot speak enough languages.

If we are going further today, it is to support IFCCD members who have asked us to do so, because they also want their governments to put in place measures to support artists, creators, professionals and organizations in the cultural sector. We limited ourselves in most cases to countries where the IFCCD has members.

This brief overview is therefore not perfect, but it does offer an important observation for the IFCCD. First, support measures seem to be rare outside the richest countries in the world. In some countries, there are even [regressions](#). This is a very worrying situation for the diversity of cultural expressions, both locally and internationally, and risks further deepening global inequalities in the [circulation of cultural goods and services](#). In many countries, cultural policies were already weak or even absent. Greater reliance may need to be placed on solidarity and community networks to provide some support to the cultural sector in these countries, but also on the international role that organizations such as UNESCO can and should play.

## Situation in the different countries/regions

### Europe

The European Ministers of Culture met on April 8. Creative Europe, the European Commission's framework program for support to the cultural and audiovisual sectors, made the following announcements:

- Culture is one of the five sectors benefiting from a special state aid regime;
- 37 billion investment initiative by Member States in the context of the coronavirus crisis;
- Unemployed artists and creators can benefit from the [SURE](#) temporary unemployment scheme;
- Maximum flexibility for #CreativeEurope's ongoing activities;

- Two million support program for the cross-border dimension of the performing arts, focusing on digital and virtual exchanges;
- Five million to support the most affected cinemas;
- Additional funding for book translations.

MEPs underlined the special nature of the creative sector and the difficulties faced by artists and called on the EU to provide support in a [resolution](#) adopted on 17 April.

Many EU countries have introduced measures aimed specifically at helping culture sector workers and [Europe's culture ministers discussed support initiatives for the culture and creative sector](#) during the coronavirus crisis at a meeting on 8 April.

[The EU is stepping up to protect jobs](#), but the specificity of the cultural sector makes it harder for its workers to qualify for support. There are many individual artists, small businesses and charities. That is why Parliament's [culture committee](#) wants the EU to set up specific aid to help the sector survive the crisis.

MEPs have written a letter to Thierry Breton, Internal Market Commissioner, and Mariya Gabriel, Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Commissioner, in which they call for:

- Protecting artists who may not qualify for national support schemes through the [Creative Europe programme](#)
- Making sure EU funds reach the sector by increasing funding for Creative Europe
- Creating an ad hoc financial instrument under the European Investment Fund to channel funds to the sector

German EPP member Sabine Verheyen, chair of Parliament's culture committee, said more should be done at the EU level to provide tailored support for culture sector workers until things are back to normal<sup>1</sup>.

## Germany

The federal government has decided to provide emergency assistance to the self-employed and small businesses in economic difficulty due to the Coronavirus for a total amount of up to 50 billion euros in federal funds. The federal and state governments agree that this program is also open to artists and cultural professionals as freelancers.

The federal government has put in place a range of solidarity measures and programs, including a basic income for artists and financial support for cultural enterprises<sup>2</sup>.

Measures of the Ministry of Culture (BKM)<sup>3</sup>:

- Extended waiver of claims;
- Reallocation of funds and program flexibility;
- Protection of ongoing funding for films;
- Additional funds as emergency assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200423STO77704/supporting-the-eu-s-cultural-sector-through-covid-19>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/corona-kultur-1735378>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/corona-kultur-1735378>

The Federal Cultural Foundation, Kulturstiftung des Bundes (KSB), funded from the BKM budget, also strives to provide appropriate support for cultural workers.

For their part, many federal states have announced specific programs and support measures for cultural and creative industries. These programs can be used in addition to federal assistance as long as there is no overcompensation<sup>4</sup>.

## **Austria**

Comprehensive support measures for all sectors are planned, to which artists and cultural professionals have access. Specific measures have also been adopted by the Federal Ministry of Arts and Culture to cover the particularities of the cultural scene<sup>5</sup>.

These sector-specific measures include the following:

- Immediate aid may be granted to artists and cultural workers under the artists' social security fund. The COVID-19 fund has a maximum of 5 million euros and is intended to ensure rapid assistance. A total of up to 6,000 euros will be paid out - in the first phase up to 1,000 euros, in the second phase up to 2,000 euros per month for a maximum of three months;
- The €2 billion hardship fund has been set up as an emergency aid to all sole proprietorships, micro-enterprises (up to 9 employees), artists or newly self-employed people whose turnover has fallen as a result of the pandemic measures;
- Collecting societies have set up various programs for musicians, music labels, visual artists, filmmakers, audiovisual media, writers and translators, performers and producers of sound and video clips;
- In addition to state instruments to compensate artists for loss of income, there are private initiatives. To help artists in the current crisis, foundations have joined together to form the initiative "Foundations help artists" and are supported by well-known personalities. A separate donation account will be created;
- The City of Vienna now offers independent artists and independent scientists with their main place of residence in Vienna the opportunity to apply for one-off work grants up to a maximum of 3,000 euros. In this crisis situation, it should be possible to continue to pursue artistic and scientific activity (project development, reading, preparation of exhibitions and conferences, etc.);
- Other indirect support measures exist for cultural institutions and artists: reduction and deferral of social security contributions, tax relief.

