



EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF

A European Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison
with European Parliament, European Commission
and the Council of Europe

Brussels, 4 June 2026

EUD Proposed Amendments to the European Parliament Draft Report on the AgoraEU Regulation (Procedure 2025/0550(COD))

The European Union of the Deaf (EUD) is the only supranational organisation representing Deaf people at the European level and its membership is composed of National Associations of the Deaf from 26 EU Member States, in addition to Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It is a full member of the European Disability Forum, and holds consultative status with the UN and the Council of Europe.

Before addressing the amendments, the EUD wishes to recall that deaf communities hold a dual identity as the EUD's 2026 position paper [Deaf Communities and Minority Rights at the EU Level](#) argues: they are simultaneously persons with disabilities and members of cultural and linguistic minorities, a duality that EU policy has consistently failed to reflect by approaching deaf communities almost exclusively through a disability and accessibility lens. Addressing deaf communities through a linguistic and cultural minority lens therefore falls squarely within the mandate of this programme, and is consistent with AgoraEU's established support for regional, minority and lesser-used languages. Sign language recognition is fundamentally a matter of linguistic rights, not merely of disability accommodation.

EUD welcomes the joint CULT/LIBE Committee Draft Report on the proposed AgoraEU Regulation, which merges the Creative Europe and CERV programmes into a single framework for 2028–2034. The EUD submits the following proposed amendments with three priorities in mind:

1. Sign languages and deaf culture: Deaf communities have distinct linguistic and cultural identities rooted in national sign languages, and a rich cultural heritage including sign language arts, literature, and performing arts. The AgoraEU programme should explicitly recognise and support this heritage across all relevant strands.
2. Accessibility and disability inclusion: Deaf and hard-of-hearing people, and persons with disabilities more broadly, continue to face structural barriers to participating in cultural life, media, civic engagement, and EU-funded programmes. The programme should both promote accessible content and ensure that the accessibility of its own implementation such as application procedures, Programme Desks, and grant conditions.
3. Inclusion costs envelope: Co-funding requirements and administrative burdens disproportionately disadvantage small disability and deaf organisations that have to cover inclusion costs for their audience. EUD therefore proposes the establishment of a dedicated, fully-funded inclusion budget line for accessibility costs, including sign language interpretation, accessible formats, and communication adjustments, sitting outside the co-funding scheme and available to all applicants as a non-deductible cost envelope.

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Recital 8 b (new)

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
<p>(8b) The Programme should also ensure the greater participation of persons with disabilities in the cultural and creative sectors and take into account barriers faced by them in accessing the Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS). People with disabilities across the Union continue to face significant barriers to accessing cultural life, whether as audience members, creators, or professionals. They encounter a range of structural challenges, as many environments, systems, and infrastructures remain inadequately designed to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities, whether as audience members, creators, or professionals. In that context, the Union should play an active role in facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices as well as promoting and supporting the development of accessible practices across the cultural and creative sectors. It is also essential to recall that the Union recognizes and respects the right of persons with disabilities to benefit from measures aimed at ensuring their participation in cultural life and, by extension, in the community, as provided for in Article 26 of the Charter and Article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted on 13 December 2006¹, to which the Union is a party.</p>	<p>(8b) The Programme should also ensure the greater participation of persons with disabilities in the cultural and creative sectors and take into account barriers faced by them in accessing the Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS). People with disabilities across the Union continue to face significant barriers to accessing cultural life, whether as audience members, creators, or professionals. They encounter a range of structural challenges, as many environments, systems, and infrastructures remain inadequately designed to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities, whether as audience members, creators, or professionals. In that context, the Union should play an active role in facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices as well as promoting and supporting the development of accessible practices across the cultural and creative sectors, and the promotion of the cultural and artistic works of persons with disabilities. It is also essential to recall that the Union recognizes and respects the right of persons with disabilities to benefit from measures aimed at ensuring their participation in cultural life as well as the exercise of their own cultural activities including the promotion and recognition of deaf culture, and, by extension, in the community, as provided for in Article 26 of the Charter and Article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted on 13 December 2006¹, to which the Union is a party.</p>

Justification: Article 30 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities specifically recognises the right of deaf people to their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture. The existing text frames disability only in terms of access and participation; this amendment adds the dimension of cultural production and self-expression, which is distinct and equally protected. The first insertion adds the promotion of disability cultural works, including deaf theatre, sign language poetry, and visual arts, as an explicit Union objective. The second insertion shifts the framing of the right from passive participation to active cultural self-determination, consistent with the CRPD's rights-based approach. This is in line with the CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations on the EU which recommended deaf culture be recognised as part of the cultural and linguistic landscape of the EU.

Recital 21

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
<p>(21) Ensuring that citizens can play a more active role in strengthening democracy at Union level will promote civic participation in policy-making, European civil society and foster the development of a European identity. Civil society therefore needs to be supported in promoting, safeguarding, monitoring and raising awareness of Union values and in contributing to the effective enjoyment of rights under Union law. When Union citizens participate and engage in the democratic life of the Union, they contribute to making a reality representative democracy, a principle on which the functioning of the Union is founded and which gives concrete expression to the value of democracy enshrined in Article 2 TEU.</p>	<p>(21) Ensuring that citizens can play a more active role in strengthening democracy at Union level will promote civic participation in policy-making, European civil society and foster the development of a European identity. Civil society therefore needs to be supported in promoting, safeguarding, monitoring and raising awareness of Union values and in contributing to the effective enjoyment of rights under Union law. When Union citizens participate and engage in the democratic life of the Union <i>in their languages, including the 29 national sign languages</i>, they contribute to making a reality representative democracy, a principle on which the functioning of the Union is founded and which gives concrete expression to the value of democracy enshrined in Article 2 TEU.</p>

Justification: Democratic participation is only meaningful when it is linguistically accessible. Sign languages are the national languages of deaf communities in each Member State, and there are 29 recognised national sign languages across the EU. Deaf citizens who do not have access to democratic processes in their language are effectively excluded from the representative democracy this recital enshrines. The insertion of 'including the 29 national sign languages' gives concrete expression to the Union's commitment to linguistic diversity (Article 22, Charter) and to CRPD Article 21, which requires states to accept and facilitate sign language use in official interactions. This is also consistent with the European Parliament's own Resolutions addressing accessibility in sign languages (2016/2952(RSP), 2020/2209(INI), and 2025/2057(INI)).

