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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 27 March 2026  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Survey on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026  
- Presentation by Panteia at the Cultural Affairs Committee meeting on  
27 March 2026

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Following the meeting of the Cultural Affairs Committee on 27 March 2026, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by the research organisation Panteia.

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# Survey on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026

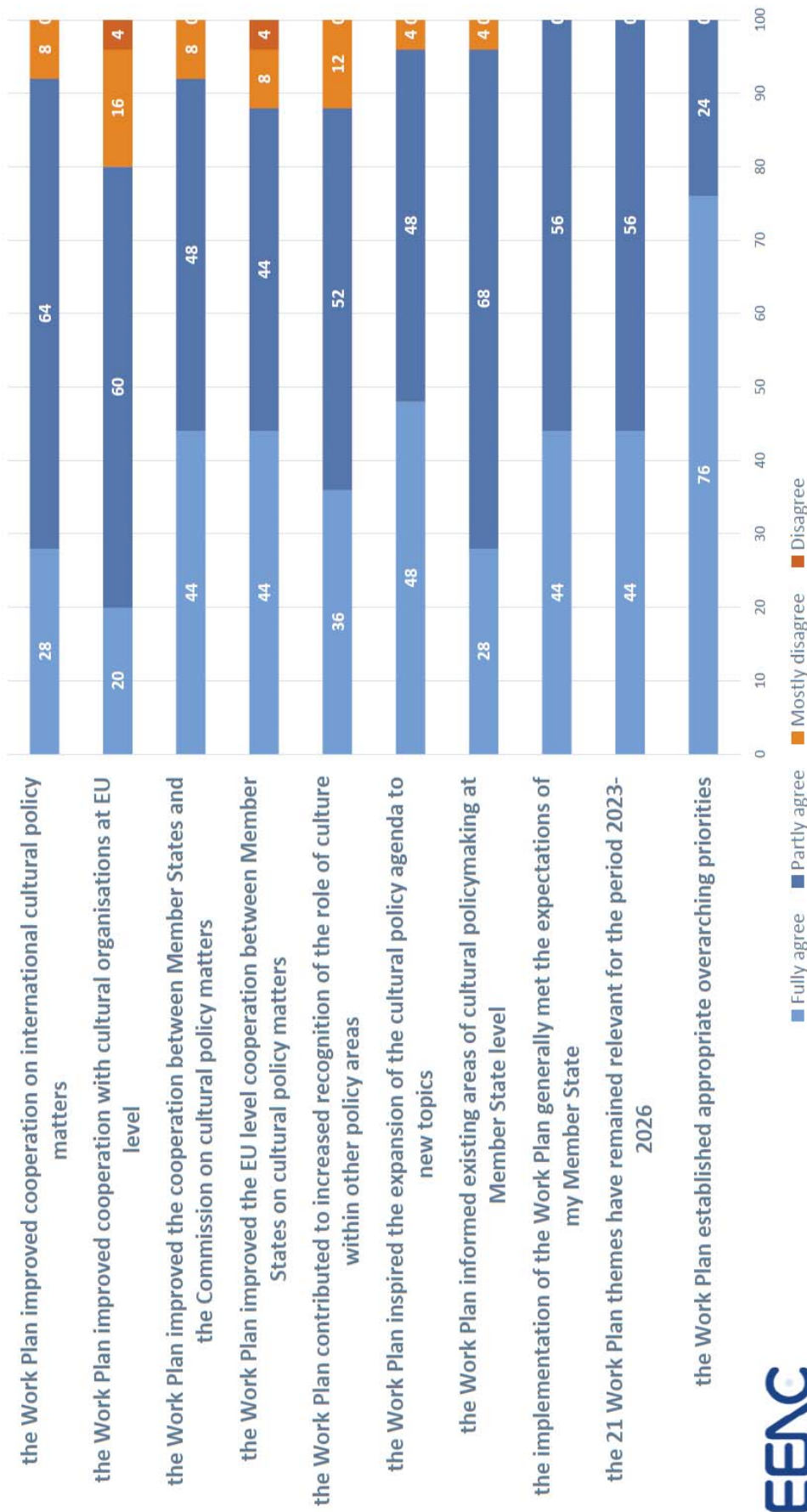
Presentation at the Cultural Affairs Committee  
27 March 2027

