



**Brussels, 8 December 2025
(OR. en)**

16441/25

**CULT 146
INTER-REP 122
SAN 813**

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	The report of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) group of Member States' experts on Culture and Health - Presentation by the OMC Chair at the Cultural Affairs Committee meeting on 3 December 2025.

Following the meeting of the Cultural Affairs Committee on 3 December 2025, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by the OMC Chair.

This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

Culture and Health: Time to Act

Open Method of Coordination on Culture and Health



Presentation of the report
to the Committee of Cultural Affairs

3 December 2025

Edith Wolf Perez, MA
Chair ARTS for HEALTH AUSTRIA
Co-Chair OMC Group Culture and Health

Culture and Health: Time to Act

Open Method of Coordination on Culture and Health



Engagement in culture and participation
in the arts is a health behaviour.

Launched at Mondiacult Barcelona on 29 September 2025

Culture and Health: Time to Act

Open Method of Coordination group on Culture and Health

Mandate of the European Council

The role of the OMC group “Culture and Health”

“to explore **how to strengthen the cross-sectorial collaboration between the culture and health sectors** in the EU and in the Member States, and make corresponding **recommendations**.

The overall aim would be to identify ways to effectively bridge the gaps between the two sectors and their relevant administrative levels and ultimately to contribute to a better implementation of cross-sectorial cooperation, while paying special attention to the benefits for the culture and health sectors stemming from this collaboration.”



Members: Experts from the health and culture ministries and NGOs of (almost) all member states, co-chaired by representatives from Austria and Greece

Culture and Health: Time to Act

Why Now: The Challenges

Challenges for the health sector

- Financial challenges, shortage and burnout of healthcare workforce
- Detrimental state of mental health in the EU, especially for young people
- Expected rise in the number of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs):

Challenges for the culture sector

- Precarious funding and working conditions
- Instrumentalisation of culture
- Digital Disruption
- Threats to artistic and curatorial freedom
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Challenges for intersectoral collaboration between culture and health

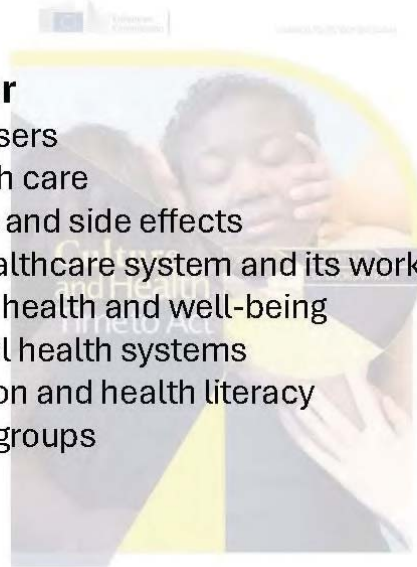
- Insufficient practical support and leadership of inter-sectoral collaboration
- Fragmented governance structures
- Lack of supporting structures for Culture and Health
- Competing national priorities and systemic resistance to change



21 Opportunities: A Win-Win-Win

Opportunities to Health sector

- Direct health benefits to end-users
- Personalised and holistic health care
- Reduction of drug dependence and side effects
- Reducing the burden on the healthcare system and its workforce
- Novel, creative approaches for health and well-being
- Reducing stigma around mental health systems
- Improving health communication and health literacy
- Reducing stigma of vulnerable groups



21 Opportunities: A Win-Win-Win

Opportunities to Cultural Sector

- New job opportunities, funding and sustainable business models
- Development of new artistic practices
- Supporting diversity in the cultural sector
- Creating new spectrum of work for creative practitioners
- Improved access to culture
- Enhancing audience engagement



Culture and Health: Time to Act

21 Opportunities: A Win-Win-Win

Global Opportunities

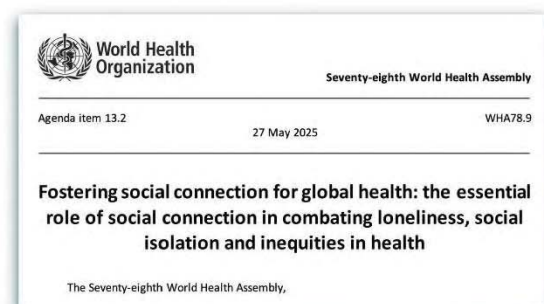
- Strengthening health and cultural sectors by fostering collaboration
- Improving mental health, reducing social isolation, strengthening inclusion and resilience
- Support for democratic societies in times of conflicts, polarisation and uncertainty
- Improving individual productivity and supporting an economy of well-being
- Offering alternatives to screen time through cultural activities
- Cost reduction through investment into prevention and health promotion