Recital 22

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
<p>(22) In order to bring the Union closer to its citizens and to foster democratic participation and engagement, a variety of actions and coordinated efforts are necessary. European citizenship and European identity should be developed and advanced by ensuring citizens' understanding of the policy-making process, and by promoting civic engagement in the actions of the Union as well as an open, transparent and regular dialogue with civil society. Remembrance activities and critical reflection on Europe's historical memory are necessary to make citizens aware of the common history, and to lay the foundation for a common future and commitment to protect and promote the Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU.</p>	<p>(22) In order to bring the Union closer to its citizens and to foster democratic participation and engagement, a variety of actions and coordinated efforts are necessary. European citizenship and European identity should be developed and advanced by ensuring citizens' understanding of the policy-making process, and by promoting civic engagement in the actions of the Union as well as an open, transparent and regular dialogue with civil society, <i>including through accessible formats for citizens with disabilities</i>. Remembrance activities and critical reflection on Europe's historical memory are necessary to make citizens aware of the common history, and to lay the foundation for a common future and</p>

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<p>Furthermore, the Programme should also aim to support civil society organisations at local, regional, national and transnational level in the areas covered by the Programme, which will contribute to increasing citizens' engagement in society and ultimately to their active involvement in the democratic life of the Union. At the same time, supporting activities that promote mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, cultural and linguistic diversity, social inclusion and respect for others fosters a sense of belonging to the Union and of a common citizenship under a European identity, based on a shared understanding of our common European values enshrined in Article 2 TEU, culture, history and heritage.</p>	<p>commitment to protect and promote the Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU. Furthermore, the Programme should also aim to support civil society organisations at local, regional, national and transnational level in the areas covered by the Programme, which will contribute to increasing citizens' engagement in society and ultimately to their active involvement in the democratic life of the Union. At the same time, supporting activities that promote mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, cultural and linguistic diversity, social inclusion and respect for others fosters a sense of belonging to the Union and of a common citizenship under a European identity, based on a shared understanding of our common European values enshrined in Article 2 TEU, culture, history and heritage.</p>
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Justification: The phrase 'accessible formats' is established terminology under the CRPD and the European Accessibility Act (Directive 2019/882).

Recital 23

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
<p>(23) Civil society organisations, and other civic space actors, such as independent human rights bodies, equality bodies and Ombudspersons Institutions, play a vital role in the system of checks and balances of a democratic society, as well as in contributing to the implementation of policy, encouraging people's participation, holding institutions accountable, and driving positive change, including, inter alia, through advocacy, contributions to policy-making, strategic litigation, campaigning, communication and other watchdog activities. The Programme should acknowledge the importance of and ensure the granting of sufficient resources to civil society organisations working to protect and promote Union values in Article 2 TEU, as well as an enabling environment for them to operate independently, freely, safely, and effectively. In order to ensure the independence and sustainability of civil society organisations, the Programme should provide for predictable and multiannual award of operating grants. To this end, Union funding should be consistent with and complement efforts at national level by supporting, protecting, empowering and building their capacity, as emphasised in the European Parliament resolution of 19 April 2018, as well as Council conclusions of 10 March 2023</p>	<p>(23) Civil society organisations, and other civic space actors, such as independent human rights bodies, equality bodies and Ombudspersons Institutions, play a vital role in the system of checks and balances of a democratic society, as well as in contributing to the implementation of policy, encouraging people's participation, holding institutions accountable, and driving positive change, including, inter alia, through advocacy, contributions to policy-making, strategic litigation, campaigning, communication and other watchdog activities. The Programme should acknowledge the importance of and ensure the granting of sufficient resources to civil society organisations working to protect and promote Union values in Article 2 TEU, as well as an enabling environment for them to operate independently, freely, safely, and effectively. In order to ensure the independence and sustainability of civil society organisations, the Programme should provide for predictable and multiannual award of operating grants. To this end, Union funding should be consistent with and complement efforts at national level by supporting, protecting, empowering and building their capacity, as emphasised in the European Parliament resolution of 19 April 2018, as well as Council conclusions of 10 March 2023</p>

<p>and 7 March 2025. Particular attention should be paid to the accessibility of the Programme for civil society organisations at local, regional, national and transnational level, including local grassroots civil society organisations, working for the promotion and protection of Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU. That shall include the simplification of administrative burden to access Union funding and the provision of financial support to third parties, where appropriate. In particular, in Member States where civic space is shrinking or where civil society organisations face legal, administrative or financial restrictions, the Programme should prioritise support aimed at safeguarding their independence, operational capacity, core infrastructure and legal assistance, such as pro-bono lawyers, and could also support civil society organisations in addressing threats and attacks, such as smear campaigns and strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs), including by representing civil society in court and providing legal advice. The EU Strategy for Civil Society states that the Commission will work to connect communities of pro-bono lawyers with civil society organisations across sectors and in need of support, so as to facilitate support on administrative, mobility, legal and financial matters. The Programme should also support efforts in that regard.</p>	<p>and 7 March 2025. Particular attention should be paid to the accessibility of the Programme for civil society organisations at local, regional, national and transnational level, including local grassroots civil society organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities, working for the promotion and protection of Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU. That shall include the simplification of administrative burden to access Union funding and the provision of financial support to third parties, where appropriate. In particular, in Member States where civic space is shrinking or where civil society organisations face legal, administrative or financial restrictions, the Programme should prioritise support aimed at safeguarding their independence, operational capacity, core infrastructure and legal assistance, such as pro-bono lawyers, and could also support civil society organisations in addressing threats and attacks, such as smear campaigns and strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs), including by representing civil society in court and providing legal advice. The EU Strategy for Civil Society states that the Commission will work to connect communities of pro-bono lawyers with civil society organisations across sectors and in need of support, so as to facilitate support on administrative, mobility, legal and financial matters. The Programme should also support efforts in that regard.</p>
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Justification: Explicitly naming 'organisations of persons with disabilities' ensures they are not overlooked when Programme accessibility is operationalized as disability organisations tend to be under-represented among CERV beneficiaries.

