

culture
Solutions

Refreshing EU relations with the world

Annual Report 2023

Overview

On 23 October 2023, culture Solutions celebrated its 5th birthday! In a world of uncertainty, crises and technological change, we've stood strong, fostering EU international cultural relations and trust-building. Our multicultural team of experts constitutes an independent, not-for-profit, social innovation group, dedicated to culture as the premise for a more diverse, interconnected and sustainable future.

The year 2023 was marked by the launch of our podcast "Composing trust" and its different sub-series. Starting in January, we published 10 episodes on diverse aspects of international cultural relations. Another highlight was the organisation of the round table "Policy directions in EU international cultural relations, towards 2024" at the European Parliament in June.

Quotes from partners

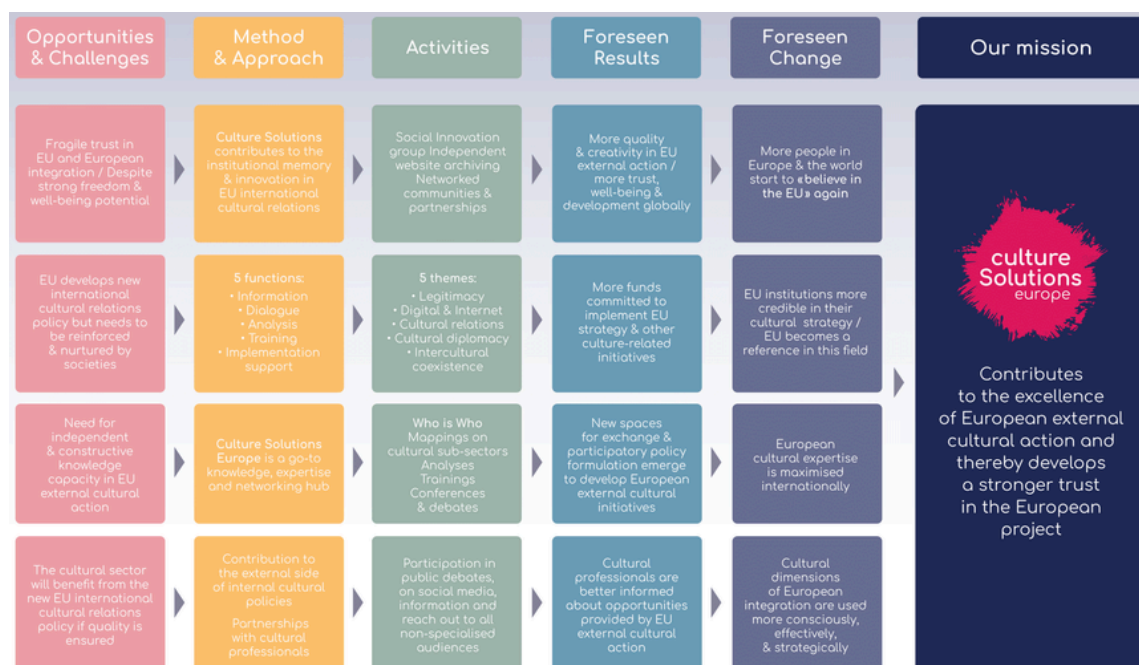


We had a wonderful discussion about the future of international cultural relations, and the most important thing is that we all believe they have become more important for the EU but also for our partners abroad.



Volker Erhard, Cultural Diplomacy Advisor, European External Action Service

Theory of Change



Activities



1. Podcast

- Composing trust #0: A new podcast series on EU international cultural relations, 24 January 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/a-new-podcast-series-on-eu-international-cultural-relations/>
- Construire la confiance #0: Une nouvelle série de podcast sur les relations culturelles internationales de l'UE, 24 January 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/une-nouvelle-serie-de-podcast-sur-les-relations-culturelles-internationales-de-lue/>
- Composing trust #1: Cultural heritage protection in crisis, 24 January 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/cultural-heritage-protection-in-crisis/>

- Composing trustworthiness #1: Artificial Intelligence vs. culture, 8 March 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/artificial-intelligence-vs-culture/>
- Composing trustworthiness #2: Artificial Intelligence and European values, 23 March 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/artificial-intelligence-and-european-values/>
- (Re)generating trust #1: Creating bridges for youth in culture, 13 April 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/creating-bridges-for-youth-in-culture/>
- Composing trustworthiness #3: Artificial Intelligence in International Cultural Relations, 11 May 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/artificial-intelligence-in-international-cultural-relations/>
- Composing trust #2: EU-Turkey cultural relations – what next?, 12 July 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/eu-turkey-cultural-relations-what-next/>
- Composing trustworthiness #4: Artificial Intelligence for the future of society, 29 August 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/artificial-intelligence-for-the-future-of-society/>
- Composing green #1: Agroforestry and worldviews, 13 October 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/podcast/agroforestry-and-worldviews/>