WHO Assembly resolution Fostering social connection for global health

Emphasises the urgency of addressing social connection because

social isolation and loneliness, are associated with cardiovascular disease and mental health conditions, including depression, dementia and other types of cognitive decline, and that they have adverse impacts on individuals, communities and societies;



URGES Member States,
(8) to strengthen collaboration between culture and health sectors to promote social inclusion and cohesion;



Guidance on policy and strategic actions
to protect and promote mental health
and well-being across government sectors



This guidance is grounded in the principle that every sector has a role to play in protecting and promoting mental health. Whether in health; culture, arts and sport; defence and veterans; education; employment; the environment; the interior; justice; social protection; or urban and rural development, the choices made by leaders and institutions shape the environments in which people live and, in turn, the mental health of individuals and communities.

This Guidance highlights the crucial links between mental health and the culture, arts and sports sector, recognizing that many core activities of the sector already protect and promote mental health.

Culture and Health: Time to Act

The Action Plan

Delivery and Implementation

- 1) Build and implement an EU Strategy for Culture and Health
- 2) Establish corresponding National Culture and Health Strategies in each Member State
- 3) Enable intersectional collaboration and pooling of resources
- 4) Design and implement Culture and Health Programmes
- 5) Build Capacity
- 6) Advocate for Culture and Health
- 7) Strengthen the Evidence Base



The European Path Ahead



The Momentum is Building



The **EU Culture Compass** has a culture, health and wellbeing section and one major action.



Spain: Culture & Health ministries signed a collaboration agreement.

- **National launches of the report**



- Austria: 15 January in Vienna as a first joint event of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Health
- Germany?
- Flanders?
- Slovenia?
- Spain?



CULTURE AND – HEALTH

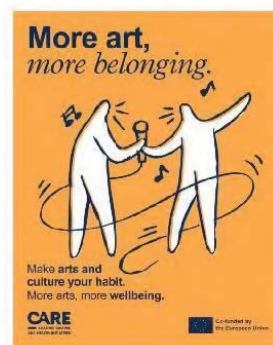
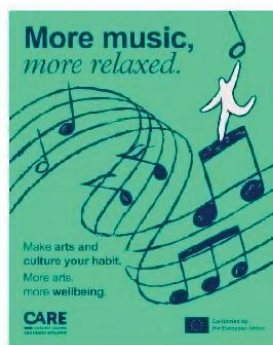
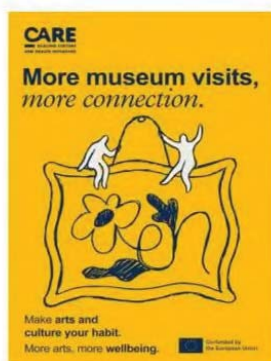
PLATFORM



Co-funded by
the European Union



CARE
SCALING CULTURE
AND HEALTH INITIATIVES



Co-funded by
the European Union

An Invitation to You

- Become part of and advocate for the Culture and Health movement
- Organise a launch of the report in your country
- Participate in the activities of the afore mentioned Creative Europe projects.
- Mark your calendars for the major conferences, from Leuven in 2026 to the flagship Platform Conference in Vienna.
- Add the Culture and Health projects into the [Culture for Health Database](#).
- Stay in touch.



Coming Up

**CULTURE
AND –
HEALTH**
PLATFORM

Open for all Artists' Roundtables:

