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INTER-REP 22
CULT HERIT 9

NOTE

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

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

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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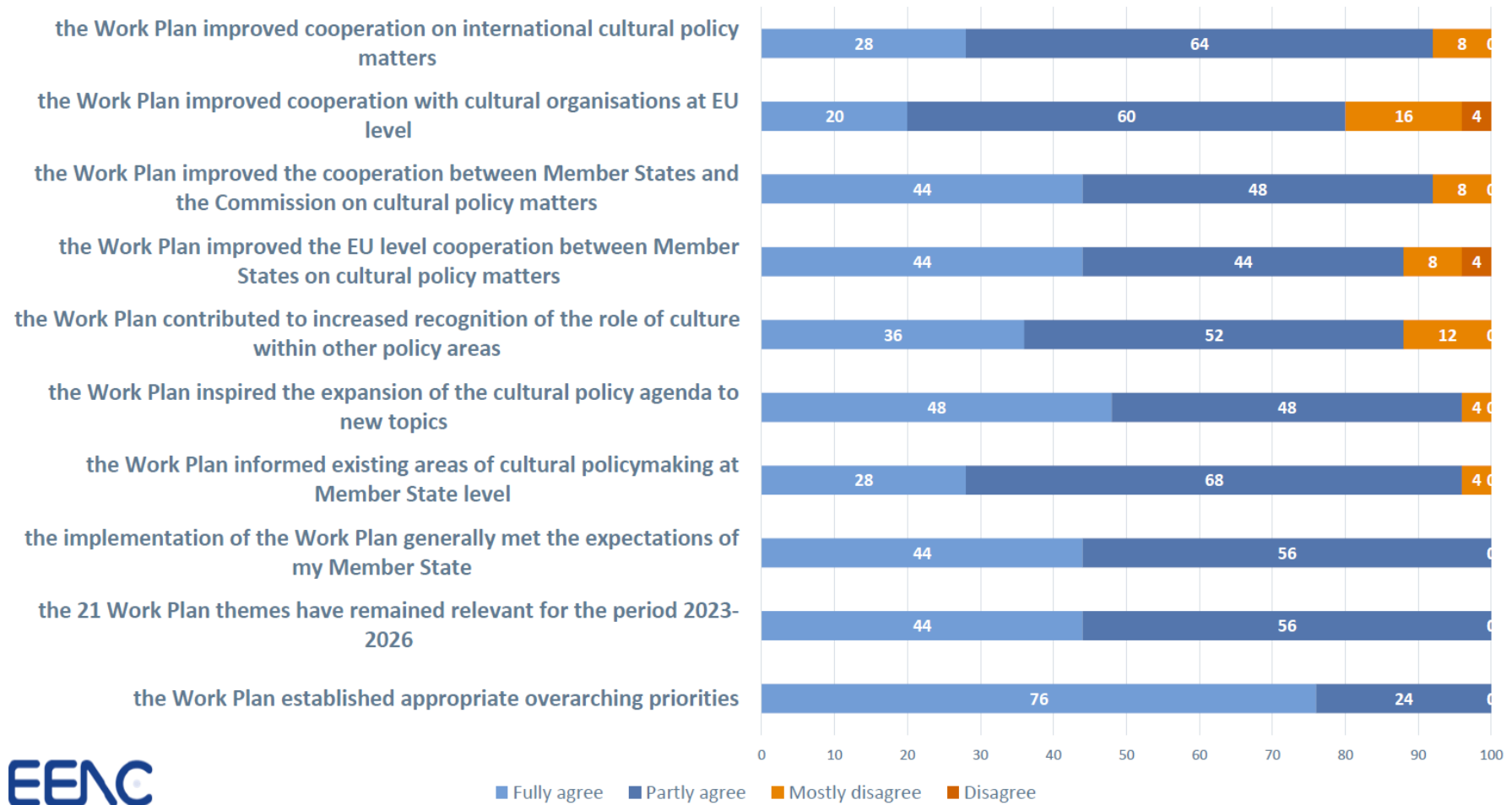
Survey on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026

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Presentation at the Cultural Affairs Committee
27 March 2027





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, CO₂ tools, adaptation plans)
- Strengthened cooperation between culture ministries, police, and customs on trafficking of cultural goods

