

## Implications of the UK European Union membership referendum for the creative and cultural sector in Scotland: Report on survey findings

### Background

1.1 The UK-wide EU Referendum on 23 June 2016 resulted in a 52% vote for leaving the EU. This decision has led to concern and debate in the UK as to the potential implications for the creative and cultural sector.

1.2 In order to better understand how the referendum result might affect the work of organisations and individuals within Scotland’s arts, screen and creative industries Creative Scotland conducted a survey asking about EU funding patterns, current applications for EU funding and wider concerns about the referendum decision.

1.3 The survey was launched on 8 August 2016 and publicised through our website, social media channels and staff contacts. This briefing summarises the responses to the consultation and key themes emerging from the comments made by respondents.

1.4 In total 188 responses were received, of which 108 respondents chose to remain anonymous. Of the 80 respondents who gave their details 27 were individuals, including freelancers, and 53 were organisations. Of these 53 organisations, 25 were Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs), currently in receipt of multi-year funding (from 2015-2018).

### Survey Findings

2.1 In total 78 (40%) of respondents indicated they had received EU funding in the past, although only 20 respondents gave details of their funded projects. Funding came from a number of sources (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Sources of EU funding reported by respondents**

Creative Europe	5
LEADER	4
Erasmus +	2
Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency	2
Culture 2007-2013 (Strand 1.1 Multi-annual cooperation projects)	1
European Research Council	1
Year of Scotland's Islands	1
Erasmus	1
Other EU partner country	1
Progetto Leonardo programme	1
Media	1

2.2 Activity ranges from membership of international networks (such as the European storytelling network and the Green Art Lab Alliance) to youth arts programmes and co-productions.

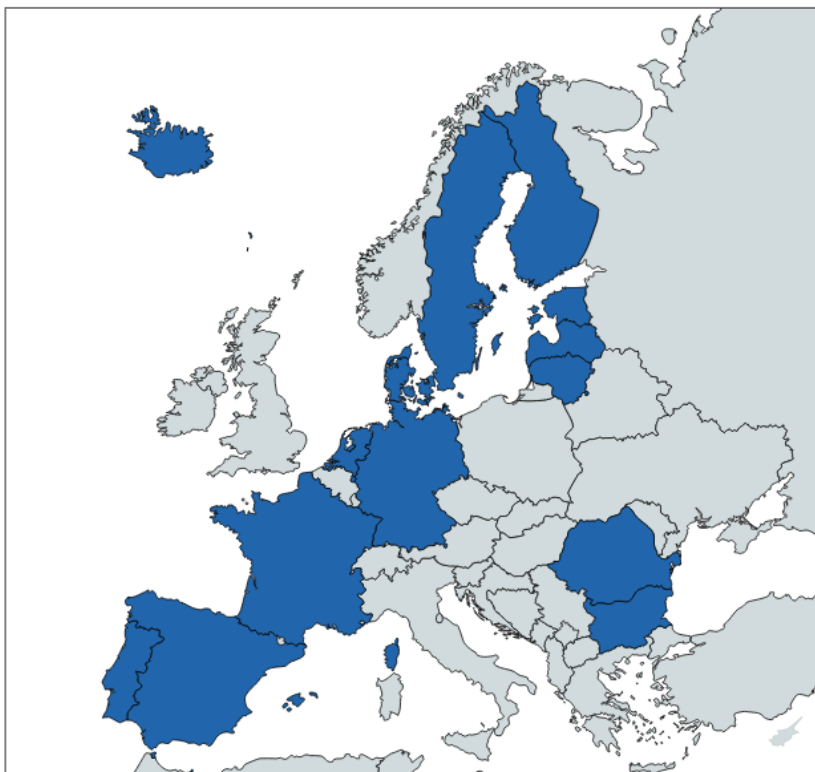
2.3 17 respondents gave details of how much funding they had received. Grants ranged from £16k to £170k. A total of £880,910 (€1,051,487)<sup>i</sup> was reported: an average of around £52k (€62k) per organisation.

2.4 When asked how many times they had received funding, 21 respondents gave details with the majority (13) receiving funding only once, five receiving funding two or three times, two received funding five times and one received funding 15 times.

2.5 19 respondents indicated they were in the process of or planning to apply for EU funding.