**EENC**  
European Expert Network on Culture



# 1. Overall assessment of the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 and its implementation





# Summary: Overall assessment of the Work Plan and its implementation

## Core Role

- Strategic guidance to cultural cooperation between MS at EU level

## Strengths

- Supports MS via peer learning and cooperation
- Strong alignment with national priorities
- Promotes cross-sector impact (health, education, sustainability)

## Challenges

- Uneven impact across MS
- Limited clarity, visibility and follow-up
- Gaps in financing and emerging issues (e.g. AI)

## Future Focus

- Clear priorities & moving from discussion → concrete results (ensuring EU level actions actually translate into national/local impact)
- Improving follow-up, monitoring, and visibility of what is delivered
- More flexibility and resilience focus
- Better integration with EU policies (MFF, Culture Compass)



## 2. Contribution of the EU Work Plan to policy making in the Member States

# Overview: Contribution of the Work Plan to policy making in the Member States

- **Overall impact:** Work Plan encouraged measures across most policy areas
- **Strongest uptake:** digital & green transitions, cultural heritage, artists' working conditions, international cooperation
- **Also strong:** democracy, resilience, and access to culture (e.g. libraries, cultural participation)
- **Moderate impact:** culture & health, content discoverability, mobility and intercultural exchange
- **Weaker uptake:** cultural statistics, governance frameworks, video games sector

**Key takeaway:** strongest results in established policy areas; more limited impact in newer or technical topics



# Work Plan contribution to policy development & reform

## Legislation & Policy Frameworks

- Introduction of artist registries and legal status frameworks
- Adoption of new laws on social security, taxation, and labour conditions
- Integration of WP priorities into national cultural policy programmes

## Funding & Investment

- Dedicated funding for digitalisation of cultural institutions and content platforms
- Public investment programmes supporting green transition
- New schemes such as basic income pilots, mobility funding, and support for cultural enterprises

## Governance & Coordination

- Creation of interministerial working groups (e.g. on social fairness or culture–health)
- Establishment of national cultural registries and mapping systems to guide policy decisions

# Work Plan contribution: Thematic policy impact

## Social & Democratic Role of Culture

- Launch of “arts in health” programmes (e.g. cultural prescription, hospital reading initiatives)
- Development of cultural citizenship initiatives and programmes promoting participation and inclusion

## Libraries & Media Literacy

- Adoption of national library strategies and new library laws expanding their social role
- Introduction of age-verification tools, parental control systems, and media literacy campaigns

## Sector Transformation

- Creation of national digital cultural platforms aggregating heritage and artistic content
- Implementation of AI-related discussions, digitisation guidelines, and data infrastructures
- Support for video game development, immersive technologies (VR/AR), and digital cultural content

# Work Plan contribution: Capacity, Data & Resilience

## Evidence-Based Policymaking

- Development of cultural data warehouses, statistical systems, and artist databases
- Use of data to design targeted support (e.g. during COVID recovery, long-term sector planning)

## Resilience & Preparedness

- Adoption of heritage emergency plans, crisis-response frameworks, and risk assessment tools
- Measures to address climate risks (e.g. vulnerability assessments, CO<sub>2</sub> tools, adaptation plans)
- Strengthened cooperation between culture ministries, police, and customs on trafficking of cultural goods

