

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia

> Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a series of measures to assist the cultural sector in order to minimise the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

On March 17th, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a series of measures to assist the cultural sector in order to minimise the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are aware that the crisis has affected all levels of society – economic as cultural, public as private, so by various measures we try to cover all segments of the cultural sector, emphasizing above all the spirit of solidarity and community as the foundation of a just and democratic society.

The measures are intended to cover all artists and cultural workers who, in these moments of crisis which full reach is difficult to predict, lose their ability to act, and whose social and economic status is fundamentally threatened. We want to ease the devastating effects of the coronavirus pandemic, but also the recent earthquake that has additionally threatened the cultural and artistic field, one of the most vulnerable segments of the society.” – Nina Obuljen Koržinek



Taking into account the ban on public gatherings, the closing of theatres, cinemas, museums and concert halls, the cancellation of cultural events and the closure of cultural institutions, the cultural and creative sectors were among the first to experience the negative effects of the pandemic.

The Ministry of Culture announced the **establishment of a special crisis fund** which is intended to provide support for the cultural sector - including independent artists, free-lance artists and other legal persons who are left without an income due to current restrictions. The crisis fund will also cover the cultural activities that fall under the responsibility of the [Ministry of Culture](#), the [Croatian Audiovisual Center](#) and the [Foundation "Kultura Nova"](#).

Following the announcement of this measure, on March 20th, the Ministry of Culture issued a **decision to suspend the revision of freelance artists** whose payment of pension and health insurance is provided from the state budget, for a period of six months.

On March 24, the Ministry of Culture launched a measure that allows a maximum of **flexibility for contracted programs within the Ministry of Culture, the Croatian Audiovisual Center and the Foundation**

“Kultura Nova”. The measure insures a recognition of costs for the organization and an adapted structure of costs in order to ensure minimal liquidity in the cultural sector and prevent the collapse of the entire cultural value chain (creation, production, distribution and participation).

On the same day, the Croatian Government released a **measure to support for the job preservation**. This measure is also designed for **entrepreneurs from the cultural sector** and for persons who, within the cultural and creative sectors, carry out their activities independently and pay the contributions of compulsory insurance (pension and health insurance), such as independent artists, journalists, etc. who, due to circumstances, have remained without regular sources of income. This measure is managed by the Croatian Employment Service and the total fund for all the sectors is EUR 666 million. On April 2nd the Government increased the amount of the assistance.

Following this measure, **the Ministry of Culture has opened a complementary call for free-lance artists** whose payment of pension and health insurance is provided from the state budget and who can prove that the suspension of activities is due to special circumstances caused by the coronavirus.

In addition, the Croatian Parliament adopted the Act amending the law on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Property, which includes **suspending monument rent** as an additional measure to help the economy.

EU and international cooperation

In parallel, discussions between EU stakeholders and on the global level, on the modalities of assistance for the cultural and creative sector are taking place.

On the initiative of Minister Nina Obuljen Koržinek, within the [Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#), on 8th April a [videoconference](#) was organized in order to discuss measures aimed at assisting the cultural and creative sector.

The meeting gathered EU Ministers of Culture, as well as Věra Jourová, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioners Mariya Gabriel and Thierry Breton. In this period, the European Commission assured funding through the European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, State Aid model, SURE model, and stressed the necessity of flexible approach to the beneficiaries of the Creative Europe programme.



Photo: Josip Regovic/PIXSELL/EU2020

"Today's discussion showed that all Member States have undertaken the necessary steps in order to help artists, cultural workers, cultural institutions and companies in the cultural and creative industries in situation when cultural events are being postponed or cancelled. We also discussed how the public

consumes cultural content on various online platforms during the isolation.

We are all faced with the same challenges and I am convinced that the results of today's debate will help us to cope with this crisis and its consequences on culture, both at the European level and in Member States."

- Nina Obuljen Koržinek

Global movement "ResiliArt"

UNESCO launched a global movement called "[ResiliArt](#)", a series of online debates with the aim to raise awareness about the far-reaching consequences of COVID-19 across the sector and support artists during and following the crisis.

Minister Obuljen Koržinek participated in the first panel co-organised with the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) and once again emphasized the responsibility of Ministers of culture in developing actions to help artists who, due to new circumstances, are unable to continue their work.