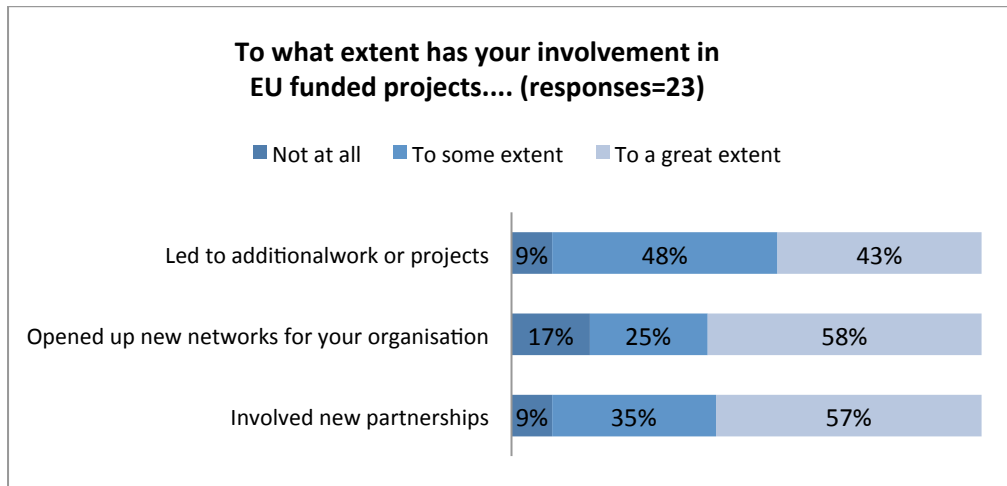
2.6 Respondents gave details of partnership working with organisations across 14 European Countries (Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden) with many projects involving collaborations between multiple countries (see figure 2).

**Figure 2: Countries which respondents were involved in partnership working with.**



2.7 European Funding is highly valued by those who received it. In particular, respondents very strongly agreed that the involvement in EU funded projects opened up new networks and involved new partnerships (see figure 3).

**Figure 3: Implications of involvement in EU funded projects**



2.8 Examples given by respondents included participation in conferences, identifying facilitators for future events, further working with partners on additional projects, contacts and opportunities beyond the initial partners, supporting organisations to transition from voluntary to professional, understanding and developing new markets

### Comments on the impact of the referendum result

3.1 64 respondents chose to respond to the survey question asking: *are there other elements relating to the referendum result that you think may affect you/your organisation*. Key issues raised were:

- **Travel/free movement of people** (21 respondents). Specific concerns included: the ability to travel for work or practice; the commissioning or recruitment of EU-based artists; increased costs and administration for programming international artists; international collaboration within the EU. Many of these respondents highlighted the high level of EU travel they currently undertake as part of their work or practice.

*'I personally regularly work in Europe (and England) and am worried about the consequences now of not being part of the EU'*

- **Connections/co-productions/international exchange** (16 respondents). Issues included rising costs and bureaucracy hampering the ability to co-produce and make connections for international exchanges, co-productions and other international collaborations.



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*'A key part of the creative development ambitions that underpin the Vision 2021 project was the creation of an international work exchange programme from 2021 onwards. Whilst the decision to leave the EU will not terminate this ambition, the absence of both EU funding for such activity and the current EU partnerships pathways will have a constricting effect on this ambition'*

- **Trade** (12 respondents), including three responses specifically stating potential problems of accessing international markets and potential barriers to touring work internationally.

*'It would be a pity if artists and musicians were to find themselves in the same circumstances as we are when applying to tour outwith the EU. It is almost financially impossible to tour in the United States for example, because of the extra bureaucracy, and finance involved.'*

- **Uncertainty** (10 respondents), with some respondents highlighting that the current uncertainty was already having a negative impact on their activity.
- **Funding** (seven respondents). Concerns included whether Creative Europe funding will be accessible in the long term, and that the general economic fallout could lead to budget cuts for culture at the national and local level.

*'We anticipate a reduction in funding levels generally as the Scottish Government redistribute their funds and we are also aware of the possible knock on effect of the impact on academia and local authorities in Scotland.'*

*'As with agriculture and fishing, the UK and Scottish Governments should make budgetary provision where necessary to replace current EU cultural, regional development and research funding and the resulting loss to rural and remote communities, as well as regeneration initiatives more generally. The UK and Scottish Governments should consider how participation in funding schemes such as Creative Europe can continue as a non-EU member state partner. Turkey, Switzerland and Norway currently have similar such agreements'*

- **Rising costs/depreciation of the Pound** (seven respondents). Concerns over general rising costs of arranging travel and specific costs incurred by the depreciation of the Pound against the Euro/US Dollar.
- **Staffing and job security** (eight respondents). Issues and uncertainty around current EU staff members and concerns from EU nationals currently working freelance in Scotland.

*'13% of our members are EU citizens from outwith the UK'*

*'The uncertainty of my status - as a French citizen living in Scotland for the past 25 years - is worrying and I think I am not aware yet of all the elements that Brexit will bring.'*



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- **Parochial mind-set/move away from internationalism** (three respondents). Concerns that an exit from the EU will lead to more inward focus and that international reputation will be damaged.

*'Change of mind-set from thinking internationally to thinking locally'*

- **Loss of support for rural areas** (three respondents). Respondents from Dumfries and Galloway and the Western Isles both highlighted the support EU funding has brought to their rural areas.
- **Racism/xenophobia** (two respondents). Highlighting a fear that this will increase.

Maggie Page  
Research Officer  
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<sup>i</sup> Note: all currency conversions were carried out in August 2016 at a rate of €1.17 to £1.