2. Publications

- D. Helly (2023), Weapons and renewable energy for peace and climate: A European Culture Facility, 23 March 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/articles/weapons-and-renewable-energy-for-peace-and-climate-a-european-culture-facility/>
- E. Cuny, D. Helly, I. Kokinova (2023), cS Event report #5: 2024: Towards a refreshed EU external cultural agenda, 13 July 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/publications/event-report-5-2024-towards-a-refreshed-eu-external-cultural-agenda/>
- I. Kokinova (2023), EU-LAC cultural diplomacy: from natural partners to partners of choice, via Madrid, 22 July 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/articles/eu-lac-cultural-diplomacy-from-natural-partners-to-partners-of-choice-via-madrid/>
- I. Kokinova (2023), Rejuvenating EU-LAC cultural relations from the bottom-up, 24 July 2023, <https://www.culturesolutions.eu/articles/rejuvenating-eu-lac-cultural-relations-from-the-bottom-up/>



3. Training and Know-How Sharing

- Participation in the podcast “El Emisario del Patrimonio” by Asociación de Jóvenes Profesionales por el Patrimonio Cultural (AJPC), 10 May 2023
- Presentation at the roundtable “Impact and Culture” organised by the Club Alumni de Impacto Social of the Comillas University, 30 May 2023
- Contribution to the ASEF's Recalibrating the Compass: New Approaches to Asia-Europe Cultural Relations, 26 June 2023

- Organisation of round table “Policy directions in EU international cultural relations, towards 2024” in collaboration with MEP Mrs Salima Yenbou at the European Parliament, 27 June 2023



**Policy directions
in EU international
cultural relations,
towards 2024**



**Roundtable &
networking drinks**

European Parliament

27.06.2023
17:45 - 22:00

- Presentation at the Meeting of the Friends of the Protection of Cultural Heritage Network, at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union, 15 September 2023
- Participation at the Siena Cultural Relations Forum 2023, organised by the University of Siena CREDO Centre and the Cultural Relations Platform, 18 - 20 September 2023
- Presentation of “EU external cultural policy in the age of AI: challenges and opportunities for the cultural sector” at the ENCATC Congress 2023, 12 October 2023
- Conduct of Composing impact survey, 18 - 25 October 2023
- Co-organisation of the roundtable “What roles for culture in awareness, engagement and climate transition?” with Talk C.E.C and Smarter Together, with the support of EU4Ocean Coalition, 9 November 2023





4. Business Development and Fundraising

culture Solutions accelerated its fundraising efforts, starting with a comprehensive mapping of EU funding opportunities.

Numerous proposals were submitted to calls for grants, services and prizes from the EU, EUNIC, UNESCO, philanthropic actors and from other organisations.

Partnership building continued. However, a financial sustainability for the organisation remained a key challenge.



5. Communications

In 2023, our audience kept growing, reaching a total of 5021 and 29% increase, thus surpassing the target of 4000 stakeholders as per the 2019 5-year strategy. LinkedIn consolidated as the main social media channel of culture Solutions.

In addition, we launched our podcast on different platforms, including Spotify, YouTube, Apple Podcast, Amazon Music and Google Podcasts.



LinkedIn: 1406
(59% increase)



Twitter: 799
(19% increase)



Facebook: 804
(4% increase)



Instagram: 1498
(14% increase)



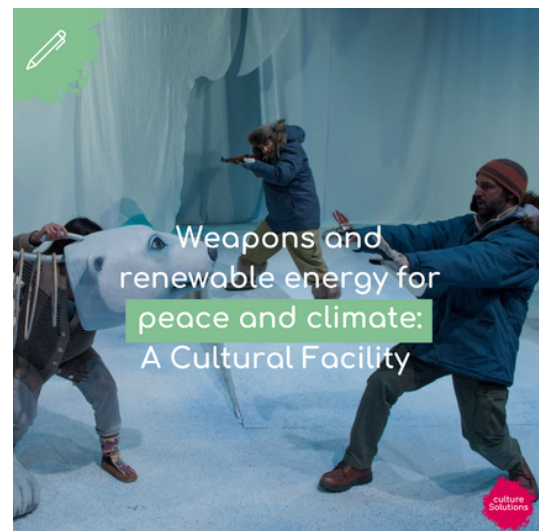
Newsletter: 419
(33% increase)



Podcast: 95
(100% increase)

Moreover, throughout the year culture Solutions was featured in several newsletters, posts or platforms.

Find below some of our 2023 posts on social media.



Internal matters



1. Governance

- Governance reinforcement that started in 2022 continued into 2023
- Update of cS statutes by the General Assembly



2. Finance

- Compliance with French legal requirements is ensured by a professional accountant



3. Operations

- Continuity in general coordination and reinforcement of the Podcast team



4. Collaborators and Human Resources

- The team was maintained at around 15 pro bono collaborators
- Recruitment of a cS Erasmus+ intern from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

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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