## **Belgium**

The FWB Government has decided to provide compensation of 8.4 million euros for the cultural sector during the period of containment. An emergency response perimeter has been delimited by the Government. The emergency intervention perimeter includes cultural operators who suffer significant loss of revenue due to the cancellation of activities or closure of premises, where this revenue represents a substantial part of their turnover. Namely: cultural centers, centers of expression and creativity, performing arts, music, plastic arts centers, public and private museums, cinema. Also included in the scope are operators such as non-profit associations organizing festivals and one-off events, but also audiovisual film producers who have to postpone or cancel

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/corona-kultur-1735378>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bmkoes.gv.at/Themen/Corona/Corona-Kunst-und-Kultur.html>

all filming. With regard to actors in the book chain, the means of support to be put in place for this sector will be covered by another type of measure currently being developed<sup>6</sup>.

On April 22, Bénédicte Linard, Minister of Culture in the Federation of Wallonia Brussels, explained in an interview that she was acting as a spokesperson for the cultural sector at federal level, "among other things to see how unemployment can be granted for force majeure, whether or not one has the status, but also to adapt the conditions for keeping the status of artist". She also announced that a special royal decree was being prepared on the federal government side. The minister also promised a cultural taskforce for the end of quarantine measures, bringing together the various cultural players to reflect on ways of redeploying the sector<sup>7</sup>.

In Flanders, self-employed persons and their spouses can benefit from financial advantages. The monthly benefit is 1,291.69 euros per month without family expenses and 1,614.10 euros with family expenses<sup>8</sup>.

## Spain

On April 7, Culture Minister José Manuel Rodríguez Uribes made his first public appearance since the state of alarm was declared in Spain. His long-awaited speech frustrated the expectations of the sector because he did not announce any specific aid, reiterating that the top priority was the health emergency<sup>9</sup>.

Since then, José Manuel Rodríguez Uribes and the Minister of Finance, María Jesús Montero, have held a virtual meeting with the cultural sectors to identify the most urgent support measures. The two ministers committed to appoint a working team from both ministries to study the measures requested by each sector. The stated objective is that, as soon as possible, a first set of measures can be presented to the Council of Ministers. The two ministers indicated that they would work on a two-tier strategy of action: first, with proposals that could be implemented urgently and immediately, and second, in the medium term, with reforms that would allow the sector to recover once the health crisis had been overcome. The Minister for Culture and Sport has expressed his willingness to reach a State Pact for Culture, an initiative welcomed by the sector. More concrete measures are therefore expected to be adopted on 28 April, during the next Council of Ministers. The two Ministries should be able to put specific amounts on the table for direct aid to Spanish companies and cultural professionals<sup>10</sup>.

At the municipal and provincial levels, however, a number of measures have been taken. This is the case, for example, in Barcelona and Catalonia. The Generalitat Catalunya announced €10

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<sup>6</sup> <https://focus.levif.be/culture/8-4-millions-d-euros-debloques-par-la-federation-wallonie-bruxelles-afin-d-indemniser-le-secteur-culturel/article-normal-1274837.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.rtf.be/info/societe/detail/le-federal-a-entendu-les-difficultes-du-secteur-culturel-et-prepare-sa-reponse?id=10487567>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/subsidi databank/overbruggingsrecht-voor-zelfstandigen-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR2VYX\\_bD7QtEKs\\_2w4drPuo7rFMzUDkS6uWCNbs\\_HAWdh\\_bKA4xQGUnaZg](https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/subsidi databank/overbruggingsrecht-voor-zelfstandigen-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR2VYX_bD7QtEKs_2w4drPuo7rFMzUDkS6uWCNbs_HAWdh_bKA4xQGUnaZg)

<sup>9</sup> <https://elpais.com/cultura/2020-04-07/no-hemos-movilizado-fondos-especificos-porque-hemos-movilizado-fondos-transversales.html>

<https://elpais.com/cultura/2020-04-08/si-no-nos-ayuda-el-ministerio-de-cultura-quien-lo-hara.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.plateamagazine.com/noticias/8766-cultura-y-hacienda-se-comprometen-a-disenar-un-paquete-de-medidas-urgentes-para-apoyar-al-sector-cultural>

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/cultura/20200418/48576233184/cultura-medidas-coronavirus-uribes-montero.html>

million in aid on March 20, which it then reassessed at €31 million on April 14, as it considered that the first amount was insufficient to tackle the scale of the crisis<sup>11</sup>.

The Basque Government will provide financial support of €2.5 million to the cultural sector<sup>12</sup>.

The Community of Madrid also announced measures to support arts and culture<sup>13</sup>.

## France

22 million in emergency aid will be granted to the cultural sector, with €10 million for music, €5 million for live performances, €5 million for books and €2 million for the plastic arts. The Ministry of Culture has indicated that this first round of emergency aid will be followed by other specific measures<sup>14</sup>.

For the audiovisual sector, measures have been put in place by the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée<sup>15</sup>.