Recital 33

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
<p>(33) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁷ applies to the Programme. It lays down the rules on the establishment and the implementation of the general budget of the Union, including the rules on grants, prizes, non-financial donations, procurement, indirect implementation, financial assistance, financial instruments and budgetary guarantees. In particular, rules concerning the possibility for local, regional, national and transnational entities to be funded through multiannual operating grants, financial support to</p>	<p>(33) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁷ applies to the Programme. It lays down the rules on the establishment and the implementation of the general budget of the Union, including the rules on grants, prizes, non-financial donations, procurement, indirect implementation, financial assistance, financial instruments and budgetary guarantees. In particular, rules concerning the possibility for local, regional, national and transnational entities to be funded through multiannual operating grants, financial support to</p>

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<p>third parties, provisions ensuring fast and flexible grant-making procedures, such as a two-step-application procedure, user-friendly applications and reporting procedures should be operationalised and further strengthened as part of the implementation of the Programme. The lump-sum funding approach under previous funding programmes was very rigid, with the structure being primarily built around events, funded on the basis of numbers of participants and participating countries, rather than actual costs. A rigid equation of funding with event delivery risks that support from the Programme is effectively inaccessible to entities with limited event capacity, regardless of how much their expertise could deliver for the call's thematic objectives. The Programme should support a more flexible funding model, which would allow a broader range of entities to contribute meaningfully to the attainment of the objectives of the Programme. Simplified reporting requirements should be imposed on recipients of funds under the Programme as well as clearer guidance materials and more transparent feedback for unsuccessful applicants.</p>	<p>third parties, provisions ensuring fast and flexible grant-making procedures, including a dedicated inclusion envelope for accessibility costs outside the co-funding scheme, such as a two-step-application procedure, user-friendly applications and reporting procedures should be operationalised and further strengthened as part of the implementation of the Programme. The lump-sum funding approach under previous funding programmes was very rigid, with the structure being primarily built around events, funded on the basis of numbers of participants and participating countries, rather than actual costs. A rigid equation of funding with event delivery risks that support from the Programme is effectively inaccessible to entities with limited event capacity, regardless of how much their expertise could deliver for the call's thematic objectives. The Programme should support a more flexible funding model, which would allow a broader range of entities to contribute meaningfully to the attainment of the objectives of the Programme. Simplified reporting requirements should be imposed on recipients of funds under the Programme as well as clearer guidance materials and more transparent feedback for unsuccessful applicants.</p>
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Justification: This recital sets the political direction for grant implementation. By inserting 'a dedicated inclusion budget for accessibility costs outside the co-funding scheme', EUD ensures that the cost of making activities accessible such as sign language interpreting, captioning, accessible venues, is treated as a public obligation to be fully funded by the Programme, not as a project cost to be co-financed by the beneficiary. This distinction is critical: when organisations must use their own budgets for accessibility, those costs compete with substantive project activities and create a disincentive for inclusion.

Article 4a Book and Publishing Sector

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
<p>Article 4a Book and Publishing Sector Within the Culture - Creative Europe strand, the 'Book and Publishing Sector' specific objective, shall focus on the following priorities: (a) supporting the creation, circulation and visibility of European literary works, reflecting the Union's linguistic and cultural diversity, across all formats and markets, including internationally; (b) promoting diversity, creativity and innovation in the sector, including through transnational cooperation projects, professional training, and exchanges for authors, translators and other professionals; (c) strengthening the sustainability,</p>	<p>Article 4a Book and Publishing Sector Within the Culture - Creative Europe strand, the 'Book and Publishing Sector' specific objective, shall focus on the following priorities: (a) supporting the creation, circulation and visibility of European literary works, reflecting the Union's linguistic and cultural diversity, across all formats, including sign language literature, and markets, including internationally; (b) promoting diversity, creativity and innovation in the sector, including through transnational cooperation projects, professional training, and exchanges for authors, translators and other professionals; (c) strengthening the sustainability,</p>

<p>competitiveness and independence of the sector, in particular small and medium sized enterprises, including by safeguarding the proper functioning of the value chain for authors, publishers, printers, distributors, translators, booksellers and libraries and providing access to finance; (d) promoting the translation of European fiction literary works and encouraging translation into regional, minority and lesser-used languages, as well as, where possible, their adaptation into accessible formats for persons with disabilities; (e) promoting mobility and professional exchanges, including through mobility schemes for writers or translators or exchanges between literary institutions; (f) supporting the development of diverse audiences and encouraging reading, in particular among young people, including through initiatives promoting children's books, early reading, school libraries and literary events, and prizes, including the European Union Prize for Literature; (g) strengthening the role of libraries and bookstores as core cultural and community infrastructure including by training, capacity building and peer learning initiatives as well as initiatives fostering community engagement, reading habits, and local book ecosystem, including through establishing a label for independent bookshops.</p>	<p>competitiveness and independence of the sector, in particular small and medium sized enterprises, including by safeguarding the proper functioning of the value chain for authors, publishers, printers, distributors, translators, booksellers and libraries and providing access to finance; (d) promoting the translation of European fiction literary works and encouraging translation into regional, minority and lesser-used languages and national sign languages, as well as, where possible, their adaptation into accessible formats for persons with disabilities; (e) promoting mobility and professional exchanges, including through mobility schemes for writers or translators or exchanges between literary institutions; (f) supporting the development of diverse audiences and encouraging reading, in particular among young people, including through initiatives promoting children's books, early reading, school libraries and literary events, and prizes, including the European Union Prize for Literature; (g) strengthening the role of libraries and bookstores as core cultural and community infrastructure including by training, capacity building and peer learning initiatives as well as initiatives fostering community engagement, reading habits, and local book ecosystem, including through establishing a label for independent bookshops.</p>
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Justification: Sign language literature, including sign language poetry, storytelling, visual vernacular, and signed performances recorded on video, constitutes a distinct and vibrant literary tradition that forms part of deaf cultural heritage. It is a natural language art form, not a translation of written literature. By naming 'sign language literature' alongside 'linguistic and cultural diversity', the provision explicitly signals that the Book and Publishing strand encompasses deaf literary expression, making deaf artists and cultural organisations eligible for targeted support under this strand. This is consistent with CRPD Article 30 as well as the CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations on the EU which recommended deaf culture be recognised as part of the cultural and linguistic landscape of the EU. Moreover, national sign languages are complete, natural languages used by deaf communities. However, like minority and lesser-used languages, they are systematically under-resourced and under-represented in cultural production and distribution. As such, they belong under the regional, minority and lesser-used languages strand rather than under adaptation into accessible formats for persons with disabilities. Translation into a national sign language is a full linguistic and cultural transposition equivalent to any other literary translation, and treating it otherwise would misclassify sign languages as assistive tools rather than living languages in their own right. Including 'national sign languages' in the translation priority ensures that literary works become available to deaf readers and viewers, and that sign language translators are recognised as professionals in the literary value chain.

Article 7 - paragraph 1 - point a

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
(a) promoting equality, and preventing and	(a) promoting equality, and preventing and

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fighting inequalities and discrimination, including structural and intersectional inequalities and discrimination, on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter, including racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, as well as gender and gender identity, and combating all forms of racism, xenophobia and intolerance, including homophobia, lesbophobia, biphobia, transphobia, interphobia, both online and offline;	fighting inequalities and discrimination, including structural and intersectional inequalities and discrimination, on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter, including racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, language, including national sign languages , age or sexual orientation, as well as gender and gender identity, and combating all forms of racism, xenophobia and intolerance, including homophobia, lesbophobia, biphobia, transphobia, interphobia, both online and offline;
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Justification: Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights prohibits discrimination based on 'language', yet this ground is absent from the enumeration in the draft provision. For deaf sign language users, language-based discrimination is a daily reality. Adding 'language' ensures that the CERV+ strand addresses this dimension of discrimination, covering not only Deaf communities but also speakers of regional and minority languages. The single-word insertion 'language,' brings the Article into alignment with Article 21 of the Charter and with Article 2 of the CRPD. Article 2 CRPD explicitly defines language as encompassing both spoken and signed languages. The insertion therefore does not expand the scope of the provision but simply applies, when interpreting Article 21 of the Charter, the definition of language that the CRPD, binding on the EU, already establishes.