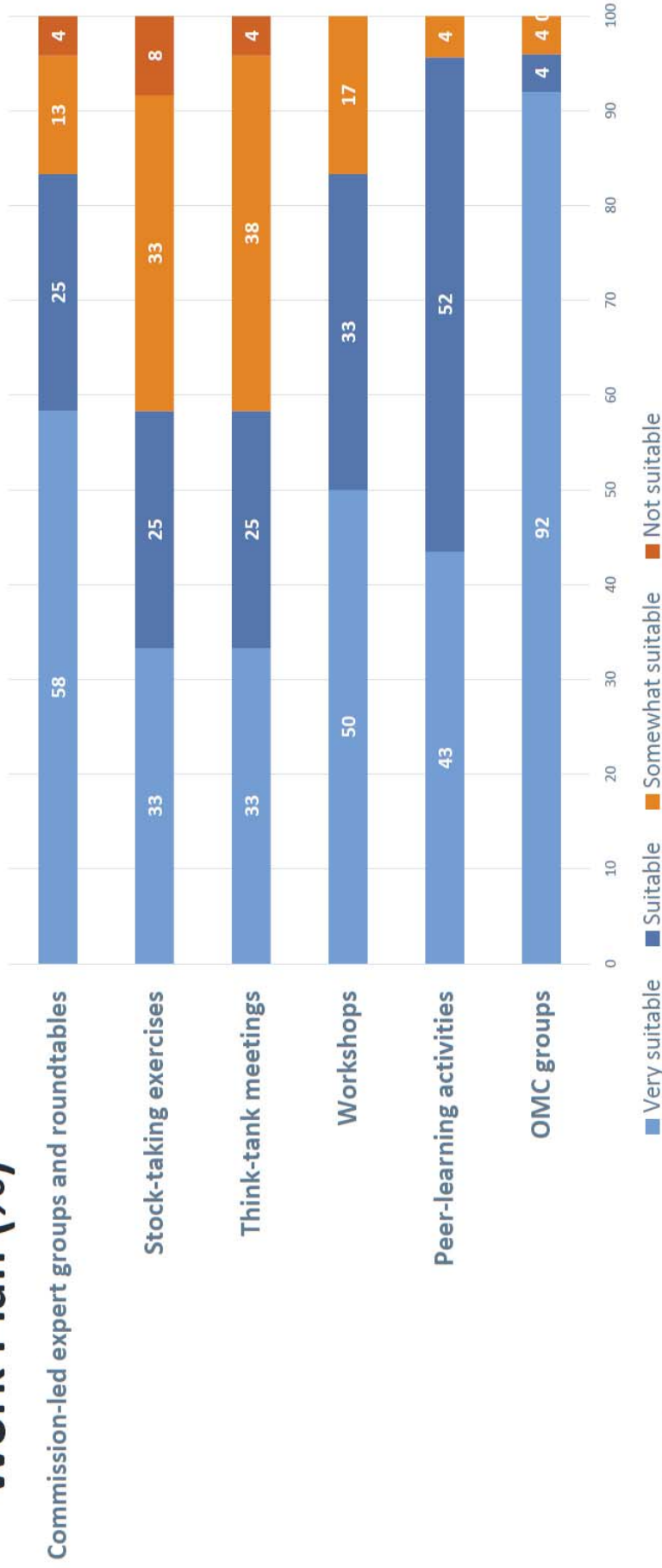
## International & EU Alignment

- Participation in Team Europe initiatives and heritage support for Ukraine
- Development of cultural diplomacy strategies and international cooperation frameworks



### 3. Assessment of working methods

# Suitability of working methods to achieve the ambitions of the Work Plan (%)



# Improvements to working methods (1/2)

## OMC groups & Peer Learning

- More focused topics and shorter, clearer outputs
- Stronger link to implementation, funding, and policy tools
- Improve cross-sector participation (not only culture ministries)
- Ensure continuity of networks beyond project end
- Better participation support (e.g. travel, hybrid formats)

## Peer-Learning Activities

- Increase use and frequency (high perceived value)
- Provide practical “how-to” tools and follow-up
- Create permanent platforms for exchange
- Broaden participation beyond administrations (include sector actors)



# Improvements to working methods (2/2)

## Workshops & Think-Tanks

- Stronger link to concrete outputs and recommendations
- More hybrid formats and accessible participation

