



culture
Solutions

Refreshing EU relations with the world

Annual Report 2020

Overview

COVID-19 heavily hit the development of any activity in 2020. Hopefully, culture Solutions was created as an online organisation. In a way, cS was ready for lockdowns.

The pandemic has brought us all some opportunities, whether we are jobless, alone, keen to learn or eager to publish and meet new people (online!).

At the same time, along the year we have been caught in the pandemic's inertia: no geographical mobility, no face-to-face meetings, no networking opportunities, close to no fundraising. Yet, cS showed resilience.

2020 was the year of growth, with the launch of the first annual research report, Composing Trust 2019/20. It attracted the attention of EU institutions with which we closely collaborated on their new policy priority: protection of cultural heritage in conflict.

The organisation attracted new pro bono collaborators and started its consolidation, aware of the limitations of its pro bono business model.

Quotes from partners



I was amazed by the quality of the Composing Trust report. cS is definitely establishing itself as the reference organisation for international cultural relations.



Willy Kokolo, then Programme Coordinator, Central and Eastern Africa, Search for Common Ground

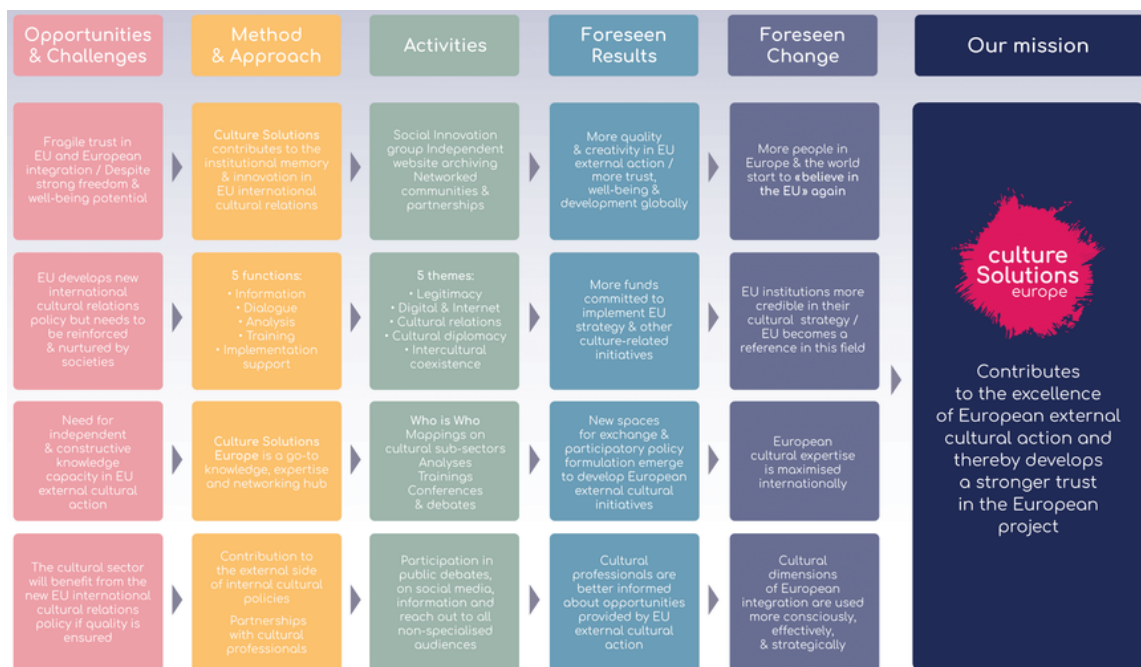


This highly skilled and experienced social innovation group of research associates and collaborators work diligently and reliably at delivering innovative culture solutions through knowledge sharing, training, research, co-creation and communication.



Else Christensen, Project Manager, Voices of Culture (EU funded)

Theory of Change



Activities



1. Research

2020 was a groundbreaking year with the publication of the first cS Research Report, Composing Trust 2019/20, made up of 9 briefs, despite the publication being delayed by COVID-19 and the dissemination hampered by the lockdown. We also published our first cS country mapping on classical music in China in partnership with a locally-based organisation.