Exceptional support measures for intermittent workers and employees in the cultural sector have also been put in place jointly by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Labor<sup>16</sup>.

## Portugal

The Ministry of Culture has launched a call for all performing arts - independent artists and groups - to provide financial support through new projects; the available fund is EUR 1 million.

The Arts Directorate General maintains payments to the supported entities<sup>17</sup>.

Radio-Television Portugal (RTP) is launching a support package for independent audiovisual production<sup>18</sup>. There is also a Covid-19 line of credit for small and micro enterprises in most banks.

## United-Kingdom

On March 24, 2020, Arts Council England announced a £160 million emergency plan to support individuals and organizations in the cultural sector in response to the Covid-19 crisis. £90 million will be available for National Portfolio Organizations (NPOs). 50 million will be available for organizations outside the National Portfolio. £20 million will be made available to creative practitioners and cultural workers<sup>19</sup>.

BBC Arts has launched with Arts Council England a new commissioning stream "Culture in Quarantine Fund", which will help artists based in England, whatever their discipline, to produce

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<sup>11</sup> <https://elpais.com/espana/catalunya/2020-04-14/la-generalitat-amplia-las-ayudas-a-la-cultura-de-10-a-31-millones-de-euros.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.deia.eus/cultura/2020/04/15/los-artistas-afectados-por-la/1031751.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://variety.com/2020/film/global/madrid-announces-covid-19-cultural-arts-support-package-1234589027/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.francemusique.fr/actualite-musicale/coronavirus-franck-riester-annonce-une-aide-d-urgence-de-22-millions-d-euros-pour-la-culture-82438>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.cnc.fr/professionnels/communiqués-de-presse/le-cnc-adopte-de-nouvelles-mesures-durgence-afin-de-permettre-aux-auteurs-aux-entreprises-et-au-public-du-cinema-et-de-laudiovisuel-de-faire-face-a-la-crise-sanitaire\\_1145808](https://www.cnc.fr/professionnels/communiqués-de-presse/le-cnc-adopte-de-nouvelles-mesures-durgence-afin-de-permettre-aux-auteurs-aux-entreprises-et-au-public-du-cinema-et-de-laudiovisuel-de-faire-face-a-la-crise-sanitaire_1145808)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.culture.gouv.fr/Presse/Communiqués-de-presse/Mesures-exceptionnelles-de-soutien-aux-intermittents-et-salaires-du-secteur-culturel-dans-le-cadre-de-la-crise-sanitaire>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.dgartes.gov.pt/pt/noticia/3078&usg=ALkJrhjTuFapig4-hbg6p7Xvic5fqu0FQ>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.culturacovid19.gov.pt/rtp-lanca-pacote-de-apoio-a-producao-independente-audiovisual/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid-19/covid-19-more-information>

new work in creative media - video, audio and interactive - in spring 2020. Grants will be in the range of £3,000 to £8,000 (excluding VAT)<sup>20</sup>.

In Scotland, Creative Scotland has announced several support measures, including various scholarships<sup>21</sup>.

In Wales, the government has announced a package of measures, similar to those in England, aimed at stimulating small businesses and the self-employed with or without "taxable assets" affected by COVID-19<sup>22</sup>. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Arts Council for Wales launched a Resilience Fund to help the arts in Wales protect themselves from the impact of the Coronavirus crisis<sup>23</sup>.

In Northern Ireland, the Minister for Communities announced on March 30 the allocation of £1 million for an Emergency Creative Support Fund which will enable artists and institutions to present their work in new and innovative ways. The Arts Council for Northern Ireland also announced a number of support measures<sup>24</sup>.

In addition, a parliamentary inquiry was launched on the impact of Covid-19 on the cultural sector, and industry was invited to respond. The Interparliamentary Committee on Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will examine the immediate and long-term effects of the coronavirus on all sectors within its remit. It will also examine how social and financial measures related to coronavirus affect these industries.

The commission said it was seeking information from anyone with an opinion to share on issues such as the range of impacts of Covid-19, how the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and independent bodies such as Arts Council England have responded to the needs of the sector, and what further support is needed. It will also look at how the sector might evolve after the end of the pandemic and how DCMS can contribute to efforts to meet future challenges. Written submissions are requested by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The committee also stated that it hopes to hold a number of evidentiary sessions beginning in late April to hear directly from stakeholders and government<sup>25</sup>.

The UK coalition for cultural diversity also mentioned a recent survey by the Creative Industries Federation. The 2,000 responses to this survey revealed 62% of freelancers and 42% of businesses estimate that their monthly turnover has fallen by 100% since the outbreak of Covid-19, and 62% of all respondents are facing considerable or very considerable cash flow issues. Furthermore, the survey revealed that 1 in 7 creative organizations believe they can last only until the end of April on existing financial reserves. Only half think their reserves will last beyond June.