Article 9 a

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
Within the Daphne strand, the 'Zero Tolerance to Gender-based Violence' specific objective shall focus on: (a) preventing, responding to and fighting, at all levels, all forms of genderbased violence, including online violence, economic violence, domestic violence and emerging forms of digital violence, violence against women and girls, and violence affecting children, young and older people, LGBTIQ persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic and racial minorities and other groups at risk; (b) protecting and supporting direct and indirect victims and survivors of violence as referred in point (a), in particular by facilitating access to justice and support services, including support services for women and other specialised expertise made available by grassroots organisations, as well as by providing direct assistance to victims and survivors of violence; (c) supporting the implementation, within the Union, of the objectives of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and of Directive (EU).	Within the Daphne strand, the 'Zero Tolerance to Gender-based Violence' specific objective shall focus on: (a) preventing, responding to and fighting, at all levels, all forms of genderbased violence, including online violence, economic violence, domestic violence and emerging forms of digital violence, violence against women and girls, and violence affecting children, young and older people, LGBTIQ persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic and racial minorities, linguistic and cultural minorities , and other groups at risk; (b) protecting and supporting direct and indirect victims and survivors of violence as referred in point (a), in particular by facilitating access to justice and support services in accessible formats , including support services for women and other specialised expertise made available by grassroots organisations, as well as by providing direct assistance to victims and survivors of violence; (c) supporting the implementation, within the Union, of the objectives of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and of Directive (EU).

Justification: Research consistently shows that women and girls from linguistic minority communities, including deaf women, face compounded vulnerability to gender-based violence, combined with greater

barriers to accessing support services. Adding 'linguistic and cultural minorities' to the list of groups at risk ensures the Daphne strand explicitly reaches these communities, which also encompass deaf communities and national sign languages user. The addition is consistent with the Istanbul Convention's requirement to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (Article 4(3)), and with CRPD Article 6 on women with disabilities. Moreover, 'accessible formats' is the established legal term (CRPD Article 2, European Accessibility Act) covering sign language, captioning, Easy Read, Braille, and audio formats. This insertion requires all Daphne-funded support services to be accessible by design, not as an afterthought.

Article 10 - paragraph 1 point a (new)

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
(aa) actions promoting, across all its strands and sectors, social inclusion and participation, equality, including gender equality, diversity, accessibility, in particular for persons with disabilities, independence and pluralism, as well as safe and fair working conditions.	(aa) actions promoting, across all its strands and sectors, co-designed with and involving the beneficiaries' communities , social inclusion and participation, equality, including gender equality, diversity, accessibility, in particular for persons with disabilities, independence and pluralism, as well as safe and fair working conditions.

Justification: 'Nothing about us without us' is the foundational principle of the disability rights movement and is enshrined in CRPD Article 4(3), and further developed by the CRPD General Comment N°7, which requires states to closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of legislation and policies. By inserting 'co-designed with and involving the beneficiaries' communities', this amendment ensures that cross-cutting actions are not designed for but with the communities they serve, including deaf associations, disability organisations, and other civil society actors. The phrase 'beneficiaries' communities' is deliberately broad, covering all groups reached by the Programme's horizontal actions.

Article 10a Programme Desks and Contact Points

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
1. The Programme shall support the establishment and activities of Programme Desks and Contact Points in the Member States. In those Member States where Programme Desks and Contact Points have already been established, the Programme should support their continuation and ensure their operational continuity, avoiding any interruption of services to applicants and beneficiaries between multiannual financial frameworks. 2. The Programme shall support the establishment and activities of Programme Desks in participating countries. In those participating countries where Programme Desks have already been established, the Programme should support their continuation. 3. The Member States and third countries participating in the Programme, acting together with the Commission, shall establish the	1. The Programme shall support the establishment and activities of Programme Desks and Contact Points in the Member States. In those Member States where Programme Desks and Contact Points have already been established, the Programme should support their continuation and ensure their operational continuity, avoiding any interruption of services to applicants and beneficiaries between multiannual financial frameworks. 2. The Programme shall support the establishment and activities of Programme Desks in participating countries. In those participating countries where Programme Desks have already been established, the Programme should support their continuation. 3. The Member States and third countries participating in the Programme, acting together

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Programme Desks and Contact Points in accordance with their national law and practice. 4. The 'Programme Desks' and Contact Points actions shall: (a) contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme; (b) promote the Programme, by enhancing outreach and visibility, including at regional and national level and in the national language or languages of the Member State or participating country where they are established; (c) provide impartial guidance on the various types of financial support available under the Programme, including facilitating access to such funding for applicants from smaller markets or with limited capacity; (d) provide practical information, technical support and assistance to potential applicants and beneficiaries wishing to apply for support under the Programme, including with regard to the formalities related to the various calls for proposals and the application procedures, project and consortium structuring, partner searches, training, dissemination of results, and administrative formalities; (e) provide peer mentoring for newcomers to the Programme; (f) facilitate cross-border cooperation, training and the exchange of best practices between professionals, institutions, civil society, platforms and networks within and across the policy areas covered by the Programme, including support for adaptation to market developments, digital transformation and economic sustainability; (g) support the Commission in ensuring proper and user-friendly communication and dissemination of the results of the Programme to citizens and operators; (h) reply to inquiries from partners; (i) contribute to optimising synergies with national funding, private investment and other Union programmes. 5. Programme Desks and Contact Points shall be funded by the financial envelopes from the strands corresponding to their areas of competence in order to enable them to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme. 6. Programme Desks and Contact Points shall carry out their functions independently and shall be able to receive complaints. 7. The Commission shall not use funding allocated to the Programme Desks and Contact Points for the purposes of implementing information and communication actions related to the Programme.