## Stock-Taking Exercises

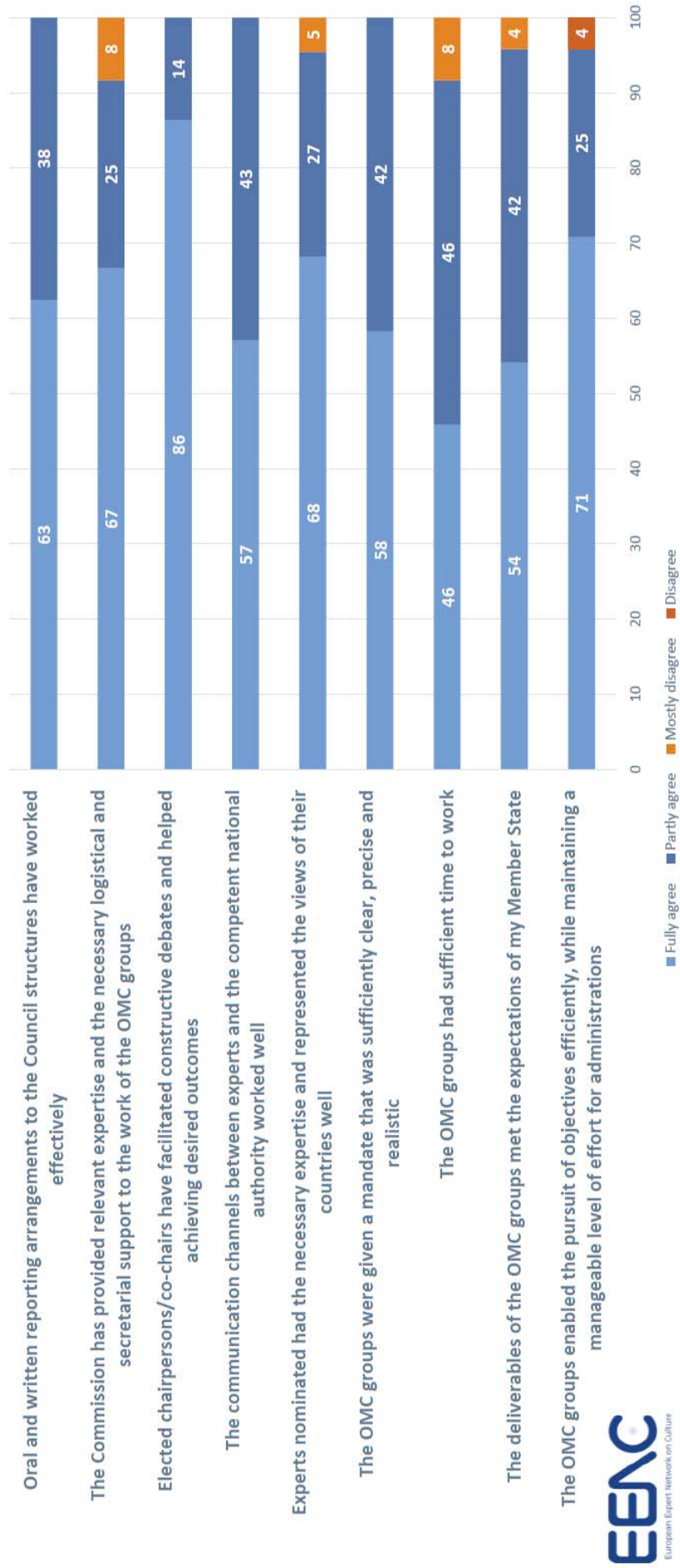
- Reduce burden and simplify questionnaires
- Integrate into other formats (OMC, peer learning)

## Expert Groups & Overall Coordination

- Improve visibility of results and communication
- Strengthen links to EU instruments (funding, legislation)
- Ensure broader stakeholder involvement (incl. practitioners)



# Work arrangements and performance aspects regarding the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) groups(%)



# OMC Outputs – Direct policy impact (1/2)

## Culture & Health

- Used as evidence base to integrate culture into health policies
- Led to arts-in-health programmes (e.g. cultural prescription, hospital initiatives)
- Triggered new cooperation between Ministries of Culture and Health
- Supported inclusion of culture in national mental health strategies

## International Cultural Relations

- Relevant topic, but limited tangible outcomes



# OMC Outputs – Direct policy impact (2/2)

## Green Transition & Sustainability

- Inspired national funding schemes for sustainable CCS practices
- Contributed to climate strategies for cultural institutions and heritage