## Slovakia

After the February elections, a new government was put in place at the end of March, in the midst of the pandemic. The cultural sector is therefore faced with a very complicated situation, as it must at the same time contact the new government and ask it to take action in the face of the

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/culture-in-quarantine>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.creativescotland.com/what-we-do/latest-news/archive/2020/02/coronavirus-advice>

<sup>22</sup> <https://gov.wales/ministers-announce-new-14bn-business-support-package>

<sup>23</sup> <https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/arts-council-wales-responding-coronavirus-covid-19>

<sup>24</sup> <http://artscouncil-ni.org/news/coronavirus-covid-19-advice>

<sup>25</sup> <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/250/impact-of-covid19-on-dcms-sectors/>

crisis. Cultural organizations are organizing themselves and cooperating with each other to prepare proposals that could help authors, performers and the entire cultural sector to survive this situation. Slovakia, like other countries, is seeking to take measures that would help entrepreneurs who have suffered losses in recent weeks. It is more difficult to tailor these measures to the needs of self-employed artists, but organizations such as the Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity, which plans to meet with the new Minister of Culture when the situation allows, hope that a viable support system will be put in place.

The coalition stresses that this situation shows, once again, the vulnerability of independent artists and all cultural professions in many countries around the world. This is an issue that the cultural sector will need to focus on once the epidemic is over.

## **Sweden**

The Swedish government has announced urgent aid of SEK 500 million for culture (a total of SEK 1 billion for sport and culture). The emergency aid will be distributed to organizers, associations and individual cultural creators directly affected by cancellations due to the pandemic<sup>26</sup>.

## **Switzerland**

On March 20, 2020, the Federal Council adopted a comprehensive package of measures to mitigate the economic consequences of the spread of the coronavirus. In addition to the measures for the economy as a whole, from which cultural actors can also benefit, specific measures for the cultural sector have been drawn up.

Among these measures, an initial aid package of CHF 280 million for two months is being made available for the cultural sector. CHF 100 million are earmarked for emergency aid for cultural enterprises and CHF 25 million for artists, CHF 145 million will be paid out as compensation for financial losses and CHF 10 million for amateur associations active in the cultural sector<sup>27</sup>.

Artists who find themselves in financial distress due to the coronavirus pandemic can apply for emergency help [on the online portal of Suisseculture Sociale](#).

## **Asia-Pacific**

### **Australia**

In Australia, the federal government has announced a \$168 billion stimulus package. The creative industries sector, like other sectors, will benefit from many of the measures<sup>28</sup>:

- Businesses with sales of less than \$50 million and employing people can access \$20,000 to \$100,000 to continue their operations and retain their staff.
- The government allows businesses and non-profit organizations affected by the Coronavirus to access a grant to continue paying their employees (\$1,500 per bi-weekly per employee for up to six months). Creative and cultural businesses are eligible.

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2020/03/en-miljard-kronor-till-kultur-och-idrott-till-foljd-av-coronaviruset-effekter/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.bak.admin.ch/bak/fr/home/themes/covid19.html>

<sup>28</sup> <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>



- One billion will be made available to support regions, communities and industries severely affected by COVID-19, "including those heavily dependent on industries such as tourism, agriculture and education".
- Individual contractors, the self-employed, contract workers and casual workers who meet the income criteria due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19 will be able to access Jobseeker Payment and Youth Allowance Jobseeker.

On April 9, the government also announced \$27 million in targeted funding to support regional arts, First Nations arts and the music charity Support Act<sup>29</sup>.

The Australian Council for the Arts also announced a Resilience Fund which is a reallocation of all uncommitted 2019-20 funds to respond immediately to the crisis, redirecting AU\$5 million to new programs designed to provide immediate support to artists and organizations. The fund has several components and measures to support artists, art practitioners, groups and arts organizations that are responding to Covid-19<sup>30</sup>.

On April 24, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) announced an AUD \$5 million "Fresh Start Fund" for development, and includes an Arts Digital Fund with a focus on documentary storytelling, and an Australian Music fund<sup>31</sup>.

Despite these support measures, regressive measures have also been adopted, particularly in the audiovisual sector. The commercial free-to-air sector has successfully secured [a suspension of quota obligations](#) until the end of the year. As the Australian Writers' Guild describes the issue: "By postponing local content quotas to alleviate immediate financial pressure, the government will prematurely alter our TV landscape, in turn diminishing long-term employment prospects for writers and weakening our unique cultural voice. Paul Fletcher's suspension of Australian drama, children and documentary content obligations until the end of December 2020 will allow broadcasters to evade local scripted production across two financial years and give them the option to hold back content that has already been produced."

## Japan

At the beginning of March, the MIC, the union of workers in the media, information and cultural industries, published an "Urgent request for support for self-employed workers regarding coronavirus infection". The International Federation of Actors (FIA) and the International Federation of Musicians (FIM) subsequently issued a "Statement on the catastrophic impact of emergency health measures to contain the coronavirus epidemic on the already precarious livelihoods of performers in Japan".

