

Culture Action Europe

State of Culture





Global context

- 2024: The warmest year on record
- 2024: The least peaceful year since 2008
- Economic slowdown
- Rising social polarisation
- Stagnation of freedom of expression in Europe and worldwide
- Deterioration of European democracy
- The increased pace of digital transformation often perceived as a threat



Methodology

- Review of national and EU cultural policies
- State of culture Barometer
- Sector workshop
- Expert interviews (17 organisations)
- Analysis of members' publications
- Desk research

Key observations:



**Growing instrumentalisation of
culture does little to improve
the sector's situation**



**We take care
of the cultural
ecosystem**



Key observations:



In times of crisis and waning political trust, the sector conforms to the imposed instrumental view of culture



**We take care
of the cultural
ecosystem**

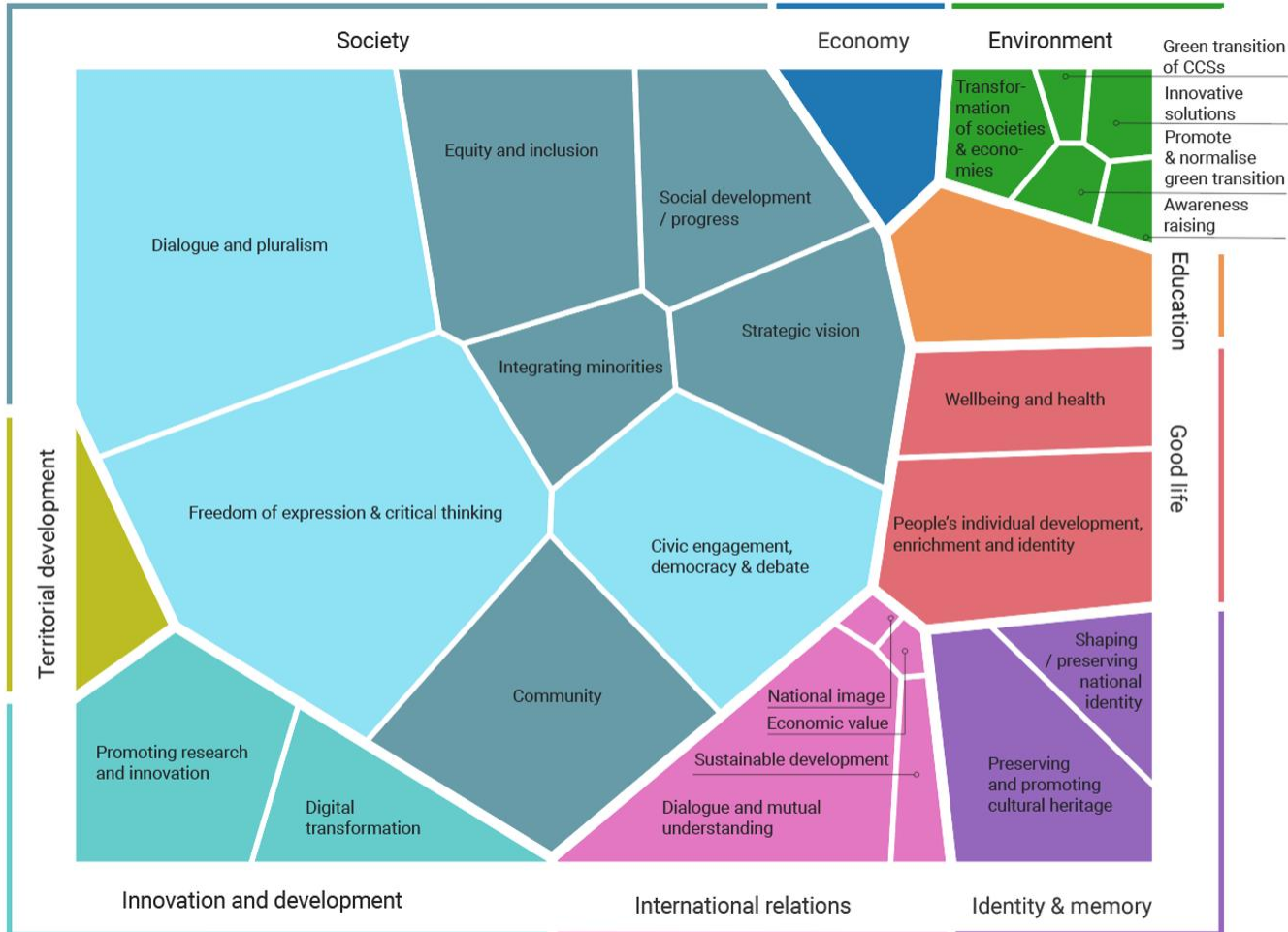


Key observations:

