



All CCS and Cross-sectoral All Europe

Countries Austria Belgium Cyprus Czechia Denmark Finland Germany Greece Lithuania Malta Spain Sweden Working
Conditions Inclusion

European Commission: New Report on Access to Social Protection for Artists

Artists may get a supplementary monthly pension of EUR 1623 in Finland and a monthly Creative Downtime Payment of EUR 1038 in Lithuania. From no CCS-specific provisions to an established status of artists and cultural workers, countries' frameworks vary and may learn from each other.

"There is wide variation across the Member States regarding approaches to ensuring effective and adequate coverage of social protection for artists and cultural workers", reads [the new report](#) published by the [European Commission](#), to present the results of the '[Mutual learning on inclusive social protection for artists and creative workers](#)', with the participation of 21 member-states and CCS representatives.

"It is really helpful and inspiring to see all kinds of regulations countries have to give artists some access to social security", said [CreativeFLIP's Joost Heinsius](#), who took part in the meeting and presented the [This is how we work-tool from CreativesUnite](#), which was received as "very useful".

The workshop was part of the Commission's answer to the EP legislative initiative from 2023 for an [EU framework for the social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors](#), including a "Directive on decent working conditions" for CCS professionals.

From no CCS-specific provisions to an artist's pension of EUR 1623 per month

According to the report, about 7.8 million CCS professionals in

the EU, almost 4% of the total workforce, experience fragmented careers, irregular income patterns, and hybrid employment status. “More than 70% of CCS professionals disagreed with the statement that they have sufficient access to social protection”.

Austria and Germany have extensive CCS protection schemes, while there are countries with no CCS-specific provisions at all (click on image to enlarge).

Table 1: Classification of a selection of national systems regarding social protection for CCS professionals in the EU

Category	Main characteristics	Example EU Member States
General insurance systems	No specific provisions for CCS professionals	CY, CZ, DK, EL, MT, SE
General systems with adaptations for CCS professionals	Specific adaptations for CCS professionals within the general systems and special schemes within the general system	BG, HR, EE, FR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LU, NL, PT, RO, SK, SI
Special social protection schemes for CCS professionals	Extensive protection schemes for CCS professionals recognizing the nature of the work in the sector and the artist's status	AT, DE

Source: Own elaboration based on Galián et al. 2021; Muszyński, 2025.
Best-practices highlighted in the report include the following (not included in table above):

- Artists in Finland have access to a maximum amount of EUR 1623 per month as a full artist's pension. Pension award criteria include peer reviews on the artistic merits of applicants and their financial situation.
- Lithuanian artists may be granted EUR 1038 per month for a maximum of three months, as a Creative Downtime Payment, when "due to objective circumstances beyond their control, they temporarily lack the conditions necessary for artistic creation and the dissemination of their work".
- In Spain, self-employed artists with annual earnings of less than EUR 3000 are considered of low income and as such, eligible to reduced contributions.
- Germany's Artists' Social Insurance Fund is financed by 50% through a state subsidy and entities using/distributing art, such as publishers, press agencies, theatres or radio and television stations.

- In Belgium, a 'Certificate of Working in the Arts', provides entitlement to the funding and social protection schemes, such as art worker allowances, a special copyright tax scheme, and an adjusted pension plan.
- In Poland, a state-funded subsidy for social and health insurance contributions, aims to bring art professionals up to the level of the minimum wage.