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- D. Helly and D. Valenza (2020) "Composing Trust Brief#2 : EU international cultural relations since 2016: Progress report", 22 April 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/eu-international-cultural-relations-since-2016-progress-report/>.
- D. Helly (2020) "Composing Trust Brief#3 : Financing EU international cultural relations", 23 April 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/financing-eu-international-cultural-relations/>.
- D. Lafont de Sentenac and D. Helly (2020), "Composing Trust Brief#4 : Culture in EU external action: the power of societal change", 24 April 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/culture-in-eu-external-action-the-power-of-societal-change/>.
- D. Helly, N. McNeily and D. Valenza (2020), "Composing Trust Brief #5: Digital change and EU international cultural relations", 25 April 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/digital-change-and-eu-international-cultural-relations/>.
- D. Helly, "Composing Trust Brief #6: Culture & climate change: the future of EU international cultural relations", 26 April 2020,

<https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/culture-climate-change-the-future-of-eu-international-cultural-relations/>.

- D. Lafont de Sentenac and D. Helly (2020), "Composing Trust Brief #7: EU Delegations and international cultural relations", 27 April 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/eu-delegations-and-international-cultural-relations/>.
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- D. Helly, S. Lam, M. Chong and A. Issa (2020), "cS mapping #1: classical music in China", 30 September 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/developing-cultural-cooperation-abroad-mapping-on-classical-music-in-china/>.

- M. Kathem, G. Fontana Antonelli, E. Selter and D. Helly, with S. Desmidt (2020), "Research report #1: The role of the European Union in the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict contexts in the Middle East region", 1 October 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/research-report-1-the-role-of-the-european-union-in-the-protection-of-cultural-heritage-in-conflict-in-the-middle-east-region/>.
- C. Bobotsi (2020), cS blog "Erasmus+ and EU international cultural relations", 22 September 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/articles/erasmusplusblog/>.
- D. Helly (2020), cS blog "Team Europe Worldwide & Programming – 5 Tips to Blow the EU Cultural Breeze (I)", 14 December 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/articles/team-europe-worldwide-programming-5-tips-to-blow-the-eu-cultural-breeze-i/>.
- D. Helly (2020), cS blog "Team Europe Worldwide: 10 Tips for Regional & Global Cultural Programming (II)", 16 December 2020, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/articles/team-europe-worldwide-10-tips-for-regional-global-programming-ii/>.
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2. Training and Know-How Sharing

- cS internal dialogues: In times of COVID-19 lockdown, the team organised 6 internal webinars on a variety of themes: EU, COVID and culture, cultural appropriation (Africa), culture and colonialism (Lebanon, Composing Trust Research Report, Participatory evaluation, team building)
- DG INTPA Annual Culture Seminar providing face-to-face training on cultural relations to circa 80 EU cultural focal points in EU Delegations located in partner countries as well as EU staff in Brussels headquarters

- EEAS International online conference held on 12-13 November 2020: "Protection and enhancement of cultural heritage in conflict and post conflict zones"



3. Business Development and Fundraising

First income generated by the training for DG INTPA. Opportunities identified for 2021 with UNESCO, European Commission, University of Florida.



4. Communications

Several Social media campaigns took place, in particular around the promotion of the Composing Trust report, on the basis of a new social media strategy. We also developed a Brussels Who is Who platform on our website.



LinkedIn: 183



Twitter: 265

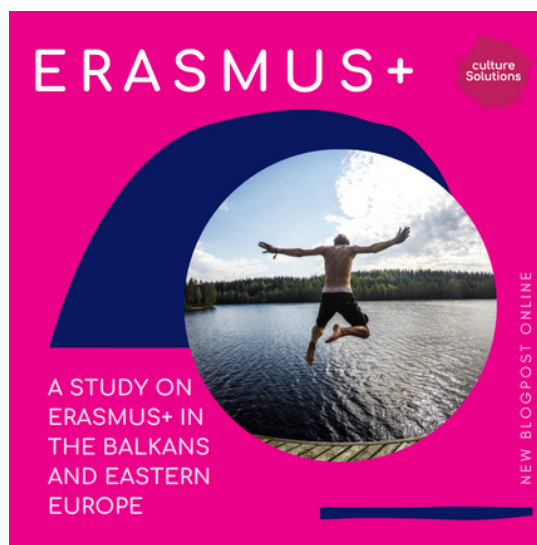
Total: 1341



Facebook: 401



Instagram: 492



Internal matters



1. Governance

- Transition in the board with the departure of Camilla and arrival of Delphine Renard



2. Finance

- culture Solutions steadily established its financial management system and initiated contractual relationship with a professional accountant



3. Operations

- Continuity in general coordination, with first contracts to cS coordinators



4. Collaborators and Human Resources

- Team reached 12-15 pro bono collaborators in 2020

About

culture Solutions is a non-profit social innovation group that contributes independently to the excellence of EU international cultural relations with the opening of creative trust-building spaces, the production of commons and the brokerage of know-how.



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