

## ***Greece: The fight for the Culture and Creative Sector (CCS) Post-Quarantine***

**21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 is a World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.** The **cultural and creative community** in Athens is preparing a **protest** in front of the Ministry of Culture and Sports to raise their voices for their basic rights.

The quarantine has truly made the sector suffer. Cancelled events, festivals and contracts, closed theatres, cinemas and live performance venues (including small taverns), leaves thousands of artists and cultural professionals without work nor income.

The Greek Ministries of Culture and Labor started with some measures for artists and cultural professionals. An 800 euros allowance a month only for people with active contracts during the quarantine (that almost no one had) and a bit before (15/2); the launch of an inadequately designed Registry for the CCS in Greece to map the sector in order to understand the size of it (without even consulting the Unions for their members to be faster and more precise); a call for proposals on 'Digital Culture' - amounting to 15 million euros (results not announced yet). Even the unemployment allowance amounts today at only 400 euros a month.

Some part of the sector was covered for the last three months due to the Greek CCS's resistance and demands, but the **measures** are **far from sufficient**. We won a fight, not the war.

In these tough times, many new groups have been formed. Apart from existing Unions to fight for the sector's rights and one of them is the Independent Artists Initiative focused on the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII).

On 27 March 2020 The European Commission, has launched two packages of measures to support the Member States in times of pandemics and economic crisis of all sectors. For Greece, the amount of money raises up to 340 million euros. This money is at the Ministry of Development and is on hold for the respective Ministries to request them for their respective sectors.

Despite questions addressed to the Ministries of Culture and Labor, on how many shares will be given to the CCS, no response has been given implying that maybe there was no intention to use them for the CCS.

With the **support** of **Trans Europe Halles** and **IETM** with the latter's plea to rescue the arts:

1. We urge for a **fair share** of the CRII for culture and creative sector
2. **Compensation** for the losses due to cancellations and lockdown
3. Sufficient **protection** of **IP rights**
4. A clear **plan** on how and when the re-opening of the **cultural sector** will happen
5. Vital **investment** for the CCS, in the long run, to guarantee the **sustainability** of the sector

The group is **advocating** for **basic rights**, so as for the CCS to not be undermined and underfunded.

The Greek CCS and its people have always stood up against injustice, were and are in the forefront for solidarity actions, have always filled up people with hope and joy in times of crisis and beyond.

We invite you to **stand with us** to this campaign, **share** and be **inspired** by our **plea**.

**The Culture and Creative Sector is its people, with all the ecosystem built around it and it needs everyone's support today!**

***Support Art Workers! #ActforCulture***