With the spread of the new coronavirus, about 1,550 musical and stage performances have been cancelled or postponed, and the damage is estimated at about 45 billion yen (\$450 million). At a meeting of Diet members on March 17, parties and creative industry groups reported on the situation. Each party is planning to seek compensation from the government for emergency economic measures. On March 30 a claim for compensation for loss due to the cancellation of a performance explained: "Diversity of expression is also important for democracy. Loss of

<sup>29</sup> <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/fletcher/media-release/targeted-support-indigenous-arts-regional-arts-and-respected-charity-support-act>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about/covid-19/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/events/freshstart/abc-fresh-start-development-fund/12168362>



expression is a great loss for the people", signed by more than 1,800 supporters in the performing arts, including actors, directors and musicians, was submitted to the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

While the central government has yet to announce any specific measures to support arts and culture, in the cabinet decision supplementary budget announced on 7 April, 6.1 billion JPY (52 million €) is to be allocated to the Agency for Cultural Affairs:

- a) 2.1 billion JPY (18 million €) for measures against covid-19 aimed at reopening cultural institutions (support up to 4 million JPY (about 34,000 EURO)/case for expense such as installation of infrared camera device, disinfectant, etc. preparing for reopening),
- b) 1.4 billion JPY (12 million €) for digital content infrastructure,
- c) 1.3 billion JPY (11 million €) for two projects called "Art Caravan" and "creating opportunity for children's arts and culture experience" respectively.

The supplementary budget also includes an allocation of 87.8 billion JPY (750 million €) for "Global demand creation and promotion of content business", a new joint project of the Agency for Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Small and medium sized enterprises whose turnover has decreased by 50% compared to the previous year can apply to "Sustainable Benefits": 2 million JPY (17,000 €) for corporate, 1 million JPY (8,500 €) for individual enterprise.

In the meantime, more specific measures to support freelancers in the arts and cultural sector are announced by municipal governments, such as Fukuoka City, which is supporting up to 500,000 JPY (4300 €) per facility for live houses, halls, theaters, etc., attempting to distribute online contents and taking safety measures.

Various civil society organizations in the fields of film, performing arts, music, arts and culture, universities, human rights, etc. announce financial support for the cloud and submit proposals to the government.

## Africa

### **South Africa**

The Ministry of Sport, Arts and Culture has announced a 150 million Rands relief fund for artists, athletes and technical staff and the central ecosystem that supports them<sup>32</sup>.

In the arts sector:

- Projects funded by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC) that had to be cancelled will be compensated for the expenses incurred (DSAC reserves the right to determine a lump sum for all such beneficiaries);
- CASD-funded institutions whose productions have been cancelled from March to June will pay for artists and practitioners already booked;
- Cancelled projects not funded by CASD may apply for emergency assistance if they are national in scope, particularly if they involve creators from different provinces;

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<sup>32</sup> <http://www.dac.gov.za/content/department-sport-arts-and-culture-sector-relief-framework-and-criteria>

## **Benin**

No specific measures have been taken so far for the cultural sector.

## **Burkina Faso**

Burkina Faso has set up a culture fund of 1.25 billion CFA francs, which is creating controversy over the allocation criteria defined by the study committee responsible for distributing this aid<sup>33</sup>.

## **Cameroon**

No specific measures have been taken so far for the cultural sector. At the meeting of Ministers of Culture at UNESCO on April 22, the Cameroonian Minister of Culture nevertheless announced that financial support could be provided to artists to support the resilience and recovery of the cultural sector.

## **Ivory Coast**

The government has granted aid of CFAF 500 million to artists who are members of the Ivorian copyright bureau (BURIDA). As this is a distribution of rights, not all artists will benefit from it. 70 million has also been granted in food and non-food items to artists in Côte d'Ivoire in the form of withdrawal vouchers.

## **Gabon**

No specific measures have been taken so far for the cultural sector.

## **Mali**

At the meeting of ministers organized by UNESCO, the Minister of Culture of Mali announced that a task force composed of some 20 people had been set up to support cultural actors. The objective of this committee is to initiate a reflection process to assess the impact of the health crisis on the sector, which will lead to the development of support and assistance measures likely to promote recovery. The committee is working on an action plan comprising ten key measures, including the strengthening of copyright, the establishment of a solidarity fund and exemption from taxes and duties.

## **Niger**

No specific measures have been taken so far for the cultural sector. Artists have appealed to the government and submitted an initial request for assistance to the Minister of Culture. Artists are participating in raising public awareness of the dangers of the pandemic, but to date they have not received any financial support.

## **Congo Republic**

No specific measures have been taken so far for the cultural sector.

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<sup>33</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKYa\\_Ap\\_ybg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKYa_Ap_ybg)

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

No action has been taken so far. The President of ADACO (Administration des droits d'auteur au Congo) pleaded for the creation of a solidarity fund for artists<sup>34</sup>.

## **Senegal**

The Head of State spoke of the situation of culture, which must be taken into account in the State's aid to the people and the various sectors of the economy (CFAF 1,000 billion). For the time being, no concrete measures have been taken and the cultural sector is waiting to see these measures take effect.

## **Chad**

No specific measures have been taken so far for the cultural sector.

## **Togo**

In Togo, the president announced a fund of 400 billion CFA francs to deal with the crisis, but there are no specific measures for the cultural sector. A committee of experts from the cultural milieu has been set up and is preparing a memorandum to propose concrete support measures for the cultural sector.

