

# Our Shared European Future

For the attention of: EU-UK Brexit negotiators; All 28 EU Member State governments; European Commission; European Parliament; and UK Parliament.

This Communiqué conveys the general views of Europe's education, culture, science and research sectors, in relation to the UK's departure from the European Union. The recommendations that follow were formulated through extensive consultations throughout the region, and have been formally endorsed by over 400 cultural, educational and scientific organisations and representatives across Europe (see Appendix 1).

## Recommendations to EU and UK leaders

1. **Residency rights:** EU and UK leaders are urged to guarantee post-Brexit residency for EU nationals currently operating in the UK, and British nationals working in other EU countries.
2. **Ease of movement:** The education, culture and science sectors are by nature international and mobile. Their success, and the success of many other sectors, depends significantly on the ease of movement of its people and assets. The economies of European countries and society as a whole currently benefit extensively from the sectors' flow of ideas, creativity and talent. For example, the UK's higher education sector relies heavily on 31,000 non-British EU workers who currently contribute to its success. We therefore advise EU and UK leaders to:
  - a. Negotiate a post-Brexit agreement for the education, culture, science and research sectors that does not inhibit their vital ease of movement, but rather, seeks to enhance and facilitate it.
  - b. If absolutely necessary, introduce measures, such as 'cultural and educational permits', that enable people and assets operating in the education, culture, science and research sectors to continue moving with ease between the UK and other EU countries. These measures should be low-cost, rapid-to-process and applied for adequate periods, to encourage continued collaboration and partnership.
3. **Continued and enhanced participation in multilateral programmes:** The monetary and non-monetary benefits to European societies and economies emanating from EU-funded programmes, such as Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and Creative Europe, are major. We urge EU and UK leaders to ensure UK institutions and individuals remain eligible to access these and future multilateral framework programmes. We equally recommend that the UK government makes appropriate financial contributions to ensure their continued effectiveness and impact.
4. **Young Europeans and future generations:** We call on UK and other European leaders to give serious consideration to empowering and engaging young people as effective agents of positive change. If Europe is to prosper, young people must be able to play a meaningful part in shaping what will be their futures. We therefore urge EU and UK leaders to proactively engage youth in Brexit policy-making. Furthermore, we urge European leaders to ensure every young person in the UK and other European countries gains inter-cultural and international experience, either through study, work, performances, research, academia, training, language learning or other programmes or exchanges. Such experiences are proven to develop skills, create opportunities, broaden horizons, and build much-needed trust and understanding between nations.
5. **Intellectual property, qualifications and regulatory framework:** EU and UK leaders should continue to cooperate over UK-EU intellectual property issues and regulation, which is particularly important in enabling cultural, scientific and educational bodies both in the UK and in EU countries to capitalise on creativity, ideas and talent. We also urge EU and UK leaders to maintain standards of recognition of professional qualifications between the UK and the remaining 27 EU member states in the fields of education, culture, science and research.
6. **Informed decision-making:** We urge EU and UK leaders to work with representatives from the education, culture and science sectors in the UK and in EU Europe throughout Brexit negotiations in order to shape future pan-European cooperation, which will benefit us all.

## **Background**

Since January 2017, the EU-UK Culture and Education Series has convened over 500 leaders from the education, culture, science and research sectors across 32 European countries. Through face-to-face meetings (in Berlin, Madrid and London) and through online webinars, representatives have addressed the specific implications of Brexit on their sectors.

Throughout the Series, our institutions – including museums, theatres, student bodies, universities, schools, language learning and assessment centres, and academic networks – have re-affirmed the importance of collaboration and have identified joint recommendations to enhance pan-European cooperation post-Brexit. The Communiqué has been published online and continues to receive support.

## **A shared vision**

Our vision is for continued European collaboration, helping the continent to lead the world in the fields of education, culture, science, research and innovation.

We envisage a European open zone for intellectual and creative endeavour where educational, cultural and scientific institutions are key economic players, supporting cities, encouraging social mobility, stimulating healthy issue-based debates, benefiting communities, solving global challenges, improving intercultural awareness, fostering creativity, enhancing social cohesion and transforming lives.

Students, artists, academics, scientists, teachers, researchers and young people travel, operate, collaborate and innovate easily across borders, supported through funding and resources, opportunities and international exchanges. Society as a whole prospers across Europe as a direct result of this growth in talent, expertise and shared values. Young citizens are empowered, skilled and become capable leaders of our shared future.

## **A shared challenge**

There is a risk that Brexit could fracture this vision. The introduction of barriers on these sectors working together could disadvantage the UK and other EU countries, bringing about 'lose-lose' scenarios. It is therefore critical that the forthcoming EU-UK negotiations work to avoid the real and complex risks to the cultural, educational, scientific and research sectors, in the UK and in all other European countries. Deliberations between EU and UK leaders should amplify the positive impact that shared programmes in these fields bring to communities in all countries, particularly to young people.

For centuries, British scholars, scientists, artists have worked and shared ideas with their European counterparts, producing an untold number of scientific breakthroughs, academic achievements and great works of art, enriching us culturally and economically. This exchange of ideas and creativity has survived wars and revolutions. We must ensure it survives Brexit, and indeed future challenges in a changing Europe.

## **Consensus**

The Series has demonstrated widespread consensus among European institutions that cooperation in the fields of education, culture, science, research and innovation must be prioritised during negotiations. It is to our mutual advantage that existing partnership, funding and regulatory arrangements be sustained and, where possible, intensified. Enhanced collaboration in these sectors will enable European economies to remain prosperous in an increasingly competitive global environment. EU and UK leaders should take note of such a clear and strong sector consensus across Europe, which is rarely seen in the context of Brexit.

Sector accord and action is important. However, it is imperative that EU-UK negotiators build on such consensus by supporting this common voice and helping to realise the mutually beneficial vision we hold. We urge EU and UK leaders to heed the recommendations outlined above, put forward after much dialogue by organisations from all corners of Europe. It is vital that Brexit does not mean a reduction in educational, cultural and scientific cooperation between the UK and other European countries. Rather, we should make it an opportunity to review, re-design and strengthen such links.

As citizens of European countries, these issues affect us all. But as citizens working in arts, science, education, the creative industries and research we have a particular responsibility to sustain and enhance the benefits that the open and free exchange of people and ideas has brought to our continent and to the world.