

“Amplify: Make the Future of Europe Yours” is a project that brings together representatives of the cultural and creative communities from 12 European countries in a joint effort to bring voices less heard within mainstream discourse to the forefront of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE). The campaign listens to and amplifies voices, ideas, proposals and concerns of underrepresented communities across the continent on the vision of the future of Europe. Through a series of collaborative and participatory sessions, each country has developed a recommendation as a submission to the Conference on the Future of Europe platform. This recommendation is the result of Amplify Sessions held in Timisoara, Romania with 10 participants.

II. Key themes/issues identified:

1. Social exclusion of people from disadvantaged groups: elderly, people with disabilities – loneliness and social exclusion. The pandemic has increased this loneliness and people in need are often alone at their home, with no support network.
2. Poverty of some disadvantaged groups- lack of functional social system to support people facing poverty
3. The lack of solidarity policies for vulnerable people. The human value of all members of society, especially disadvantaged people should be recognised.
4. Migration issues are not sufficiently considered in our country
5. Low participation of youth entities in the European life and decision making
6. A large part of the population does not have access to cultural and educational infrastructure in rural areas.
7. Society is becoming more and more individualistic. It’s difficult to find volunteers for social services
8. Lack of accessibility for people with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities to cultural institutions and activities.
9. Lack of specialization in cultural management of the Roma community
10. Challenges in the cultural area for young people (14-35 years, 40% of the city's population): young people are seen as volunteers, numbers, institutions do not have programs dedicated to young people; public institutions create financial support mechanisms that exclude young people; youth initiatives - seen as amateurs; in the field of visual arts, young people have access only to the galleries of plastic artists, not other kind of galleries; that is why many young people leave the city; lack of investment in young people leads to lack of civic awareness.

III. Recommendation:

Recommendation 1: Let's try to help elderly and disabled people overcome loneliness and social exclusion. We need a more supportive Europe, a friendlier community with disadvantaged groups

Recommendation 2: Equal opportunities: Equal work- equal pay; equal opportunities for all people, including all minorities. We want prices (for example, gas, electricity, food) in balance with income.

Recommendation 3: State should be more involved in social issues and should provide funding for social services. The public subsidies should be calibrated with the needs of the target group.

Recommendation 4: The results of EU funded projects must aim at their effectiveness on the medium- and long-term impact on the situation of the people in the target group.

Recommendation 5: Make the cultural activities and institutions accessible for people with disabilities: ramps, elevators, audio description, cultural activities in easy-to-read language, photovoice.

Recommendation 6: Make the cultural funding and spaces accessible for young emerging artists.

Signatures:

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The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament.