with the Commission, shall establish the Programme Desks and Contact Points in accordance with their national law and practice. 4. The 'Programme Desks' and Contact Points actions shall: (a) contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme; (b) promote the Programme, by enhancing outreach and visibility, including at regional and national level and in the national language or languages **and national sign language(s)** of the Member State or participating country where they are established; (c) provide impartial guidance on the various types of financial support available under the Programme, including facilitating access to such funding for applicants from smaller markets or with limited capacity; (d) provide practical information, technical support and assistance **in accessible formats** to potential applicants and beneficiaries wishing to apply for support under the Programme, including with regard to the formalities related to the various calls for proposals and the application procedures, project and consortium structuring, partner searches, training, dissemination of results, and administrative formalities; (e) provide peer mentoring for newcomers to the Programme; (f) facilitate cross-border cooperation, training and the exchange of best practices between professionals, institutions, civil society, platforms and networks within and across the policy areas covered by the Programme, including support for adaptation to market developments, digital transformation and economic sustainability; (g) support the Commission in ensuring proper and user-friendly communication and dissemination of the results of the Programme to citizens and operators; (h) reply to inquiries from partners; (i) contribute to optimising synergies with national funding, private investment and other Union programmes. 5. Programme Desks and Contact Points shall be funded by the financial envelopes from the strands corresponding to their areas of competence in order to enable them to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme. 6. Programme Desks and Contact Points shall carry out their functions independently and shall be able to receive complaints. 7. The Commission shall not use funding allocated to the Programme Desks and Contact Points for the purposes of implementing information and communication actions related to

	the Programme.
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Justification: Programme Desks are the primary interface between the Programme and potential applicants. If their outreach is conducted only in spoken/written national languages, deaf communities, who communicate primarily in sign language, are effectively invisible to them. Adding 'and national sign language(s)' requires Programme Desks to conduct outreach in the sign language of their Member State, whether through signed video content, sign language interpreters at information events, or partnerships with National Associations of the Deaf. This is a concrete, proportionate, and operationally feasible obligation, consistent with CRPD Article 9 on sign language use by public service providers. It also has direct budgetary implications: Article 21(b) and Article 9.2(e) CRPD establish that public service providers are responsible for the costs of sign language interpretation and other communication adjustments when engaging with deaf persons. This insertion ensures those obligations are clearly allocated to the Programme rather than left to individuals to absorb.

Article 15 - paragraph 2 c (new)

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
2c. Local, regional, national and transnational entities shall be eligible for support through multiannual operating grants, financial support to third parties, and simplified and flexible grant award procedures, such as a two-step-application procedure, as well as more flexible lumpsum funding system. Where appropriate, Union funding of up to 100% of eligible costs may be granted.	2c. Local, regional, national and transnational entities shall be eligible for support through multiannual operating grants, financial support to third parties, and simplified and flexible grant award procedures, including a dedicated inclusion envelope for accessibility costs outside the co-funding scheme such as a two-step-application procedure, as well as more flexible lumpsum funding system. Where appropriate, Union funding of up to 100% of eligible costs may be granted, with additional funding for accessibility and inclusion costs.

Justification: This article governs the core financial architecture of the Programme for civil society organisations. EUD proposes 'a dedicated inclusion envelope for accessibility costs outside the co-funding scheme' and 'with additional funding for accessibility and inclusion costs' such as the cost of sign language interpreting, among other costs, is real and recurring. If these costs must come from within the project envelope and are subject to co-financing obligations, organisations face a choice between accessibility and programme delivery. A dedicated, top-up budget line for inclusion costs, fully funded by the EU, eliminates this trade-off and treats accessibility as a public obligation, consistent with CRPD Articles 4 and 9.

Amendment Article 15 - paragraph 6

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
6. Where Union funding is provided in the form of a grant, funding shall be provided as financing not linked to costs or, where necessary, simplified cost options, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Funding may be provided in the form of actual eligible cost reimbursement only where the objectives of an action cannot be	6. Where Union funding is provided in the form of a grant, funding shall be provided as financing not linked to costs or, where necessary, simplified cost options, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Funding may be provided in the form of actual eligible cost reimbursement only where the objectives of an action cannot be

achieved otherwise. Grants awarded under the Programme shall include action grants, multiannual operating grants and financial support to third parties.	achieved otherwise. Accessibility and inclusion costs shall be reimbursed in full as actual eligible costs. Grants awarded under the Programme shall include action grants, multiannual operating grants and financial support to third parties.
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Justification: By inserting a single sentence 'Accessibility and inclusion costs shall be reimbursed in full as actual eligible costs', this amendment creates a clear and enforceable rule that accessibility expenditure is always reimbursed at 100%, as actual costs, regardless of the general funding form used for the rest of the grant. This prevents situations where lump-sum or flat-rate funding leaves organisations under-reimbursed for accessibility expenditure, which tends to be higher than average on a per-participant basis.

Article 15 - paragraph 8a (new)

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
8a. Application procedures shall be user-friendly and reporting procedures shall be operationalised, more efficient and further strengthened as part of the implementation of the Programme. The administrative burden on recipients of funding under the Programme shall be reduced, including as regards the administrative requirements during the application procedure and reporting requirements.	8a. Application procedures shall be user-friendly and reporting procedures shall be operationalised, more efficient and further strengthened as part of the implementation of the Programme. Accessibility and inclusion costs shall not be subject to co-financing requirements. The administrative burden on recipients of funding under the Programme shall be reduced, including as regards the administrative requirements during the application procedure and reporting requirements.

Justification: 'Accessibility and inclusion costs shall not be subject to co-financing requirements' repeats and ensures it applies across all grant types and implementing rules.

Annex I - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME ACTIONS

Initial text amended	Proposed amendments
SECTION 1 Culture - Creative Europe Strand The priorities of the Culture - Creative Europe strand referred to in Article 4 shall be pursued, including with the aim of strengthening the circulation of European works in a digital and multilingual environment, and where appropriate, by means of translation, regardless of the type of medium used, through the following actions, the details of which, including possible higher cofinancing rates for small-scale projects, shall be defined in the work programmes: Horizontal actions: Horizontal actions aim to support all the cultural and creative sectors, with the exception of	SECTION 1 Culture - Creative Europe Strand The priorities of the Culture - Creative Europe strand referred to in Article 4 shall be pursued, including with the aim of strengthening the circulation of European works in a digital and multilingual environment, and where appropriate, by means of translation, regardless of the type of medium used, through the following actions, the details of which, including possible higher cofinancing rates for small-scale projects, shall be defined in the work programmes: Horizontal actions: Horizontal actions aim to support all the cultural and creative sectors, with the exception of

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the audiovisual sector, in addressing common challenges they face at European level. In particular, horizontal actions shall cofinance transnational projects for collaboration, networking, mobility and internationalisation, including through residency programmes, touring, events, exhibitions and festivals. The following horizontal actions shall be supported under the Programme: (a) transnational cooperation projects that bring together organisations in the cultural and creative sectors of all sizes, including micro-organisations and small-sized organisations, and from different countries to undertake sectoral or cross-sectoral activities; (b) European networks of organisations in the cultural and creative sectors from different countries; (c) cultural and creative pan-European platforms; (d) transnational mobility of artists and operators in the cultural and creative sectors and the transnational circulation of artistic and cultural works; (e) support, including in terms of capacity building, to organisations in the cultural and creative sectors in order to help them operate at the international level; (f) policy development, cooperation and implementation in the field of culture, including through the provision of data and the exchange of best practices, pilot projects and incentives to promote gender equality.