## **Zimbabwe**

On April 23, the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe announced a COVID-19 Culture and Creative Industries Portal which aims to offer information resources to the sector to support preparedness. The government also recently announced plans to disburse funds through a grant relief program for artists affected by the national lockdown<sup>35</sup>.

## **Americas**

### **Argentina**

The Argentine Ministry of Culture announced the following measures for the cultural sector<sup>36</sup>:

- The cultural points program will increase its budget from 17 to 50 million pesos;
- An Emergency Fund of 30 million pesos for cultural centers. Aid will be granted to cultural centers in urban areas, which have rooms for 50 to 300 spectators;
- The National Commission for Public Libraries will increase investment in the program for the purchase of books by public libraries. Of the 47 million pesos already announced, the funds which were earmarked for the production of the Book Fair will be redirected to the Commission;

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<sup>34</sup> <http://kin24.info/2020/04/15/rdc-le-president-de-ladaco-plaide-pour-la-creation-dun-fonds-de-solidarite-en-faveur-des-artistes/>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.natartszim.org.zw/covid-19-culture-and-creative-industries-portal-launched/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.cultura.gob.ar/cultura-de-la-solidaridad-programas-y-lineas-de-financiamiento-para-el-8848/http://rgcediciones.com.ar/politicas-culturales-y-covid-19-en-america-latina/>

- The National Theatre Institute will allocate 96 million pesos for theatres, plays and festivals;
- The National Fund for the Arts will stimulate the payment of grants, competitions, subsidies and loans for 22 million pesos and the launching of new calls for 75 million pesos. At the same time, the Ministry of Culture is negotiating for the expansion of this fund.
- The National Institute of Music (INAMU) is extending by 30 days the deadline for the submission of accounts and social compensation for calls made in 2019;
- The Children's and Youth Orchestras program, which brings together 40 orchestras in different provinces of the country, will have 9.2 million pesos available for the acquisition of new instruments;
- Nearly 500 artists will also be hired for a total of 7.2 million pesos to produce content to be transmitted on the Ministry's digital platforms.

On Monday April 6, the Ministry of Culture, through the Argentine Cultural Information System (SInCA), also launched a national survey on culture to produce information on the impact on the cultural sector of the social isolation policies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey has no set deadline<sup>37</sup>.

The provinces of Buenos Aires and Chaco have also introduced local measures to support the arts and culture<sup>38</sup>.

## Canada

The two most important measures that have been adopted are:

- The Canada Emergency Benefit, \$2000 a month for 16 weeks to all individuals who have lost income due to Covid-19<sup>39</sup>;
- The Emergency Wage Subsidy, which covers up to 75% of the wages of employees of associations or companies that have lost at least 30% of their income due to the crisis<sup>40</sup>.

These measures are accessible to individuals and organizations in the cultural sector. On April 17, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$500 million to establish a COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations to help address the financial needs of affected organizations within these sectors so they can continue to support artists and athletes<sup>41</sup>. The Fund is meant for organizations that can't qualify for the existing wage subsidy because of the lumpy or irregular nature of their revenues as well as to cover contract workers. The Fund will also provide advances on future grants and contributions to help maintain liquidity as well as small subsidies to cover some fixed costs. Eligible organizations and businesses include:

- Canadian not-for-profit cultural, heritage and arts organizations;
- National Sports Organizations, Multisport Service Organizations, and Canadian Sport Centers and Institutes;
- Canadian journalistic organizations;
- Canadian book publishers;
- Canadian production companies that work in the film or television industries;

<sup>37</sup> Link to the form: <https://forms.cultura.gob.ar/index.php/714637?lang=es>

<sup>38</sup> <http://rgcediciones.com.ar/politicas-culturales-y-covid-19-en-america-latina/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html>

<sup>41</sup> <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/17/prime-minister-announces-new-support-protect-canadian-jobs>

- Organizations in the music industry;
- Television and radio broadcasters;
- Recipients of the Digital Citizen Initiative

Canada has adopted many [other measures](#), including [the \\$40,000 emergency loan](#) for organizations, and provincial governments as well (loan guarantees, funding for training programs, etc.).

The majority of granting agencies, including programs managed by [federal](#) and provincial departments, such as the [Quebec ministry](#), have announced measures often aimed at releasing all the funds that had been promised, at bringing forward payments, at offering more flexibility in programs. See, for example, the measures implemented by these granting agencies:

- [Conseil des arts du Canada](#)
- [Conseil des arts de l'Ontario](#)
- [Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec](#)
- [SODEC](#)
- [FACTOR](#)
- [Toronto Arts Council](#)
- [Conseil des arts de Montréal](#)

The Canada Council for the Arts and CBC/Radio-Canada have also launched a funding initiative to support the Canadian cultural community during the pandemic period. The [Digital Originals](#) initiative, worth a total of \$1 million, aims to promote national culture and support the creation of original Canadian works.