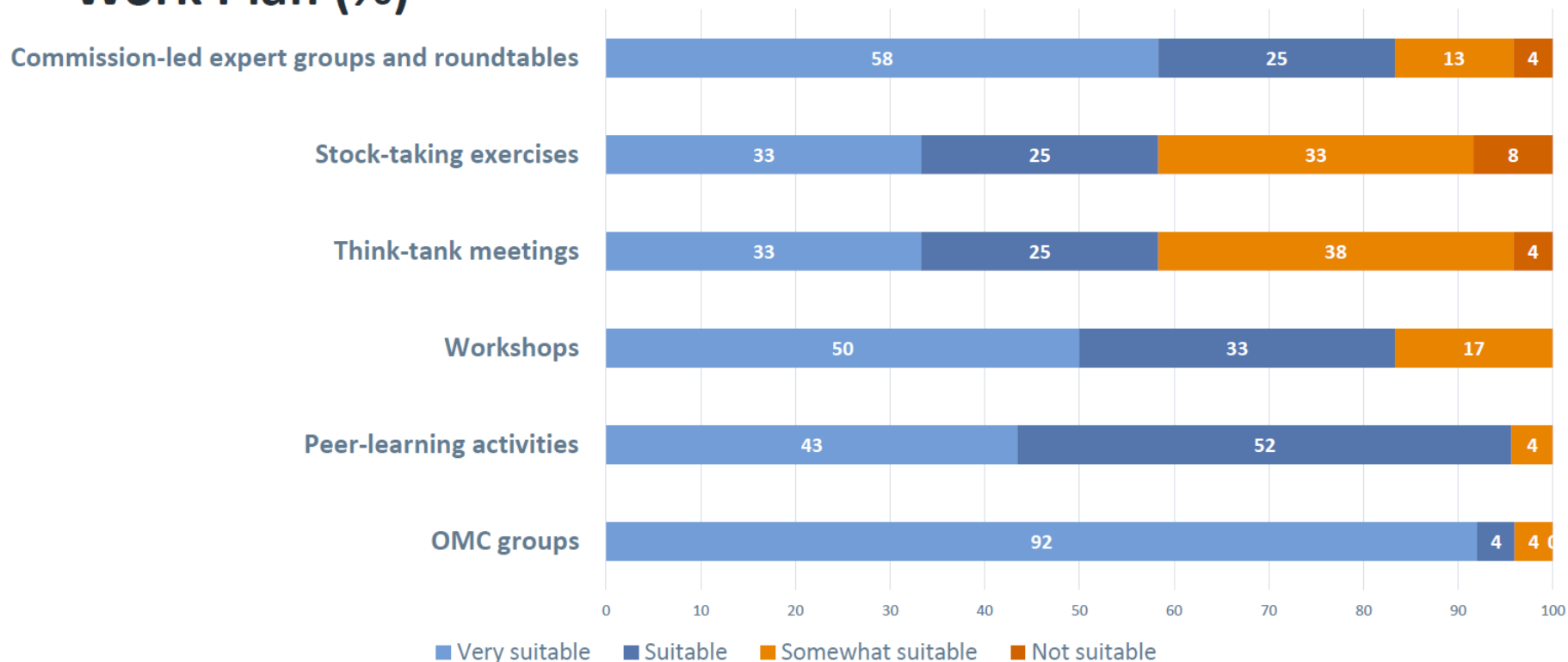
International & EU Alignment

- 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

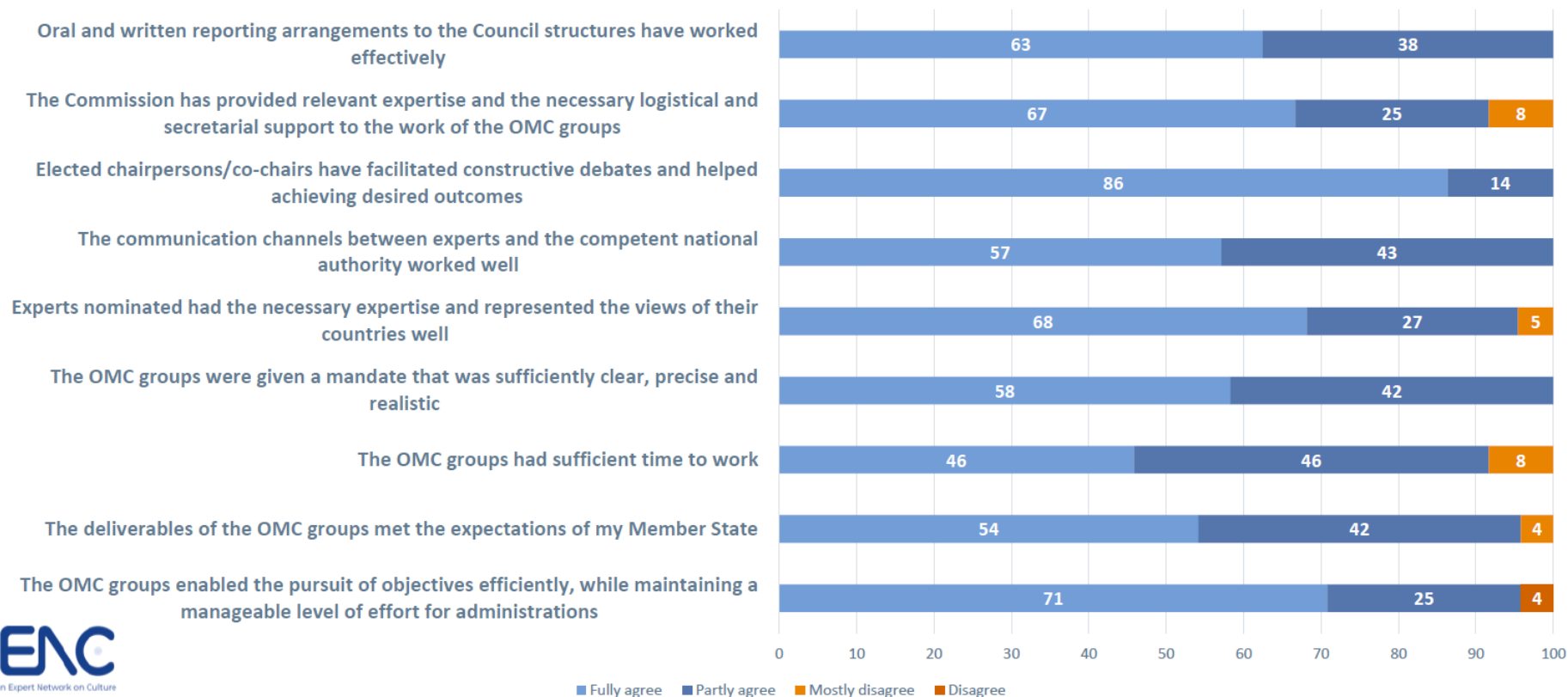
- Reduce burden and simplify questionnaires
- Integrate into other formats (OMC, peer learning)