Sectoral actions: To respond to shared needs within the Union, the following sectoral actions shall be supported in those cultural and creative sectors whose specificities or specific challenges require a more targeted approach that complements the horizontal actions: (a) support to the book and publishing sector: targeted actions that promote diversity, creativity and innovation, the promotion of European literature across borders in Europe and beyond, including in libraries, training and exchanges for sector professionals, authors and translators and transnational projects for collaboration, innovation and development in that sector; targeted actions that promote the translation of literature and, where possible, the adaptation of literature into accessible formats for people with disabilities; (b) support to architecture and cultural heritage for a quality built environment: targeted actions for the mobility, capacity building and internationalisation of architecture and cultural heritage operators; the promotion of Baukultur, peer learning and audience engagement in order to disseminate high-quality principles in contemporary architecture and cultural heritage interventions;

the audiovisual sector, in addressing common challenges they face at European level. In particular, horizontal actions shall cofinance transnational projects for collaboration, networking, mobility and internationalisation, including through residency programmes, touring, events, exhibitions and festivals. The following horizontal actions shall be supported under the Programme: (a) transnational cooperation projects that bring together organisations in the cultural and creative sectors of all sizes, including micro-organisations and small-sized organisations, and from different countries to undertake sectoral or cross-sectoral activities; (b) European networks of organisations in the cultural and creative sectors from different countries; (c) cultural and creative pan-European platforms; (d) transnational mobility of artists and operators in the cultural and creative sectors and the transnational circulation of artistic and cultural works, **including works by artists with disabilities and deaf artists**; (e) support, including in terms of capacity building, to organisations in the cultural and creative sectors in order to help them operate at the international level; (f) policy development, cooperation and implementation in the field of culture, including through the provision of data and the exchange of best practices, pilot projects and incentives to promote gender equality. Sectoral actions: To respond to shared needs within the Union, the following sectoral actions shall be supported in those cultural and creative sectors whose specificities or specific challenges require a more targeted approach that complements the horizontal actions: (a) support to the book and publishing sector: targeted actions that promote diversity, creativity and innovation, the promotion of European literature across borders in Europe and beyond, including in libraries, training and exchanges for sector professionals, authors and translators and transnational projects for collaboration, innovation and development in that sector; targeted actions that promote the translation of literature and, where possible, the adaptation of literature into accessible formats for people with disabilities **and into national sign languages**; (b) support to architecture and cultural heritage for a quality built environment: targeted actions for the mobility, capacity building and internationalisation of architecture and cultural heritage operators; the promotion of Baukultur, peer learning and audience

support to the sustainable safeguarding, the regeneration and the adaptive reuse of cultural heritage and the promotion of its values through awareness-raising and networking activities; (c) support to other sectors of artistic creation where specific needs are identified, including targeted actions for the development of the creative aspects of sustainable cultural tourism and of the design and fashion sectors and for the promotion and representation of those other sectors of artistic creation outside the Union. Special actions that aim to render European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage visible and tangible and to nurture intercultural dialogue: (a) financial support to the European Capitals of Culture; (b) financial support to the European Heritage Label and networking activities between the sites awarded the European Heritage Label; (c) Union cultural prizes; (d) European Heritage Days; (e) support to European cultural entities such as orchestras that aim to train and promote young, high-potential artists and have an inclusive approach with a large geographical coverage, or entities that deliver direct cultural services to European citizens with a large geographical coverage.

SECTION 2 Culture - Music strand

The following actions shall be supported: (a) transnational cooperation projects bringing together organisations active across the music value chain to foster creation, production, circulation and promotion of European musical works and repertoires; (b) the creation and functioning of European networks of music organisations, including venues, festivals, labels, publishers and professional associations, aimed at strengthening capacity, structured cooperation and resilience of the sector; (c) support to the transnational mobility of artists and music professionals, including touring, residencies and internationalisation activities, with particular attention to emerging artists and underrepresented groups; (d) support to the circulation, visibility and discoverability of European music, including through live performances, broadcasting and digital distribution, with a view to enhancing access to diverse audiences across the Union and beyond; (e) capacity-building actions for music sector operators, in particular small and medium-sized

engagement in order to disseminate high-quality principles in contemporary architecture and cultural heritage interventions; support to the sustainable safeguarding, the regeneration and the adaptive reuse of cultural heritage and the promotion of its values through awareness-raising and networking activities; (c) support to other sectors of artistic creation where specific needs are identified, including targeted actions for the development of the creative aspects of sustainable cultural tourism and of the design and fashion sectors and for the promotion and representation of those other sectors of artistic creation outside the Union. Special actions that aim to render European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage visible and tangible and to nurture intercultural dialogue: (a) financial support to the European Capitals of Culture; (b) financial support to the European Heritage Label and networking activities between the sites awarded the European Heritage Label; (c) Union cultural prizes; (d) European Heritage Days; (e) support to European cultural entities such as orchestras that aim to train and promote young, high-potential artists and have an inclusive approach with a large geographical coverage, or entities that deliver direct cultural services to European citizens with a large geographical coverage.

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organisations and independent actors, including as regards skills development, entrepreneurship, digital transition and adaptation to market developments; (f) support for improved access to funding, including simplified application procedures, where appropriate a two-stage application process, and flexible funding conditions, including the possibility of Union funding of up to 100 %; (g) support for data collection, analysis and dissemination, including through the development of a European Music Observatory, contributing to transparency, market intelligence and evidence-based policy-making; (h) policy development, cooperation and exchange of best practices in the music sector, including initiatives addressing gender equality, inclusion, accessibility, fair remuneration, social protection, mental well-being and safe working environments.