## Chili

The Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage has decided to reformulate certain instruments and programs to create a new plan to deal with the health crisis, which will distribute approximately 15 billion pesos to the arts and culture sector. These resources will be mainly destined to the acquisition of cultural content (copyright), the promotion of artistic creation and the protection of cultural spaces and organizations affected by the contingency. The Ministry will continue to pay out the 2020 Funds for Culture but will suspend Open Windows competitions so that artists do not incur expenses for activities that cannot be carried out. Once the pandemic crisis is over, these calls will be replaced. The ministry is also working on specific measures for the regions and is conducting a survey of the sector<sup>42</sup>.

On April 17, the first meeting of the inter-ministerial working group on the pandemic, convened by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, took place. On 24 April, several civil society organizations wrote to the Minister reminding her of the importance of the sector's representativeness in this work and asking her for clear and transparent information on the details of the allocation of the 15 billion promised in March.

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.cultura.gob.cl/institucional/ministerio-de-las-culturas-las-artes-y-el-patrimonio-destinara-15-mil-millones-de-pesos-para-apoyar-a-artistas-y-organizaciones-ante-emergencia-por-coronavirus/>

## Mexico

In response to the impacts of the pandemic on the Mexican cultural sector, the Ministry of Culture has<sup>43</sup>:

- mandated its cultural entities to allocate up to \$1 million to local artists and creators, for a total of MXN 32 million nationally;
- announced a "bank of functions" so that artists, etc. who were hired between March 20 and April 20 could receive payments on time and replace their presentations with remote presentations or deferrals;
- provided up to \$200,000 for cultural programming and \$1 million for cultural infrastructure renovations or building equipment;
- offered up to \$5 million to fund cultural construction projects and building equipment.

On April 12, the Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Committee on Culture and Cinematography, Sergio Mayer Bretón, presented his legislative recovery plan for the cultural sector. Culture is one of the sectors most vulnerable to the health and economic crisis that the country is going through. For this reason, he assured that various amendments to the law are necessary for the State to guarantee the public resources needed to protect the cultural sector.

Four initiatives and two mandates will be presented to the Committee on Culture and Cinematography:

- 1) Reform of the General Law on Culture and Cultural Rights, which incorporates the National Fund for Culture and the Arts (FONCA);
- 2) Reform of the Federal Cinematography Act, which incorporates the Fund for Quality Cinematographic Production (FOPROCINE), and approves it with FIDECINE
- 3) Reform of the law on value added tax so that bookstores benefit from a zero-rate tax regime;
- 4) Reforming the Federal Copyright Act to compensate for private copying.

Likewise, the federal deputy urged the governments of the three levels (federal, state and municipal) to establish links with the private sector and to generate new support programs for authors, creators, performers, promoters and all those involved in cultural, artistic and cultural heritage preservation activities in Mexico. His second call was for the federal government to reallocate resources from the Chapultepec Mega Forest Rehabilitation Project (only those related to fiscal year 2020) to an emerging program to support the performing arts and artisans<sup>44</sup>.

## Paraguay

The National Secretariat of Culture has developed a series of measures to guarantee the rights of persons and institutions engaged in cultural activities, in order to mitigate the social and economic effects of the health emergency caused by COVID-19. Several mechanisms are available to the cultural sector:

- "Culture from home" festival: a multidisciplinary activity that aims to benefit 500 artists from various disciplines who can continue to work from home (payment on performance).

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<sup>43</sup> <https://www.gob.mx/cultura/prensa/la-secretaria-de-cultura-mantiene-apoyos-para-el-sector-durante-contingencia-por-covid-19>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.radioformula.com.mx/noticias/20200413/sergio-mayer-presenta-paquete-legislativo-para-recuperar-el-sector-cultura-de-la-crisis-por-el-covid-19/>

- These artists will be able to offer citizens their creations and performances in a program broadcast from Thursday to Sunday on the National Secretariat of Culture's website<sup>45</sup>;
- Cultural Fund for Citizens 2020 projects. Call open until 30 April (one billion guaranis)<sup>46</sup>;
  - Promotion of national audiovisual: a payment line for the exploitation or public broadcasting rights of national feature films, shorts and documentaries is being set up and programming is planned with Paraguayan television from April onwards;
  - Food security actions aimed at cultural workers in economically vulnerable situations, with the provision of food kits delivered to trade unions for distribution;
  - Appeal to the community culture sector to strengthen and guarantee the sustainability of cultural spaces and centers at the national level. Priority will be given to initiatives aimed at community health prevention. Open from May 2020;
  - Memorial Project Competition: competition for museological and museographic proposals for the Ycuá Bolaños Memorial Site - 1-A, aimed at designers, architects, museologists and museum workers. The competition is in force from 15 April 2020;
  - Strengthening of the publishing and library sector, giving priority to the acquisition of national editions and the equipment of the country's public libraries, in order to keep the publishing sector active in the face of the suspension of fairs and the closure of bookshops;
  - Virtual Campus for Cultural Action: this involves the provision of a virtual platform by the National Secretariat of Culture to offer cultural workers a safe space to develop live sessions, courses and/or workshops, which in turn will enable them to collect or receive donations through credit card payments or bank transfers, for as long as the emergency health measures last.