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”)

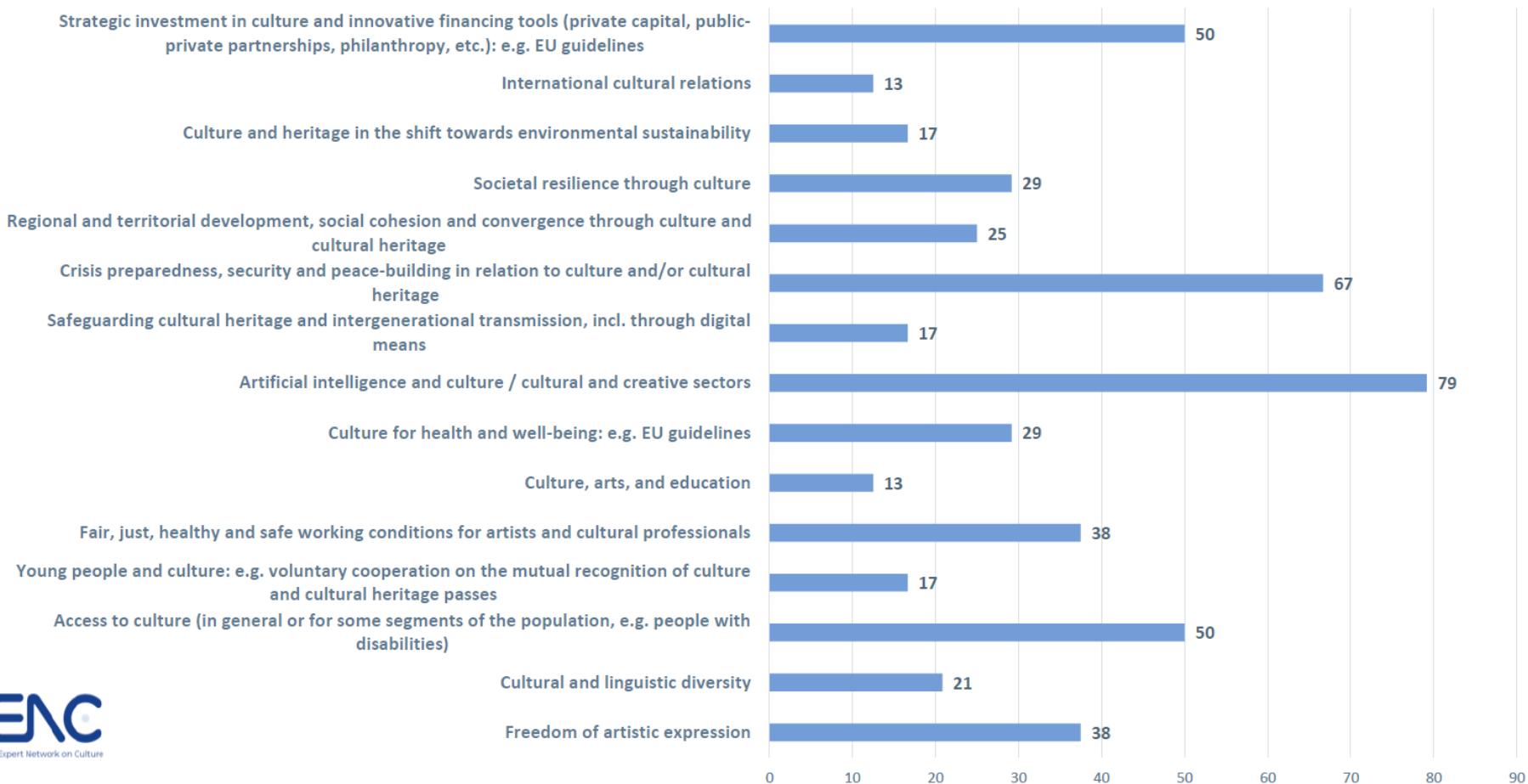
- Strengthened recognition of libraries as **social and democratic infrastructure**
- Informed **new library laws, strategies, and investment programmes**
- Created **new policy networks where none previously existed**





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.