SECTION 3 Culture - MEDIA strand

The priorities of the Culture - MEDIA strand referred to in Article 5 shall take into account the requirements of Directive 2010/13/EU and the differences across countries regarding the production and distribution of, and access to, audiovisual works and the size and specificities of their respective markets and linguistic diversity, and shall be pursued through the following actions, the details of which shall be defined in the work programmes: (a) the development of audiovisual works by independent European audiovisual production companies, covering a variety of formats (such as feature films, short films, series, documentaries and narrative video games) and genres, and targeting diverse audiences, including children and young people; (b) the production of innovative and quality TV content and serial storytelling, addressing diverse audiences, by independent European audiovisual production companies; (c) promotion and marketing tools, including online and through the use of data analytics, to increase the prominence, visibility, cross-border access, and audience reach of European works; (d) support to international sales and circulation of non-national European works on all platforms (e.g. cinema theatres, online) and film distributors and sales agents in acquiring, adapting, promoting, and releasing non-national European films in cinemas and on digital platforms, targeting both small and

(e) capacity-building actions for music sector operators, in particular small and medium-sized organisations and independent actors, including as regards skills development, entrepreneurship, digital transition and adaptation to market developments; (f) support for improved access to funding, including simplified application procedures, where appropriate a two-stage application process, and flexible funding conditions, including the possibility of Union funding of up to 100 %; (g) support for data collection, analysis and dissemination, including through the development of a European Music Observatory, contributing to transparency, market intelligence and evidence-based policy-making; (h) policy development, cooperation and exchange of best practices in the music sector, including initiatives addressing gender equality, inclusion, accessibility, fair remuneration, social protection, mental well-being and safe working environments.

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largesized productions, including through automatic support and coordinated distribution strategies covering several countries and encouraging the use of subtitling, dubbing and, where applicable, audio description tools; (e) support to the multilingual access to cultural TV programmes online through subtitling; (f) support to networking activities for audiovisual professionals, including creators, and business-to-business exchanges to nurture and promote talent in the European audiovisual sector, and facilitate the development and distribution of European and international cocreations and co-productions; (g) support to activities of European audiovisual operators at industry events and fairs in Europe and beyond; (h) support to the visibility and outreach of European films and audiovisual creations aimed at wide European audiences beyond national borders, especially young people and multipliers, including through the organisation of screenings, communication, dissemination and promotion activities in support of European Awards, in particular 'LUX - the European Audience Film Award by the European Parliament and the European Film Academy'; (i) initiatives promoting audience development and engagement, including film education activities, addressing in particular young audiences; (j) training and mentoring activities to enhance the capacity of audiovisual professionals to adapt to new creative processes, market developments and digital technologies that affect the whole value chain including through targeted measures such as residencies, mobility schemes, peer-learning and exchange formats, mentoring, networking platforms and customised capacity-building actions, with a view to enabling creators and screen directors to develop their projects, share experiences — including on matters such as self-censorship — benefit from mutual learning, and strengthen their skills, in particular with regard to emerging technologies and their responsible use; (k) a network or networks of European Video on Demand operators, screening a significant proportion of non-national European works; (l) European festivals and a European festivals' network or European festivals' networks screening a significant proportion of non-national European works, while preserving their identity and unique profile; (m) a European cinema operators' network, with a broad geographic coverage, screening a significant proportion of non-national European films, fostering the role of

film distributors and sales agents in acquiring, adapting, promoting, and releasing non-national European films in cinemas and on digital platforms, targeting both small and largesized productions, including through automatic support and coordinated distribution strategies covering several countries and encouraging the use of subtitling, dubbing, **sign language**, and, where applicable, audio description tools; (e) support to the multilingual access to cultural TV programmes online through subtitling **and in sign language**; (f) support to networking activities for audiovisual professionals, including creators, and business-to-business exchanges to nurture and promote talent in the European audiovisual sector, and facilitate the development and distribution of European and international cocreations and co-productions; (g) support to activities of European audiovisual operators at industry events and fairs in Europe and beyond; (h) support to the visibility and outreach of European films and audiovisual creations aimed at wide European audiences beyond national borders, especially young people and multipliers, including through the organisation of screenings, communication, dissemination and promotion activities in support of European Awards, in particular 'LUX - the European Audience Film Award by the European Parliament and the European Film Academy'; (i) initiatives promoting audience development and engagement, including film education activities, addressing in particular young audiences; (j) training and mentoring activities to enhance the capacity of audiovisual professionals to adapt to new creative processes, market developments and digital technologies that affect the whole value chain including through targeted measures such as residencies, mobility schemes, peer-learning and exchange formats, mentoring, networking platforms and customised capacity-building actions, with a view to enabling creators and screen directors to develop their projects, share experiences — including on matters such as self-censorship — benefit from mutual learning, and strengthen their skills, in particular with regard to emerging technologies and their responsible use; (k) a network or networks of European Video on Demand operators, screening a significant proportion of non-national European works; (l) European festivals and a European festivals' network or European festivals' networks screening a significant proportion of non-national European works, while preserving their identity

European cinemas in the circulation of European works and making sure that cinema operators receive sufficient financial support and incentives to program and showcase those films; (n) specific measures to contribute to a more balanced gender participation in the audiovisual sector, including studies, mentoring, training and networking activities; (o) support to policy dialogue, innovative policy actions and exchange of best practices – including through analytical activities and the provision of reliable data; (p) transnational exchange of experiences and know-how, peer learning activities and networking among the audiovisual sector and policy makers.

SECTION 4 Information and Journalism strand
Specific activities and actions shall be supported provided that they contribute to: (a) the protection of journalists, media professionals and civil society organisations; (b) the protection and promotion of a safe, viable, independent, diverse and democratic information ecosystem; (c) the production of journalistic content; (d) the distribution and access to content; (e) the promotion of the digital transformation and innovation; (f) the strengthening of local media, diversity, and inclusion; (g) the promotion of media, information and digital literacy; (h) the guaranteeing of the respect for editorial independence and professional standards.

SECTION 5 CERV+ strand
Specific activities and actions shall be supported provided that they contribute to: (a) awareness raising, promotion and the dissemination of information within the areas and objectives covered by the strand in order to improve knowledge of Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU and related policies; (b) mutual learning and the exchange of good practices among stakeholders to improve knowledge and mutual understanding; (c) analytical and monitoring activities to improve the understanding of the situation in Member States and at Union level in the areas covered by the strand as well as to improve the implementation of Union law, policies and values within Member States, such as

and unique profile; (m) a European cinema operators' network, with a broad geographic coverage, screening a significant proportion of non-national European films, fostering the role of European cinemas in the circulation of European works and making sure that cinema operators receive sufficient financial support and incentives to program and showcase those films; (n) specific measures to contribute to a more balanced gender participation in the audiovisual sector, including studies, mentoring, training and networking activities; (o) support to policy dialogue, innovative policy actions and exchange of best practices – including through analytical activities and the provision of reliable data; (p) transnational exchange of experiences and know-how, peer learning activities and networking among the audiovisual sector and policy makers.

