

Culture

What do I need to know before I start?

From its origins in the 1950s, the Community had a strong focus on economic integration and did not have formal competences in the field of culture. The Council of Europe and the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization initially carried out multilateral co-operation in this context. In 1973, the Community of nine signed a 'Declaration on European Identity' at the Copenhagen Summit and the European Commission created a unit for cultural affairs that was later to become the DG for Culture, Audiovisual and Sports (DGX). Until the introduction of the 'cultural clause' in the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, culture was not part of the Community's official competences, but by the end of the Cold War, the Community had become a key international actor in promoting cultural co-operation in Europe. Article 3 of the Treaty on the European Union declared that the Union shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced. Today, the EU works to preserve Europe's shared cultural heritage and help make it accessible to all, and aims at encouraging cooperation between Member States as well as supporting and supplementing their action if necessary. Actions in the field include the improvement of knowledge and dissemination of European culture and history, the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage of European significance, the promotion of non-commercial cultural exchanges and of artistic and literary creation, including in the audiovisual sector.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fonds, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than those listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Relating specifically to European cultural polity building and policy-making, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) EU institutions

[Council of Ministers](#)

In the HAEU inventory, you will not find a specific section for cultural affairs, but the Council's fonds includes several files relating to cultural affairs in the Community, and to the meetings of national ministers for cultural affairs (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)). It is therefore advisable to search 'cultur*' in the HAEU database and filter the results to limit the findings to the Council's fonds, organized by year.

[Commission](#)

In the Commission's fonds, you will not find a specific section for cultural policies but initiatives taken in the field were part of the work of the [DGV Affaires sociales](#). You will thus find there various files relating to the Community's action in the cultural field (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). In addition, you might want to look into the sections concerning the [Secretariat-General](#) and the [Cabinets](#).

[European Parliament](#)

You can find in the European Parliament's fonds relevant information on the [development](#) of a common cultural policy and the [role](#) played by the Parliament in this context. Concerning the early years of the Parliament, the fonds includes the [proceedings](#) of a parliamentary working group for action in the field of culture, as well as those of the [parliamentary commission for cultural affairs and youth](#) and of the [commission for research and culture](#). The fonds of the European Parliament includes the proceedings and reports of the parliamentary commission for youth, culture, education, media and sports (for the [1st](#), [2nd](#) and [3rd](#) legislature), which can be very useful to understand the development of common cultural policies in the Community.

[European Court of Auditors](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the ECA's [annual reports](#) (1977-1997), [special reports](#) (1978-1991) and [opinions](#) (1977-1997) as well as [internal documents](#), including [information documents](#) (1977-1994) and [working documents](#) (1977-1994).

[European Investment Bank](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the sub-fonds that includes the [annual reports](#) as well as the sub-fonds '[Aides, dons et subsides exceptionnels](#)' and '[Publications](#)'.

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

As with the Council of Ministers, the inventory is organized by year, each includes a special section for social affairs ([example](#) for 1962), which pertains among other things to cultural affairs and to the Community's action in the cultural field.

[Femmes d'Europe \(FDE\)](#)

FDE was a women's bulletin managed by the Community and its fonds includes mainly preparatory documents for articles concerning women.

2) *Corporate bodies*

[European Science Foundation \(ESF\)](#)

It can be useful to consult the fonds of the ESF, particularly in relation to its [Standing Committee for the Humanities](#), dealing with culture which as one of its objectives aims to strengthen the voice of the European humanities and to foster transnational research.

[European People's Party \(Political Groups of the European Parliament\)](#)

The fonds of EPP Group ([PPE](#)) includes a section for the Standing Working Group on Culture and Education, comprising the minutes of the committee's meetings and plenary notes for 1999 to 2004.

[European Movement \(ME\)](#)

The history of the European Movement, created in 1948, is very useful to understand the development of cultural policies in Europe. The fonds of the ME includes files relating to [cultural affairs and to the European Center of Culture](#), to the [ME's relations with the European Center of Culture](#), documents concerning the [ME Congress on cultural issues](#) held in Lausanne in 1949, but also various other files related to European culture (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)).

[European Youth Forum](#)

[Bureau Européen de Coordination des Organisations Internationales de Jeunesse](#)

[Council of European National Youth Committees](#)

[Jeunesse européenne fédéraliste](#)

[Youth Forum of the European Communities](#)

[European University Institute \(EUI\)](#)

[University Association for Contemporary European Studies](#)

[Centre international de formation européenne \(CIFE\)](#)

[Association européenne des enseignants \(AEDE\)](#)

The organizations listed above are mainly concerned with education and/or youth, but consulting their archival fonds can be important as their actions are closely, though indirectly, linked to the development of common cultural policies and cultural programmes in the Community.

3) *Individuals*

[Emile Noel](#)

In his private fonds, you can find numerous dossiers pertaining to the DGX (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), the [proceedings](#) of some meetings of the Council of Europe's commission for cultural and scientific affairs in the 1950s, documents relating to the establishment of a [European Center of Culture](#). The fonds also includes documents related to the [work of the different DGs](#) of the Commission, during his time as Secretary-General.

[Ernesto Rossi](#)

Rossi's fonds includes [correspondence](#) with various cultural associations and circles, which can be useful to understand the role played by these organizations in the development of a wider cultural policy in Europe.

4) *Oral History*

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews with European politicians and officials, including important figures active in the development of a cultural policy at the European level. Below, you can find a list of persons interviewed who addressed the topic of cultural policy.

[Aneurin Hughes](#)

[Albert Jenger](#)

[Robert Marquant](#)

[Jean Ripert](#)

[Peter Sutherland](#)

[Fausta Deshormes](#)

[Pierre Bockstael](#)

[Marco Piccarolo](#)