

Reply to Call for Evidence on the Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness

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Introduction

Pearle*-Live Performance Europe is the European federation representing over 13,000 organisations and companies in the music, performing arts, and live event sectors. As a European employers' association and a recognised partner in the European sectoral social dialogue, Pearle* welcomes the European Commission's initiative to develop **a Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness**, as we recognise its relevance in the current European context characterised by major challenges such as demographic change, digitalisation, the green transition, and the evolving nature of work.

These developments have a direct impact on the live performance ecosystem, influencing how cultural workers and organisations operate, and how audiences of different ages access and participate in culture. Ensuring fair opportunities for all generations to create, work, and engage in the arts is essential to maintaining the vitality and resilience of Europe's cultural life.

The Strategy can play a key role in integrating intergenerational considerations into EU policymaking and fostering a policy environment where artistic creation, access to culture, education, and employment in the cultural and creative sectors promote solidarity and contribute to intergenerational equity.

Comments

1) Lifelong Learning and Quality Employment as Pillars of Intergenerational Fairness

The performing arts sector is characterised by professions that depend on continuous learning, the transmission of know-how, and the coexistence of multiple generations of professionals. Ensuring intergenerational fairness, therefore, requires supporting both the sustainability of cultural careers and the conditions that enable learning and knowledge transfer throughout life. **Pearle* calls on the Commission to ensure that the Strategy promotes:**

- **Lifelong learning and sustainable career development**, through investment in education, apprenticeships, and vocational training that ensure fair entry into the sector for artists and technicians, while supporting re-skilling, upskilling, and providing policies that allow for the development and support of adaptable working conditions for older professionals. Recognition of non-formal and informal learning remains essential to preserve the continuity of artistic crafts and techniques.

- **Fairly balanced employment and social protection**, by integrating the specificities of cultural work (often characterised by intermittent and project-based contracts) into future labour and social security initiatives, ensuring access to fair remuneration, pensions, and social protection across all age groups.

The Strategy should recognise cultural organisations as spaces of intergenerational learning, where experience and innovation meet, and should connect with broader EU initiatives such as the upcoming **Culture Compass** and the **Quality Jobs Act** to ensure that Europe's cultural and creative sectors remain resilient and future-oriented.

2) The Social Role of the Cultural Sector in Fostering Intergenerational Fairness

Culture plays a vital social role in building bridges between generations, fostering understanding, and promoting cohesion across society. Cultural participation creates shared spaces where citizens of all ages can connect, learn, and exchange perspectives, while the sector itself contributes actively to social and environmental sustainability. **To reflect this role, Pearle* calls on the Commission to ensure that the Strategy:**

- **Recognises access to culture as a driver of intergenerational cohesion, social inclusion, and democratic participation**, affirming that intergenerational fairness encompasses cultural rights and opportunities for artistic and creative expression throughout life;
- **Supports cultural participation and programmes** that bring together older and younger generations, including intergenerational projects, theatre education, and participatory arts;
- **Encourages investment in cultural venues** to guarantee accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of cultural spaces for all generations;

Pearle* underlines the importance of the forthcoming **AgoraEU Programme** in ensuring adequate and predictable financial resources for the cultural sector, allowing it to continue fulfilling its essential social and democratic functions. **The three strands of the programme (Creative Europe - Culture, MEDIA+, and CERV+) should be developed in a complementary way to reinforce the social value of culture and ensure that Europe's cultural and creative sectors continue to empower all generations and strengthen social resilience.**

Conclusion

Pearle* welcomes the Commission's ambition to develop a Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness and **emphasises the need to place culture at its core**. As a cornerstone of Europe's social fabric, culture fosters dialogue, inclusion, and solidarity between generations, contributing to mutual understanding and social cohesion. By fully recognising the contribution of the cultural and creative sectors, the Strategy can extend the concept of intergenerational fairness beyond employment and social protection to include equal access to culture, education, and participation in cultural life.

Pearle* encourages the Commission to follow a coherent approach, ensuring that the Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness works hand in hand with broader EU initiatives such as the **Culture Compass**, the **Quality Jobs Act**, and **AgoraEU**. Together, these instruments can provide a strong policy and financial foundation for the cultural sector to continue empowering citizens of all generations, driving innovation, and contributing to a fair and inclusive future for Europe.