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activities including the collection of disaggregated data and statistics; the development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, of indicators or of benchmarks, studies, research, analyses and surveys, evaluations, impact assessments, and the development and publication of guides, reports and educational material; (d) training relevant stakeholders to improve knowledge of the policies and rights in the areas covered by the strand; (e) developing and maintaining information and communication technology tools; (f) supporting civil society organisations and other civic space actors active in the areas covered by the strand: (i) to increase their capacity to react, and to ensure adequate access for all citizens to their services, counselling activities and support activities; (ii) to carry out advocacy activities to promote rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law, and contributing to democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society; (g) encouraging and facilitating active and inclusive participation in the construction of a more democratic Union, as well as raising awareness of rights and values through the provision of support to civil society organisations; (h) developing the capacity of civic space actors to promote, monitor and further develop Union law, values, policy goals and strategies; (i) financing technical and organisational support for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/788, thereby underpinning the exercise by citizens of the right to launch and support European citizens' initiatives.

SECTION 6 Daphne strand

Specific activities and actions shall be supported provided that they contribute to: (a) awareness raising, promotion and the dissemination of information within the areas and objectives covered by the strand in order to improve knowledge of Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU and related policies; (b) mutual learning and the exchange of good practices among stakeholders to improve knowledge and mutual understanding; (c) analytical and monitoring activities to improve the understanding of the situation in Member States and at Union level in the areas covered by the strand as well as to improve the implementation of Union law, policies

and values within Member States, such as activities including the collection of disaggregated data and statistics; the development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, of indicators or of benchmarks, studies, research, analyses and surveys, evaluations, impact assessments, and the development and publication of guides, reports and educational material; (d) training relevant stakeholders to improve knowledge of the policies and rights in the areas covered by the strand; (e) developing and maintaining information and communication technology tools; (f) supporting civil society organisations and other civic space actors active in the areas covered by the strand: (i) to increase their capacity to react, and to ensure adequate access for all citizens **in accessible formats, including sign language**, to their services, counselling activities and support activities; (ii) to carry out advocacy activities to promote rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law, and contributing to democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society; (g) encouraging and facilitating active and inclusive participation in the construction of a more democratic Union, as well as raising awareness of rights and values through the provision of support to civil society organisations; (h) developing the capacity of civic space actors to promote, monitor and further develop Union law, values, policy goals and strategies; (i) financing technical and organisational support for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/788, thereby underpinning the exercise by citizens of the right to launch and support European citizens' initiatives.

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<p>and values within Member States, such as activities including the collection of disaggregated data and statistics; the development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, of indicators or of benchmarks, studies, research, analyses and surveys, evaluations, impact assessments, and the development and publication of guides, reports and educational material; (d) training relevant stakeholders to improve knowledge of the policies and rights in the areas covered by the strand; (e) developing and maintaining information and communication technology tools; (f) supporting civil society organisations and other civic space actors active in the areas covered by the strand: (i) to increase their capacity to react, and to ensure adequate access for all citizens to their services, counselling activities and support activities; (ii) to carry out advocacy activities to promote rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law, and contributing to democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society; (g) encouraging and facilitating active and inclusive participation in the construction of a more democratic Union, as well as raising awareness of rights and values through the provision of support to civil society organisations; (h) developing the capacity of civic space actors to promote, monitor and further develop Union law, values, policy goals and strategies.</p> <p>SECTION 7 Union Values strand Specific activities and actions shall be supported provided that they contribute to:: (a) the guaranteeing of civic space resilience; (b) the provision of holistic, independent and immediate support against attacks and threats from hostile actors that seek to undermine Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU.</p>	<p>and values within Member States, such as activities including the collection of disaggregated data and statistics; the development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, of indicators or of benchmarks, studies, research, analyses and surveys, evaluations, impact assessments, and the development and publication of guides, reports and educational material; (d) training relevant stakeholders to improve knowledge of the policies and rights in the areas covered by the strand; (e) developing and maintaining information and communication technology tools; (f) supporting civil society organisations and other civic space actors active in the areas covered by the strand: (i) to increase their capacity to react, and to ensure adequate access for all citizens in accessible formats, including sign language, to their services, counselling activities and support activities; (ii) to carry out advocacy activities to promote rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and respect for the rule of law, and contributing to democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society; (g) encouraging and facilitating active and inclusive participation in the construction of a more democratic Union, as well as raising awareness of rights and values through the provision of support to civil society organisations; (h) developing the capacity of civic space actors to promote, monitor and further develop Union law, values, policy goals and strategies.</p> <p>SECTION 7 Union Values strand Specific activities and actions shall be supported provided that they contribute to:: (a) the guaranteeing of civic space resilience; (b) the provision of holistic, independent and immediate support against attacks and threats from hostile actors that seek to undermine Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU.</p>
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Justification:

CULTURE Strand

Deaf artists and disability artists are systematically under-represented in transnational circulation and mobility programmes. Naming them explicitly in the horizontal action signals their eligibility and encourages Programme Desks to conduct targeted outreach. Moreover, Sign language translation of literary works is a distinct activity from general accessibility adaptation and should be explicitly named as a supported action under the book sectoral strand. Finally, deaf performers working in sign language

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performance are an underrepresented group in the music sector. 'Linguistic and cultural minorities' is a formulation broad enough to cover deaf artists without requiring a specific disability reference, and is consistent with the cultural diversity objectives of the Culture strand. Regarding music, live music events and digital music distribution are largely inaccessible to deaf audiences without sign language interpretation or visual representation. Naming 'deaf sign language users' as a target audience creates an incentive for music sector operators to invest in sign language interpreted performances.

MEDIA strand

Audiovisual works originally produced in national sign languages such as deaf cinema, sign language storytelling, and signed documentaries, are an under-supported creative form. Including them explicitly in point (a) makes deaf-led audiovisual production companies eligible for development support under the MEDIA strand. Moreover, companies led by deaf professionals and sign language users are linguistic and cultural minority-led companies. This formulation is inclusive without singling out any one group, and sends a clear market signal that the Programme values diverse leadership in the audiovisual sector. Sign language versions of films and audiovisual content are distinct from subtitling (which remains a text-based access service). Naming sign language as a parallel option to subtitling and dubbing recognises it as a legitimate distribution format and encourages production companies to invest in sign language versions of European works. Sign language access to TV content is a CRPD obligation (Article 9, Article 21) and an AVMSD requirement. Making it explicit here, alongside subtitling, ensures this remains a fundable activity under AgoraEU and supports Member States' implementation of the AVMSD accessibility provisions. Under Journalism, sign language journalism (covering news in sign language and deaf community media) is a vibrant and growing sector. Deaf people rely on sign language journalism for access to news and cultural programmes in sign language. Including it alongside spoken/written language journalism ensures the Journalism strand reaches deaf media producers.

CERV+ strand

Civil society organisations funded under CERV+ and Daphne provide frontline services such as counselling, legal advice, support for victims of discrimination and violence. These services must be accessible to all citizens, including deaf persons who require sign language and persons with disabilities who require other accessible formats. The insertion is identical in both sections for consistency.