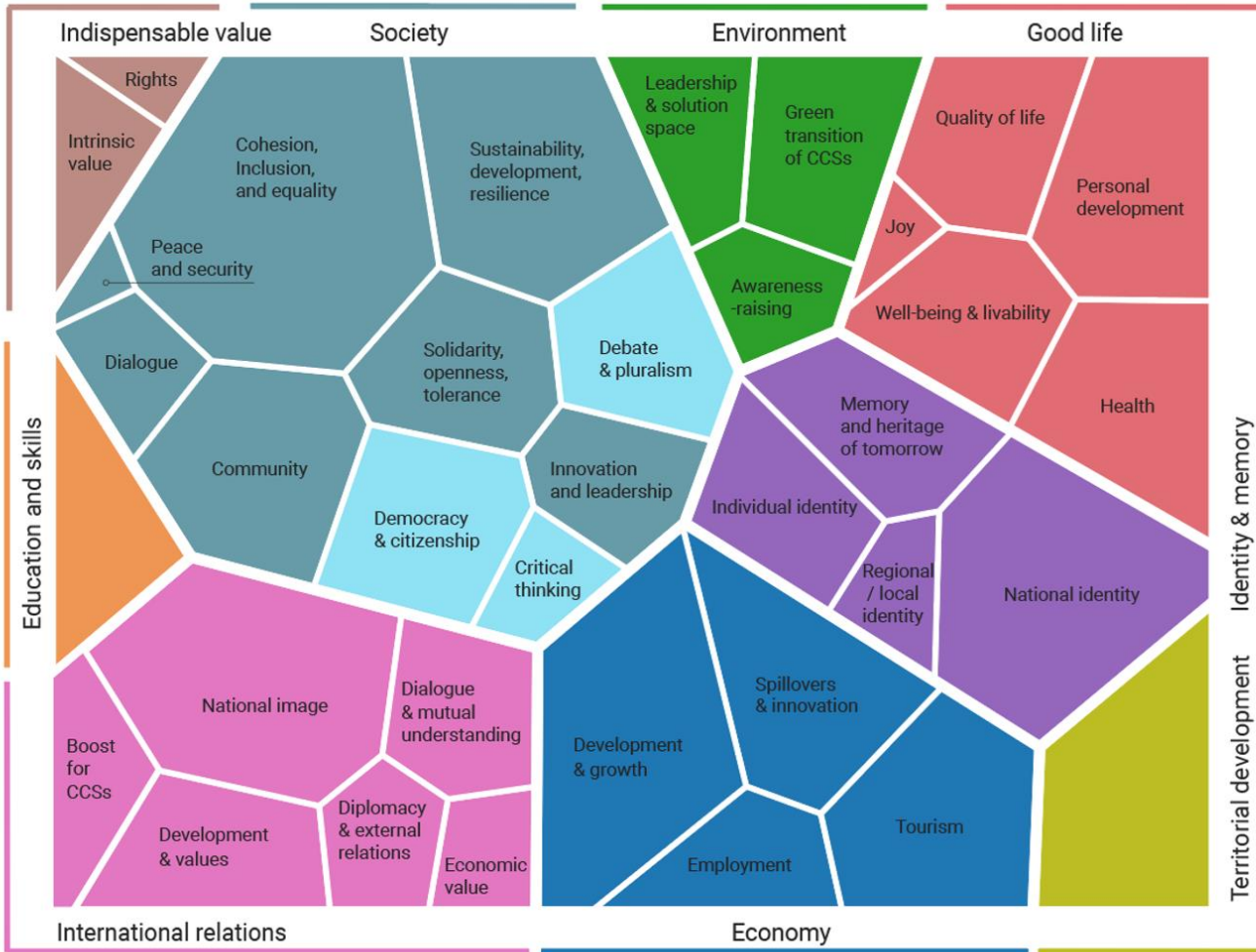


There is a gap between how policy-makers value culture and how the sector sees its own role





**Where
does
the cultural
sector
see
its
role?**



**Where
do
national
governments
see
the
value of
culture?**

Key observations:



**Culture is recognised for celebrating
the past but is overlooked as a
catalyst of the future**



**We take care
of the cultural
ecosystem**



Key observations:



**The autonomy of culture shrinks
in the face of new threats
to artistic freedom**



**We take care
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Key observations:



**Culture can save democracy, but
only if it is democratic itself**



**We take care
of the cultural
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Key observations:



**We need a policy scaffolding for
culture as a field in its own right**



**We take care
of the cultural
ecosystem**





“In a world that has never developed so quickly and that has never fragmented so quickly, culture is that ‘fantastic conversation’ that keeps societies together and is crucial for our collective future.”

Brian Eno



State of Culture



Natalie Giorgadze, General Director



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