18.02.26 | 11.00 CET
20.05.26 | 14.00 CET
16.10.26 | 14.00 CET

Call for project proposals

Eu- wide calls: Dec 2025

National calls in the C&H platform's countries

- Austria: 15 January 2026
- Italy: 16 January 2026

Training & Capacity building

In planning

Conferences

26-27 February 2026 - Culture, Health & Wellbeing Conference in Leuven, Belgium

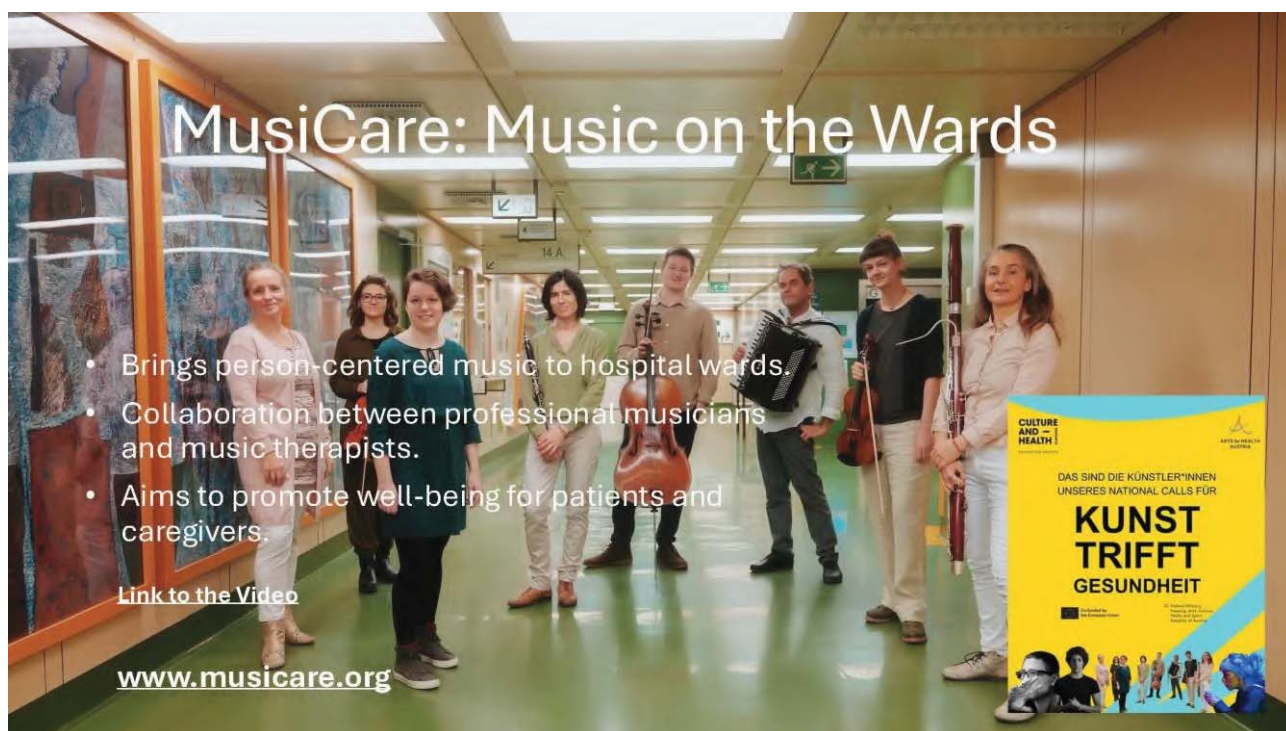
3-5 June 2026 Vilnius Lithuania –CARE mobile hub

7-11 September 2026 – Culture and Health Platform Conference in Vienna, Austria

More information:



Co-funded by
the European Union



Culture and Health: Time to Act

Open Method of Coordination on Culture and Health



THANK YOU!



Edith Wolf Perez: artsforhealthaustria@gmail.com

Links of this presentation

- OMC Report Culture and Health: Time to Act. Executive Summary (also available in all languages): <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3fa5e137-9787-11f0-97c8-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
 - OMC Report Culture and Health: Time to Act. Full report: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/be89805d-9cf8-11f0-97c8-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
 - Vienna Launch on 15 January 2026: <https://www.artsforhealthaustria.eu/time-to-act-culture-and-health/>
 - EU Culture Compass: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2628
 - **Spain:** Culture & Health ministries signed a collaboration agreement: <https://www.cultura.gob.es/actualidad/2025/10/251008-sanidad-y-cultura-salud-mental.html>
 - WHO Assembly resolution: Fostering social connection for global health: https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA78/A78_ACONF2-en.pdf
 - WHO Guidance on policy and strategic actions to protect and promote mental health and well-being across government sectors: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240114388>
 - Culture and Health Platform: <https://www.cultureandhealth.eu/>
 - CARE – Scaling Culture and Health Initiatives: <https://culturecares.eu/>
 - Culture for Health Mapping: <https://www.cultureforhealth.eu/mapping/>
-