## Libraries (OMC “Building Bridges”)

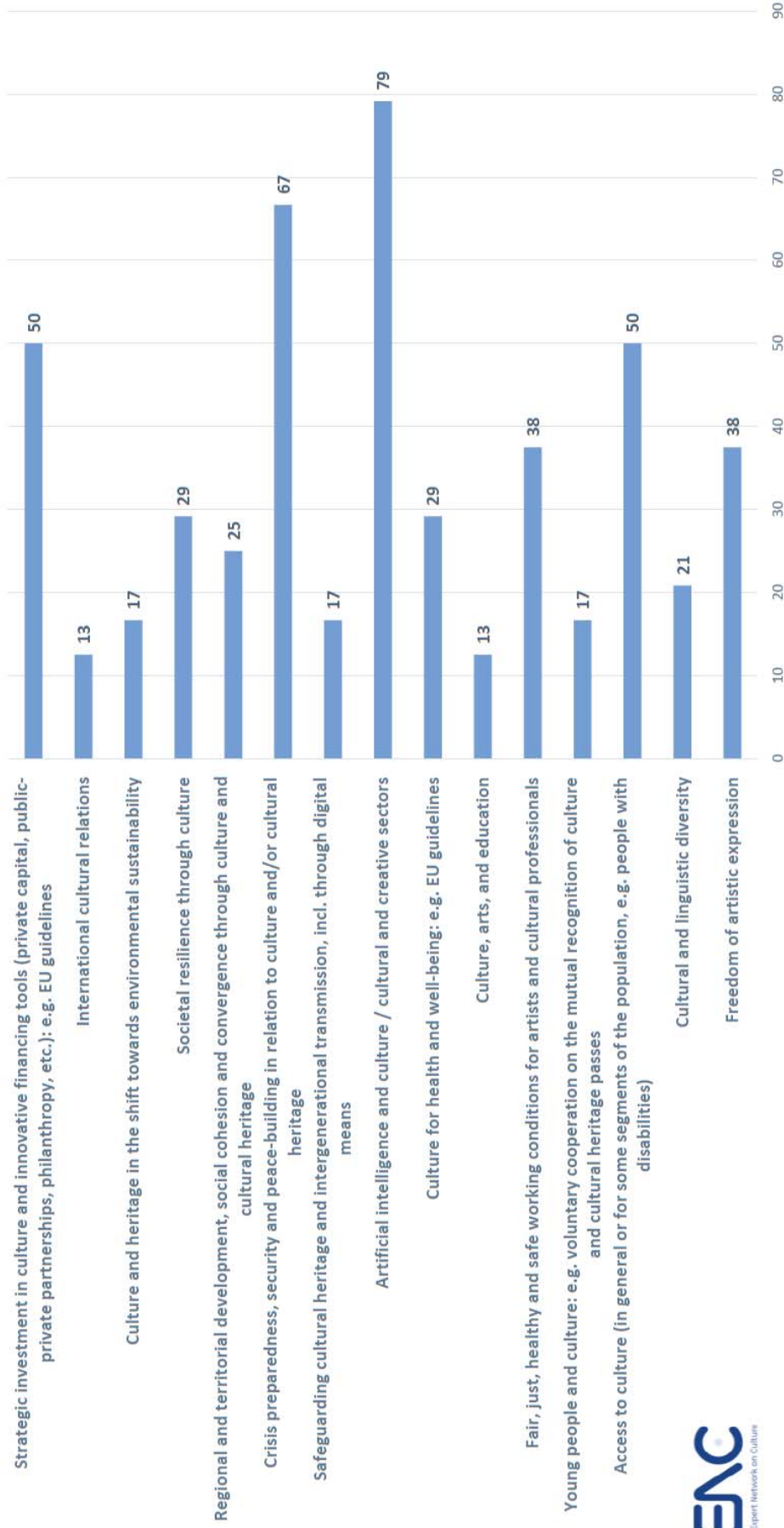
- Strengthened recognition of libraries as **social and democratic infrastructure**
- Informed **new library laws, strategies, and investment programmes**
- Created **new policy networks where none previously existed**



# 4. Looking forward – topics for the next Work Plan



# Key priorities for the next Work Plan (%)



# Future priorities – key themes

## Core Priorities

- Artists' working conditions & mobility
- Culture & health
- Libraries, media literacy & democracy

## Transitions & Resilience

- Digital transition (AI, IP, sustainability)
- Heritage protection, crisis preparedness & security

## Values & Global Role

- Artistic freedom & democratic values
- International cultural relations (EU soft power)

## Additional Focus

- Baukultur & built environment quality
- Stronger implementation & alignment (Culture Compass)

## Future priorities – Sectoral focus and dissemination

- A small majority of respondents (58%) think the next EU Work Plan should include discussions on specific cultural and creative sectors. **Key priority sectors** identified in the survey:
  - Performing arts, music & audiovisual
  - Cultural heritage (incl. digital & intangible)
  - Libraries
  - Digital sector (platforms, AI, media)
  - Media & publishing (books, news, games)
- A clear majority of respondents **do not think the Work Plan should specify dissemination activities at national level**, suggesting this should be left to MS discretion.



# Questions

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