The National Secretariat of Culture also conducted a consultation with organizations in the audiovisual sector on the value of reprogramming the Audiovisual Fund (one billion guaranis) and carrying out an Appeal that directly benefits workers in this sector affected by the crisis. In addition to these measures, the National Secretariat of Culture is working on a National Plan that would enable the cultural sector to access emergency financial funds.

The Paraguayan coalition points out, however, that aid does not reach everyone and that, as elsewhere, the performing arts, festivals, the living arts, are the most affected.

## International Organisations

### Organisation internationale de la francophonie

The French-speaking world is mobilizing by supporting digital innovation and creativity. On March 31, the OIF set up the "Solidarité Covid-19 Francophonie" platform to help digital talent in the French-speaking world to come together and create innovative solutions to serve their communities<sup>47</sup>.

### UNESCO

A virtual meeting of Ministers of Culture took place on April 22, 2020<sup>48</sup>.

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<sup>45</sup> <https://bit.ly/2UXKXcO>

<sup>46</sup> <https://bit.ly/2R9Ojln>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.francophonie.org/node/1227>

<sup>48</sup> <https://ficdc.org/en/publications/culture-in-times-of-pandemic-a-remedy-that-needs-to-be-taken-care-of/>



UNESCO has also launched the global ResiliArt<sup>49</sup> movement to raise awareness of "the magnitude of COVID-19's impact on the cultural and creative sector". A [first conference](#) was held on 15 April and a second is planned for 14 May 2020.

## OECD

The OECD is organizing discussions on the impacts of the crisis on the cultural sector, government responses and the opportunities that could open up as a result of the crisis<sup>50</sup>.

## Petitions

### Europe

A petition was launched on March 30 calling on the European Commission and all EU Member States to provide strong support to cultural industries, which have been hit by the Covid-19 crisis.

It calls for short-term measures during the health crisis:

- Financial aid for the cultural sector, notably through the Corona Response Investment Initiative (CRII) fund launched by the European Commission;
- Access to unemployment measures and social arrangements for all actors in this sector, especially those with self-employed status;
- Emergency assistance to cultural professionals, especially the self-employed and SMEs through tax breaks, micro-credits, compensation for losses and non-recoverable costs;
- Fiscal measures.

And long-term measures once the crisis is over:

- Putting in place an adequate recovery plan for cultural creators across Europe to tackle the long-term effects on the cultural and creative sectors (CCS). This package should also include legal measures to facilitate the mobility of artists and their works, for example with regard to taxation and visa regimes;
- Protect the CCS from future shocks, in particular by strengthening its social dimension and adapting social security and labor rights rules, taking into account the diversity of the CCS workforce;
- Increase public funding for arts and culture while ensuring their access to other sources of funding, for example by strengthening the availability of the guarantee mechanism for the cultural and creative sectors.

See the [Open Letter to the EU Commission and the Member States](#), demanding support for the Cultural and Creative Sectors, particularly cultural creators, affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Hashtag: [#saveEUculture](#)

### Japan

A petition was submitted to the Agency for Cultural Affairs on March 31<sup>51</sup>.

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<sup>49</sup> <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/news/resiliart-artists-creativity-beyond-crisis>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/culture-webinars.htm>

<sup>51</sup> <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoS3wgiYphbbmU-c-qnf65nj4oHhknV6LVY3BPpVYoMa6-XA/viewform>

## Resources

- The Agenda 21 page dedicated to the cultural mobilization of cities and local governments in the COVID crisis-19:  
<http://www.agenda21culture.net/fr/culturecovid19>
- A collaborative map to track coronavirus control measures:  
<https://keanet.eu/collaborative-map-covid-19-policy-measures/>
- A page listing government responses to the impact of COVID-19 on the arts and creative industries:  
<https://www.bypgroup.com/blog/2020/3/21/government-arts-responses-to-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR2UyFZax-Om7Ejhlj92cdf115Jf75wYWUOEIK0oAMWQDiMdu9cP5CRN7Do>
- List of artistic and cultural resources in response to COVID-19 for the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) and Africa compiled by Culture Funding Watch:  
<https://bit.ly/3ajl0Zu>
- Podcast of the international virtual conference organized by Cultural Funding Watch, in partnership with the Rambourg Foundation: “Covid-19. Crisis & Emergency funding mechanisms: What action plan for the Cultural and Creative sector?”:  
[https://culturefundingwatch.com/en/opportunities/international-virtual-conference-covid-19-crisis-emergency-funding-mechanisms-what-action-plan-for-the-cultural-and-creative-sector/?fbclid=IwAR2kQxAebAoZcfQrVt0xvZ1\\_Pb8WnvvkD4Uc5qvbaUZIMFmuRLaOc64BZD0](https://culturefundingwatch.com/en/opportunities/international-virtual-conference-covid-19-crisis-emergency-funding-mechanisms-what-action-plan-for-the-cultural-and-creative-sector/?fbclid=IwAR2kQxAebAoZcfQrVt0xvZ1_Pb8WnvvkD4Uc5qvbaUZIMFmuRLaOc64BZD0)
- A free advocacy tool available to cultural entrepreneurs around the world to generate statistics and graphs on the sector:  
<https://www.cceindex.com/>